Be Safe  Be Responsible  Be an Active Learner

Our Key Priorities in 2016 are Writing (underpinned by Spelling), Reading and Numeracy.

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Welcome to the start of our new year! I hope everyone has had a safe and relaxing holiday. We are looking forward to the first term of our new year. This newsletter is jam packed with information for our new school year. Please make sure you read the newsletter each fortnight.

Pupil Free Days

Last week, our staff were at school participating in professional development and getting the classrooms ready for students. From curriculum planning, to mandatory staff training and setting up our learning spaces, staff were busy getting our 2016 school year ready for the return of our students this week. A big THANK YOU to our dedicated teachers who put in hours of their own holiday time to prepare for this school year and get classrooms ready. The classrooms are looking great and ready to go!

Stay in Touch with Cooyar State School

This year we have many ways that you can keep up with what is happening at Cooyar State School.

- Our Cooyar State School Website cooyarss@eq.edu.au - It has all the information related to our school. Families from out of town can access all of our school policies and the Parent Handbook. They can also download enrolment forms, access our tuckshop menu and view our school processes and date claimers.
- Facebook – Cooyar State School – It has a running feed of photographs and reminders for parents and families. Please remember that comments are monitored by the school and that this site is an open advertisement of our school and the pride we have in it.
- Weekly parent email – a new initiative this year. If you would like to receive a weekly email on Fridays with reminders for the following week, please submit your personal home email to Mrs Ehrich at the office and we will add you to the mailing list.
- Fortnightly newsletter
- P and C Meetings – Third Monday of each month at 7.30pm

Newsletters by Email.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Cooyar Chronicle or any other notes by email, please send in your email address to me and I can place you in my Outlook Contacts. It is a great way to receive notes and save paper.

SCHOOL WATCH  13 17 88
From the Principal...

School Attendance – Every Day Counts

As the school year begins, I would like to remind families how important it is to come to school every day. The slogan sums it up perfectly - Every Day Counts. Each day is packed with valuable learning experiences that provide the foundation for future learning. While a day away may seem harmless, students may miss out on learning the information that they need for following days or assessment items later in the term. We also ask parents, that if students are absent, that they contact the school office so that the absence is recorded correctly on our systems. Schools are audited on their attendance data. Thank you in advance for your support.

Senior Leadership Camp

Next Monday and Tuesday our Year 4, 5 and 6 students will travel to Barambah Environmental Education Centre for a two day leadership camp. Students will participate in a range of team building and leadership activities. Students are required to bring morning tea and lunch for the Monday. The remainder of the meals will be provided. Permission notes are attached to this newsletter.

Bell Times

Our Bell Times will continue from 2015. They are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School begins</td>
<td>8.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Session</td>
<td>8.30am – 10.30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Lunch Break</td>
<td>10.30am – 11.15am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Session</td>
<td>11.15am – 1.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Lunch Break</td>
<td>1.00pm – 1.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Session</td>
<td>1.30pm – 2.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Finishes</td>
<td>2.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Arrival and School Pick Up

Please note our start time of 8.30am. Supervision will be provided for students arriving at school from the school bus arrival each morning. Non-bus students can arrive at school between 8.00am and 8.30am each day. Our daily Gross Motor Development Program will run from 8.00 to 8.30am each morning. Just a reminder that we ask parents not to drive into the school grounds in the mornings. This is to keep our students safe on their way into and out of our school. In relation to afternoon pick up, it is expected that parents will come into the school of an afternoon to pick up their children. At the end of last term, we had students exiting the school grounds into the parking area without a parent. While this is unsafe, it also makes roll marking for the bus difficult as teachers are unaware of student movements. If you are picking up your child of an afternoon, please come into the school grounds to collect them. If your child catches the bus, please inform the teacher on bus duty that your child is going home with you instead of catching the bus. Student safety and protection is of great importance to all school staff. Thank you for your support in this matter.

P & C Meetings Term One

There will be two P and C Meetings in Term One. We look forward to seeing you at these meetings. P and C Meetings are another great way to stay informed about the school. This year we will be working towards Senior Camp. P and C Membership Forms will be sent home in KIT books later this week.

Monday 15th February (AGM) 7.30pm
Monday 21st March 7.30pm
From the Principal...

**Being Equipped for School**

It is great to see so many students equipped and ready to start their school year. Thank you to families for making sure your child/ren have all of the required equipment from the booklist, full school uniform and sun safe school hat to start the year off. Teachers carefully consider the booklist each year to make sure students have the equipment that they need to complete specific activities and tasks each day. The weather is still very hot and we encourage each student to bring a water bottle to school each day. A nutritious, brain food filled lunch box will also help students get the most out of every day.

**Classrooms Term One, 2016**

Mrs Ehrich will continue in our office this year. Mrs Spencer, Mrs Dionysius and Mrs Mylett will be working in the Junior Classroom. Mrs Duncombe and Mrs Sharon will be working in the Middle Classroom and Mrs Sloss, Mrs Davies and myself will be in the Senior Classroom for the year. Mrs Bourke will return to work later in the year. What a great team!

**Swimming Term One**

Swimming will be on Fridays this term. To assist Yarraman with their swimming carnival, we have moved Week 2’s swimming to Week 7. So students will swim from Weeks 1 – 7, excluding Week 2. Notes will be sent out today. Please return notes and monies to the office. Rash vests will be supplied by the school and are to be washed and returned at the end of the swimming block.

**Spelling Overview Term One**

Attached to this newsletter is a Term One whole school spelling overview. This document highlights the weekly focuses for each year level in our school. Reviewing spelling words at home is part of our nightly homework.

**Cooyar as a PBL School**

Cooyar State School is a PBL school. PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) highlights the link between curriculum and behaviour. In PBL, specific behaviours, expectations and consequences are taught to all students to ensure a proactive approach to managing student behaviour. In PBL the focus is on achieving and maintaining positive behaviours, interactions and relationships.

PBL is about creating predictable environments that are effective for achieving social and academic goals. The key to PBL is prevention. Students are taught what is expected. A consistent set of rules and expectations are applied and positive behaviour is rewarded. The majority of students who follow this method are successful. At Cooyar the lesson for the week is introduced on parade and we encourage parents to attend so they are informed and can be part of the process. The focus for each week will also be included in the fortnightly newsletter and displayed on the PBL Noticeboard at the office, so parents can support our learnings at home.

Parents are integral to PBL being successful. We encourage parents to use the same rules and expectations as the school which results in a common language and unified approach. Contact is made by phone or through the child’s KIT Book to keep parent/s informed of any incidents. We encourage parents to contact the school to discuss any concerns. We hope parents discuss the rules and expectations at home with their children which assists in creating a consistent and predictable environment.

**What can I do to help my child stay on the path of positive behaviour?**

- Review the core values of: *Be Safe, Be Responsible* and *Be an Active Learner* regularly with your child.
- Ask your child about his/her day at school every day.
From the Principal...

- Make sure your child is ready for school:
  - Have they had a good night's sleep?
  - Have they completed their homework/reading and is it in their bag with their KIT Book?
  - Do they have all of their materials ready?
  - Have they eaten a nutritious breakfast?
  - Are they in school uniform?
  - Are they on time?
- Be active in the school community – attend meetings, parent teacher interviews, P & C Meetings and school events.
- Keep informed about the school and school news through reading the fortnightly newsletter.

**Cooyar Cash Rewards System**

At Cooyar State School, we reward positive behaviour. This year, we will be continuing with our Cooyar Cash Rewards system. Cooyar Cash experiences will be scheduled in for the last week of each term. Students can sign up to these events. If you would like more information on the Cooyar Cash Rewards System please see PBL board outside the school office or come and see one of the staff.

**Gold Behaviour Awards**

Gold Behaviour Awards recognise the students who continually strive to meet our school rules and expectations. At the end of each term, students who have not received any red cards will be awarded the Gold Behaviour Champion Award on parade. At the end of the year, students who have received four Gold Behaviour Awards will be presented with a medallion at Presentation Night. Behaviour is an important part of learning at Cooyar State School.

**Homework and Home Reading – Lunch time catch up**

This year, we will not work on the three strike system for homework and home reading, instead we will continue running a lunchtime Reading Club and Friday Homework Club for students who have not completed these activities as part of their homework. It is expected that students will read aloud to parents each week night and that parents will initial home reading folders. If home reading has not been done, or signed, students will be required to attend a lunchtime reading club for the first 10 minutes of first break. Furthermore, students who fail to hand in completed homework on a Friday will be required to complete their homework at Friday Homework Club at first break. These catch up sessions will allow students to catch up on important homework activities.

**Cooyar Show 2015**

Over the coming weeks, students will be preparing entries for the 2016 Cooyar Show. Teachers will send home notes regarding any items that students may need for their entries. The Cooyar Show will be held on Saturday 20th February, 2016.

**Thank You Mr Ryan**

We have been rabbit proofed! Thank you Mr Ryan who came over the holidays and laid mesh around A block. We are hoping that this measure will keep the rabbits out and make the school safer for students. We thank Mr Ryan for doing this for us.

**Sending Money into the School**

Even though BPOINT is our preferred payment method at the school, if parents are sending in money, please ask your child to post it in the money box secured to Mrs Ehrich’s desk. Please do not leave money in the office unless it is posted into the letter box.
**Reading in 2016**
This year, the school will be adopting the SCORE strategies in reading. Staff attended professional development in SCORE over the pupil free days. I have attached an overview of SCORE for parents. We will be holding a parent information night on reading in the coming month. On this night, teachers will demonstrate home reading strategies with parents. Students will be explicitly taught SCORE strategies in all areas of curriculum throughout the year. These strategies will strengthen student reading, comprehension and retell.

**Toowoomba Regional Council Library Bus**
The Toowoomba Library Bus will visit us each fortnight. Their first visit will be in Week 2. Students will visit the bus between 8.00 -8.30am on Tuesdays and borrow before school. I have spoken with library staff and they will be stocking resources based on school themes and learning focuses.

**Purchasing School Uniforms**
At P & C Meetings in 2015, a new process of ordering school uniforms was decided upon. School uniforms will now be sold as part of a tuckshop order on Wednesdays. This will be the only way to order school uniforms. Payment will have to be made at the time of ordering. Parents can add the school uniform order onto the tuckshop bag and send the money in the tuckshop bag. The P & C will issue a receipt for the order at a later time.

**Our School Rules and Behaviour Expectations**
Each week, we review our School rules and explicitly teach expected behaviours associated with these rules on parade and in the classroom. This week, our focus is on reviewing our School Rules and classroom expectations. We appreciate parents following up on our weekly social skills focus by engaging in conversations with students at home.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Focus Area</th>
<th>Points for Discussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><em>Introduction of Term</em></td>
<td>School rules&lt;br&gt;Classroom rules, routines, procedures&lt;br&gt;What does School Wide Positive Behaviour Support at Cooyar State School look like?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><em>Be Safe in all Areas</em></td>
<td>Use equipment appropriately and with care&lt;br&gt;Respect the rights of others&lt;br&gt;Report dangerous or unusual situations&lt;br&gt;Eat only your own food, in designated areas&lt;br&gt;Be hygienic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><em>Be Responsible in the Playground</em></td>
<td>Play fairly, follow the rules and take turns&lt;br&gt;Return equipment at the end of play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><em>Be a Safe, Responsible Learner in all Environments</em></td>
<td>Be persistent and engage in all tasks&lt;br&gt;Be open to new ideas&lt;br&gt;Ask permission to leave all areas&lt;br&gt;Be cyber safe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><em>Be Safe in the Playground</em></td>
<td>Play suitable, school approved games&lt;br&gt;Be sun safe&lt;br&gt;Play in approved areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><em>Be a Learner in all Areas</em></td>
<td>Actively listen and follow instructions&lt;br&gt;Be organised and punctual&lt;br&gt;Ask for help if needed&lt;br&gt;Care for self, others and the environment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Curriculum Focuses for Term One**

This term we will be working in the curriculum areas of English, Mathematics, Science, History, Arts (Visual), Health and Physical Education.

Have a great first fortnight back at school. I look forward to seeing you throughout the term,

Yours in Education,

Kendall Seccombe
**Middle Room News—Year 2 and Year 3**

Welcome back to everyone! It was lovely to see all the students looking refreshed and ready for a new school year. Thank you to all parents for their hard work covering and collecting booklists and naming everything! I know it is time consuming.

Today we have spent a lot of time setting up routines and sorting equipment and have focussed on some Australia Day activities for English as well as investigating calendars in Maths.

I’m looking forward to a wonderful fortnight ahead as we get ourselves organised for 2016.

Tania Duncombe

---

**Junior News—Prep and Year 1**

A big welcome to Cooyar State School to our new students and families and welcome back to our continuing students, it really is wonderful to be back. I am very excited to be teaching the Prep and Year One class until Michelle’s return. There is so much planned!

This week we will be busy settling in, developing routines and learning our school routines. We will have swimming every Friday this term and I would really appreciate any Mums or Dads (or anyone else!) who are willing to get in the pool with our littles to assist the instructors. Lots of helpers will mean more skill practice for our littles who then don’t have to wait as long for their turn.

We will be putting entries into the Cooyar Show once again this year (Lego, cooking, painting and handwriting for our year one students), so our first few weeks will definitely be quite full of activity.

I look forward to meeting with many of you during our parent information sessions.

Bronwyn Spencer
Welcome to our 2016 Prep Class
NANANGO SOCCER CLUB
Sign On Day
ALL WELCOME!
Saturday 6th February
Burnett Street Soccer Fields
9.30am -12.30pm
Returning and new players self-register online to save time. EASY
Visit: www.myfootballclub.com.au
Junior girls and boys aged from turning 5 yrs in 2016 through to 16yrs.
Squirts girls and boys aged from turning 3 yrs in 2016 to 5 yrs.
Club is registered with Get Started funding program to assist eligible children with fees
For further info on fees and general enquiries:
nanangosoccer@gmail.com

2016 COOYAR SHOW BALL
SATURDAY
6 FEBRUARY
8.00 pm
Enquires:
Sue Lindemeier
4692 6200