Date Claimers

Technology Challenge
Mon 29th August, 2016
Benarkin State School

Student Council
Father’s Day Stall
Fri 2nd September, 2016

Cooyar Arts Day
Wed 7th September

Senior Camp
Sat 10th – Fri 16th September

P & C TRAIL RIDE MEETING
Tuesday 6th September, 2016

SCHOOL WATCH
13 17 88

Keep Our Records Up to Date
So our information can stay up to date, please advise the school of any changes to your:
- Address
- Phone numbers
- Medical conditions
- Medication

Be Safe   Be Responsible   Be an Active Learner

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

Regional Attendance Goal for each day is: 93%    School Attendance this Fortnight: 96%

Dear Parents, Families and Community Members,
As we approach the final four weeks of the term, the number of date claimers and reminders contained in our school newsletters will increase. Working towards Senior Camp, Technology Challenge, High School Transition and our Cooyar Arts Day, I encourage all families to read school correspondence carefully to make sure you stay well informed over the next four weeks.

Year Six High School Transition
On Monday 5th September, students in Year Six will attend Nanango or Yarraman High Schools for a full day transition. This is in conjunction with the recent visits to Cooyar by both schools to begin the transition process for students moving to high school in 2017. Permission notes will be sent home in the lead up to the day. Transportation to and from the school on this transition day will be the responsibility of parents. If you would like your child to catch the bus to their prospective high school on this transition day, please contact Chris Payne to make the necessary arrangements. Transition programs are valuable experiences for our students, making them feel more ready and comfortable for their move to high school in 2017. We thank both high schools for working with us on transition programs.

Senior Camp
We are just two weeks out from our Winton and Longreach School Camp for 2016. This camp, costing approximately $12 000 is funded by the P & C with profits from the annual Cooyar Trail Bike Ride each October. I ask parents to check that documents, permission forms and payments have been returned to the school. Mr Scott Duncombe and Mr Chris Mylett will be co-driving our bus on this journey. We appreciate them taking the week out to do this job for us and help supervise this valuable camp. Just a reminder that, while it is not a requirement, it is recommended that parents consider domestic travel insurance for school camps. We will be departing at 6.30am on Saturday 10th September on our big adventure. Keep up to date on our school Facebook site throughout the week.

Mandatory Same Day Student Absence Notifications
A reminder to parents that as of 12th July, there are new mandatory notification processes for student absences. We are asking parents to make sure that they inform the school by telephone on the morning that their child/ren will be absent. By phoning in the morning (or the evening before) and leaving a message, you are saving us the time in calling after rolls have been marked. We appreciate your assistance in this matter. Please be aware that we record all phone calls home that are made to follow up on student absences.

Technology Challenge Benarkin
On Monday 29th August, Cooyar State School Middle and Senior Class Students will travel to Benarkin State School for our 2016 Technology Catapult Challenge. Students have been working on designing and building their catapults with the guidance of Mr and Mrs Eastwell throughout this term. Students will depart Cooyar at 8.45am and return by 2.30pm. Permission forms were sent home earlier this week. Please return the school by this Friday 26th August, 2016.

Father’s Day Stall – Student Council
On Friday 2nd September, the Student Council will be holding a Father’s Day Gift Stall as their term Three Fundraiser. Gifts will be on offer from $1.00 – $8.00. Students will be visiting in their class groups on the day and will be able to purchase their gifts.

Music Performance
After a term of music lessons, students will perform for parents in Week 9 of this Term. On Tuesday 6th September, in the afternoon session, students will perform for parents in the undercover eating area. More information regarding times will be sent out closer to the date.
Quadrennial School Review
In line with our School Review we had in May, we are developing a new Quadrennial School Plan that will last for the next four years. To identify the priorities, we are using data collected from our School Review, School Opinion Survey, PBL SET Assessment, Administration Audit and the Parent Survey that was sent home last week. This plan will form the foundation for Cooyar State School over the next four years, highlighting our priorities and goals for this period. Our current Strategic Plan, which began in 2013 ends this year. Thank you to families who have sent back the Parent Surveys.

RREAP Cluster Arts day
On Wednesday 7th September, Creative Arts Students from USQ Toowoomba will be joining us for our Cooyar Arts Celebration Day. Tanduringie, Linville and Benarkin State Schools will join us on this day along with the Shake and Stir Theatre group from Brisbane. We look forward to hosting this day to give our students a taste of the Arts across our Cluster. The day will be funded by cluster RREAP funds with no cost to students.

Book List Resource Scheme
As decided at May’s P & C Meeting, we will be moving to a resources scheme in 2017. Parents will not be required to purchase any resources for their children. Invoices for the cost per child will be sent out in Week 9 of this term (with the school newsletter) to give parents the time to make payment by the end of 2016. Parents may pay this initiative off throughout the term. If you have some spare money one week, feel free to bring it in and pay off some of your resources scheme.

Premier’s Reading Challenge – last weeks!
26th August is the final day for the Premier’s Reading Challenge. Don’t forget to return your reading lists to the office. Students who participate will be awarded with a Morning Tea with Miss Seccombe at the end of August.

Swimming Term Four
In the first five weeks of Term Four, we will be taking swimming lessons at Yarraman Pool. Qualified instructors will take these lessons with a focus on water safety. In Term Four, the whole school will travel to swimming together. While one group swims, the other will access the tennis courts for sport activities. We will also have Morning Tea at the pool. More information will be released later in the term with permission notes. In Week 7, we will host a Cluster Swimming Carnival at Yarraman Pool with Tanduringie and Benarkin State Schools.

Silver Spelling Awards
With two more weeks of spelling tests to go, there is great determination in our students to qualify for this term’s Silver Spelling Awards. Last week alone, I awarded 22 100% certificates out of the 32 students who completed spelling tests. This is an achievement for these students to be very proud of. We will also be awarding 99%, 98% and 97% awards to students. Keep up the great work everyone!

Gold Behaviour Awards
Working towards the end of the term, it is exciting to see how many students will be eligible to be rewarded with a Gold Behaviour Champion Award this term for following our three school rules each day and not receiving any red cards. I look forward to awarding these special gold certificates to students at the end of the term.

Cooyar Trail Ride 2016
On Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th October, the P&C Association will be holding our annual Cooyar Trail Ride. This year, the P&C used funds from this annual fundraiser to fund Senior Camp ($12,000), excursions ($3,500), online Mathletics and Reading Eggs Subscriptions ($1,200), the renovation to the prep kitchen and middle classroom and more. The P&C Association holds this single fundraiser each year to save parents from continually having to support smaller fundraisers throughout the year. It is an expectation that all families will contribute on this weekend by volunteering their time. Volunteer rosters are attached to this newsletter. Please fill these in and return to the school office. Extra bike ride flyers are available from the school office if you want to distribute them amongst others. We thank you in advance for your support of this event.

Yours in Education, Kendall Seccombe
Junior Class News from Mrs Bourke and Mrs Spencer

Wow this Term is just flying by. We have all been really busy.

In English the Preps are continuing to look at rhyming stories and are writing an opinion on them using the statement “I like/dislike (title of book) because......... We have also been busy creating four line rhymes. The Year Ones will be completing their assessment task on creating a new character for a book in the Willy series. We will become familiar with traditional or cultural stories and begin using writing to retell these stories.

In Maths Prep’s have completed their Days of the Week assessment. Over the next fortnight we will be looking at Patterns/Algebra, identifying and copying growing patterns. In number we will be looking at addition through part-part-whole relationships. Year Ones are looking at time describing units of measuring time, how long activities take and half hour. We will also be looking at money, identifying and ordering Australian coins based on value.

Thursdays also continue to be busy. Last week the Preps almost completed Part A of their Geography assessment in which they had to make a model of a familiar place (many did their bedrooms). Thank you to those parents who sent in photos to help students remember the features in their bedrooms and the placement of these features. We will complete this part of the assessment this week and also make a pictorial map of our bedrooms. Next week we will move on to looking at the town of Cooyar itself for Part B. Year One students also completed some of their Geography assessment last week looking at managed, constructed and natural features and how to care for them. This week we will move on to using geographic language to describe direction and location on a map and labelling a map. This ties in nicely with our Maths and Technology.

In Science Preps have been looking at the clothes we wear in different weather conditions and for different activities. They have also analysed as a whole class various forms of shelter from around the world. This week we will be looking at animals and considering what effects weather has on them and next week we will look at plants. The Year One students have been looking at various landscapes in Science and how their features change during the day and night. They will look at how weather influences these landscapes this week before starting their assessment next week in which they will have to depict a daytime landscape, look at a landscape changing over a period of years and explain, using their science knowledge, the changes which occur in the sky and landscape. Finally they will make some predictions on future changes to the illustrated landscape.

This term in health, students are investigating the key messages for keeping themselves and their bodies healthy. We have explored 15 key messages and students have been writing, drawing and acting these out with their peers. Ask your child/ren to share as many of the health messages that we have been learning about with you.

Finally, a huge thank you to the parents who come in for reading and sight word testing each week. The students love moving through the sight word levels but checking their progress is a one-on-one process that would be difficult to manage without help!!

THIS FORTNIGHT’S SOCIAL SKILL FOCUSES
Each week we have a social skill focus that is taught explicitly on parade and in classrooms. We ask that parents support this learning by discussing these social skills at home.

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<th>Be a Safe and Responsible Learner when transitioning around the school</th>
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<td>● Move safely, respectfully and appropriately</td>
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<th>Be Responsible in all Areas</th>
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<td>● Speak truthfully, respectfully and appropriately</td>
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<td>● Act with respect, consideration and integrity</td>
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<td>● Follow procedures and obey all rules</td>
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<td>● Place litter in bins and wear your school uniform with pride</td>
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From Miss Seccombe and Mrs Sloss in the Senior Class

Mathematics: Last fortnight we finished our learning about data and are now moving on to Chance. We will be exploring probability and likelihood, conducting trials of chance experiments, identifying the variation between trials and predicting likely outcomes from a run of chance events. A review question to ask your child/ren:

- What are the ways that we can collect (do) data as opposed to recording (writing) data?

English: We have been working on our Assessment Items for this term including our letters to students in the future (Year Five and Six) and our historical oral recounts (Year Four). We have been exploring sentence structures, text structures, paragraphing and cohesion in preparation for these tasks. We have been drafting our assessment items on the computers instead of on paper, practising our IT skills and becoming more prepared for online testing in the near future. It is a very different process when drafting and constructing on a computer screen as opposed to the traditional methods of writing a draft on paper and then typing up a ‘good copy’. We hope to provide increasing opportunities for students to practise their technology skills into the future.

Some review questions to ask your child/ren:

- What is a compound sentence? (there are five dot point answers for this question)
- What are the seven coordinating conjunctions?
- What is the difference between a coordinating and subordinating conjunction?

Technology: All groups have completed their design and planning stage and have moved onto building and constructing. This week we will be testing our designs and some groups will begin practising for the challenge next Monday. It is great to see students working well together in their groups towards the challenge. Last year, we won the ‘Golf Ball’ Technology Challenge. We look forward to some fierce competition again this year.

We are working through our camp itinerary with Mr Duncombe and Mr Mylett. It will be here before we know it. Please note that our high behaviour expectations will hold until camp and throughout camp. It is an expectation that all children attending camp follow our school rules and behavioural expectations leading up to camp to ensure their attendance.

From Mrs Duncombe in the Middle Class

As the Olympic Games came to an end, our students experienced their own mini Olympic events including a team capacity challenge, long jump, bean bag shotput and roller board races. Students were awarded gold, silver or bronze medals according to their results overall. Our mini Olympic event helped wrap up the measurement unit that we have been working on over the last two weeks.

Moving on from measurement, students are currently developing their skills in money activities. The Year 3 students are representing money values, adding up items from lists, learning to spell money amounts correctly and working out how to give the correct change by counting on or doing a subtraction sum.

Year 2 students are identifying all the Australian notes and coins, counting collections of notes and coins and they also need to learn about calendars, the months of the year and the seasons.

In Science, Mrs Forbes is completing her Science project with the Year 2’s where they need to build a push or pull vehicle. Year 3’s are learning about heat energy and will complete a number of experiments related to this topic for their assessment.

Well done to all our students for their performances last week. Each student in the class was able to deliver their plays and posters in a loud clear voice.

Mr and Mrs Eastwell will be here this week for their last technology visit before the Benarkin Challenge. It is very exciting for our Year 2 and 3 students to experience this for the first time. It will also be Mrs Forbes last day with our class. Thank you for all your fantastic efforts Mrs Forbes. We look forward to seeing you again in the not too distant future.

Have a great fortnight!
Students of the Week

Week Five
Mackenzie Harris: For being an engaged and active learner.
Josie Brown: For being a responsible student in the playground.
Willow Davis: For showing a mature attitude towards her school work.
Keisha Keate: For following school rules and class routines.

Week Six
Holly Barron: For participating and being an active learner during LOTE.
Charlotte Barron: For being safe and responsible at eating times.
Melinda Smith: For being an active learner during Reading and Maths lessons.
Mareta Keate: For participating well in class and settling in to a new school.

Positive Behaviour for Learning Data Week 1 – 5 Term 3, 2016
Each term, we collect our data on positives and red cards awarded to students at Cooyar State School. The PBL Goal for positives to negatives is 8 positives to every negative (red card). Our ratio for Weeks 1 – 5 of Term Three is 30:1. With 1369 positives handed out in these five weeks, Cooyar’s ratio was 30 positives (Cooyar Cash) to each red card that was awarded to students. Using positives to encourage students to follow our three school rules is our priority at Cooyar. Well done to students who continue to receive Cooyar Cash each day for being an active learner, being safe and being responsible.
The Beat around the Bush
By Senior Constable Bill Worden – OIC, Cooyar Police

It is becoming apparent that the Toowoomba region is experiencing an increase in property thefts; of particular concern is the targeting of properties with firearms and the theft of those weapons from supposedly secure gun safes. I urge all weapons owners to please take a close look at security over-all. Take a serious look at what can you do to make your property less of a potential target, is your gun safe secured both at the base and on the side to prevent the safe being stolen? Have you considered secondary security measures for your property? If you want to discuss these measures with me please do not hesitate to call me at the station and I would be happy to come out to your property and conduct a security audit with you.

I have received information that 2 men in a white van similar to a Mitsubishi Express van are attending rural properties, when confronted at some properties they have used the excuse they are looking for old car batteries. They have been sighted at properties from Dalby to Goomeri so it stands to reason that they may be in our area as well.

A reminder that if you notice vehicles driving about that you do not normally see or recognise people in them, please note down the vehicle registration number and call the station or below numbers.

If you see something suspicious Ring Crimestoppers 1 800 333 000 or PoliceLink 131 444.

I am still hearing reports that people are receiving letters telling them, they are being fined for NOT Voting and of course a fine of $168 can be paid directly into an account to avoid further punishment. I next expect to hear reports of people being fined for not completing the Census so please stay vigilant for them and remember anyone receiving this type of contact are encouraged to report the matter to either:


FREE BREAST CANCER SCREENING SERVICE

Highfields Village Shopping Centre –
4 – 14th October, 2016

Crows Nest Rural Health Centre –
12 – 23 September, 2016

• All women over 40
• Appointments are necessary 13 20 50 (local call cost)
• More information 4616 6107