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: 94.5%

Dear Parents, Families and Community Members,

With so many upcoming dates to remember, I have listed those in our final week of school below. Thank you to parents who are working hard to ensure their children are at school, on time each day. We also thank you for your efforts in letting us know, via phone by 8.30am if your child/ren will be absent from school.

End of Year Date Claimers

Parent Interviews Monday 5th Dec.
Grandparents Afternoon and Dance Performance Tuesday 6th Dec.
Year Six Graduation Dinner 6.00pm Tuesday 6th Dec.
Break Up Day and Water Play Afternoon Thursday 8th Dec.
Presentation Night and Family Dinner 5.00pm Thursday 8th Dec.

Year Six High School Transition

The following upcoming transition activities will take place this term and support the previous transition opportunities for students from Term Three:

- Week 9 – Yarraman Afternoon Transition
- Tuesday 29th November, 2016 (Week 9) – Full day Transition Nanango and Yarraman High Schools

Regional Reading Benchmarks

At Cooyar State School we use the Darling Downs South West Regional Reading Benchmarks across all year levels to map student progress in reading. These benchmarks recommend a minimum level of achievement in reading, retell and comprehension of texts for each year level. Our classroom reading data walls highlight these benchmarks to students as overall goals for reading progress throughout each year. Student learning goals, that highlight reading strategies and next steps, are linked with achieving and moving past these end of year goals. The achievement of these benchmarks result from reading testing that is conducted with students each term. In your child’s end of term report card, you will be informed whether your child has met, has exceeded or is still working to meet the regional benchmark for the end of the 2016 school year. These benchmarks also inform reading enrichment and support programs in our school.

Bee Hives

Last week, Mrs Sloss and I ventured to Hattonvale to have our Student Council Bee Hive filled. We have taken many steps to reduce the risk of having a bee hive on the school grounds which are explained in the attached letter. Even though we sent home student forms earlier in the year to update, we are resending these home for any families that did not inform us of allergies to bees. Please note that if you indicate that your child is allergic to bees, we will send home a health plan for you to fill out with your medical or nurse practitioner and return to the school. I know students are very excited about having our own supply of honey, cooking with it and providing it to families throughout 2017 and beyond.

Dance Lessons

Students are working hard during dance lessons each week to prepare for their end of term performance on Tuesday 6th December at 2.00pm. This term, the school has funded dance lessons for our students with Miss Claudia Cherry from the dance studio in Oakey. Students have an hour long dance lesson each week.

Kindergarten Visits

Last week I had my first visit of the term to Maclagan Kindergarten. It is great to see how welcoming and excited students are during these visits. Last week, I took one of my favourite children’s books ‘Pete the Cat’. We read and performed the book, then wrote our own pages that we added to the story. I have enjoyed strengthening our links to the kindergarten again this year and I appreciate Miss Lisa’s warm welcome on each visit.

Swimming Carnival

Swimming lessons have finished for our students; however, this Friday is our first cluster Swimming Carnival. We will be trialling a program that we hope to refine for subsequent years. Please note that on the day, the sandpit
Making a Payment?

BPOINT is our preferred method of payment as it saves us administration time in following up payments. Please try BPOINT for your next school invoice. www.bpoint.com.au/payments/dete.

If your child will be absent or late...

Please call the school and leave a message if your child will be absent from school. You can ring and leave a message at any time, day or night. Alternatively, write a note in KIT books. Thank you for your support.

SCHOOL BANKING

Each Wednesday
Coordinator: Mrs Chloe Davis

PLAYGROUP

Each Tuesday
8.30 – 11.15am
Coordinator: Mrs Rowena Gibson

GROSS MOTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Each morning
8.00 – 8.30am

PREP Transition

Term Four
Weeks 6 – 9
Tuesdays

and play area at the back of the pool will be out of bounds. We also ask parents to leave the undercover table area free for marshalling on the day. Please bring plenty of water.

Assessment and Reporting Period

In Term Four we work towards student report cards. It is important that students are in attendance every day to make sure that they do not miss important review and assessment activities leading up to our end of year report cards. A brain food filled lunch and a good night sleep will also give students the best opportunity to participate and engage fully during the upcoming weeks.

Kitchen Refit

From all reports, the Kitchen Refit will take place at the end of November in time for the first week of December. We have put much planning and thought into the layout and appliances so that this kitchen can be used to its fullest over the coming years.

Prep Transition

This week was our second week of Prep Transition. We even have some of our students wearing their own Cooyar State School uniform! Last week, our wonderful Prep mothers and playgroup mothers, spent their time here cutting out spelling activities for us. We greatly appreciate their help in getting our spelling resources ready for students before 2017.

P & C Meeting

The next P & C Meeting will take place on Monday 21st November, 2016 at 7.30pm.

Book Fair

Last week’s Book Fair was a great success. Students chose their books from the P&C Association and teachers were able to choose their book prizes for Presentation Night. We sincerely thank Rowena for her huge efforts in organising the book fair, setting it up, packing it away and creating displays and competitions for students. There is one final book club for 2017 which is being sent home with today’s newsletter. This will be delivered before the end of the school year.

Book List Resource Scheme

Invoices have been sent home to parents for the 2017 Book Scheme. Please note that payment is required by the end of Week 8. Please see the invoices for more details. In the final week, we will be collecting the items that we will be keeping over for next year and storing them at the school over the holidays.

Linville Cluster Celebration Day

On Friday 11th November, we travelled to Linville State School for our Term Four Cluster Celebration Day. It was a safety day full of activities based around important safety messages for students. We thank the SES, Fire Brigade, Police and Energex for attending and running these safety sessions for students.

Remembrance Day

On Friday 11th November, during our time at Linville, our Senior Students participated in our Remembrance Day ceremony by laying a wreath on behalf of our school. Senior Leaders from Linville reflected on the importance and history of the occasion.

Market Day – From Mrs Sloss

We have begun the process of creating a market stall, our sign or logo, our packaging, gimmicks and marketing techniques. I am encouraging at least one aspect of recycling, even if it is using newspaper to wrap the sold items in. Let's see who comes up with something unique! Parents are welcome to assist their child in preparation but we really don't want you to have to do a major amount of work. Keep it simple! Sellers are also encouraged to dress up on the day - it can be simple casual wear or a costume that is relevant to the stall. Thank you to those who have made suggestions and already said that they will provide a surprise box for the auction.

Grandparents Day

On the final Tuesday of term, 6th December we will be inviting our Grandparents to join us at school from 1.00pm for lunch, followed by a visit to classrooms and dance performance. We will be taking home our invitations to our grandparents later in the term.

Have a great fortnight! Yours in Education, Kendall Seccombe
**Junior Class News from Mrs Bourke and Mrs Spencer**

Wow, it feels like we are on an uncontrollable slide to the last day of school! The students are all tired yet we still have to keep going with assessment, only one more week before the pressure is off and we can enjoy some of the less stressful lessons at the end of each subject unit.

It has been wonderful having some of the older students in our class helping out now and then. Believe it or not they pay hard earned Cooyar Cash to come to our class and work! Thank you to all those helpers over the past few weeks, your assistance has been greatly appreciated. You are fantastic role models for the younger students.

The culmination of our PE unit this term will be a short dance routine the kids would love everyone to watch (well, most of them do!). Definitely not to the standard of Miss Claudia’s but a lot of fun. I will keep you posted as to when we can squeeze that in. We have been so lucky to have Miss Claudia come and teach Dance this term, not many small schools can offer opportunities such as that. I hope to see lots of parents at the final dance production in a couple of weeks.

Students have been doing really well in spelling – even the preps have spelling tests on Fridays this term! English really is a very hard language to master in its written form and I am SO proud of students applying what knowledge they learn in spelling lessons to their writing. Hand in hand with writing is reading and it goes without saying that improvement in student’s awareness of the sounds in the English language (phonemic awareness) and the letters (graphemes) we use when writing those sounds also helps their reading. Well done everyone for all the work you put into spelling each week, it is extremely important.

If you would like to see either myself or Michelle before the end of term please feel free to pop in or call.

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**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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<th>Be Responsible in all Areas</th>
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<td>• Follow procedures and obey all rules</td>
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<td>• Place litter in bins</td>
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Remembrance Day Ceremony Linville  
Safety Day Linville
From Miss Seccombe and Mrs Sloss in the Senior Class

Our major assessment items for 2016 have been completed. Students are beginning their review of concepts and teachings throughout 2016. We are revising our sentence structures, cohesive devices and editing. We are also using our daily delivery of newspapers to learn more about current world events, even the more controversial ones. We have been learning to look at an issue from both perspectives and assess the arguments on both sides to be informed when we make our decisions and form our beliefs and opinions.

In Mathematics, we have been incorporating STEM and Technologies through activities in
- Mathletics
- Online Coding
- Makey Makey Boards
- Bee bots

With Geography and Science assessment now complete, the seniors are working on their Health assessment. The Health topic is ‘Netiquette’ and I imagine there may have been a few conversations about this in the past couple of weeks. Coincidentally, there have been several newspaper and a television report on the dangers of the internet and we are using these reports to extend our classroom discussion of the topic. I am hoping that parents use this opportunity to have open discussions with their children about safe and secure use of the internet. In the meantime, as an adjunct to our Science work on fossilisation, we are exploring the concept of evaporation and crystallisation. Students have dissolved salt in water and left out trays of the solution to have it evaporate far more quickly than we thought. It must be hot and dry! Our next step is to set up our own landscape and watch as the crystallisation process occurs. We then recall how fossils are made and compare the two processes.

Did anyone catch the super moon on Tuesday night??!

GARDENING
Dry, hot and windy conditions have dried out the garden beds. Water well and water again is the best we can do for our potatoes. Our zucchini and tomato plants are certainly feeling the heat. Onward we tread and hope for a lovely rain break again!

From Mrs Duncombe in the Middle Class

Over the last week in English time students have been creating letters to send to other students as part of a Prep to Year 3 Christmas Exchange across Queensland. Each student in our class wrote a letter which included details of our class, school and town and made a Christmas decoration as well. We have addressed and stamped the envelopes and they will be sent this week to many places including Yungaburra, Ayr, Hughenden, Pialba, Tiaro, Rockhampton and Charleville to just name a few. Our class has enjoyed receiving the three letters and decorations we have so far and plan on making a festive wall with a map of Queensland so we can look at them all together.

In Mathematics we have been reviewing time. This is quite a difficult concept for some students so if you happen to have a spare moment at home, maybe your child might be able to practice reading the time on the clock occasionally to you.

Year 3’s have enjoyed completing their first powerpoints this term. They have done an amazing job learning about this and typing up all their Science information on ‘The Sun, the Earth and Us’. Students will show the rest of the class their powerpoints on Thursday.

Year 2’s have produced a poster on a resource from their Science unit. They have researched their topics on the internet and found pictures to print out to add to their posters. They will present their posters to the whole class on Thursday as well.

Good luck to everyone for the Swimming Carnival on the Friday!!!

Have a great fortnight!
**Student of the Week Awardees**

**Week Five**

**Jasmine:** For applying herself to her learning, asking for help when needed and showing leadership.

**Jessica:** for working diligently to complete her assessment tasks.

**Lara:** For always seeking to learn.

**Charmaine:** Being an Active Learner. Working hard to compose a 4 line rhyming poem.

**Week Six**

**Cameron:** For actively listening and trying skills to the best of his ability in dance.

**Rohan:** For his concentration and very high achievement when completing his Pat Maths testing!

**Charmaine:** For getting to the bus assembly line on time.

**Maddison:** for her dedication to learning her dance routine.

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**A Note from Mrs Davies**

What a great day I had celebrating my 25 years of service. I have spent a lot of time in thought over the events of the past years. Enjoyable times of fun, achievements, and laughter. I hope that the support I’ve given children and the teachers in the classroom has made a change to their lives. You know you’ve been around for a long time when the students that you have taught are married and now you are teaching their children. They must have found something good at Cooyar!

Thanks to the Student Council for the “Buddy Seat”. What a wonderful idea and gift it was to have the seat put out the back for the children to sit on. The flowers were just beautiful and I enjoyed looking at them each day. Maddison, thanks for the card that you made and the flowers. I thank all the children, staff, parents, and the community for their kind wishes on my special day. Last of all I especially thank my husband Darryl and my family who have supported me and had many a late dinner.

Speaking with kindness creates confidence, thinking with kindness creates profoundness, giving with kindness creates love —Lao Tseu

Mrs Davies personal Quote:

*Teaching a student is like going fishing. First you prepare all the necessary equipment for the day. With patience and anticipation you wait with baited hook. Then the nibble and then the bite. Reel them in, they’re set for life.*

With lots of love and thanks. Mrs Davies.
CROWS NEST Christmas in the Park 9 Dec 2016

5:30 pm: Free carnival rides. 6:00 pm: Crows Nest Community Choir, 6:45 pm: Christmas message, 6:50 pm: Brendan Walmsley celebrates Christmas 7:30 pm: Santa arrives in the Council Santa Sleigh. Distribution of Gifts by Santa donated by Crows Nest Lions Club. Distribution of trees from Community Nursery. 8:30 pm: Finish. Clean-up

Barbecue  Cold drinks Ham wheel (Lions Club) Glo-sticks  (Anglican Church) Food and drink also available in the shops