**Be Safe   Be Responsible   Be an Active Learner**

School Watch 13 17 88 – Please keep an eye on our school over the holiday period.

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: 93.8%

Dear Parents, Families and Community Members,

As the year comes to an end, it’s time to reflect on the year that was and what we have achieved as a school in 2016:

- An upgraded Prep kitchen (P&C funded)
- New storage units
- New desks for the Junior and Middle Classrooms
- The removal of the wall in the Middle Classroom
- Funding the community playgroup
- Funding drama, dance and music lessons with specialist staff
- $28 000 grant for a new kitchen
- New spelling resources across the school
- New behaviour signage across the school
- Professional development for all staff in first aid, reading, writing and spelling
- New hands on mathematics resources
- New reading assessment resources for the Senior Class
- A seven day Senior Camp to Winton (P&C Funded)
- Funding extra teacher and teacher aide hours to staff a third classroom
- New chapter book reading resources for the Senior Classroom
- Class sets of dictionaries and thesauruses
- The establishment of a bee hive (Student Council funded)
- Moving our class structure to a Prep-One, Two–Three and a Four–Six
- Having two students apply and one accepted to the 2016 Brisbane Exhibition Show Camp
- Having a student published in the Farm Safety 2017 Calendar and represent the school in athletics at a Wide Bay level
- Organising and hosting the annual Small Schools Cluster Athletics Carnival and RREAP Cluster Arts day
- Taking our students to Brisbane and Toowoomba for a range of cultural events

**Year Six High School Transition**

This year, we have worked hard as a cluster to ensure a comprehensive transition program for all Year Six students. This included high school visits, visits to Cooyar, information sessions and cluster activities. Students have had their final transition session for 2016. We have had positive feedback from students and parents on our transition program.

**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.

**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

**Upcoming 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 (2.00pm)**
Afternoon
Thursday 8th Dec.

**Presentation Night and Family Dinner 5.00pm**
Thursday 8th Dec.
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

Pizza and Popper Lunch Friday

This Friday, the Student Council will be holding a Pizza and Popper lunch for $5.00 per student. Order forms were sent home in KIT books last week. Please return to the school with monies by Friday.

Presentation Night 2016

In this newsletter, I have provided an overview of awards that will be presented at our 2016 Presentation Night. Mr Darryl Early from Nanango State High School will be attending on the night to help present the awards to our students. Notes have been sent home with an overview of the program. Information has also been sent home regarding Family Dinner. We have asked families to bring a salad to share. We will be eating buffet style on the night. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Swimming Carnival

Last Friday we hosted the first cluster Swimming Carnival. We trialled a program that ran very smoothly. We appreciate the feedback we have had from parents and look to refine the program over subsequent years. Benarkin will host the carnival in 2017 and Tandurringie will run the canteen on the day. Congratulations to all students who competed and those who won Age Champion and Runner Up Awards.

Kitchen Refit

From all reports, the Kitchen Refit will take place 2nd – 5th 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 final Prep Transition for 2016. Thank you to Mrs Spencer for organising this important transition program and to parents for bringing their children each week. We look forward to seeing our students start their Prep journey in 2017.

P & C Meeting

The next P & C Meeting (AGM) will take place on February 20th, 2017.

Kindergarten Visits

Last week I had my last visit of the term to Maclagan Kindergarten. I took the ‘Pete the Cat’ picture books that the school are donating to the Kindergarten with me. Mrs Spencer also visited the kindy last week, organising activities for students. The students were very excited. We have enjoyed strengthening our links to the kindergarten again this year and I appreciate Miss Lisa’s warm welcome on each visit. I look forward to continuing these visits in 2017.

Book List Resource Scheme

Please note that payments are now overdue for the Student Resource Scheme. If you have not paid, and would still like to participate in the scheme, please ensure prompt payment to the school office or online.

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.

Tuckshop Working Bee

We are having a working bee at the tuckshop on Thursday 8th December, at 12noon (before water play), to clean and do a stocktake in preparation for holidays. All help, big or small would be appreciated to make this a much smaller and quicker job for all involved. Thanks, Chole & Leanne.

Grandparents Day

On the final Tuesday of term, 6th December we have invited our Grandparents to join us at school from 1.00pm for a light lunch, followed by a visit to classrooms and dance performance. Invitations were sent home last week. We look forward to seeing our Grandparents next Tuesday.

Behaviour Champion Medallions

On Presentation Night we will be awarding our Annual Behaviour Champion Medallions to students who have received four Gold Behaviour Awards for 2016, with no red cards throughout the year. Congratulations to these students and well done for setting an excellent example for your peers.

With thanks for your continued support throughout 2016. Wishing you a restful and safe holiday period with family and friends. Warmest wishes on behalf of all of the staff,

Kendall Seccombe
Junior Class News from Mrs Bourke and Mrs Spencer

Wow the end of the year is almost here. It seems like the term and semester has only just begun. We are very busy finishing off a lot of work for the end of term.

On a sad note I will not be back next year. I have been transferred to Tanduringie SS after my maternity leave. It has been a pleasure to teach your children and watch them grow and learn. I’m sure that I will be seeing you all at the Athletics Carnival and all the other activities that Cooyar attend. Thank you to all of you for making my 2-3yrs here so wonderful. It has been great to get to know you all and to work with you.

A big thank you to Bronwyn who took the class while I was on leave. You have been so amazing to work with and the children are looking forward to seeing you next year.

Thank you to all the Cooyar staff as well, for being such wonderful colleagues.

Wishing you all a wonderful and safe holiday.

2016 Swimming Carnival Age Champions and Runners Up

Congratulations to:

8 Year Boys Age Champions: Jamie and Rohan
10 Year Girls Runner Up: Gabrielle
10 Year Boys Runner Up: Ben
11 Year Boys Age Champion: Seth

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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Be a Learner in the Playground</strong></td>
<td>Cooperate with and include others</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Be a Safe and Responsible Learner for Road Safety</strong></td>
<td>Cross the road with care</td>
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<td>Remain seated while the bus is moving and show respect</td>
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<td>Walk bikes in the school grounds, to and from the bike racks</td>
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<td>Always wear a helmet when riding a bike</td>
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<td>Move directly to and from school</td>
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<td>Use paths to enter and exit school</td>
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From Miss Seccombe and Mrs Sloss in the Senior Class

Another year is nearly over and again, we have packed so much into 2016. From the Sound of Music, the Wiz, the Maritime Museum, Arts Day with USQ students, Cooyar's Biggest Morning Tea to Senior Camp, we have offered students many educational, extracurricular and cultural opportunities this school year.

This fortnight, students are busy working towards Market Day. Stalls are being constructed, marketing banners are being developed and sale items made ready for next week. Year Five students have been working on Graduation invitations, menus and table settings for the night. We have started researching Christmas in different countries, comparing and contrasting the differences with an Australian Christmas. In our final week, we will be using the new kitchen to cook some Christmas dishes from around the world with the Middle Class.

Thank you all for another lovely year at Cooyar State School. We wish parents/carers and children a happy, relaxing and safe holiday and all the best to our five Year Six Students who are moving on to high school next year! Have fun!

Mrs Sloss and Miss Seccombe

From Mrs Duncombe in the Middle Class

Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells…….It is that time of the year again as we wind down to the end of the school year. We have put up a Christmas tree in our classroom, hanging decorations we have made and ones sent to us from other schools in our Christmas Exchange. Students have really enjoyed receiving mail and it has been interesting hearing about the make-up of other schools and lovely to see different craft ideas. All letters and craft items have been displayed in the corner of our classroom, so feel free to come in and have a look. We are aiming to use some of these ideas as well as do some cooking over the next two weeks.

Break-up Day notes were sent home with students, outlining what our class will be doing on the last Thursday of school. Parents are more than welcome to come and join in with the festivities.

On a final note, I would like to thank all parents and students for a wonderful year in the Year 2/3 classroom. It has been a pleasure to teach this class!!!

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday!

Mrs Duncombe
Student of the Week Awardees

Week Seven
Arien: For working hard during writing time and sharing it confidently with the class.
David: For keeping the shed tidy and always participating in morning sport.
Blaz: For hard work in class.
Mareta: For working hard on improving her writing.

Week Eight
Mackenzie: For improved confidence in reading and speaking in class.
Holly: For her efforts in daily writing, showing creativity and incorporating feedback into her texts.
Charlotte: For being a responsible class member by completing all set tasks ahead of time.
Alexis: For putting in 100% effort everyday with all activities.
Logan: For always wearing a hat, being on time for class and doing his jobs.

Supporting Students and Families Throughout 2016

This year, Cooyar State School has offered a range of support processes for students in our school. These have included individual learning goal processes, targeted support plans and individual curriculum plans, referrals and support programs from the Guidance Officer, Speech Therapist, Behaviour Support Teacher, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist and the School Nurse. As well as these supports, we have also offered Information Sessions to support parents in learning about our new Reading Framework, facilitated the Positive Parenting Program for families at our school and included ‘Next Steps’ in each student’s Report Card each Semester. At Cooyar State School, we pride ourselves on having processes in place that support the learning and development of each individual student.

Presentation Night Award Overview

Be an Active Learner Award – Academic Achievement
Awarded to the student in each year level with the highest academic achievement for the 2016 school year.

Be an Active Learner Award – Work Ethic Achievement
Awarded to the student in each year level who personifies our school motto ‘by labour we progress’. A student who applies themselves diligently and consistently across the curriculum.

Sport Honour Roll
Recognises students who have represented Cooyar State School in various sporting events across our cluster and region.

Be Safe Award
Recognises a student who demonstrates excellent behaviour through following all of our school rules both in and out of the classroom, during excursions and on the school bus.

Be Responsible Award
Recognises a student who takes responsibility at school each day, shows leadership and sets the example for their peers both in and out of the classroom.
Join us on FRIDAY 16th December 2016
at MACLAGAN HALL at 6.30 pm
for our Combined Churches
Christmas Carols

Sausage sizzle beginning at 6.30 pm.

Bring your own torch, glow sticks and hearty voices!

Some glow sticks available for sale.

Donations gratefully accepted for the BBQ.

Excess funds will go to BlueCare whose services support our district.

Carols begin at 7.30 pm.

Please bring a plate to share for supper afterwards.

Cooyar Christmas in the Park
This Saturday
3rd December
2.30pm

Bouquets to say Thank you...

To Mrs Rita Barron and Mrs Rowena Gibson for volunteering in the Junior Classroom for reading and sight words.

Thank you from us all!