Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

It is with great pleasure and a sense of anticipation that I welcome you to our 2015 school year at Cooyar State School. I trust that everyone enjoyed their break and students are ready to get stuck into our new school year. We have another jam packed year at Cooyar State School and I am looking forward to working with you throughout it.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a bit about myself. I have been living in the South Burnett for the last nine years after being appointed to Murgon State School for my rural service with the department. During my time at Murgon, I taught across all grades and in Learning Support. In 2013 I headed overseas to participate in a Teacher Exchange to Ontario, Canada, where I taught Grades Four and Prep. In 2014, I took three Acting Principalship roles, at Gindie State School, Wooroolin State School and Cloyna State School. Gindie State School (near Emerald) and Wooroolin State School had 38 Students. In both schools, I taught in the Senior Year 3 to Year 6 Classroom. Cloyna State School had 23 Students and I taught in the Prep to Year 2 Classroom. Small schools are great schools. They have an unmatched sense of community, which I can already see here at Cooyar. I am originally from Brisbane; however, the South Burnett quickly became my home and a place that my family and friends enjoy visiting. I am looking forward to experiencing some of the local events that Cooyar has to offer over the next few years.

Pupil Free Days 2015

Last week, our staff were at school getting ready for our new school year. From curriculum planning, to mandatory staff training and setting up our learning spaces, staff were busy getting our 2015 school year ready for the return of our students this week. A few ‘thank yous’ –

To Mrs Davies for setting up our library complete with our colourful new trolleys.
To Mr Munt for getting our school grounds ship shape and ready.
To Mrs Verbeekvandersande for overhauling our school inside and out so that it is nice and clean for the start of our school year.

So our information can stay up to date, please advise the school of any changes to your:–

- Address
- Phone numbers
- Medical conditions
- Medication

Thank you.

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.
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.

**New Bell Times**

As many families already know, school times are changing for the 2015 school year and beyond. School will now begin at **8.30am** and finish at **2.30pm**. The bell times for our new school day are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</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 new start time of 8.30am. Supervision will be provided for students arriving at school from 8.00am each morning. Non-bus students can arrive at school between 8.00am and 8.30am each day. Daily physical activity time will run from 8.00 to 8.30am each morning.

**Swimming – Term One**

Swimming is booked in for Week Five of this term. More information will be included in the next newsletter. Lessons will be conducted by Yarraman Pool Swimming Instructors and be supported by Cooyar State School staff. If you have the time, we always appreciate parent helpers during swimming block.

**Our School Rules and Behaviour Expectations**

Each week of this term, we will have a Social Skills Focus that will be explicitly taught and reviewed with students throughout the week to reinforce our school rules **Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be an Active Learner**. This is part of our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Process that Cooyar State School follows. Attached to this newsletter in an overview of the PBL Process at our school, **For more information, please see our PBL Noticeboard outside the office**. Following is an overview of the Weekly Social Skills for Term One. I encourage families to use this information to have discussions at home that support the teachings at school.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Focus Area</th>
<th>Points for Discussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Introduction of Term | School rules  
Classroom rules, routines, procedures  
What does Positive Behaviour of Learning at Cooyar State School look like? |
| 2    | Be Safe in all Areas | Use equipment appropriately and with care  
Respect the rights of others  
Report dangerous or unusual situations  
Eat only your own food, in designated areas  
Be hygienic |
| 3    | Be Responsible in the Playground | Play fairly, follow the rules and take turns  
Return equipment at the end of play |
| 4    | Be a Safe, Responsible Learner in all Environments | Be persistent and engage in all tasks  
Be open to new ideas  
Ask permission to leave all areas  
Be cyber safe |
| 5    | Be Safe in the Playground | Play suitable, school approved games  
Be sun safe  
Play in approved areas |
| 6    | Be a Learner in all Areas | Actively listen and follow instructions  
Be organised and punctual  
Ask for help if needed  
Care for self, others and the environment |
| 7    | Be a Safe and Responsible Learner when transitioning around the school | Move safely, respectfully and appropriately  
Keep traffic areas clear  
Line up responsibly |
| 8    | Be Responsible in all Areas | Speak truthfully, respectfully and appropriately  
Act with respect, consideration and integrity  
Follow procedures and obey all rules  
Place litter in bins  
Wear your school uniform with pride |
| 9    | Be a Learner in the Playground | Cooperate with and include others |
| 10   | Be a Safe and Responsible Learner for Road Safety | Cross the road with care  
Remain seated while the bus is moving and show respect  
Walk bikes in the school grounds, to and from the bike racks  
Always wear a helmet when riding a bike  
Move directly to and from school  
Use paths to enter and exit school |
From the Principal...

**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 Week Ten of each term. Students can sign up to these events. If you would like more information on the Cooyar Cash Rewards System please read the PBL Brochure attached to this newsletter or come and see one of the staff.

**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.

**Curriculum Focus**

To allow for curriculum discussions and the extension of learning at home, each fortnight we will be providing a curriculum overview for parents.

This term in English, the whole school will be learning how to construct narratives. Over the term, we will be learning about the structure of narratives and the different parts. We will be learning how to use strategies such as Sizzling Starts, Backfilling, Building the Tension, Dynamic Dialogue and Reaching the Climax to make our narratives engaging and exciting.

Each week of this term, we will also have a whole school spelling focus. Below are our focuses for the next fortnight:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week One</th>
<th>Spelling set up and review</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week Two</td>
<td>b, bb, be  Eg. bump, bubble, tube</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week Three</td>
<td>A,  Eg. apple, animal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our Week Two Mathematics Curriculum Overview is below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Same and different, sorting objects using a common feature.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year One</td>
<td>Number and growing patterns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Two</td>
<td>Number –representing two digit numbers, Units of Time—calendar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Three and Four</td>
<td>Units of Time – Reading, matching, representing and converting times.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Five</td>
<td>Order of operations, review of multiplications, strategies and time tables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Six</td>
<td>Order of operations, review of multiplications, strategies and time tables.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LOTE with Ms Lay will begin this week for our Year Five and Year Six students. Year Three and Year Four will, once again, participate in Cultural Studies with Ms Lay each Wednesday.
From the Principal and Classroom...

**Cooyar Show 2015**

The Cooyar Show will be held on Saturday 21st February, 2015. Work is already underway for our show display. From paintings to drawings, technology challenges to handwriting, photography to cooking, we are preparing for another year of fantastic student entries.

It has been great meeting the students and some parents over the last week. Please don't hesitate to call in and introduce yourself or contact me if you have any questions, queries or concerns.

Have a great fortnight.

Yours in Education,
Kendall Seccombe

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**Junior News—Prep, Year 1 and Year 2**

Welcome back to all our Cooyar families for 2015 and we extend a warm welcome to Miss Seccombe and our six new Prep children and their families. Our new Prep students, Josie, Charlotte, Kiera, Lily, Alexis and Cameron have impressed us all with their enthusiasm and have settled in well so far to school life.

First term is always a busy part of the school year in the junior room as students settle into school routines, swimming lessons in week 5 and Cooyar Show preparations.

Over the next three weeks, our class will be busily preparing their items for the Cooyar Show. This year we will create a Lego model in technology lessons, an edible necklace/ decorated cupcake and painting/ drawing in art lessons and also participate in the handwriting competition. Students may bring in their own decorating materials and Lego from home for these activities.

This term in English we will be listening to lots of stories (narratives), discussing their structure and writing our own short stories. In Geography, we will be look at Cooyar and its features. The Science topic will be animal and plant habitats and lifecycles.

Our reading lessons will start in week 2 and nightly reading and weekly homework will go home then. Students will need to read daily and bring in their reading folders signed with their KIT (Keeping in Touch) books each day for us to check off. Any parents interested in helping out in reading come down and see us.

We are looking forward to a fantastic Term 1!

Michelle Bourke and Tania Duncombe
And so begins a new era in upper primary education in Queensland! With year seven now in high school, primary schools look a little different.

Our week has begun smoothly with 14 children in our classroom. We are, of course, setting up routines, revising rules and systems and travelling through the usual set up of a new school year.

This year, I will again teach four days a week. Usually, I won't be at school on Wednesday. Miss Seccombe will take the 5/6 class in her classroom on Wednesdays and at 12.00pm, Miss Lay will take the class for LOTE.

Of course, the Cooyar Show is immediately on our agenda at school and the children may have already told you that they will be required to complete four items for entry in the show. Most will be undertaken in school time but the key item parents will be interested in will be the Technology piece. Students have been asked to select one from the following to use as a project for Technology:

1. A Collage (for 10 year olds only)
2. A doorstop (any medium)
3. A decorated cake (in fondant)
4. A handmade card

The materials required for the item they choose will only be provided by the school if they are already in the art stores. Other items will need to be provided by parents, so ensure the children have a discussion with you about their choices.

As for last year, the decorated cake will require up to three afternoon sessions after school to complete the task. You will be asked to collect your son/daughter at approximately 4.00pm on these afternoons. A list of requirements will be sent home for this task soon so you may begin shopping.

**Garden**

We still have some fruit trees to plant out and we are hoping for some favourable weather to do this. Miss Seccombe and I have been discussing the garden and will soon have a proposal to put forward for suggestions/comments. A new outlet from the creek will make watering an easier task soon and the possibility of a permanent set up more viable. Please feel free to make any suggestions that you know to be worthwhile.

Keep an eye out for future notes in the KIT book - we will continue with the same system.

Welcome to the year fives in our classroom and here comes the Cooyar Show!!

Carmon Sloss
It’s great to be back at school after an enjoyable holiday period. There are several new student and parent faces, along with a couple of teachers transferred in from other parts of the state. As always, we like to think that the New Year will be an excellent one for all of us. And a positive attitude is a good place to start for that to be a reality.

Asking around, it seems that, like me, several other people enjoyed time at the beach, as well as getting necessary jobs done on the home front.

Last week I personally enjoyed time at a Chaplains’ Prayer Retreat at Lake Perseverance, out of Crows’ Nest. Chaplains from schools all over South-West Queensland (from as wide as Toogoolawah, Lockyer Valley, Mitchell, Stanthorpe, Murgon and Kingaroy) met together. It was an inspirational time for an exchange of ideas, learning new things, eating delicious food, and enjoying warm fellowship. Later in the week I joined in with local school teachers who were attending professional development sessions at Yarraman State School and Nanango High School. So we should be ready to for the year ahead.

Several new schools applied for chaplaincy this year. However, since the same amount of funding was maintained from previous years, only schools that already had chaplains have been grated ongoing chaplaincy services for 2015. Chaplains are in schools to assist in providing pastoral care, to offer practical and educational support to teachers, students and families, to assist those with special needs, and to participate in extra-curricular activities.

If I can be of particular service to members of the school community, please let me know and I will do my best to comply. In the meantime I wish you all a happy and satisfying 2015.

Phil Downing
School Chaplain

*** Please note—Chaplain’s Lunch Time Super Club will be held each Wednesday at first break. For your child/children to participate you must complete and return the attached Consent form to the school.
Cooyar Agricultural Society Inc.

Cooyar Show will be the 21st February 2015. The Society has now a website. The website address is www.cooyarshow.com.au

To cut costs all Schedules, Entry Forms, contact details for President, Secretary and Stewards will be listed and available for download from the beginning of next week the 15th December, 2014.

Thank you.

Wondai Proston Junior Rugby League & Wondai Wolves sign on Sunday 8th February commencing @ 3.00pm.
All new junior players please bring along your birth certificate. Junior players can sign on online by going to the NRL website at www.playnrl.com and follow the links. You can use your password from 2014 or request a new one.
Club will also be providing internet access at the grounds on sign on day.
Senior players must complete a players registration form, this can be done at sign on day.
The club would like senior players to attend for a social afternoon.
No need to worry about tea—sausage sizzle provided.

Welcome our new Principal, new Teacher and Prep's for 2015!
Left to Right—Teacher—Mrs Bronwyn Spencer, Prep Students—Josie, Charlotte, Lily, Cameron, Keira, Alexis and Principal—Miss Kendall Seccombe.