Date Claimers:

18 February — Library Bus,
22 February — Cooyar Show,
4 March — Library Bus,
18 March — Library Bus.

Welcome

It has been fantastic to be back at Cooyar State School and reconnect with students, families and staff. I am certainly looking forward to a busy and productive term. Thank you to Mr Wrigley for leaving me with so many notes to keep the school running with no disruptions to students.

There was a great roll up at the P&C Annual General Meeting. Thank you to all those who made the effort to attend.

There are busy times ahead for us as we prepare to formulate a school plan for the Great Results Guarantee (GRG). We have been given funds to promote every child reaching the National Minimum Standards for Literacy and Numeracy. I will keep you posted as the details of this program are ironed out.

The School Website is under construction, so if you have any ideas on useful information that you would like to see on this site, please write it in the KIT book or pass your ideas onto Jodi.

Book Club will be coming home shortly, so look out for the catalogue in your child’s KIT book. A huge thank you to Mrs Ryan who will be the Book Club Co-ordinator.

From the Classroom

The Senior class have settled back into school with ease. After a busy week at swimming we are all geared up for learning. Part of this has been developing with the students a school plan of how to be a Safe, Responsible and a Learner. These ideas will inform our school rules.

Middle Class (Yr 3/4)

Maths: This week the students have worked with time activities, looking at analogue and digital time, calendars and intervals of time.

English: We continue to read Roald Dahl’s “The Twits” and are looking at how the author uses vocabulary and complex sentences to develop characters.

Science: we will be looking at living and non-living things and ways to sort them into different groups.
Student of the week

Week 2: Swimming
P-2 — Diesel for responsible behaviour.
3/4 — Jake for impressive leadership skills.
5/6/7 — Sarah for a great effort at swimming.

Week 3: Thursday Parade
P-2 — David for an impressive start to the year, working hard in class.
Yr 3/4 — Jacob for a fantastic effort with his spelling sorts and word patterns.
Yr 5/6/7 — Kaycee for being an organised and responsible.

Libby Clapperton

Prep, 1 & 2 News

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome back to you all for what will be a wonderful year at Cooyar. The children have settled back into school well and our Preps are keen to learn. Swimming last week saw many of us very tired and a big thank you to those parents who were able to come along and support the children to learn to swim.

Congratulations to Diesel on getting Student of the Week last week. Diesel has been working very hard to be a learner by getting his work completed and asking for help when needed. He has shown to be responsible by telling the students around him to be quiet while it is listening time. Well done Diesel!

The Preps have been busy learning letters and sounds. We have already learnt the letters s, a, t, i, p, n, e. We have also learnt that these letters can make words as in as, sat, at and sit.

In English we are exploring emotions in picture books. We have looked at a number of books and discussed how the character is feeling and how we know.

In English we are exploring emotions in picture books. We have looked at a number of books and discussed how the character is feeling and how we know.

Our Prep’s are busy sorting collections of objects and identifying a rule for sorting in Mathematics. While the Year 1 and 2’s have been learning about the days of the week and months of the year.

In Geography we are discovering the features of familiar places and the activities that occur there. Our History unit is on remembering and memories and next week the children will share with the class some of their special memories. A note will go home later in the week. Keep an eye out in the KIT book. In Science we have been learning about living/nonliving things and how to justify these groups according to observable features.

Thank you and if you wish to help out in the classroom please come and see us. Our door is always open.

Michelle Bourke and Tania Duncombe
From the Classroom...
The year 5,6 and 7 class has now begun their work for the term in all subjects. Homework has been sent home and some of the first pieces of assessment have already been completed to assess what each child needs to work on for the term.

Technology, as explained earlier, will provide a platform for entering an item in the Cooyar Show as well as learning the process of design, make and evaluate in a fun way. Thank you to all parents who have accommodated the demands of our classroom in such a short space of time and at a busy time of year.

Be assured that the Lego that has been sent in is being kept safe and separate and after next week it will be sent home, except those pieces that are in the item made for the show. Don't forget that you are welcome to collect your child's Lego creation on the day of the show if you choose.

Our topic for Mathematics is data and graphing and most of the children are ready for their first piece of assessment this Friday. Short stories are being explored in English and then the children will be asked to write a short story of their own.

Carmon Sloss
Over the recent Christmas period, a family friend came to stay for a couple of days. He is a keen archer, and had soon set up his target in front of some hay bails and a tree in the backyard. Family members were invited to test their archery skills by shooting arrows at the target.

Anyone who has anything to do with archery will know that the activity is not as easy as it looks. At first go, it can be difficult to prevent the arrow from sliding down the bow before it released towards the target. It can also be difficult to get the arrow on course towards the bulls-eye. A shooter can bring the bow up to a height where the arrow is in line with the eye and the target. Hopefully this will get the projectile on course to gain maximum points. Some find it easier to shoot from the hip, but without astute judgement, the shot is not likely to be as accurate as when lined up with the eye.

The whole archery thing soon had me thinking about other targets or goals that we may be hoping to reach successfully in life.

One of my AFL Football coaches used to say that when kicking for goal, the kicker ought to look for a target some distance behind the middle of the goals, and then to kick as hard as possible at that target, rather than just trying to guide the ball between the big sticks. By giving your all to reach a more distant target, you would be more likely to score the maximum points for the shot.

When we are catering for guests at a dinner, it is worth getting more food than we think we will need, so that we are not embarrassed by running out of food. Like the goal-kicking example, if we aim further than necessary, we will feed everybody well, and be prepared for unexpected extras in the process.

Whilst I was attending junior high school in the 1960’s, my parents took my sister and I on a caravanning holiday, from Melbourne via Bendigo to Mildura, where we soon took a paddle-steamer ride along the Murray River. There were not too many passengers on board, and the old paddle-steamer captain invited me to steer the boat for a few minutes. I soon found out that there was skill in that too, because we were soon going from one side of the river to the other in a zig-zag pattern, causing me stress in the process. The idea was to pick out a distant tree in line with the middle of the river, and steer for that. It reminds me of a farmer trying to plough his field by concentrating on going in a straight line, and finding that the furrows behind him weave too and fro across the paddock. The only successful way to do it is to pick out a distant object, like a fence-post at the end of the field, and to aim for that.

Another example, closer to school, is aiming for exam success. By aiming high and doing everything possible to get better-than-average results, a pass should be a mere formality.

In a nutshell, if we do the best that we can in life, and aim beyond what is absolutely necessary, we are more likely to enjoy a fulfilling life, and, in the process, receive satisfying results for ourselves, our families, our school and our community.
Public Notices...

Bus Meeting

Annual Bus Conveyance Meeting for Yarraman High School Bus S29, East Cooyar Bus P1062 and Rangemore Road Bus P1540 at the Cooyar State School on Tuesday 18/02/2014 commencing at 4pm.

All Parents & Caregivers are invited to attend this meeting, hope to see you all there.

NANANGO SOCCER CLUB

Training Begins
ALL WELCOME!
Thursday 27th February
Burnett Street Soccer Fields
4pm - 5pm
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 2014 through to 15yrs.
For further info on fees and general enquires phone:
Sandra 41 631403

Final Chance to Sign On for 2014 Season!

Any junior players wishing to play for Blackbut Yarraman this season must let the club know by Friday 14th February.
Thanks to all those players who registered on the weekend. We appreciate your support!
However with current player numbers we will not be able to compete in the upcoming season and the Blackbut-Yarraman club will close!
We are looking to fill teams for U6, U8, U10 and U12.
Please email blackbutyarramanrugbyleague@gmail.com or call 0419 682 795 to register your interest.
Hi—I am looking for empty soft drink bottles, 1 Litre or up in size. If you have any you can part with, please give me a call. Thank you.

Gina—4692 6268

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The Bell Show Ball is on Friday the 14 February, 2014 night, at the Memorial Hall, Wallace Street, Bell.

It’s a great night out for some family fun and dancing! There will be continuous live music by ‘Darren Gray’ and ‘Pure Kaos’.

The evening is licensed and supper is provided.

There are cash prizes and a sash for Junior Showgirl, Show Princess and Show Queen.

So come on out to Bell for a great night!

Doors open at 7.30pm.

Admission—Adults $10- High School Students $4

If you wish to know more information or wish to book a table, please contact Judy on 4663 9784 or 0448 344 313 or Pat on 4663 1156.
Mobile Phone use and distraction while driving

Every year many Queenslanders are killed in traffic accidents. The road toll is continually increasing and the effect on communities is not able to measured accurately. Distraction and the use of mobile phones have been identified as a factor in the annual road toll in Queensland. Whilst I acknowledge that we have limited mobile phone coverage in Peranga, Kulpi, Quinalow and Maclagan, we all travel through areas where there are opportunities to use our phones.

Distraction has been identified as a contributing factor in 22% of car crashes and near crashes and 71% of truck crashes (and 46% of near crashes) in naturalistic driving studies.

Using a mobile phone whilst driving is highly distracting and increases your risk of a crash four-fold.

Despite the dangers and illegality, approximately 25% of recently surveyed Queensland drivers reported using their hand-held mobile phone on a daily basis to answer or make calls, as well as read text messages, while 14% reported using their hand-held phone to send a text message on a daily basis.

THE FACTS

- Driver distraction is identified as one of the main causes of road crashes, estimated to account for approximately one quarter of car crashes.¹
- Using a mobile phone while driving (especially texting), is highly distracting.
- A person using a hand-held or hands free mobile phone while driving is four times more likely to have a serious crash resulting in hospital attendance.

Why is using a mobile phone while driving dangerous?

- Driving is a complex activity performed in an environment that is constantly evolving and involves the simultaneous performance of multiple subtasks. Despite this complexity, drivers often engage in additional activities that can take both their mind and their eyes off the road and their hands off critical vehicle controls.

The legislation

- It is illegal in all Australian states and territories to use a hand-held mobile phone while driving. This includes talking, texting, playing games, taking photos or video and using other phone functions.
- Using a hand-held mobile phone is also illegal when your vehicle is stationary but not parked (when stopped at a traffic light).
- It is illegal to use a hands-free phone while driving if it causes you to lose proper control of your vehicle.
- Learner and P1 drivers are not permitted to use a hand-held or hands-free mobile phone while driving.

Sean Donaghy
Senior Constable
Officer in Charge
Coyar Police