Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

While our annual Cooyar Show was cancelled last week, the pavilion was opened to display our students’ work. It was great to see so many pieces of work up on the wall and so many of our students winning prizes for their entries. Students and staff have been working hard over the past four weeks to prepare their entries and our school display. Our school display showcased the opportunities for students at Cooyar State School. From photography to cake decorating, necklace making to Lego construction, painting to drawing, handwriting to farm produce, our student entries were something to be very proud of. Well done to all students and a big THANK YOU to staff and parent helpers who prepared and set up our displays and entries at the showgrounds.

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.

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...

**Yarraman Swimming**

This week, we have been in Yarraman for our Term One Swimming Block. Yarraman Pool's two instructors have been working with our students to improve their swimming and water safety skills. It has been a great week so far and we are looking forward to two more days of lessons before our Swimming Block finishes on Friday. Thank you to parent helpers who have been joining us at the pool. We appreciate you taking the time out of your day to help with this valuable program.

**Rashie Swimming Shirts**

As part of swimming at Cooyar State School, all students are assigned a Cooyar Rashie Shirt for the week. Not only does this provide sun safety for our students, but it allows instructors and volunteers to identify Cooyar students quickly and safely at the pool. We ask that at the end of Swimming Block, parents wash the school Rashie Shirts and return them to school next week to be stored ready for Term Four Swimming Block later in the year. Please ensure you line dry them as the dryer effects the lettering.

**Certificates from Bruce Scott MP**

Last week on Thursday's parade, leadership certificates were presented to our 2015 School Leaders from Mr Scott.
From the Principal...

Student Council
Last week, our Year 3 to 6 students met for our first Student Council meeting of 2015. This meeting was called to elect a President, Secretary, Treasurer and Middle Class Representative for the 2015 school year. This executive team will work with our Year Six leaders on Student Council events throughout the year. The Year 3 to 6 Student Council will meet together once each month to discuss and plan events. Congratulations to our 2015 Executive:

President: Aidan  
Secretary: Amelia  
Treasurer: Jessica  
Middle Class Representative: Gabrielle

School Photographs
On Thursday 19th March, we are having school photographs taken. I ask that all students wear full school uniform on this day. Photo order envelopes are attached to this newsletter. One must be returned for EACH INDIVIDUAL child. Please return envelopes and payment to the school by Thursday 12th March.

Great Results Guarantee
This year, as part of the Great Results Guarantee, Cooyar State School receives $10,714. This year, we are using this to create plans for Year 3 and 5 students who will not meet National Minimum Standard in the NAPLAN areas of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy. We have also employed Mrs Donaghy to work with Year 3 and 5 students two mornings per week for Term 1. We will be also using the funding to continue to employ Mrs Sloss in the Senior Classroom to support Literacy and Numeracy learning across the school in small class groups. These strategies will continue to cater to student needs, develop student learning edges and continue to strengthen school curriculum, teaching and learning. Our 2015 Plan will be uploaded to the school website when it has been approved.

Student Leadership Camp
On 16th and 17th March (Week 8), our Year 5 and 6 students will be heading to Barambah Environmental Education Centre (BEEC) at Wratton’s Forest to participate in a two day Leadership camp focusing on leadership skills and team building. The program will encompass the low ropes course and outdoor education activities, team building challenges and leadership skill building activities. Mrs Sloss will be accompanying the students on this overnight trip. More information, including a program outline and costs, will be sent home in the coming weeks. This will be a valuable experience for our Seniors who are leading our school this year.

Principal’s Conference 2015
This Thursday and Friday, I will be heading to Brisbane to participate in the bi-annual Principal’s Conference. All principals from across Queensland will be attending the two day conference with the theme of “Every School has a Great School down the Road”. The conference will include master classes where we can strengthen our leadership skills.
From the Principal...

**Tuckshop**
A big thank you to our Tuckshop organisers and volunteers who make tuckshop possible at Cooyar State School each week. We appreciate your efforts and the delicious lunches that you provide for us.

**Bus Meeting**
Last Tuesday 17th February, we had our bus meeting. Thank you to parents who attended and also to those who took positions on our two bus committees. It is great to see so many parents involved in these meetings.

**Being at School on Time – Every Minute Counts**
To reiterate my message from Week Three’s newsletter; not only does ‘every day count’ but ‘every minute counts’ for those students who are arriving late to school. Thank you to parents who have supported us in these initiatives. We want every child to get the best opportunities to learn and broaden their horizons each day.

**Curriculum Focus**
In English, we have been continuing our work on writing a narrative. We have been learning about important strategies that will make our writing more organised and more interesting including Sizzling Starts, Backfilling, Building the Tension, Dynamic Dialogue and Reaching the Climax. In the Middle and Senior Rooms, we have been learning how to create a quick and easy narrative plan that will help us write an exciting and engaging narrative.

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 Five</th>
<th>e, ea. For example, egg, bed, excellent, head.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week Six</td>
<td>d, dd. For example, dog, bird, should, middle, paddle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our Week Three Mathematics Curriculum Overview is below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Exploring numbers – identifying, matching, counting, finding numbers in the environment.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year One</td>
<td>Representing addition situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Two</td>
<td>Counting sequences using 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Three and Four</td>
<td>Multiplication facts, counting sequences, measuring objects using standard measurements including mm, cm, m, km.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Five and Six</td>
<td>Representing and reading data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Focus Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction of Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Be Safe in all Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Be Responsible in the Playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Be a Safe, Responsible Learner in all Environments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Be Safe in the Playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Be a Learner in all Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Be a Safe and Responsible Learner when transitioning around the school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Be Responsible in all Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Be a Learner in the Playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Be a Safe and Responsible Learner for Road Safety</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the Principal and Classroom...

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any queries, questions or concerns.

Have a great fortnight,

Yours in Education,
Kendall Seccombe

Junior News—Prep, Year 1 and Year 2

Congratulations to all our students for their fantastic efforts in completing their creations for the Cooyar Show. We have been very busy getting everything ready and even though the show was cancelled this year, our pavilion exhibits were still judged. The school section had entries from four different schools in most classes, so the competition was fierce. Our class received awards in the Lego creations, cupcake decorating, paintings, drawings and handwriting. Well done everyone for your efforts!

Geography

We have been discussing the natural and man-made features of Cooyar and now we are asking questions of why they are important to Cooyar. Thanks to students who have already brought in and discussed their pictures of the local area. A bus trip is currently being organised for our class to tour the town next week.

Swimming

Swimming has been going well so far, although I’m sure the children will be tiring by the end of the week. It is amazing to see the progress some students make in these lessons. If you could return your child’s washed rashie early next week, it would be greatly appreciated. A special thank-you to all the parent helpers who have donated their time to assist this week.

Have a great week!

Many thanks,

Michelle Bourke and Tania Duncombe
This fortnight, we continue to work on developing our narrative writing skills using a planning template that incorporates:

- **Sizzling Starts**: to grab the reader’s attention
- **Backfill**: to fill in the who, what, why, when, where and how of the story
- **Building the Tension**: the fast paced, action filled build towards the climax
- **Climax**: an exciting end to the tension.

Students have been working with the Senior class to practise these skills.

In reading we are learning to use the following skills:

- **Skim and Scan**: to get an overall understanding of the genre of the text (narrative, report, exposition or procedure), to find important information in the text.
- **Connect**: to make connections to self, other texts and the world based on the text you are reading. This helps to strengthen our understanding of what we are reading.
- **Organisation**: to recognise the genre of the text from the structure. This allows us to understand the intent of the author and what job the text is trying to do (entertain, inform, instruct or persuade).

In guided reading activities, students are applying these skills to texts to build their reading and comprehension skills. We are also incorporating handwriting into our Middle Class program in order to be able to complete activities using cursive writing.

In Mathematics, we have been focusing on writing, reading, representing, comparing and ordering 4 digit numbers. We have also been focusing on counting sequences and time (minutes past and minutes to). Each day we do our Times Tables Challenge, which strengthens our multiplication skills. In the coming fortnight, we will be focusing on multiplication facts and measuring with standard units including mm, cm, m and km; g, kg, t; ml, L and kL. If you can find opportunities around the house that can incorporate measuring over the next fortnight, including cooking, they would be great opportunities for students to practise these skills.

In Geography, we have started our excursions to local sites of significance. Last week, we walked to the Swinging Bridge to meet with Mr Van Espen who built the bridge. He spent the afternoon answering students’ inquiry questions about the bridge, its uses, materials it was made out of and reasons for it being built. It was a valuable learning opportunity for all students and we sincerely thank Mr Van Espen for taking the time to meet with our students.
Senior News—Year 5 and Year 6

**Technology**
Technology for semester one is now complete. Folders are due this Friday and the first piece of assessment for the year is finished. Whilst the cancellation of the show was a disappointment, we were all pleased the entries were judged and prizes were awarded.

**Geography**
Presentations are due in week nine of this term. The children have been visiting places of interest in the township of Cooyar and recording information about each one. The position of each is mapped and they will be required to find out the importance of each place to themselves, the town of Cooyar and the region. Parents may wish to assist with some of these answers. Please feel free to come forward with any information you may have on the original and current Halls, the Blacksmith's Post or the Anzac Memorial. We were especially pleased to have Mr. Van Espen come to the Swinging Bridge and answer our questions last week. The children met an icon in our community and will hopefully remember some of the things he shared with us. We were privileged to view photos and the bridge plans Mr Van Espen brought with him.

**English**
The children are working on writing techniques to use when writing a narrative. They are showing some improvement in their approach and experimenting with a variety of ideas so there may be some really interesting end results.

**Mathematics**
We are now moving into Chance and Data. We have also been converting decimals to fractions and simplifying fractions to answer some of the skills required in the Mathletics book. Thank you to those parents who have been encouraging their children to learn their times tables. Our year six students seem to find these much easier this year and are now simply improving their speed.

**Garden**
We hope to plan and plant new garden beds on the southern side of the tuckshop this year. Hopefully the weather conditions will soon improve and encourage us in this endeavour. Any suggestions are welcome so send in your ideas via the KIT book.

Carmon Sloss
Chaplain’s Corner

This past weekend’s Cyclone Marcia was a bit of a fizzer, for this area at least. Weather forecasters predicted cyclonic rains and possible flooding over a wide area, and we all braced for the worst. Fortunately we gained some good rain before the cyclone was down-graded, and we could get back to our lives as normal. Certainly there were people, particularly around Yeppoon and Rockhampton, whose homes were badly damaged. However things could have been worse for a lot more of us. It’s not the first time that weather predictions have been wrong, but I guess it’s better to be over-prepared for the worst than to under-prepared, and to face the consequences.

It is all very well being optimistic and hopeful for the best. However, plans for a worse scenario make good common sense. Preparations for possible trouble are wise.

Sometimes it’s difficult to know how far to go in preparing for one type of trouble or another. We could become so paranoid that we take out insurance against every possible disaster. There is a need to have faith that life will work for the best, whilst at the same time preparing, or putting things aside, for a rainy day. The main thing for us all is to think through situations, consider possibilities and be ready for the most obvious problems, do what we can and leave the rest to Providence.

A few proverbs that might help us along the way to greater safety and wise planning include:

(1) If we fail to plan, we plan to fail;
(2) A stitch in time saves nine, and
(3) Don’t leave until tomorrow what we can do today.

Phil Downing
Cooyar State School Chaplain
**Student of the week...**

**Week 4**

Prep—Year 2— Charlotte for her beautiful handwriting. Being a Learner.
Year 3—Year 4— Thomas for working hard during rotations and encouraging others. Being a Learner.
Year 5—Year 7— Aidan for 100% on his weekly spelling, times tables and Maths Mentals tests. Being a Learner.
Playground— Alexis for being responsible in the playground and keeping Mrs Davies on task. Being Responsible.

**Week 5**

Prep—Year 2— Samuel for always showing exceptional work ethics. Being a Learner.
Year 3—Year 4— Gabrielle for always following instructions carefully and actively learning. Being a Learner.
Year 5—Year 7— Jasmine for making a determined effort in learning tables and spelling. Being a Learner.
Playground— Lara for being responsible by packing up play equipment quickly when instructed. Being Responsible.
Photo Gallery...

Winners and placing in Photography section

Winners and placing in Cake Decorating section

Winners and placing in Drawing section

Winners and placing Painting section

Xavier and Oliver with their Show and Tell on Wednesday

Lara won the Lego Creation section
Newspaper clipping from the South Burnett Times on the 17 February, 2015—Prep Pull Out