Date Claimers:

18 March—Library Bus,
27 March—School Photos,
1 April—Library Bus,
3 April—School Nurse,
4 April—Celebration Day,
4 April—Last day of School Term 1.

SWPBS
What a busy term and as the days fly by it is great to see our students focussed on Being a Learner, Being Responsible and Being Safe. Last week Mark, Tania, Jodi, Velma, Leanne and myself went to Kingaroy for the first tier of training in becoming an SWPBS school. You may have seen this acronym on the school sign. It stands for School Wide Positive Behaviour Support and over the next year we will be implementing strategies that focus on the positive behaviours of our students. Our school values of Being a Learner, Being Responsible and Being Safe will form the backbone of this process.

Parent Information
It was great to see so many parents at the afternoon. For those of you, who couldn't make it, please feel welcome to talk with your child’s teacher about any aspect of their schooling. We welcome parent input and realise it takes a whole village to raise a child.

Great Results Guarantee
The Great Results Guarantee (GRG) draft has been submitted. To give our students the best chance of reaching the National Minimum Standard in reading Jayne Donaghy is working with some students on an intensive reading and writing program. Leanne Mylett will be assisting in the Junior room working with small groups of children on sight words, phonics and reading and some of our Year 3 and 5 students are participating in online reading comprehension lessons; Project 600.

Term 2
This week I was notified that the Acting Principal role at Cooyar State School has been extended until the end of Term 2. Therefore I will stay on at Cooyar and Mark will continue at Blackbutt State School. We are both enjoying the challenges of our new positions and look forward to providing continuity and effective teaching and learning for the children in our charge.

Cross Country Training
The Small Schools Cross Country will be run on Thursday 24 April at Tanduringie SS. This is the first week back after the holidays. To prepare for this event, most mornings the children have been running one or two laps of the oval. Over the next few weeks we will be increasing the number of laps for those who are keen to compete more competitively. If your child would like to do some extra laps in preparation for this event please drop us a note in the KIT book. Please keep in mind that if your child is serious about running they would also need to keep running during the Easter Holidays to keep fit.

Libby Clapperton
**Student of the week**

**Week : 6**
P-2: Rhiannon for being a great learner and always getting her work finished on time.
Yr 3-4: Jessica for a fantastic effort in getting all of her class activities finished.
Yr 5-6-7: Aidan for getting 20/20 in his mentals for four mornings in a row.
Playground: Amelia for great behaviour.

**Week 7**
P-2: Rohan for top marks in reading.
Yr 3-4: Ben for being a Learner. This week Ben has demonstrated a more mature and motivated approach to staying focussed on his learning.
Yr 5/6/7: Chantelle for showing initiative when answering Grammar and Punctuation questions
Playground: Chantelle for playing safe.

**Prep, Year 1 & Year 2 News**

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Thanks to all parents who could make it to our Parent Information Afternoon last Monday. It was great to be able to meet with you to discuss what is going on in the Junior room and we look forward to answering any further questions or concerns you may have as they arise.

The students seem to be settling in well to our routines and they have enjoyed shopping in the prize boxes with their hard earned Cooyar Cash. We may have to start saving a little so we have lots of cash to spend on Market Day at the end of this term!

We have also been testing student’s reading and have been very impressed with the great progress that is being made. Keep it up! The students have also developed their own personal reading and weekly spelling goals which will be displayed in the classroom in the near future. We look forward to celebrating their success when they reach these goals!

Our maths topics this week have been number work and measurement, focussing on length.

Persuasive stories are being read and discussed in English lessons. Students were very eager to share some of their own stories on how they can persuade their parents, giving us all lots of tips on the type of words we should be using to get our way!

In Geography we have been studying our place in the world by mapping our homes, our school and Cooyar. We have studied a variety of maps, including satellite images of Cooyar and our school and created our own “Bird’s Eye View” map of the school and a large class map of Cooyar.

Thank you to all our parent helpers and welcome to Mrs Mylett who is working in our busy classroom on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Michelle Bourke and Tania Duncombe
From the Classroom...

**Middle Class (Year 3 & Year 4)**

**Maths:** This week the students have completed an assessment task on number and numeration. They have investigated length and used units of cm and metre when estimating and measuring.

**English:** This week we have begun our assessment piece on writing a new chapter for the Twits. It will be about how Mr or Mrs Twit can play a practical joke on the other one.

**Reading:** After feedback from the parent afternoon, a new home reading sheet has begun. Children do not need to read every night but rather have read for 60 minutes during the week. The sheet has boxes for each 10 minutes of reading completed that should be initialled. I will check each Monday to make sure that 60 minutes of reading is completed for the previous week.

Most children have read to me this week and have had their reading level assessed. I was impressed with the fluency and word attack skills of the readers. Most children are developing skills to decode the words from the letters and picture clues. The next challenge for our young readers is to fully understand the meaning of the words they have read. Prompt with questions like who, what, where, when, why and how.

Libby Clapperton

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**Help Please!**

If anyone has any spare ribbon (scraps or whole) for art activities, please send into Mrs D. before the Easter holidays.

Thank you!
Year 5, Year 6 & Year 7 News

Mathematics
All year levels completed their first assessment piece last week with some very pleasing results in the year 5 group. The year 6 test paper had some tricky questions which tested the ability of the students to apply their knowledge and communicate their ideas. Our year seven student received excellent results after taking her time and working thoroughly. Showing working is improving in the year 6/7 group and year 5's seem to have taken to this skill easily.

We are now working towards our next assessment piece with year 5's on number facts and multiplication and division skills. Year 6's will work on geometry and year 7 is deciphering transport timetables. All are practising 8 times tables this week. Our aim is to increase the speed with which we can say them.

English
Short stories are coming to an end and the next piece of writing will revisit persuasion. Hopefully the children will use the skills they learnt last year and refine these a little for the next written piece.

Technology
A letter went home with the children last week to help parents understand their role in the Technology task. I would like to remind you to keep things simple! All children are very excited, which is lovely to see however I am trying to impress upon them the importance of their choice of marketing technique/s so that they remember to focus on the part of the work which will be marked. We are all looking forward to Market Day - maybe the parents would like to join us for the afternoon...!

Homework
This week's homework has undergone some change in recognition of parent requests at the parent meeting afternoon. I have kept work to a minimum but I am mindful of reducing the load too much as high school does require students to do homework and our 6/7 group is soon moving on to high school next year. I do, however, realise the demands on households during such a dry period and am happy to try to ease at least one small burden. If you still have concerns please write a note in the KIT book and let me know. Children have been told that only during these times of exceptional circumstances, they may work on their homework at school during break time but they must work independently.

MAYOR'S MORNING TEA
Our year 6/7 cohort are off to Morning Tea with the Mayor today. I hope they enjoy their time there! Thank you to Mrs Barron who provided the transport.

Carmon Sloss
In our modern consumer society, we are bombarded with advertising information which often encourages us to outlay money on the latest so-called solution to all of our problems, be they financial, emotional or medical. In fairly recent times, energy drinks have been presented as the elixir of health and well-being.

The Australian Drug Foundation released a fact sheet in 2012, outlining the contents of energy drinks and the effects of them on the human body. The sheet listed the ingredients of many energy drinks. These included: Caffeine – a stimulant that acts on the central nervous system to speed up messages to and from the brain; guarana, theophylline and theobromine, all of which have a similar effect to caffeine; taurine (necessary for normal skeletal muscle functioning), and ginseng (believed to have medicinal properties).

According to the fact sheet, short-term effects of energy drinks include: feeling more alert and active, the need to urinate more frequently, rise in body temperature, increased heart rate, and stimulation to the brain and nervous system.

High doses of caffeine use, occasioned by too many energy drinks in a short space of time, can cause serious injury or death. Other adverse health effects of excessive energy drink consumption include insomnia, nervousness, headaches, nausea, vomiting, rapid heart rate and heart-palpitations.

Who should we avoid energy drinks? There is no reported evidence that energy drinks are of any nutritional value. Bed-wetting, sleep problems and anxiety occur amongst children who consume energy drinks. Pregnant women are in danger of miscarrying, child birth can be difficult, and low-weight babies often result from caffeine intake. Since caffeine crosses the placenta, those breast-feeding are also advised to avoid energy drinks. Sportspersons are advised that caffeine can cause dehydration, which can be dangerous when exercising.

Health professionals warn that, since many energy drinks contain alcohol, those consuming them are at greater risk of experiencing alcohol-related harm such as drinking too much, or being involved in a fight or accident.

It is suggested that the amount of caffeine contained in energy drinks is under-reported. Therefore, the mixing of extra alcohol with energy drinks can cause the consumer not to feel as drunk as they actually are, meaning that there is more risk from alcohol-related harm. Therefore, it is probably best to avoid energy drinks altogether.

In summary, energy drinks are promoted and consumed on an increasing scale in our society. There is little or no benefit from consuming them, but great potential harm. On the other hand, the consumption of Adam’s Ale (alias ‘water’) has great benefits, is far more advantageous to the family budget, and avoids many problems associated with alcohol and caffeine consumption. It would be therefore wise that we consider these facts before encouraging our children to partake of energy drinks and the like.

Phil Downing
Cooyar Primary School Chaplain
Hi Everyone,

Just a quick update on tuckshop happenings. We are in the process of doing a new menu and there won't be a lot of changes, just a few extra options. At the tuckshop meeting we decided to go back to donated home made cakes so we are asking for volunteers to go on a roster to make cakes. This is a great opportunity for anyone that can't do a shift in tuckshop to be able to contribute in another way. If this is something you think you can do please let us know before the end of this term so that we can organise a roster to start next term. Also if there is anyone out there that isn't currently doing tuckshop but would like to (and remember this isn't just open to parents) we are very happy to accept grandparents as well and usually everyone only has to do one or two shifts per term. If you would like to go on the roster, let us know and we will definitely find a spot for you.

Thank you.

Leanne Mylett

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**Blue Light Disco & Mini Disco**

When: FRIDAY 21st March, 2014

Where: YARRAMAN COMMUNITY HALL

MINI DISCO 4.30PM UNTIL 6.30PM FOLLOWED BY BLUE LIGHT DISCO 7.00PM UNTIL 10.00PM

$5.00 ENTRY FEE PER DISCO

**MINI DISCO UNDER 10 YEARS **Children cannot be left in hall between disco's!!

Entry fee to mini disco no longer includes hot dog & drink (avail for sale at disco)

Buses from Blackbutt will depart from Les Muller Park at 6.45pm and returns 10.15pm.

Thanking you.