Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Even though we have finished our Swimming Block and the Cooyar Show has passed, our fortnight seems to be just as busy as ever. In classes, our students are busy planning, writing and editing narratives using our four strategies – sizzling starts, back fill, building the tension and climax. We are now using our new PM Reading Books that the school and the P &C purchased at the end of 2014 and we are already planning to purchase more of these valuable reading resources in the current school year. In our geography unit, students are enjoying learning all about Cooyar. From walking tours and visitors talking about Cooyar sites, to bus tours and visits to our local Police Station and Post Office, students are learning about the importance of various sites around our town. In science, we have experiments set up around the school and in mathematics, we are working hard on our core skills, including our times tables in the Middle and Senior classes. It is a pleasure to see our students participating in engaging learning experiences each day. Education is the stairway to opportunity and at Cooyar State School we work hard every day to provide the building blocks that will form the steps towards these opportunities.

Swimming Block

Last fortnight we completed our Swimming Block at Yarraman Pool. We thank Linda, Catherine and the instructors for an engaging, skill based program over the five days. We look forward to our second swimming block in November.

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 were attached to the last newsletter. One must be returned for EACH INDIVIDUAL child. Please return envelopes and payment to the school by Thursday 12th March.

Toowoomba Chronicle Classroom Makeover

A big THANK YOU to families that have collected and donated coupons from the Toowoomba Chronicle. We have also deposited collection buckets at the Cooyar Hotel and the Cooyar Store. If you have family and friends in the Toowoomba Region, please ask them and their friends to collect the tokens for us. The competition is open until the end of March. The prize is $5000 towards a classroom makeover and it is based on the number of tokens per student. $5000 would go a long way in our school to making over our classrooms. Let’s get collecting!

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...

**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 Watten’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. The program outline and permission form, was sent home earlier this week. Please return these, and payment, to the school by Friday 13th March, 2015. The school will pay for the bus to the camp using our RREAP funding.

**2015 Annual Implementation Plan**
We have submitted our Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for 2015. Our Key Priorities as a school this year are:

- A whole school writing program underpinned by a whole school spelling program
- Continuing our guided reading program and investment in reading resources
- Continuing to implement Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

Our 2015 Budget supports these priorities. For more information on our AIP and Budget, please attend the next P&C Meeting on Monday 16th March, 2015.

**P & C Meeting**
I invite all parents to attend our next P & C meeting on Monday 16th March at 7.30pm. Attending P & C meetings is a great way to stay informed about school processes.

**Late to School and Absences**
If you know that your child will be absent from school or late to school, please inform us by writing a note in your child’s KIT Book. Alternatively, please give the school a call and leave a message if your child will be absent from school. We have a school policy that the office will ring home if students are away and the reason is unexplained. We appreciate you support in this matter.

**Principal’s Conference 2015**
While I ended up becoming a statistic in the Principal’s Conference salmonella outbreak, it was a valuable two days of learning that included presentations by the Director General, Jim Watterson, Assistant Director General, Patrea Walton and our new Education Minister, Kate Jones. The theme of the conference was ‘Every Great School has a Great School down the Road’ highlighting the importance of collaboration. It was a valuable experience to be able to participate in these learning experiences with 1400 other principals from around the state. Principals have follow up activities from the conference that we will participate in over the coming nine months.

**Our School Rules and Behaviour Expectations**
Each week, we review our School rules and explicitly teach expected behaviours associated with these rules on parade. This week, our focus is on Be a Safe and Responsible Learner when transitioning around the school. We appreciate parents following up on our weekly social skills focus by engaging in conversations with students at home.
<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 |
Curriculum Focus

In English, we are continuing our narrative writing skills and incorporating our editing and punctuation skills. Middle and Senior Students have been working on editing their work using the following skills:

- Drawing up a planning template and using this to plan a narrative.
- Using capital letters and full stops, exclamation marks, commas and question marks correctly.
- Using apostrophes for ownership and contractions.
- Using speech marks for dialogue, including the comma.
- Circling spelling mistakes and correcting with a dictionary.
- Reading each sentence aloud to make sure it makes sense.

Our Spelling Focuses across the school this fortnight include

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Spelling Focuses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seven</td>
<td>i, e, u, ui. For example, kick, pretty, busy, build.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight</td>
<td>f, ff, ph, gh. For example, fish, cliff, graph, phone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Mathematics we are working on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Patterns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year One</td>
<td>Teen numbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Two</td>
<td>Data representations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Three and Four</td>
<td>Data representations – gathering data, recording data in table and graph form, reading and interpreting data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Five and Six</td>
<td>Chance and data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Geography

This term in Geography we have been investigating Geographical sites of significance within the Cooyar Community. Our Middle and Senior Students have walked to these places and also been lucky enough to have several visitors who have facilitated discussions and reflections on the history and importance of these places to the Cooyar Community. We have had Mr Van Aspen meet us at the Swinging Bridge to share his stories, Mr Turner meet us at the Anzac Memorial to discuss the significance of the site and Mr Darcy visit the school to discuss the Blacksmith’s Post and the Anzac Memorial. We have greatly appreciated the contributions of these visitors and the invaluable information that they have shared with our students. Our Junior Students have visited our sites by bus. We thank Mr Donaghy at the Police Station, Mrs Duncombe at the Rural Fire Station and our local Post Office staff for facilitating visits from our Junior Class.
From the Principal...

**Term Two Family Planning Visit**
In Term Two, we have organised two Mother and Daughter nights with Family Planning Queensland for our Year 5 and 6 girls. More information will be sent home in a letter to our Year Five and Six students later this term. This program will be funded by the school and run by Family Planning Queensland, Toowoomba. We will be combining with the Senior Students from Tanduringie for these nights. The dates are:

- Wednesday 22nd April (Week 1) 5.00 – 6.00pm at Cooyar State School
- Wednesday 29th April (Week 2) 5.00 – 6.00pm at Tanduringie State School

**Toowoomba Council Library Bus**
As a staff, we have decided to use the Toowoomba Regional Council Library Bus. The bus comes twice per month and parks outside the school. This service gives students a wider range of resources to borrow and have at home. The bus is also able to bring resources relating to school topics and themes that students can borrow. This is a valuable resource for our school and local community and we will look forward to using it throughout the year. Borrowing will occur from 8.00 – 8.30am each fortnight.

**Student Council 'C' Day**
Next Friday 20th March, the Student Council will be holding a ‘C’ Day. It will be a themed day where students can dress as something starting with C. The Student Council has organised prizes for the best dressed in each class and runner up prizes for creativity and effort. Senior Students are also organising a C themed morning tea for the whole school. After school, students will be able to stay on at school for a movie afternoon. The cost to students will be a gold coin donation. The movie will be ‘Chipwrecked’. From 2.30 – 3.00pm staff will provide supervision while Senior Students set up the movie. We will begin the movie at 3.30pm. The movie afternoon will finish approximately 5.15pm. Students will need to be picked up at 5.15pm from the Middle Classroom. Student Council will be selling popcorn ($1.00), poppers ($1.00), lolly bags ($1.50) and ice creams ($2.00) during the movie afternoon. Information notes and permission forms will be sent out later this week. I commend the Student Council and Senior Leaders on their efforts in planning this event for our student body.

I cannot believe that it is Week seven and we only have three weeks of this term left. If you have any questions, queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a great fortnight,

Yours in Education,

Kendall Seccombe
Junior News—Prep, Year 1 and Year 2

Geography Excursion

Sirens rang out last week as the Junior class visited the Police Station and Rural Fire Brigade Station as part of their tour of Cooyar.

Senior Constable Donaghy answered student's questions about the Police Station and took groups to visit his office, while Senior Constable Vanderham let the class look inside his police car and explained some of his equipment. We even had Toowoomba base call in and welcome the Cooyar State School students on air.

Prep/1/2’s then enjoyed their visit to the Rural Fire Brigade, where again questions were asked by our students and answered by Pat, Christine Duncombe and Wayne Schefe. Fire trucks were climbed aboard and inspected and everyone left with a fire brigade goodie bag. What a treat!

Our bus then drove around town while students ticked off Cooyar’s natural and built features in their booklets.

Lastly, we stopped at Cooyar Food and Fuel and Mrs McCoy explained how the Cooyar Post Office works. We then bought a stamp and posted a letter addressed to ourselves to see how long it will take to get back to us.

Thanks again all those involved in helping the Prep/1/2 class learn about Cooyar and it’s features.

Science

Two little tadpoles and two caterpillars have joined our class at the moment as part of Science activities. The students are watching the tadpoles and caterpillars as they grow and change, making observations and discussing lifecycles. We believe the tadpoles will turn into green frogs (hopefully) and the caterpillars should turn into Monarch butterflies.

This week we are also looking at healthy and unhealthy habitats.

Many thanks,

Michelle Bourke and Tania Duncombe
This fortnight, we continue to work on developing our narrative writing skills using a planning template; however, we have been working on editing our work using the following skills:

- Reading each sentence aloud, checking it makes sense and checking it is punctuated correctly.
- Using apostrophes for ownership and contractions.
- Circling spelling mistakes and correcting them using a dictionary.
- Using compound and complex sentences.

In reading we are continuing 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).
- Read and Reflect:

We continue to apply these skills in guided reading lessons to build our reading and comprehension skills. We are also working on identifying key words in questions and finding the answer to them in texts.

Each fortnight, we have focused on a spelling rule. Students practise this rule over the fortnight and complete a task at the end of the fortnight to demonstrate their ability to apply the rule to words. We have focused on ‘drop the e and adding’ and this fortnight ‘when a word ends in s, ss, sh, ch and x, to make it plural, add an es’. Students can practise these spelling rules at home.

In mathematics, we have been focusing on subtraction skills, multiplication facts and

In Geography, we have started our excursions to local sites of significance. Last week, we walked to Town Hall to find answers to our inquiry questions. Students will now select one of the sites we have visited this term and give an oral presentation of the importance of the site to themselves, to the town of Cooyar and to the Toowoomba region. Students have been exploring the task and the marking rubric to understand how they will be assessed in Geography this term. Mrs Sloss and I will be watching and grading presentations together for consistency across the Middle and Senior School. Students will use a planning sheet to plan and prepare their oral presentation. They will be presenting in Week 9 and 10.

While a formal Homework Sheet is not given each week, students have spelling lists, times tables charts and handwriting activities to complete. Apart from writing out their spelling words and handwriting sentences each night, there are many spelling activities that students can complete with their words, timetables to learn and recite and weekly curriculum focuses that students can demonstrate and discuss with parents each night. Nightly home reading is also an important part of our daily homework routine. In KIT books this week, I have included a list of spelling activities that students can complete on top of nightly write outs if parents would like more activities for their children.
Senior News—Year 5 and Year 6

In English, narrative writing is developing further and students have completed their first independent draft. It has been pleasing to see the children use the skills they are being taught to write their own narrative.

Data is the current topic in Mathematics. It is now almost testing time so some revision of each of the topics covered will occur soon.

All initial research for the Geography assessment has now been completed. The children will collate their findings and choose one topic for a focus assessment piece and work on this over the next few weeks for a final oral report in weeks nine and ten.

CAMP, of course, is the focus at present with all children being issued with a permission note and invoice on Tuesday of this week. Please forward these notes in and pay before Friday for your child to participate. There is much excitement surrounding the leadership camp and I, too, am looking forward to the two days.

Student Council held its second meeting this week and are busily preparing for a fundraiser. An advertisement will be sent home soon. It has been pleasing to see the children take their roles seriously with regard to the planning of this event.

Carmon Sloss
At a recent Chaplain’s meeting for School Chaplains in Toowoomba we spent time on discussing ways of starting and maintaining conversations with others.

It was pointed out that people enjoy talking about themselves. Therefore in order to maintain a meaningful conversation, it can be helpful to ask questions that will allow others to contribute to our time together.

Most people learn best when they are involved in the learning process. By asking questions, the other person is likely to think before answering, and may learn something in the process. And even if we are the person in authority, it is likely that we will learn in the process, as well.

Our lecturer pointed out that, in the Bible, sixty-seven discussions between Jesus and others were recorded. In those sixty-seven discussions, Jesus asked fifty questions, including “Why do you call me good?” and “But what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

In several cases, he even answered a question with a question. This obviously gave Him time to think, but it helped the person asking the question to clarify just what information they required. Maybe the questioner deep down knew the answer to the question, and could thus be led to think it through, before coming out with the answer themselves.

I was reminded of the time after Adam and Eve had eaten the forbidden fruit, in the Garden of Eden. When God came looking for them in the cool of the day, he did not condemn them, but asked, “Where are you? Have you eaten of the tree that I forbade you?” So the ball was in the court of the offending parties to own up.

It is a bit like when some of us might have been pulled over by the police, for speeding. The policeman or woman usually asks something like: “Do you know what speed you were doing? Is there any reason why you may have been driving at that speed?” Rather than making a condemned statement, policemen know that, very likely, the person in the wrong will own up that they have not been careful to stick to the speed limit. Such questions coax out the truth without being condemnedatory. It also allows for a calmer atmosphere in a difficult situation. If the person can have their say, they feel listened to, even if their pleas fall of unsympathetic ears.

Most of us don’t like to be caught out and told that we are in the wrong. However, if a person asks questions of us, it gives us a chance to explain what has happened and we feel a lot better about things.

Parents, of whom I am one, can learn from such things in approaching errant children. If we give them a chance to explain things, they will respect us a lot more than if we come down hard on them without allowing them to explain their situation. They know if they have done the wrong thing, and are likely to be understanding of the situation, if they require some kind of penalty for their actions.

Most of us know right from wrong. If we have done the wrong thing, then we ourselves can probably suggest what we can do to put things right, if that is what is required.

So the bottom line is that asking questions can be a good way of improving relationships with others, especially our children, as we do our best to raise them in a fair and loving environment, to be the best people that they can possibly be, as they grow into adulthood and beyond.

Phil Downing
Cooyar State School Chaplain
Week 6

Prep—Year 2— Rhiannon for consistently producing high results in Spelling and Maths Speed Tests. Being an Active Learner.

Year 3—Year 4— Ethan for 100% effort and presentation in all tasks. Being an Active Learner.

Year 5— Year 7— Seth for applying himself to his work and showing great improvement in Literacy classes. Being an Active Learner.

Playground— Charlotte E for a great effort at Swimming. Being an Active Learner.

Week 7

Prep—Year 2— Josie for being an active listener in class. Being an Active Learner.

Year 3—Year 4— Holly for following instructions and well presented work. Being an Active Learner.

Year 5— Year 7— Damon for catching up on missed school work. Being an Active Learner.

Playground— Sam and Charlotte B. for playing together safely all lunch time. Being Safe.
FOR SALE

Ruth Clark has two near new Size 10 Cooyar State School shirts for sale. If you are interested call 46 926197. Thanks.

TUCKSHOP NOTICE

The Popcorn machine has broken down today at Tuckshop. Please note no Popcorn will be available for purchase until further notice.

Thanks.

Leanne and Chloe