Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

The end of our term has arrived. It feels like only yesterday that we were welcoming students back on the first day of the year. It's been a busy term for Cooyar State School. Reflecting on our term, we have had swimming block, Cooyar Show, Geography visits around Cooyar, our Senior Leadership Camp to Barambah Environmental Education Centre, school photographs, Student Council C Day and next week we are preparing for our Cooyar Cash Rewards week and our Bullying and Healthy Eating workshop with NRLs Colin Huxtable.

In the lead up to the Easter Holidays, I would like to thank Parents for their support throughout Term One. On behalf of the school staff, I would like to wish you all a safe and relaxing holidays... and a piece or two of chocolate. Looking forward to seeing all of our students return on Monday 20th April, 2015.

**Student Card Information**

With this newsletter, we will be sending home Student Information Cards that are school records. We are asking parents to check the Student Cards and make sure the information is correct, make any changes and add any information that may be needed. Please sign where indicated and return to the school as soon as possible.

**Mother Daughter Nights**

Cooyar State School, in partnership with Tanduringie State School, are facilitating two Mother Daughter Nights in Term Two. Presented by Family Planning Queensland, Mothers and Daughters will be able to attend the two sessions. More information will be sent home to Year Six parents this week. The dates of the two workshops are:

- **Date:** Wednesday 22nd April, 2015  **Time:** 5.00pm  **Location:** Cooyar State School
- **Date:** Wednesday 29th April, 2015  **Time:** 5.00pm  **Location:** Tanduringie State School

**School Photographs**

On Thursday 19th March, we had our school photographs for 2015. This year we also had a whole school photograph that we will display in the office. This whole school photograph can be purchased from Naturalite Studio Photography. For more information, please contact the school office.
Toowoomba Chronicle Classroom Makeover
A big THANK YOU to families that have collected and donated coupons from the Toowoomba Chronicle. We have submitted our coupons. Impressively, for a school of our size, we collected a total of 1068 coupons. That is approx. 25 per child. We will now await the results of the competition.

Student Leadership Camp
On 16th and 17th March (Week 8), our Year 5 and 6 students attended a Senior Leadership Camp at Barambah Environmental Education Centre (BEEC). Students thoroughly enjoyed the camp which included low ropes, outdoor team building activities and leadership exercises. Student reflections from the camp are on the Senior Leadership Camp in this newsletter.

P & C Meeting
I invite all parents to attend our next P & C meeting on Monday 20th April (the first day back at school) at 7.00pm. 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. You can ring and leave a message at any time, day or night. As school staff follow up on all students that are absent, your support will save us valuable learning time. Thank you for your support.

Toowoomba Regional Council Library Bus
As a school, we have decided to use the Toowoomba Library Bus each fortnight when they visit Cooyar. Students will visit the bus between 8.00 -8.30am on Tuesdays and borrow before school. The bus has also offered to stock resources based on school themes and learning focuses.

NAPLAN Term Two
In Term Two on the 12th, 13th and 14th May, our Year 3 and 5 students will sit the annual NAPLAN testing in the areas of Language Conventions, Writing, Reading and Numeracy. Students have been participating in preparation programs and support programs leading up to this testing period. Results will be released later in the school year. An information sheet is attached to this newsletter.

School Website
Have you had a look at the school website lately? It has all the information related to our school. Families from out of town can access all of our school policies and the Parent Handbook. They can also download enrolment forms, access our tuckshop menu and view our school processes and date claimers. Have a look at cooyarss@eq.edu.au.

Cross Country Term Two
Cross Country will take place at Tanduringie in Week One on Friday 24th April, 2015. The permission form is attached as well as a transport indication form. We are asking parents to indicate whether they will be driving their children there on the day or their children will be catching the school bus. This information is important, as the school needs to book buses with the correct number of seats to get students and staff to and from the Cross Country. Thank you for your support.
From the Principal...

**Bendigo Bank Thank you**

Last week, the Bendigo Bank brought in a donation of sports balls for the school. We thank them for their donation. The students are already enjoying playing with this sporting equipment.

**Cooyar Cash Week and School Rewards**

Next week is Cooyar Cash Week. Students are busy signing up for rewards of their choice. It is great to see students saving their money for some of our special rewards including fishing, cooking, industrial arts, movie and popcorn, special lunch, pizza in the park and choosing the school bell song for a week. Students are also presented with achievement awards on parade each week. We have our weekly Student of the Week from each classroom and the playground, as well as achievement awards in spelling, sight words and mathematics.

**Athletics Lessons Term Two**

Leading up to our Athletics Carnival on Thursday 16th July, 2015, we will be employing Mark Smith, a qualified Physical Education teacher in Week 7 and Week 10. Mr Smith has organised rotational activities for our students in both classes incorporating shot put, long jump, discus, high jump and fitness skills. The dates of these lessons will be:

- Week 7 – Thursday 4th June, 2015
- Week 10 – Thursday 25th June, 2015

We will be asking for parent volunteers on both of these days to assist with running the rotations. We would appreciate four parent volunteers on each of the days. We will send out a note closer to these dates for parents to sign up for these sessions. I thank you in advance for your support.

**Farewell**

As this is our final newsletter for the term, I would like to take this opportunity to farewell Mr and Mrs Donaghy, Madeleine, Samuel and Tom on behalf of our school community. We thank Mr Donaghy for his time as our local police officer and Adopt-a-Cop. It has been great having him regularly visit our school, support our students and speak on important topics. We thank Mrs Donaghy for her continued service at the school. Mrs Donaghy has coordinated and facilitated valuable learning programs for our school and her expertise will be missed. We wish Madeleine, Samuel and Tom all the best for their move to their new school. Farewell Donaghy’s and all the best!

**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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Introduction of Term</strong></td>
<td>School rules</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Classroom rules, routines, procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>What does Positive Behaviour of Learning at Cooyar State School look like?</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Be Safe in all Areas</strong></td>
<td>Use equipment appropriately and with care</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Respect the rights of others</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Report dangerous or unusual situations</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Eat only your own food, in designated areas</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Be hygienic</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Be Responsible in the Playground</strong></td>
<td>Play fairly, follow the rules and take turns</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Return equipment at the end of play</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Be a Safe, Responsible Learner in all Environments</strong></td>
<td>Be persistent and engage in all tasks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Be open to new ideas</td>
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<td>Ask permission to leave all areas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Be cyber safe</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Be Safe in the Playground</strong></td>
<td>Play suitable, school approved games</td>
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<td>Be sun safe</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Play in approved areas</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Be a Learner in all Areas</strong></td>
<td>Actively listen and follow instructions</td>
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<td>Be organised and punctual</td>
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<td>Ask for help if needed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Care for self, others and the environment</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Be a Safe and Responsible Learner when transitioning around the school</strong></td>
<td>Move safely, respectfully and appropriately</td>
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<td>Keep traffic areas clear</td>
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<td>Line up responsibly</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Be Responsible in all Areas</strong></td>
<td>Speak truthfully, respectfully and appropriately</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Act with respect, consideration and integrity</td>
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<td>Follow procedures and obey all rules</td>
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<td>Place litter in bins</td>
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<td>Wear your school uniform with pride</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Be a Learner in the Playground</strong></td>
<td>Cooperate with and include others</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Be a Safe and Responsible Learner for Road Safety</strong></td>
<td>Cross the road with care</td>
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<td>Remain seated while the bus is moving and show respect</td>
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<td>Walk bikes in the school grounds, to and from the bike racks</td>
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<td>Always wear a helmet when riding a bike</td>
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<td>Move directly to and from school</td>
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<td>Use paths to enter and exit school</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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>Focus: f, ff, ph, gh. For example: fish, cliff, phone, laugh.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week Eight</td>
<td>Focus: o, a. For example: song, wash, soft, along.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In Mathematics we are working on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Focus</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Answering simple questions to collect information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year One</td>
<td>Teen numbers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Two</td>
<td>Data collection and creating picture graphs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Three and Four</td>
<td>Chance and likelihood, numbers and equivalence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year Five</td>
<td>Chance data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Six</td>
<td>Reading timetables.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have a great fortnight,

Yours in Education,

Kendall Seccombe
Student Council C Day

Last Friday, the Student Council and Senior Leaders led a successful C Day. From dressing as something starting with C, to a C themed morning tea to a C themed movie afternoon, it was a fantastic day for the whole school. Congratulations to all students for making such a mammoth effort on the day. The Student Council will use funds raised to purchase resources and equipment for the school.
From the Principal...
It is with a mixture of sadness and excitement that Sean and I and our little family are madly packing up our life in Cooyar and moving to Dalby. We are looking forward to our new life but it is more difficult than I anticipated to say good-bye to the old. There are a few groups of people I need to acknowledge and thank. Apart from the principals, I thought it was much safer to group people rather than name people individually as I know I would unintentionally leave someone out.

Firstly, thank-you to Mr Wrigley, Mrs Clapperton and Miss Seccombe for giving me the opportunity to enhance and strengthen my teaching skills over the past two and a quarter years. At Cooyar I have been fortunate enough to experience teaching at whole class to small group to an individual level. Thank-you for this valuable opportunity as well as your continued support, efficiency and flexibility, especially in regards to babysitting issues and kindy drop off.

Secondly, thank-you to all staff members for your professionalism, dedication and boundless enthusiasm. Sean and I greatly appreciate your care and time involved in Madeleine's and Samuel's ongoing educational needs. We would like to acknowledge all teachers and teacher aides, past and present, who have worked with us concerning our children's learning over the last three and a quarter years. We appreciate all your efforts.

Thirdly, thank-you to the Cooyar students - we will miss the closeness and familiarity of a small school community. Also, the physical aspect of living near a small school can be extremely beneficial. For example, when a reading folder or drink bottle is forgotten it is easy to walk up the hill to retrieve the missing item and then drive back down the hill!

Finally, thank-you to the Cooyar P&C, parents, carers, grand-parents and friends in the Cooyar wider community for your friendship and support. Although we know that the friendships we have made will flow through to our new residence at Dalby, we will miss seeing children, parents and friends on a regular and most times on a daily basis.

Best wishes,

Jayne Donaghy

P.S. Years 3 and 5 Good Luck on NAPLAN!

A note from Madeleine
It was wonderful to see everyone enjoy ‘C’ day on Friday. Students showed excellent manners at first break and joined in the parade without a fuss. We had some fantastic costumes in the Junior room, including Cinderellas, cowboys, cowgirls, Casper, cyclists, clowns, cats... the list goes on. A big thank-you to the Student Council for organising such a fun event!

We are heading towards the end of Term 1, so students are finishing lots of items including their stories, Geography talks and some Maths tasks.

In Science, the class tadpoles have been interesting to observe as they change. Students will complete their activities next week.

Celebration Week is nearly here, so students are working hard to earn their Cooyar Cash. Well done to all students who have already paid for their chosen activity. The class prize box is available to buy from next week as well.

As the Easter holidays are close, a reminder that library books can be returned for the school library and Mobile bus library before Tuesday next week, by dropping them into the classroom.

Have a safe and happy Easter break!

Many thanks,

Michelle Bourke and Tania Duncombe
Middle Room News—Year 3 and Year 4

It is our final week for narrative writing in the Middle Classroom. Students have been busily planning, drafting, editing and typing up their final narrative for their report cards. Narratives are due tomorrow (Thursday 26th March). Students have been learning about and practicing their narrative skills throughout this term. This independent assessment item is their opportunity to demonstrate their learning. Students have also explored the areas that they will be assessed on for their narrative. Mrs Sloss and I have decided to mark the narratives together to provide consistency across the Middle and Senior Classrooms.

In reading we are continuing to use the following skills to strengthen our reading, retell and comprehension skills:

- **Read and Reflect:** Read the piece of text and reflect on what you have read.
- **Be the Expert:** Retell the text and answer questions about the text. When completing multiple choice questions, always choose the MOST CORRECT answer.

In mathematics, we have been focusing on data collection, representation, and interpretation. We have been collecting, tabling and graphing data and answering questions on data that has been collected.

In Geography, we are doing our oral presentations for the class. Mrs Sloss and I will be marking Geography Presentations together this week. Students were allocated a day last week and have been given planning and preparation time over the last week. Students were also able to take their presentation home and practice it. Students have a task sheet and marking guide that was handed out and explored earlier in the term.

Below is a list of spelling activities that students can complete at home to strengthen their spelling knowledge and skills:

- **Rainbow Words**—Write your words and trace over them in 3 different colors.
- **Ransom Words**—Cut letters out of newspaper, magazines, or write them out on paper and cut them, then glue them together to build your words.
- **Hidden Words**—Write your words and find hidden words in your words. Ex. that = hat = at
- **Word Search**—Create a word search on puzzlemaker.com. Find your words.
- **Word Hunt**—Search for your words in books/texts or around the house. Write your words as you find them.
- **Font-ulous**—Type your words in 3 different fonts on the computer.
- **Chalk Talk**—Write your words in chalk. You can do this activity with a dry erase board and marker too. Parent initials required in the spelling notebook.
- **3 Way Words**—Write your words three ways, really big, really small, and in your best handwriting.
- **Silly Riddle Words**—Write a riddle for each of your words. Include a clue about how the word is spelled. Solve your riddles. Ex. The word is 4 letters long. The first letter is b and it rhymes with shark.
- **Word Chains**—Write down each spelling word. Change one letter to make a new word. Challenge: See if you can go back to your original word. Ex. cake, lake, late, date, mate, make, make, cake
- **Crossword Puzzle**—Create a crossword puzzle on puzzlemaker.com. Solve it.
- **Word Strategies**—Come up with a strategy to help you learn each of your “tricky words”. Ex. B-E-A-U-tiful

Kendall Seccombe
Senior News—Year 5 and Year 6

Students are busily finishing assessment pieces in anticipation of Celebration Week. Many are already presenting their 'Places of Interest' presentation for Geography. It has been pleasing to see the quality of the presentations and to note that some children have thought about the questions and given meaningful answers. We can be assured that our children have a deeper appreciation of places in Cooyar now.

Camp

Barambah Environmental Education Centre ran a varied and interesting programme for our children over the one and a half days we were at camp. I was impressed with the types of activities the children participated in. All encouraged independence and cooperation and introduced new skills. We enjoyed all parts and the children's comments in this newsletter will give you some insight into the activities.

I was particularly thrilled that we had a perfect night to stargaze and saw Jupiter and four of its moons clearly through the telescope. I-pads were used so that the children could identify constellations in the sky above them and further investigate an individual star if they so chose.

Leadership skills were relevant to the age group and put into practical use in several of the activities. We will be sure to attend again next year.

I can also say I was very proud of the children as they all participated fully and were on their best behaviour. Unfortunately two children were affected by the current illness that is moving through our school but, in general very worthwhile experience for all others.

Thank you to Cathy Davies who attended as the parent help and prepared our meals and played nurse! Your time and work was very much appreciated.

I will be away next week so I wish everyone a happy, healthy and restful break.

Carmon Sloss
Student Reflections

The thing I enjoyed about camp was the hut building and the low ropes course. I learnt how to bush walk.

Rylie Barron

I want to share my experience at Barambah with you. I will tell you about hut building. There were groups chosen and then we went to a tree with wood planks and started building a hut big enough to fit our group, but we weren't allowed to go in them because it was too dangerous.

Bridget Dando

The low ropes course was fun and made us all have a laugh but the funniest of all was when Mrs Sloss tried to have go, we all stood in a line next to her and she used our heads to balance - that was funny!

Jessica Mylett

I think astronomy was fun but not only it was educational and i learnt the constellations and using the Ipads to explore the solar system.

Belinda Scherger
I think astronomy was fun. You would never know what stars would make. I found out that my star sign is Aries. We got to use a app on the iPad which is where you can look at the stars. It was fun.

Chantelle Williams

Going back to country seemed really boring on the way there but when we got into it, it was actually fun, we had had to pull out lantana which we had to connect a rope to the lantana and we all had to pull the. It was fun.

Amelia Davies

The fig tree in the forest is also known as strangler fig that grows on a black tea tree.

Seth Davis

I think this camp was great, not just because it was fun, but because there are a lot of team work activities and you really learn how to become a leader.

Bree Duncombe

The one tree hill was amazing because it's just a coincidence that there's a big blood wood tree in the middle of a big hill and it's amazing how old it is because Steve said that what ever grows on the rock serpentine takes a long time to grow and the one blood wood tree grew on the rock serpentine.

Rachel Dando

The low rope course because I'm very good at balancing and we had spotters and that helped me.

Jasmine Clayton
One of Australia’s cricketers, interviewed a few days ago, was asked about the chances of his team winning the World Cup, which is currently being contested in Australia and New Zealand. His response: “We are all good players, so we should perform well in the finals. That same player again failed in his latest inning after a series of low scores.

Being a keen Australian Cricket supporter, it makes me wince when sportsmen tell others how good they are. We probably have all seen the results of the well-known saying: “Pride goes before a fall,” which originates from the book of Proverbs in the Christian Bible. In full it reads: “Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 18:16, NIV). One other version renders it: “A person who is extremely proud of his or her abilities will often suffer a setback or failure, because he or she tends to be overconfident and to make errors of judgment.” Proverbs further advises: “Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips” (Prov 27:2).

I well remember the Brisbane Lions' third AFL premiership in a row, in 2003. Coach Leigh Matthews had encouraged his players to show humility in victory. However, two of the best players spoke on national television after the game, saying: “Our coach encouraged us to be humble, but we don't agree with that attitude.” They then went on to brag about how good their team was. Now it is pretty difficult at the best of times to win four premierships on the trot, but at half-time in the following year’s grand-final, Brisbane was well-placed to win yet another premiership. However, despite their status as favourites, they fell away in the second half and lost easily. I couldn’t help remembering the pride shown a year before.

After Carlton’s 1995 AFL premiership, its president bragged: “We are the greatest team ever.” Now, in a sense he was correct; Carlton was the first team in history to win 16 VFL/AFL premierships. However, it never pays to skite about our achievements. The nearest Carlton has come to winning another premiership since then, was to be easily beaten in the 1999 Grand Final to North Melbourne.

Getting back to the Cricket World Cup, there are other players in the Australian Cricket team, who do show humility. Captain Michael Clarke is a prime example. Also, there may be players from the other countries who have shown pride and arrogance in their statements. Perhaps their hasty proud words will balance the equation.

Although it is important to have confidence in our ability to achieve goals in life, we need to know where to draw the line between confidence and arrogance. Not too many people respect us when we have an over-enlarged ego. The importance of humility is worth sharing with our children, if we are to protect them from some of the unfortunate effects of excessive pride in their future lives.
Week 8

Prep—Year 2— Chelsea for a massive improvement in completing tasks on time. Being Responsible.
Year 3—Year 4— Arien for working hard, having a go and asking for help. Being an Active Learner.
Year 5—Year 7— Jessica for consistently being an active learner in class and on camp. Being an Active Learner.
Playground— Lilly for sitting and eating her lunch quietly. Being Responsible.

Week 7

Prep—Year 2— Brian for improving his listening skills this week. Being an Active Learner.
Year 3—Year 4— Maddison for committing to her work and finishing tasks. Being a Active Learner.
Year 5—Year 7— Rylie for his full participation during camp week. Being an Active Learner.
  - Rachel for excellent participation in the Leadership Camp activities. Being an Active Learner.
  - Heaven for making more independent decisions. Being Responsible.
  - Belinda for displaying excellent listening skills on camp. Being an Active Learner.
  - Bree for full participation in camp activities. Being an Active Learner.
Playground—  Ethan for helping clean up the mess in the Prep Shed. Being Responsible.
FOR SALE

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

COOYAR SHOW SOCIETY

Just a reminder to winners and runners-up of the Junior Art Competition at the Cooyar Show that their vouchers for Rosie’s Fun 4 All will expire the 30th of this month. If they haven’t been used then time is running out.

Regards
Sue Lindemeier
Cooyar Show Secretary

MOBILE LIBRARY BUS

As the Mobile Library service is going to be off the road from the 3rd April until 21st April (Easter and scheduled maintenance) we have decided to do the run on the 31st March (being a fifth Tuesday, we normally would not be coming). So, hope to see you on the 31st!

Times will be as per normal.

Please call 0427 622136 if you have any questions.

Kind Regards
Jo