The Cooyar Chronicle

Welcome

Anzac Day
I was extremely proud of the Cooyar students who represented our school at the recent ceremony. They marched tall and proud, sat quietly and respectfully during the service and the students, who read, were loud and confident. Many community members commented about the great job our students did. They were awesome ambassadors for our school.

Great Results Guarantee (GRG)
We used the funds we received from this initiative to promote every child reaching the National Minimum Standards for Reading. Leanne Mylett and Jayne Donaghy, along with the class teachers, have worked tirelessly to give our students that little bit of extra help to get all of our students achieving the benchmark. The progress so far has been pleasing and, with only a few more weeks to go before Naplan, we are urging the students to put in a little extra to reach their highest possible level.

Tennis Court
The tennis court is available to be used after school or on weekends. If you would like to have a game of tennis/basketball etc, you can borrow the key from Karen at the pub for $5 and then return it to her when you have finished. Karen will then forward this money onto the school.

KLA Day
We have decided to try a different approach to KLA and will not be doing the KLA’s on one day, rather we will spread them out during the week. We are still looking for people to come in and help out, so if there is any time during the week that you can come in to help please see any of the teachers to organise a suitable time.

Director General’s Forum
On Friday 2 May I will be attending a conference in Toowoomba for the South West Darling Downs Principals. Mrs Vicki Matthew will be in to replace me on that day.

Naplan
Is fast approaching and the Years 3, 5 and 7’s will be involved in testing for numeracy, reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation on the 13-15 of May.

Bus Meeting
There is a Bus Meeting on Tuesday 6 May at 4pm to discuss the possible changes to the Bus timetable. All welcome to attend.
From the Principal...

What Sort of Start is Your Child Receiving?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your child misses…</th>
<th>That equals….</th>
<th>Which is…</th>
<th>And over 13 years of schooling that’s…..</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes per day</td>
<td>50 minutes per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly Half a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 minutes per day</td>
<td>1 hour 40 mins per week</td>
<td>Over 2.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half an hour per day</td>
<td>Half a day per week</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour per day</td>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2.5 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did you know your child’s best learning time is the beginning of the school day?
That’s when every minute counts the most!!

School Begins at 8:40am!

What Happens in the Mornings at Cooyar State School?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Bus Children</th>
<th>Town Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.45</td>
<td>Classroom jobs, board games, construction, reading etc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.30</td>
<td>Smart Moves Physical exercise</td>
<td>You are welcome to join in with Smart Moves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.40</td>
<td>Official Start of School Day</td>
<td>All students should be at school Buddy Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.50</td>
<td>Roll, check Kit Books, Messages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>Lessons Begin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please ensure that you child is at school before 8.40 am to be set and organised for the day.
From the Principal...

**Celebration Day for Term 2**

For your child to be entitled to attend Celebration day at the end of the term they must follow the below criteria and not lose more than two strikes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BE RESPONSIBLE</th>
<th>BE A LEARNER</th>
<th>BE SAFE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Bring your kit book to school every day. Complete your homework and reading each day/week.</td>
<td>2. Earn 150 green cards by the end of week 9.</td>
<td>3. Be safe and responsible in the toilets. 4. Be safe on the bus by sitting and following driver instructions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**After School Athletics**

After school sport has begun for the term. It will take place on Wednesday afternoons from 3.15 -4.15. Thanks to the parents who have volunteered to help, but more help is still needed. Even if you can only help occasionally, it helps to spread the load and the kids love to show off in front of Mum and Dad.

**Crazy Hair Day**

Congratulations to the winners of our crazy hair day. It was fantastic to see the flair and creative ideas that the children had to decorate their hair.

**Market Day**

What an amazing success. Thank you to Mrs Sloss for the huge amount of time an effort she put into organising such a successful afternoon. The children gained so much real life experience about the skills needed to market a product that I think it will become an annual event.

**P&C Meeting**

The P&C meeting that was to be held on the 5 May has been postponed until the 19 May. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Casual Cleaner**

We are seeking expressions of interest for anyone who is interested in becoming our casual cleaner. This would entail doing the school cleaning on afternoons when Kerry is unavailable. Kerry will give the successful applicant a run down on the procedures to follow. If you are interested please give Jodi or myself a call.

Libby Clapperton  
Principal
From the Classroom...

Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 News

Welcome back to Term 2. We hope you all had a great break.

Congratulations to Holly Barron who won 2nd prize in the Oakey Colouring competition.

In English we are busy retelling stories, looking at the characters, setting and discussing the main events.

The preps have been busy recognizing shapes and counting forwards and backwards. Year 1 and 2 have been learning about 2D & 3D shapes and representing, ordering and partitioning 2 digit numbers.

In Science this Term we will be learning about different materials and their properties.

Thank you.

Michelle Bourke and Tania Duncombe

Middle Class (Year 3 & Year 4)

Mrs Velma Davies will be on leave for the next three weeks. Theresa Munt and Leanne Mylett will be stepping in to take her place. Thank you for joining us and welcome to the senior room.

**Maths:** This week the students will be comparing and ordering numbers. They will look at odd and even numbers, 3 and 5 digit numbers and patterns in numbers

**English:** This term we will be exploring characters and forming opinions about characters and the choices they make in a story. We will read Charlie Pasta and Matty Forever.

**Vocab Challenge:** Each week the class will learn some new and interesting words. If they can tell you a great sentence using the new word and you write a note about it in their KIT book they can earn extra Cooyar cash.

**Science:** We are learning to make detailed observations and compare the properties of different materials.

**Homework:** Hopefully by now you have seen the new spelling words for the whole term. Each group has 20 words for the week, which need to be written neatly into the homework book and learnt for Friday’s test. There are 5 extension words which are a challenge for our more able spellers to keep them on their toes. The children can choose to do the extension words.

**Number Facts Homework:** Each week your child will receive a packet with number facts in it. Each night they need to sort the cards and then write down the correct number fact on the sheet glued into their book. The set of number facts that your child had for the week will be tested on Friday.

Libby Clapperton
Week 2
Prep—Year 2: William for working hard to learn his numbers and letters.
Year 3-Year 4: Ethan for showing great general knowledge in Geography.
Year 5—Year 7: Amelia for avoiding distractions and concentrating in class.
Playground: Aidan for being responsible in the playground.
From the Classroom...

Year 5, Year 6 & Year 7 News

**English** - All classes are working on narratives in preparation for NAPLAN and will complete their own narrative shortly.

Sound Waves is continually working on sounds in words. The students are becoming familiar with letters and combinations of letters that can be used to achieve the same sound in a variety of words.

I am impressed with how the children have taken to working with the sounds in the words and, with practise, it will help them with work attack skills.

**Mathematics** - Multiplying with double digits is a newly acquired skill in the year five group. We are spending time practising this necessary life skill and I am trying to impress upon the students the importance of knowing their times tables automatically. They should all be practising their times tables on a daily basis for homework. This week it is 6 times. Perhaps you might like to have some friendly competitions at home to encourage the children.

**Science** - Water, water, water is our topic. Be prepared for the children to come home looking for a sample of water that they will attempt to purify!

**Market Day**

Market Day was the culmination to our Technology work for this semester and what a resounding success it was! I was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of our children, the effort by each and every child, the understanding of the techniques of marketing (that has to say something about our society!) and the mammoth amount of support from parents, grandparents, neighbours and friends who contributed by making products, providing the children with the ingredients to make things, buying products on the day and coming along and attending our Market Day.

We couldn't believe the variety and range of items sold - from handmade foods, hats, jewellery, toys to live animals, pre-loved toys and sweet mushrooms as well as surprise packages and, of course, the good old candy stall and popcorn!

What imaginations! What enthusiasm and what a FUN afternoon! AND what money spent! Even an AUCTION going to $875!!!

The results exceeded all my expectations and it was just like a real market atmosphere on the day. THANK YOU to everyone and really I did not expect parents to go to as much trouble as they obviously did. The excitement of the day buzzed in my demeanour for some days into the holidays. I think the children enjoyed it on both sides of the stall.

Carmon Sloss
What great weather we enjoyed over the Easter Holiday break! I am sure that we can all remember such breaks when the weather has been bleak, and outdoor activities have been less than enjoyable. Autumn is usually the best time of the year, weatherwise, and it is not unusual to strike good conditions for the Easter break. We are past the really hot summer temperatures, the days are normally mild and warm, and more often than not, rain is not a spoiler of time in the outdoors.

This year my family (which included myself, my wife, two grown children, a grandchild, and the dog) went camping near Burrum Heads, north of Hervey Bay. We set up our camper-trailer with a group of friends, on a property that housed a good-sized dam. Some of the campers owned equipment for water sports, allowing us to enjoy such activities as water-skiing, jet-skiing, kayaking and swimming. We don’t often enjoy such pleasures, and so we felt quite spoilt. It was great to enjoy good food, good company and excellent weather out in a beautiful and peaceful environment. A car trip into nearby Burrum Heads, to do some shopping and to have a swim in the sea water, meant witnessing those involved in an annual fishing competition. Food stalls lined the water-front, and there was an atmosphere of enjoyment amongst those lining the river and sea shores.

Preparing for such a camping experience can seem daunting. The car needs to be running well, camping equipment must be complete and in good condition, the food-menu needs to be worked out ahead of time, and items (including clothing) must be kept to a minimum, if everything is to be fitted into the family car. Sometimes when one is preparing for such a weekend trip, the whole business can seem a bit stressful, and we might consider calling it all off.

Usually in life, if we make a decision and follow through with it, come what may, the final outcome makes the effort worthwhile. Even if the weather is bad, the car breaks down, we run out of food, or someone gets sick along the way, the memories of doing something together as a family will stay with us for years to come. Life’s memories are made up of all kinds of experiences, be they happy, sad, challenging or full of adventure.

For those who went away together with friends, family, or even alone this Easter, the rewards, very likely, were worth the effort, given the favourable weather. Those who may have stayed at home quite likely enjoyed a quiet Easter in familiar surroundings. You don’t have to go away to enjoy quality time in pleasant surroundings.

However, it is good for all of us, to plan time with our friends and loved ones. Unless we consciously plan to make memories for our children, and ourselves, life can pass us by. Our children soon grow up and shift away from home, our older relatives die, situations may change so that it may not be possible to get away from home for a break, and tomorrow’s memories of today may not be what they might have been.

One thing that this Easter taught me was that the effort necessary to enjoy the company of family and friends in peaceful surroundings was well worth it. Next year I will think twice before deciding that it is too difficult or expensive to make the effort. We live in a beautiful country, so why not enjoy it? Although we may not be rich enough to enjoy luxury, most of us can usually find enjoyment in whatever price range we can afford.

Phil Downing
Cooyar State School Chaplain
To the Principal

Cooyar State School

It was our privilege to share in the ANZAC Ceremony in Cooyar last Friday. It was obvious that a great deal of thought and preparation had gone into the organising of this event by the Cooyar Progress Association.

We were particularly impressed with the respectful behaviour displayed by the students of your school at this event. The Cooyar State School children, and those from the neighbouring high schools, were well dressed and to see the pride with which they marched down the New England Highway behind the special guests was very heart warming.

It was a pleasure to observe the settled way these young children sat through the ceremony and again it was a pleasure to hear how well the chosen children read in front of the large audience. They were obviously very well prepared.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, your staff, the parents and, of course, the students for their part in the wonderful 2014 Cooyar ANZAC Day event.

Yours sincerely

names withheld
Photo Gallery...

Cross Country

[Images of children running in cross country races]