Welcome

Welcome back to Term 3. As per normal we have hit the ground running. I would like to congratulate all our students who participated in the Athletics Carnival last Thursday. Thank you to Mrs Davies for organising the day, a wonderful job once again. Thank you, Mr Munt for marking the track and being our race starter. Thank you to all the tuckshop helpers for the wonderful food on the day. Thank you to all our cheer squad (parents, siblings and grandparents), you didn’t only cheer but also gave a hand in events when required. By all reports, all schools had a great time and enjoyed the day.

School Opinion Survey

Once again we ask our parents and caregivers to fill out the School Opinion Survey. This gives the school feedback on the good things we are doing and areas which we can focus on and improve. This year the School Opinion Survey has gone digital. Attached to the newsletter is your unique log on and code. The closing date for the survey to be completed is 3rd August. If families do not have access to a computer and internet, please come and see us and we can organise for you to use one here at school.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data: School Students with Disability

Schools across Australia are taking part in a new national data collection on school students with a disability. From 2015, this information will be collected in every school across Australia, every year.

Better information will support students with a disability to take part in school on the same basis as students without a disability. By law, schools are required to make reasonable adjustments where needed to assist students with a disability. These responsibilities are outlined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005.

The new data collection will record students who have been identified by a school team as meeting the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and provided with an adjustment. Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all children and their families is very important. Student names will not be recorded as part of the data collection. Your school will tell you what you need to do if you don’t want to have your child’s information included in the national data collection. Including every school child, will help schools, education authorities and governments to better meet students’ needs. Please read the attached flyer for more information.

Please contact me if you have further questions about how this may affect your child.
Mr Eastwell Technology Challenge

Mr Eastwell started today the technology challenge with our senior class. Mr Eastwell has given the students well thought out challenges that see our students rise the occasion, this year is no different. I thank him for his commitment to our small schools and the challenge that will be held in Benarkin at the end of the term. Get the thinking caps on students.

School Uniform

I wanted to remind parents about Cooyar State School’s winter uniform. The students are required to wear blue track pants and a red jumper. We have jumpers and jackets for sale with the emblem on the front. You can purchase blue track pants and red jumpers from Best and Less or Big W. Being in full school uniform shows pride in their school. The students look great in full school uniform.

School Camp

At the P&C Meeting on Monday night it was agreed that students in Year 5 and 6 will need to spend $100 to attend the camp to Sydney. The P&C will help fund the remainder of the camp. This is to make the price attainable for our students. Parents that are approached to assist at the camp will pay 50% of the full cost. Again, the P&C will pick up the remainder of the funds. The Cooyar P&C has been very gracious in their funding towards the school. I want to start to remind you now about the Cooyar Bike Ride is on October 19 & 20. Please keep this weekend free to offer help over the two days as this is where the funding is coming from. Thank you P&C.

After School Sport

We are seeking parent helpers and volunteers for After School Sport again this Term. It will be held on a Wednesday afternoon at 3.30pm to 4.30pm. If you can assist please let us know and then when will be able to organise a sport.

The students have started off really well this term. I look forward to getting stuck into this term.

See you around the school.

Mark Wrigley
Principal
Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 News

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 3. Wow! What a first week back? Congratulations to all those students who participated in the Athletics Carnival last Thursday. You all did a fantastic job!

At the end of last Term Mr and Mrs Kelly kindly donated some great little lounge chairs for us to use in the classroom or the library. Thank you Mr and Mrs Kelly, the children really love reading in their new chairs.

In English this term, we have been looking at the similarities and differences between narratives (fiction) and information books (non-fiction) and their purpose. We have been looking at the features of an information text and the types of words the author uses. Next, we will begin to write our own information report on an animal chosen from a narrative.

During Maths, Preps have been comparing and ordering quantities and describing and creating growing patterns. Year 1’s has been describing number patterns, partitioning two-digit numbers in different ways and looking at 2D shapes. Our Year 2’s has been investigating numbers beyond 100, partitioning three digit numbers and partition shapes into halves, quarters and eighths.

In Geography this term, we will be looking at places, how they are special to people and how to care for these places.

We will be investigating weather in Science. Students will be observing the day and night sky and examining the cause and effect the weather has on environments. Keep an eye out in the KIT book for more information on observing the night sky.

Thank you to all the parents who helped out on Athletics Day especially those who helped out in the Novelty Events.

Thanks for your continued support and remember you are always welcome in our room.

Michelle Bourke and Tania Duncombe

Year 3 & 4

The students have settled in really well and have been tested on spelling and maths giving valuable data for reading groups and areas to focus on in maths. In English this term the students are studying Asian Folktales. They will compose a piece of writing with a moral or message. So far in maths we have studied number and place value and investigated money and solving money problems.

If you can offer any assistance with volunteering your time in our classroom feel free to contact via the KIT book or in person. We could always use extra hands for reading, spelling and maths.

Have a great fortnight.
Until next time.

Mark Wrigley
From the Classroom...

Year 5, Year 6 & Year 7 News

Welcome back! Semester two is underway!

**English**

Our key goal for language this semester is to practise and improve comprehension. As an important life skill, all children need to actively engage with the text they read. Parents can encourage this skill by asking questions about the reading children are doing each night or each week. The retelling of the story helps with memory and engagement.

**Mathematics**

Fractions, decimals and percentages are the initial topic for the term and most of the class have shown that they have a reasonably good understanding of the skills used in this section.

**History and Geography**

We will be working on history and geography topics that are geared towards our Sydney trip as well as answering the C2C programme. Botany Bay is our history topic and natural disasters are being covered in geography. Fortunately both are very relevant!

**Technology**

Mr. Eastwell joins us again this term to set a challenge for the class. We look forward to his weekly afternoon visits on Wednesdays.

**SYDNEY**

All students are looking forward to their trip to Sydney and we will be working especially hard to cover as much curriculum as we can so that we will be ready for our trip armed with some knowledge.

Carmon Sloss
From the Chaplain...

No doubt we were all horrified to hear of the shooting down of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH 17 over Ukraine on July 17. The loss of almost 298 lives, in such a senseless incident, is difficult to fathom.

It seems that pro-Russian Ukrainian separatists had been given missiles to down enemy aircraft. They fired the missile that successfully brought down Flight MH 17, perhaps without realising that it was a passenger plane. The voices of those responsible were recorded speaking on military radio to their Russian advisors, who instructed them to check out the crash scene. Once they realised what had happened they were then advised to collect, and dispose of incriminating evidence, so that they could save face.

In the meantime, bodies of crash victims had been spread across the countryside, rotting where they fell. Locals have pilfered the site, stealing possessions of the unfortunate passengers and crew, whilst independent observers have been kept away from the site as the attempted cover-up has continued. Some attempt has been made to gather up the bodies and store them in refrigerated train carriages, but armed separatist terrorists are not really qualified to deal with such a disaster scene.

If the crash had occurred in a civilised country, the crash site would have been cordoned off; experts would have taken careful note taken of the wreckage, bodies and cargo, to determine the cause of the accident; and the site cleaned up in the most efficient and humane manner as possible.

The initial response of those responsible was to blame someone else and hope that the issue would go away. However, with news crews on the ground, so many victims, and governments around the world seeking answers, the matter was not likely to be forgotten overnight.

Several days later, the Russian President has said he would encourage the militants to co-operate with independent investigators. Although this would seem to be to be “too little, too late,” at least showing some remorse and care over the course of events, does help the victims’ families to deal better with their grief process.

It is easy to be critical of the actions of those involved in causing and covering up this tragic loss of life. However, if we are honest, we have probably all done the wrong thing at times, and tried to cover it up, blame others, or at least hope that no-one would find out. Perhaps we have been fortunate that no-one had a microphone around to record our admissions of guilt. Maybe our actions have not had such serious consequences as massive loss of life, resulting in the grief and hardship caused to many families, friends, and associates.

We like to think that those guilty of creating, and then covering up, this tragedy will be brought to justice; and so they should be. However, the words of Jesus are instructive to us now, as always: “Let him who is without sin cast the first stone.”

Hopefully we can all learn from this disaster, that violence has serious and unexpected consequences. If we do the wrong thing and are caught out, don’t try to hide it and blame others. Be honest, take the consequences on the chin, and avoid the blame game. Best of all, avoid causing trouble in the first place. That is just as true in Cooyar as it is in the Ukraine.

In the meantime, let us pray that a thorough investigation of the crash site can go ahead as soon as possible, providing closure and satisfaction to all concerned.

Phil Downing
Cooyar State School Chaplain
Celebration Day Term 2
Fun, Games, Craft and TBall!
From the Principal...

**Week 1**

Prep—Year 2— Xavier for his enthusiasm towards reading.
Year 3—Year 4— Rachel for her consistent application to her work.
Year 5— Year 7— John for his continued application to work and managing exercises in class without disrupting others or using them as an excuse to avoid work.
Playground— Charlotte for being helpful on Sports Day.

**Week 2**

Prep—Year 2— Jamie for his ‘can do’ attitude towards his schoolwork.
Year 3—Year 4— Jacob for improving his commitment to his learning.
Year 5— Year 7— Jake for renewed and applied work in the classroom.
Playground— Seth for looking after other students belongings.