Date Claimers:
11 August—EKKA Public Holiday,
19 August—Library Bus,
2 September—Library Bus,
15—19 September—Senior Camp,
19 September—Last day of Term 3.

Welcome
As we approach week 4, the students are deep into their units with some classes starting to work on their assessment pieces. I look forward to seeing these final pieces when completed to see the standard of work our students produce.

I could like to congratulate Rachel Dando, Damon Sloss, Gabrielle Duncombe and Jamie Duncombe on their representation at the South Burnett Athletics Carnival over the last 2 days. Giving it their best is all that we can ask for. Maybe the next stage is awaiting the students.

Over the last week we have had students coming down with illnesses. If your child is feeling unwell, sometimes the better decision is to let them rest and get over the illness rather than sending them to school and infecting more students. I suggest it important to practice hygiene while these bugs are floating around; washing of hands after coughing and sneezing, covering mouth when coughing and drinking plenty of water.

Uniforms
In the last newsletter I mentioned that some students were arriving at school in winter gear that was not school uniform. I wanted to mention again that students are required to wear a red jumper and blue tracksuit pants. Other coloured winter gear is unacceptable.

School Opinion Survey
As stated in the KIT book yesterday, the online family response to the School Opinion Survey has been down on past years, a consistent trend across the state. As of yesterday we have had only 5 responses out of 27. If you don’t have access to the Internet you can use the computers here at school. If you have lost the information to access the survey, please see me at school. The surveys close on Friday 8th August.

After School Sports
Starting next Wednesday Mrs Sharon Duncombe will again run after school sports. The sport this term will be soccer, with plans for a Cooyar vs Tanduringie game towards the end of the term. We have had some parents put their name up to volunteer. If you want your child to participate in this term’s after school sports, please inform us via the KIT book. The afternoons will begin at 3:30 and conclude at 4:30.

EKKA Holiday
A reminder that Monday is a public holiday and there will be no school. Long weekend HOORAY!

P&C Meeting
The next P&C meeting is being held on the 18th August. All are welcome to attend. The evening commences at 7pm in the staff room. See you there.
From the Principal...

School Time Changes for 2015

I know last term there were meetings held with the possibility of changing school times from 8:30-2:30 each day. This will work in with the buses that take students to Nanango and Yarraman for High School. I ask that you fill in the survey to let us know if you are for or against the change of hours. Surveys are due back by Friday the 8th of August please.

Reading Ideas

As reading is one of our priorities of improvement, I wanted to use the newsletter to give parents some ideas in assisting your children with reading. Over the coming newsletters I am going to add some ideas to help. This weeks’ idea is Encouraging Reading:

Encouraging Reading

To ensure that your child is encouraged to become a reader, consider the following questions:

• Is my child read to every day?
• Does my child see others reading at various times?
• Is a comfortable place provided where my child can be read to? Does my child like this ‘space’?
• When reading aloud, is the tone of voice changed for different characters, or to show emotion and excitement?
• Are reading materials chosen that capture my child’s interest? Is my child encouraged to select the story to be read?
• Is attention paid to how my child is responding to the story?
• Is the reading stopped when my child loses interest?
• Is my child encouraged to join in while being read to, e.g. turning the pages, holding the book, allowing them to ‘read’ the bits they remember?
• Is my child given sufficient time to answer when questions are asked?
• Are ideas in the story linked with things that happen in my child’s life?
• Is my child encouraged to take notice of print, e.g. find letters from his or her name?
• Is my child encouraged to retell or act out stories he or she has heard?

Have a wonderful long weekend. See you around the school.

Mark Wrigley
Dear Parents

Congratulations to Alexander for receiving Student of the Week last week and to all those students who received certificates for Sight words and Mathletics. Keep up the great work everyone!!

The children have been really keen to begin to write their information report in English. Last week we began to research our animal using a search engine and over the next couple of weeks we will be creating our information report.

In Maths, we have been looking at measurement and revising number fact strategies.

If you would like to volunteer in our room please let us know via the KIT book or in person.

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

Michelle Bourke and Tania Duncombe

Year 3 & 4

The students have been working hard at investigating Asian Folktales, with the next stage being that the students write their own story with a moral/message. In Maths students have studied fractions and are currently developing their multiplication skills. In Geography the students are investigating significant places in Australia, with the end goal being that students looking at a significant place in Cooyar and looking after this place. In our reading hour students have been developing reading skills in predicting and making connections to the text. I am glad to say that we have not had many strikes due to no reading/homework. It is great to see these routines firmly in place.

Mark Wrigley
Senior Classroom

**English** - Focussing on our goal to improve reading comprehension, we are reading a class novel written by Jackie French. ‘Tom Appleby, Convict Boy’ is a fictional story about a young boy who arrived in Australia in 1788 as a convict. Based at Sydney Cove, the story is relevant to our end-of-term trip and gives an insight into the lives of the early settlers of the Sydney region. It leads very well into the written assignment of a letter to children of the future to describe our lives now. The children are already discovering new knowledge of the time and we will later relate this to our History unit about Botany Bay.

**Mathematics** - Having finished the first unit, the first mathematics test was given this week. All of the children seem to have a reasonable to good understanding of required knowledge, so I am hopeful of a positive outcome for all.

**Geography** - Natural disasters of the world are being investigated. An Australian natural disaster is the focus for a written assignment and the children have begun searching for and reading information. Unfortunately for China, but useful for our class, is the earthquake that has just occurred there. All have been encouraged to watch the news this week to try to see some of the footage and then write a journal entry in their homework book. Our mobile library has been extremely helpful in providing us with plenty of handy references for this task. We will also be working on those that often affect the people of the Sydney region - especially as a bushfire was very recently reported there.

**Technology** - Mr and Mrs Eastwell continue to encourage the group in their challenge. All children need to look for recyclable objects that can be used for this project and bring them into the classroom.

**Gardening!**

Clearly gardening is a popular past time in many of our local households. Efficient and enthusiastic gardeners have set to work on the garden beds and within one week we had seedlings to fill all three garden beds at school. A special thank you to the Crouch family who donated a variety of fresh seedlings (obtained from the Winston family business in Kingaroy - thank you too!) and Mrs V. Davies who has her own vegetable patch and also brought in another selection of seedlings - we will really enjoy the harvest from this effort.

**Potato competition** - Everyone in the 3 to 6 classroom will be growing their own potato plant. The competition is to nurture the plant and produce the biggest crop. A prize will be given to the winner and all children are encouraged to talk to parents, grandparents and extended family members to find out the best ways to produce a great crop of potatoes in the Cooyar area. Google is a great tool to find out some tips and everyone may bring in their own ‘secret’ ingredients to feed the plant. Our biggest stumbling block is the provision of a decent load of friable soil to give the children a start. Any volunteers?? Please contact us if you can do us a favour.

Thanking you,

Carmon Sloss
School Time Change

It is proposed that Cooyar State School changes the school time from 9am-3pm to 8:30am-2:30pm. This will assist families with connecting runs to Nanango and Yarraman for high school and ensure students door to door pick up/drop off.

Could you please indicate whether you are in favour or against. There is room for comments if you wish to. This is an anonymous survey but there is room for you to sign your name if you like.

☐ I am in Favour

☐ I am Against

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Signed ________________