Cooyar State School—Term 3, Week 6—20 August, 2014.

Date Claimers:
27 August—John Eastwell/Science/Tech Challenge,
2 September—Library Bus,
3 September—John Eastwell/Science/Tech Challenge,
16-19 September—Year 4-6 Camp.

Welcome
As I sit and write this edition of the Cooyar Chronicle, I notice that we are half way through the term. New units are on the horizon and the finalisations of units are in full swing.

On Monday the 2014 NAPLAN results were released. Cooyar State School has achieved pleasing results. I have identified areas in which we can improve but we have many areas in which we can celebrate. Next Term, with our GRG funds, we will start our preparation for 2015 NAPLAN.

Signing In and Out
I want to remind parents that if you are bringing children in late and taking them early, you are required to sign the register in the office. This is a legal requirement for schools. The register is in the office and on the days that Mrs Beacham is not in the office, you can see other staff to help locate the register.

Calling the School
I wanted to remind everyone, that on Monday and Friday Mrs Beacham is not in the office. Any phone calls made to the school will not be answered until 10:30-11:00 and 1:00-1:40. Mrs Davies and Mrs Roediger will receive phone calls from 2:30pm onwards for calls regarding pickups. This measure is in place as educating your children is a main priority during learning hours.

Parade Times
We want to ensure that parents have the best opportunity to attend our school parades. I am aware that families are very busy and cannot always make it. On reflection, however, maybe it was the times and day of the parade. I am asking for your feedback. Could you please communicate via the KIT book days and times that suit you for school parades? During Parades we discuss the behaviour goal for the week, Student of the Week, Mathletics awards and other celebrations of student’s work. We would love to see more parents at our parades.

NRL Gala Day
We, once again, are lucky to have Colin from NRL development come and show our students rugby league skills. The students from grade 3-6 will participate in an NRL Gala Day at Yarraman on the 11th September. This gives the students an opportunity to apply the skills they have learnt from the weekly Wednesday lessons.

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...

**After School Sports**

I want to remind parents that After School Sports runs from 3:15-4:15pm. Parents are reminded to pick up their children by 4:15pm. Please ensure pick up times are adhered to.

**Cooyar Cash**

We are in the process of reviewing the rewards for our Cooyar Cash. We are looking at developing a Cooyar Shop which would give students a variety of awards such as fishing, cooking and gaming afternoons. Students and staff are working on a reward suite and once developed, will be made available through the newsletter and website.

**Code of Ethics**

I have developed a Code of Ethics that our parent helpers and volunteers are asked to read and sign. This is to give everyone a guideline as to the ‘dos’ and ‘do nots’ while working with children. Over the course of the next few weeks, when you come to work at the school either as a helper or tuckshop volunteer, you will need to read and sign. When you receive the code of ethics and have questions feel free to see me.

**Bedrock Books**

We, once again, are going to offer families the opportunity to order their books from Bedrock Books and are currently reviewing our booklist for 2015. By doing this early families will have the opportunity to receive their child’s books before school ends this year as well as the opportunity to receive books in January if that suits. Keep an eye out for the order sheets.

**Reading Tips**

Again here are some more tips in helping with reading. It is important to make reading aloud to your child part of your daily routine. Set aside a regular time every day, find a comfortable place without any distractions, and choose something interesting to read together.

**Things to do before reading**

- Encourage your child to select the book. Give them a pile of well-known books so they can choose which one will be read aloud.
- Familiarise yourself with the book as this will make you a better storyteller. Take a minute to look over the book before you share it with your child.
- Settle your child down and talk a little about the book, e.g. “This story looks as if it is going to be funny.”
- Browse through the book so your child becomes familiar with books and how they are handled, e.g. *holding the book the right way, turning the pages.*

**Things to do when reading**

- Read clearly. Make the story interesting by exaggerating expressions for different character voices and sounds. The more dramatic the better. You may like to add simple props so your child can identify with different characters or act out parts of the story.
- Hold the book so your child can see the pictures and writing.
- Sometimes let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Draw attention to the pictures.
- Sometimes point to the words as you read.
From the Principal...

**Things to do after reading**

- Talk about the characters and what happened in the book.
- Help your child tell the story from the pictures.

Keep in mind that your child’s reading level and listening level are different. When you read easy books, your child will soon be joining in with you. When you read more advanced books, you instil a love of stories and you build the motivation that encourages children to become lifelong readers.

I hope everyone has a great fortnight.

See you around the school.

Mark Wrigley
Principal
Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 News

Wow! It’s Week 6 already, half way through Term 3.

We have begun our new English Unit, ‘Poetry’. The children are all very enthusiastic with listening to and reciting poems.

In Maths, we have been looking at numbers. Preps have been partitioning numbers to 10, using math talk cards “I can see 3 and 4 makes 7”. Year 1’s have been looking at 2 digit numbers and representing them in different ways. The Year 2’s are still investigating 3 digit numbers.

We have begun a class weather chart in Science. The students have been looking at the weather, differences between day and night, seasons and how it affects us. We have conducted experiments on what things could the wind make blow and recorded this in a Yes/No table. The children have also made thermometers.

We are currently using our senses to identify features of a place in Geography.

SHARING

For the remainder of the term we are asking the students to bring along a poem to recite or a book they could retell.

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 are finalising their folktales, writing a narrative with a moral. We move on to poetry at the end of this week. The students will perform a poem and investigate and respond to a poem after studying the language features of humorous poetry.

The students are getting ready to complete their post test in Maths for unit 5. We can then see the growth of the last 5 weeks of their learning. The students will participate in the pre test for unit 6. This gives me valuable data on areas to focus on over the next 5 weeks.

Everyone is working on their geography project. The students have to choose a significant place in Cooyar and research how we can improve this place through a ‘sustainable lens’.

Mark Wrigley
Year 5, Year 6 & Year 7 News

English classes have us fully engaged in the story of ‘Tom Appleby, Convict Boy’. Tom is a fictional character created by Jackie French to tell the story of the life of a transported child convict from the First Fleet. Botany Bay sets the scene for the unfolding events which Jackie has carefully told using her vast historical knowledge of this time in Australia. It not only gives the children an historical understanding of the origins of Sydney, but is allowing us to work on our comprehension skills in English. The assessment piece, which is a handwritten letter describing life as we know it now, will soon be issued.

Mathematics testing was held last week and despite all of the illness, the children have achieved superb results! We are now very quickly back on the road to another short assessment. Measurement is the next exciting topic and many seem almost ready for the ‘think and apply’ questions as they are demonstrating confidence with finding perimeter and area.

Our classroom was visited by two special guests on Monday afternoon. Mr. Murphy and Pat, the VCE (Voluntary Community Educator) arrived in the fire truck to give some expert knowledge on bushfires. As we are studying natural disasters in Australia, this topic is very close to the children’s real-life knowledge as bushfires sometimes threaten our Cooyar community. The 1988 Cooyar Flood is also being discussed and researched thanks to the parents who have real-life knowledge of this event and can provide information for the children. Thank you Mr Murphy and Pat!

GARDENING

WOW! What a thrill for the children last week as we planted our potatoes amid much excitement. It was especially helpful that the weather came to our aid on the weekend and now our little gardeners are watering and keeping an eye on progress. Garden beds are still being top-dressed and a few more potatoes will be put in this week. Thank you to Mrs Tracey Crouch for delivering a trailer load of much-needed soil and for unloading the rest the next day on her own. Thank you also to Mr Dale Barron who donated the soil and loaded the trailer for Mrs Crouch.

It is lovely to be on the receiving end of the generosity from families when it comes to this gardening project. It is not an easy task but many hands have truly made light work on this occasion. This week Rylie brought in two beautiful big chokos with roots and a shoot ready to plant. Thank you to Rylie’s family for this one - chokos are such a prolific bearer - we may all benefit from this one!

Mr Ashley Volz has donated two large tractor tyres for the garden and, with the assistance of Mr Sloss, we intend to put these to good use too - sweet potatoes and a few more Nicola potatoes! Then we will need more soil... thank you to the Davies family who have agreed to give us some of their lovely composted cow yard soil. THANK YOU everyone .. gardening is such a labour of love anyway, but how pleasant it is to feel the swell of excitement and involvement from everyone. Thank you Davis Family for the beetroot seedlings donated this week!

Gardening gloves are arriving at school constantly - thank you parents! Looking forward to the first potato shoots emerging.... drop in and see them when the children tell you they are through.

Friday Slices are generously being donated by Year 5 & 6 class members for students to buy on Fridays. Thank you!

Carmon Sloss
A fortnight ago (from August 4 to 7), around 700 school chaplains, from all of Queensland and the ACT, met for their annual conference at the Alex Park Conference Centre, Alexandra Headlands, on the Sunshine Coast. Chaplains from our region were accommodated at the Break Free Resort, opposite the Surf Club, within easy walking distance of the conference centre.

As usual, excellent keynote speakers were lined up to give inspirational talks to those attending. Several information workshops were also conducted to assist chaplains in a range of topics, including fundraising, community involvement, spiritual and emotional issues, crisis chaplaincy, bullying issues, resources for working with indigenous youth, grief and loss, and relating to those of other faiths.

We were reminded of the Seven Roles of the Chaplain in their schools and communities. These include (1) the provision of Social and emotional support for those within the school community, (2) spiritual support for those who request it, (3) involvement in community development projects, such as ‘Clean Up Australia Day,’ (4) availability to mentor young people as an extra adult, who may act as a role model, (5) educational support for those students with specific needs, (6) involvement in extra-curricular activities, including socials, camps, excursions, sport coaching, and staff activities, and (7) making a contribution to three teams: namely Scripture Union Queensland, the local school, and the Local Chaplaincy Committee. Along with these matters, the chaplain is expected to (a) be involved in Professional Development activities, including attending conferences and training days; (b) be accountable to up-line management and take part in annual reviews, and (c) promote chaplaincy issues in school newsletters and local community organisations.

The CEO for Scripture Union Queensland, Peter James, addressed the issue of a recent High Court Challenge to School Chaplaincy. There have been some ideas circulating that the future of school chaplaincy is under threat as a result of this challenge. However, this does not seem to be the case. The main point of contention was that the federal funding arrangements were unconstitutional. Whilst this case was upheld by the court, the government had already thought of another legal option for funding chaplaincy, should the case be lost. The new arrangements have not been announced yet, but it is expected that federal funding, in one form or another, will continue for at least another four years, when a further plan will be announced.

As with most conferences, the best part was mingling with friends and contacts, and enjoying good food and pleasant surrounds. A highlight of Conference is always a Touch Footy Tournament between the eight regions of Queensland. This year our South West Queensland region was victorious in this tournament, much to the delight of us all. We won the Grand Final 2-nil against the Gold Coast region, which has won the tournament on several occasions, including last year.

Overall, the weather was pleasant, the food delicious and nutritious, the company and lectures inspiring, and early morning dips in the surf refreshing. Not surprisingly, the three days of Conference quickly passed, and we were soon on our way home again, to enjoy involvement in local schools for another year.

Phil Downing

Cooyar State School Chaplain
Week 5

Prep—Year 2— Oliver for always having a go.
Year 3—Year 4— Jessica for always setting a high standard in class with effort, achievement and behaviour.
Year 5— Year 7— Kaycee for recognising the need to avoid distractions to be a learner.
Playground— Chantelle for great manners at lunch time.

Week 6

Prep—Year 2— Rhiannon for always working at a consistent high level.
Year 3—Year 4— Rylie for Excellence in Mathematics.
Year 5— Year 7— Aidan for an excellent result in his Mathematics test after applied effort to understand and master the required skills.
Playground— Summah-Jane for playing responsibly in the playground.
From the Chaplain...

Scripture Union Holiday Camps

With the School September-October Holidays on the horizon, now is a good time to plan how our children might most profitably fill in their time during the break. Scripture Union will again hold holiday camps for children who would like to attend. For our region, two camps will be held during the first week of holidays (Monday, September 22 to Friday, September 26): one (SWAK Camp) for primary-age children in Years 5 to 7 at Atkinsons Dam, down near Fernvale; and the other for High School-aged children (Southern Splashout Camp) at Tambourine Mountain, near the Gold Coast. Activities will include fun, games, swimming, visits to theme parks, spiritual discussion and activities, fellowship with other young people, and good food.

If you are interested in your children attending one of these camps, you may go on line for more information, and to register for these camps, at www.sucamps.org.au.

Phil Downing,
Cooyar School Chaplain