Cooyar State School—Term 3, Week 8—3 September, 2014.

Welcome
Welcome to Spring. We are eight weeks into the term and the September holidays are calling. We have a very busy few weeks coming up, so strap yourself in and enjoy the ride.

Book Week Dress Up Day
This Friday the student council is holding a free dress day for Book Week. The students are asked to dress up as their favourite character from their favourite book. The students have also been asked to bring in their book, if available, to set the scene. The Book Week Parade will begin at 9am sharp. All students are asked to bring in a gold coin donation for participating and raising funds for student council. Parents are most welcome to come along.

NRL Gala Day
Next Thursday, 11th September, the Year 3-6 students will head to Yarraman State School to participate in the annual Gala Austag Day. We will leave at 9:30am and leave Yarraman State School to travel back at 2pm. Students will need to be in full school uniform including hat, morning tea and lunch and water bottle. The day is a culmination activity using the skills the students have learnt over the weeks of NRL training.

Celebration Day
Celebration Day has been booked in for 19th September. More information will follow.

Remember students are required to read every night (signed), homework completed and handed in on a Friday, exceptional behaviour in and out of the classroom and KIT book brought in everyday. We have some students on two strikes and we would hate for students to miss out on this day.

P&C Meeting
Next Monday 8th September we are having our P&C meeting. The meeting begins at 7:00pm. We would love to see you there.

Library Move
We are in the process of switching the library with the Year 5/6 class. While we make the move we are culling some books and we will have these books available for families to take home. With left over books I would love for them to find a new home in schools overseas that lack books. If you know of any organisation that we can get these books to, could you please let me know.

Date Claimers:
5 September— Book Week Dress Up Day,
8 September— P & C Meeting,
11 September—NRL Gala Day at Yarraman State School,
16-19 September—Year 5 & 6 Camp,
19 September— Celebration Day,
19 September—Last Day of School.

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.
Cooyar Pork Off

Last week we invited parents to join the staff in a challenge to become healthier. If you wish to join us, please see Mrs Beacham in the office for weigh in. To participate it is a $20 entry. First, second and third prize winner share the cash pool. The time is now to get healthy.

Reading Tips

Supporting Comprehension

Talking to your child about what he or she has been reading or what you have been reading together is a wonderful opportunity to make connections with his or her life, talk about opinions and to understand what the text is about. Asking questions is one way your child can respond to texts to show they understand. Different types of questions will provide more information about your child’s understanding of the text.

‘Right There’ (Literal) Questions
These questions focus on what the author said and usually require the child to remember specific information, e.g. events, characters, main ideas. It is helpful to follow up these types of questions with “How did you know that?” or “Can you show me where it says that?”

‘Think and Search’ (Inferential) Questions
The answers to these questions can be found in the text but not necessarily in the one place. The child has to ‘put the answer together’ from various sections or sentences in the text, e.g. “Why do you think … behaved in that way?” These questions are sometimes the how and why questions.

‘Author and Me’ (Interpretive) Questions
These questions require the child to base the answer on the text but also draw on what they know to reach an answer. To answer these questions the child needs to have read the text, as the answers are not wild guesses, e.g. “The author has said ……what does she mean by that?”

‘On My Own’ (Critical or Evaluative) Questions
These questions go beyond the text, asking for the child’s own opinions or judgements. The answers are not in the text at all. The text provides a starting point for discussions about the underlying messages, e.g. “I wonder why the fairy godmother stopped her magic at midnight?”

It is not necessary to ask each type of question every time a text is read. Sometimes your child will stop and ask you questions, and other times you may ask the questions and direct your child’s attention to specific things in the text. This should always be a fun way to explore the text and to stimulate discussions, not a time when the child feels ‘tested’ or ‘interrogated’.

Have a great week, I hope you enjoy the warmer weather. Spring brings new life to plants and animals so enjoy this time of regeneration.

See you around the school.

Mark Wrigley
Principal
Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 News

This week will see the last of our NRL sessions. The children have had a fantastic time learning new ball skills.

The children are all excited to start their dioramas this week in Science.

‘Mrs Mop makes magnificent marmalade’, alliteration is what we have been looking at in English, as well as what makes a poem a poem.

In Maths the preps have been busy sharing collections and will start to collect data and explain their data. The Year 1’s have been solving addition problems, while the Year 2’s have been looking at money.

We have changed our group reading time. If you are able to help out with reading on Monday – Thursday between 8.45 – 9.15am please let us know.

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

Michelle Bourke and Tania Duncombe

Year 3 & 4

The students have begun their journey into the land of Poetry. We are investigating poetry devices such as non-sense words, neologisms, spoonerisms, alliteration, onomatopoeia and puns. The students will write and perform a poem and complete a poetry investigation of the poem ‘My Punny Family’.

The students have continued in their mathematical journey, working on time and area.

In Science we are studying why we have day, night, seasons and shadows, as well as investigating weathering and erosion, the effects and ways we can reverse or slow down this process.

With only a few weeks left the students have been working hard in these classes. In the coming weeks I will test the student’s reading levels, pre-test maths for term 4 and finalise our assessments; a busy time ahead.

Mark Wrigley
From the Classroom...

**Year 5, Year 6 & Year 7 News**

**English**
The children are working on their assessment related to the reading of ‘Tom Appleby’. This is a relatively enjoyable writing exercise as the students are asked to write to a student of the future and inform them about their lives in 2014, just as we are reading about Tom's life in 1788.

**Mathematics**
Area and Perimeter are the current topics with some extras that need work being added as required. Rounding is still on the workboard, as is multiplication and long division. The final mathematics test for this term will be completed very soon.

**Geography**
Assignments are being completed this week so 'Natural Disasters' comes to a close.

**LOTE**
Next week, on **Wednesday 10th September**, we take Miss Lay on a **tour of Cooyar** as the children present their neighbourhood sights to their teacher using the Indonesian language. I think Miss Lay is looking forward to this event!
The students were issued with a note last week that told of a visit from **Nanango State High School on Monday at 9.30am**. Any interested parents are most welcome at this meeting in the library building (that is now our classroom!)

**Technology Challenge**
Tuesday 9th - Benarkin State School - we attend for a half day challenge and await the results!

**Sydney**
The excitement is building!! Parents of year 5 & 6 students should have received the letter with requirements and the itinerary by now. The permission slip comes home today. Please be sure to return these and keep a copy of the itinerary. A black and white copy is included for the family while the children should keep the coloured one.

*Please note:*- hat, sunglasses and small tube of sunscreen should be on the “Requirements” list.

Feel free to ring me with any questions.

For those staying at home - it is possible you might see us in Sydney on Thursday morning on the Sunrise show!! Yes! Yes! Keep an eye out for the big moment - we will try to give you a wave from Sydney in our few seconds of fame!

We shall share some of the photos on our return!

**Gardening**
Potatoes are coming up and there have been daily checks to see the progress. We are still top dressing the garden beds and last Thursday saw a Spring Spruce-up of the front garden beside the office - a big difference!

Thank you.... to Anja who came to school equipped with a handy little power tool last week and used it most productively.

We have a passionfruit vine from the Davis family and a parsley plant from the Crouch family.

Mrs Cathy Davies saw the need for several watering cans and buckets and they have proved most useful.

Mr Wrigley braved the crowds at Aldi last weekend to purchase 4 garden beds so we will now have some more space...we need it! I am truly enjoying the energy generated by gardening - thank you everyone!

That's about it!  Have a fantastic break and we will put in some photos of our Sydney adventures after the holidays. Feel free to drop in to the school grounds and water the potatoes over the holidays. I know this seems early but I won't have another newsletter until after the holidays. See you then!

**Carmon Sloss**
A couple of weeks ago, I noticed that my back was aching, and wondered if perhaps I had pulled a muscle, or was coming down with a lung infection. After putting up with a worsening situation for a few days, I went to the doctor, who diagnosed me with Shingles. When I mention shingles to others, it is amazing how many (teachers, church-members and fellow citizens in general) have had the dreaded condition. If it is diagnosed early enough, the consequences are far less serious. However, severe pain caused by nerves can be agonising.

During my time in Hervey Bay, an 84 year-old friend of mine (Ron) had a bad case of Shingles. Ron was a New Zealander who had lived an interesting life of adventures, not the least of which included flying with the Photographic Reconnaissance Unit over Europe during World War. His experiences included coming across, and photographing, the German Naval Fleet doing training exercises in the Baltic Sea, and then high-tailing it back across the North Sea to the safety of England, before being intercepted by German fighter planes. On another occasion, Ron was required to fly the London Times to British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, as the latter met with Russian Leader Josef Stalin and US President Roosevelt in Crimea. Anyway, late in life, Ron was in for another adventure - suffering the extremely debilitating pain resulting from Shingles. Ron was a man of faith, and he wondered why his Creator allowed him to go on in pain, rather than allowing him to die gracefully. Ron eventually shifted to England to be near family, and died shortly after, having never thrown off the Shingles.

The Bible patriarch Job was another who suffered debilitating pain, on top of the loss of his fortune and his children. In his agony and despair, he also expressed a desire to die rather than to go on in pain. Fortunately after a long trial with sickness, pain and emotional turmoil, Job was restored to health and good fortune. He had more children and lived on for many years in happiness and contentment.

Even though painful experiences are not pleasant, and could be done without, there is usually something positive that we can learn from them, especially when they are in the past. Life can be very unpleasant for many people. In a school community, we hear sad stories of children whose parents are struck down with serious illness or injury. Sometimes children themselves suffer immeasurably. Bad experiences are no respecter of persons. We all live in a world of suffering. If we breeze through life without having some understanding of the pain that others go through, we are not much use to them in their sufferings. Usually it is those who can relate to suffering that form societies and organisations that provide for the hurting in their times of need. Although not always the case, some are allowed to suffer, in order to teach them valuable lessons that they would not learn otherwise.

They say that “the same sun that melts wax, hardens clay.” We are each responsible as to how we react to hardship that comes our way. We can either use it to make us better people, or we can become bitter and negative towards life and others. There are plenty of examples of people who have overcome illness and lived on happily and comfortably for years to come. In other cases, people have suffered for a time before going to their rest. The decision of how to react lies with each of us. My desire is to throw my hat in with those of the former group. What about you?

Phil Downing

Cooyar State School Chaplain
Week 7

Prep—Year 2— David for working hard in class.
Year 3—Year 4— Zac for excellence in Mathematics.
Year 5— Year 7— Amelia for being applied and being a great learner.
Playground— William for playing safely in the playground.

Week 8

Prep—Year 2— Holly for excellent work habits in class.
Year 3—Year 4— Seth for being a responsible learner in the classroom and in the playground.
Year 5— Year 7— Belinda for great class room participation and being a learner.
Playground— Jacob for being a great helper on playground.