Community Engagement is one of the priorities on our Site Improvement Plan and vital to the success of our students. Strong partnerships and collaboration assist us in improving the service that we can provide and we value highly the voices, opinions and experiences that the school and wider community bring to our school and young people.

We have many parents and community members actively involved every day in classrooms, on committees and volunteering at special events, excursions etc. We would like to acknowledge and thank all of those who put their hand up and come along to help enrich the lives of our students. The time you spend developing relationships, sharing your skills and creating learning opportunities for our students is invaluable.

Next week we will be asking parents, students and staff to take part in the National Opinion survey which is a tool used to collect data about client satisfaction. We hope that you can take the time to give us your opinion, so that we can continue to strive to improve and provide the best possible learning experiences for your children.

Staffing

We continue to work on our staffing for next year – with the panel for the Deputy Principal position underway. As is the case every year, we have staff moving in and out of our school for a variety of reasons. Next year Brad Wallis will be leaving us to take up a position in Adelaide – we would like to thank Brad for his commitment to the education of the students at Cowell over the past 4 years and hope that he enjoys his new position.

Lauren Hannemann and Stacy Michael will be on Maternity leave and we are currently working on how their positions will be filled next year. Our R-6 Coordinator and Counsellor positions will become vacant at the end of the year, so we will also need to go through a process to fill these positions later in the term for 2017. It is often a time of uncertainty for our teachers who occupy contract positions – Sharyn Williams, Sarah Agnew, Sue Grund and Lani Hartwig, and we would like to sincerely thank them for all of the hard work and energy they have put into the learning opportunities for our students. We are pleased to be able to congratulate Hannah Wight on winning a 0.8 position in 2017 and hope that we can have a similar outcome for all of our staff. We would also like to acknowledge the great work of our SSOs who are working in temporary positions – Maria Papilio, Jodi Gregory, Michelle Beinke, Rose White, Mackenzie Klingberg, Deb Carlaw, Scott Williams, Ruth Tonkin and Nicole Turner. Without their dedication to improving outcomes for our students, life would certainly be much more difficult and we hope that our funding allows us to provide positions for them in the future.

Governing Council Meeting

A reminder that our next Governing council meeting is next Tuesday November 15th at 7:00pm in the library, where we will be discussing our Goods and Services charges. If you would like to find out more information about this, please come along.

Gala Day

We are getting closer to Gala Day – Wednesday November 16th, and everyone is getting organised and excited about the fun activities and goodies that will be available. Please keep an eye out for the letters going home about school starting times, supervision, purchasing tickets, bus times etc, and the posters around town and on our Facebook page. Come along and join us – buy some tasty treats (donuts, ice creams, cupcakes, BBQ), grab a bargain, play some games or just enjoy the atmosphere.

Hope to see you there!!

Please note that due to the Gala Day celebrations, next week’s newsletter will be printed on Thursday.

Yard Play

We have had a few issues lately with students involved in games of ‘dacking’. Whilst some students are of the opinion that this practice is harmless fun, other students have been left feeling quite upset, intimidated and embarrassed. The practice of ‘dacking’ is totally unacceptable and viewed by our school staff as seriously violating the rights of students who have been unwillingly subjected to the practice. As part of the Child Protection Curriculum, we teach young people that school should be a ‘safe place’ and that we all have the right to be safe. We ask that parents support us by speaking to their children about the importance of respecting other students’ right to feel safe at school and speaking to an adult if they feel ‘unsafe’ in any way.

We would also like to ask parents that they ensure that they are supervising their children if they are playing on any of the playground equipment after hours. There are some concerns about the use of the ‘net swing’ in particular, by younger students and we would hate for anyone to get injured whilst playing.

Remembrance Day

This year 11 November marks the 98th anniversary of the armistice which ended the First World War (1914-1918). Each year on this day we observe one minute’s silence in memory of those who died and suffered in all wars and armed conflicts. Some of our SRC members and our Year 8 students will represent our school community at the ceremony at the War Memorial, whilst the rest of the students observe a minute silence at the school.

FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM
Catch up with a Cowell Kid

This week I caught up with some of our Year 7 students – Chloe Frost, Thomas Beinke, Patrick White and Sean Norsworthy. We spent some time reflecting on their time in Year 7 and what they are looking forward to the most about entering Year 8.

The thing that Chloe has enjoyed the most about Year 7 is the chance to experience different teachers and different subjects, rather than having a single class teacher for the majority of the time. She is looking forward to doing different kinds of Creative Arts in Year 8, as that is a subject that she really enjoys.

Sean has enjoyed moving up the senior end of the school and getting away from the younger students (because sometimes they’re just annoying) and is looking forward to Maths and building CO2 Dragsters in Year 8 – in fact, he already has his design.

Both Patrick and Thomas think that the Canberra trip was the best thing about Year 7 and they are also both looking forward to Science in Year 8. Thomas is particularly interested in learning more about Chemistry and the Periodic table, whilst Patrick would like to work with microscopes and learn about equations.

The four students have a variety of different career options that they are looking at exploring. Patrick is thinking about being either a Biologist, Pilot, truck driver or a Ringer, and we had a bit of a discussion about how you could incorporate a few of those careers into one (flying helicopters to round up cattle on a station?), although it is very dangerous work. Sean is keen to become an Engineer, focussing on a career working on planes (similar to the work that his cousin does). Chloe, who loves working with little kids, would like to become a JP or Primary teacher. Thomas, loves drawing and would perhaps like to pursue a career illustrating books, but is also keen on becoming a comedian – I look forward to one of his shows!!

Finally, I asked the students about the things that they thought I could focus on improving. Patrick would like to see more practical lessons in Science and we also talked about improving our resources; he was particularly interested in getting some Robotics and Engineering type equipment. Patrick mentioned that the increase in yard games with other year levels has been good and would like to see that continue on a regular basis next year. They also thought it would be good to do more cross-age activities in other curriculum areas. A sheltered area on the grass for younger students to sit was also suggested. Sean thought that it would be good to have a cricket pitch up the secondary end of the school, so that we could spread out the play areas.

A big thanks to the Year 7’s for their company … next week I will be talking to students from the Year 1/2 class.

DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 4

WEEK 4 8-21/11 - Senior Exams
WEEK 5 15/11 - Yr 8/9 Super 8’s Cricket in Cleve
16/11 - Governing Council Meeting 7pm in Library
WEEK 6 21-23/11 - Year 4/5 Camp Errappa
21-25/11 - SAPSSASA Tennis/Cricket
26/11 - Year 12 Formal
WEEK 7 28-2/12 - Year 6 Camp
WEEK 8 6/12 - Presentation Evening
7/12 - Cyber Safety Presentation Yr 6 & up
8/12 - SMG Programmes
WEEK 9 16/12 - Last Day of Term 4

2016 Examination Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Examination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8th November</td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Physics (3 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9th November</td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Psychology (2 hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 10th November</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Mathematical Applications (2 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 11th November</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Legal Studies (3 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 14th November</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Biology (3 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 15th November</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Modern History (3 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 18th November</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Mathematical Methods (3 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 21st November</td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Geography (2 hours)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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FORMAL MEETING
The next and final formal meeting will be held 4:30pm Wednesday 9th of November in the library.

Year 4/5 would like to thank all the parents, family and friends who donated goods for our trading table last term. We had a great variety of items and everything sold. Thanks to your excellent efforts and to those who bought something from the table we raised a total of $434.00 towards our camp. We are very grateful so once again a big thank you for your generosity.

Trading Table

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COWELL AREA SCHOOL’S Gala Day.

Community members are invited to join Cowell Area School for Gala Day on 16th November from 3:30pm to 6:30pm. Festivities include: photo booth, cooking and craft stalls, emergency services expo, live entertainment, belly bumpers, barbecue sausages and steak sandwiches, archery, lucky dip, arcade face painting, hot cinnamon donuts, mini golf, amazing race and much more!
Join us for a fun enjoyable family afternoon.
Library Hours for Term 4
Monday–Thursday 8.30am–4pm
Friday 8.30am–3pm

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to the library on Wednesday 23rd November and is finishing on Wednesday 7th December. We will have a “Pyjama Party” for our Reading Hour on Tuesday 29th November to celebrate the Book Fair. The Pyjama Party will be from 5:45-7:00pm and there will be a surprise guest! We hope to see you all there!

We will be having International Games Day at the library to celebrate the fun we can have with board games. We will play games for fun or enter into a competition against each other or even some teachers (I heard a whisper that Mrs Byrnes thinks she is the best Pictionary player in the whole school)! Students can bring along their own board game or use the games from the library. The event will be held at lunch time. So start thinking about which game you would like to play!

Community Connections

EP Creative Writing Group
Next Meeting: Wednesday 7th Dec @ 5.30pm in the Library
Topic: “Outback”
Bring a plate to share
Guest Speaker: Johnny Close

Storytime
Wednesdays from 9.15am in the Library

Adult Book Club
Next Meeting: Thursday 8th Dec @ 11am in the Library

Family History Workshop
Tuesday 8th Nov @ 2pm in the Library
Interested in your family history but don’t know where to start? Join us to get you started on the right track. Contact the Library for more information.

December 2016 & January 2017
Programs at over 130 pool & beach locations for primary school-aged children
Book online at vacswimsa.com.au
SWIMMING CLUB
Due to Student and Parent commitments for the School Gala day on Wednesday 16th November, Swimming Club will not be held on this day. Sorry for any inconvenience.

COWELL JUNIOR TENNIS
Junior tennis will be on this Friday, commencing 3:30pm sharp. Games will be as follows: The Piglets V The Beasts, Tennis Kings V The Dominators, Top Deck V The Mint Mongrels. Chicken Dinners have the bye & The Beasts are on roster.

CAN WE BORROW YOUR SHADE?
SRC would like to borrow any free standing shades/gazebos for Gala Day next Wednesday 16th November. If you have one we can borrow, please contact the school and leave a message for Sharyn 86292150.

GALA DAY
16th November, 2016
Gala Day is coming…...there will be lots on offer;
Food – decorate a cupcake or biscuit, hot donuts, ice creams & BBQ.
Activities & Stalls – White elephant stall, mini golf, sponge throwing, amazing race, spin to win, belly bumpers, arcade games, photo booth, archery, basketball, face painting, lolly jar, splat the rat, paper planes, teddy tombola.
Meet – the local Policeman, marine rescue volunteers & ambulance volunteers & see their vehicles.
How about this…..try your luck in a raffle to take Mrs Byrnes position for a day!!!
Students – please make sure that parents get the Gala Day letters that have been sent home today with the eldest in the family.
Bus students – please make sure you bring back the return slip to the school in regards to bus runs for the event.
Tickets – for the event will be presold on Tuesday afternoon as well as being available from a stall on Gala Day.
Any queries, please contact the school on 86292150.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sunday School this Sunday 13th November 2016 at 10:00am – following the 9:00am church service. Please note roles are being assigned for our Annual Christmas play – any child wishing to participate please text M Franklin (0427 292 068) before this Thursday to be included.