

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Autism Coach Visiting

Tuesday 6th Feb  
1:00pm–3:30pm

### Prep Photo

Wednesday 7th Feb  
8:30am

### P&C Meeting

Monday 12th Feb  
3pm–4pm

### GRIP Leadership Year 6 Students

Thursday 15th Feb

### Nominations due for Rockhampton Ei- steddfod

Monday 19th Feb

### AFL Queensland Activities

Monday 19th Feb

### Archer Park Rail Museum

Family Fun Day  
Sunday 25th Feb  
9am–1pm

### AFL Queensland Activities

Monday 5th March

### Clean Up Australia Day

Monday 12th March

### Day against Bullying

Friday 16th March

Year 6  
Leadership Day  
Friday 16th March

### Keppel Cluster Cross Country

Late March TBC

P&C AGM  
March TBC



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Mobile: 0477 372 132

Email:  
principal@coowongass.eq.edu.au

## Principal's News

What a great week! Everyone is back into routine and showing excellent progress already in their learning. Our teaching team is excited to see all students giving their best effort and reaching for their best in all of their subjects!

### Parent Information Session

Thank you to everyone for attending the parent information session on Wednesday afternoon. It was great to see such interest and enthusiasm for what is happening at our school. We trust you found the information valuable and have attached a number of notes for activities discussed during the session. Thank you to all who participated, asked questions and offered to support our school in different ways this year. Together we can do great things for our children!

### Prep Photos

Each year the newspaper includes photos of Prep students from around the region to celebrate the start of their schooling adventures. The photographers will be visiting our school on Wednesday the 7th of February to capture our Prep students' happy faces! Please make sure students are dressed in their full school uniform and at school by 8:30am so all students can be included in the photograph.

### Homework Expectations

Homework for both classes will be sent home next Tuesday the 6th of February and is due back the following Monday 12th of February. This is to provide flexibility in when students are able to complete these tasks with weeknights and weekends available as best suits your family. Homework is an important way for students to consolidate their learning and connect what they have learnt in class with the real world. Please encourage your child to complete their homework throughout the week. If there are any difficulties or concerns with your child's homework, let Tanya or myself know and we will ensure your child receives the support they need to succeed.

### School Improvement Plan

Every year each state school develops a targeted plan aimed at improving student learning. This involves identifying a specific aspect of our teaching and learning processes that, if improved, would directly increase the quality of our students' learning and achievement. Our staff has been working collaboratively to unpack our students' results and identify areas that we can improve to ensure all of our students are reaching their potential and succeeding with their learning. We will be asking for feedback and input into this plan at the first P&C Meeting on Monday the 12th of February so please come along to have your ideas heard!

### School Donations

We have lots of plans to maximise our students' learning through hands on activities this term. To enable us to do these activities, we are asking for donations from the school community of soft drink bottles, shoeboxes and magazines. If you are able to help us out, please ensure the items are clean and place them in the collections box on the classroom verandah.

### Student Contact Update

It is important that we have up-to-date contact information on who we should contact in the case of an emergency or when information needs to be sent home. Please let us know if your contact and emergency details have changed as soon as possible and we will update our system.

Thank you for a positive start to the year!

*Callie Kennedy*  
Acting Principal



*Respect*

*Responsibility*

*Safety*

## Around our School

### Physical Education

This year we have been lucky and have a new P.E. Teacher. He comes to the school every Monday and his name is Mr Curran. This week we have been doing some sport rotations. In our rotations we are practising our throwing and catching skills. We also had a few games here and there to apply what we learnt.

Max H and Max W



### Stephanie Alexander—Cooking and Gardening

Every Thursday afternoon the whole school is involved in cooking or gardening activities. We have started fixing and reusing the old garden beds to grow herbs for cooking. We have also been making lots of yummy food such as pineapple boats, vegemite sandwiches, lamingtons and corn on a cob. We have had lots of fun! If you can help us out in any way, please let Miss Kennedy or Mrs Murphy know.

Jean and Myles



### Active Inspire on the Interactive Whiteboard

The senior grade 4 to 6 students have started using Active Inspire to help us learn and communicate our ideas. The great year 6 students prepared a flip chart for the parent meeting to show our school rules. We have learnt lots of new things to use in Active Inspire and it also helps our writing skills.

Zack and Elijah

### Helping Hands!

In our classroom we have lots of jobs that need to be done so each class has a system called Helping Hands. The Senior class has a chart and we pick names out of a bag and put them on the hands on the chart. These hands have jobs on them that we do for the week. The Junior class have Helping Hands for each table group. The Helping Hand for that table is responsible for collecting resources, helping the teacher, handing out books and making sure the table group is clean at the end of the lesson. The Helping Hands system helps us to be independent, responsible and learn teamwork in the classroom and playground. Every week the jobs change and we get a chance to do something new.

Reece



*Respect*

*Responsibility*

*Safety*

COOWONGA'S  
INFORM

## Health and Wellbeing

### Routines

The below information has been provided by *Making the Early Years Count*. Routines and developing independence is an important skill right through childhood. Supporting our children to develop these skills both at home and school will set them up for their future. If you would like to find further information, visit [www.earlyyearscount.earlychildhood.qld.gov.au](http://www.earlyyearscount.earlychildhood.qld.gov.au).

*Taking responsibility for daily routines can help your child develop independence and perseverance.*

Becoming familiar with daily routines allows your child to make choices about their day, and organise themselves and their belongings. Getting involved and being accountable for an activity (for example, watering the garden, helping care for a pet or choosing their breakfast cereal) helps develop a sense of responsibility and pride.

While it may take months for children to learn routines, like dressing themselves, tidying away toys, setting the table, doing their homework or taking care of the animals, as they keep trying they also learn to persevere. Help your child to learn different sections of routines, like matching buttons to button holes, tying shoelaces, breaking their homework into manageable chunks or filling the bucket with the food scraps, and encourage them to take responsibility for that part.

### Don't rush

Take time to talk to your child about the routines and recognise their help and efforts when they do.

Having an adult close by to provide help or encouragement can help your child feel secure to try new challenges.

Having you close can also help keep them interested in the activity.

Slowly decrease the amount of support you provide so they are eventually doing it by themselves.

Being engaged in repeated experiences helps children to see how their actions affect their world and the people in it; while helping them to see themselves as capable, competent and having control.

## P&C Messages

### P&C Meetings

P&C Meetings are held once a month at the school. Our first meeting will be held on Monday the 12th of February from 3pm. Please come along to have your input on a variety of school matters. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

### Book Club

Book Club operates within the school throughout the year and is a fantastic opportunity for families to purchase affordable reading material with fundraising benefits for our school. Our first Book Club catalogues have been sent home already. Orders are due back soon. Thank you for your support.

### Student Resource Scheme

Students who have opted in to the Student Resource Scheme have received their school equipment for the year. Please ensure that you keep up to date with payments off of this scheme. Payment for these resources needs to be paid to the Coowonga State School P&C Association.



# FAMILY FUN DAY!



**SUNDAY 25th February 2018**

**9am to 1pm**

**Adults \$2 (14yrs+), Under 14 FREE  
Purrey Steam Tram Rides \$2.50**

Ride on the world's only Purrey Steam Tram (operates 10am to 1pm) heritage railway carriages, steam & diesel engine, rail memorabilia, exhibits, live music, market stalls, vintage/Ford/classic cars, lots more.

Food on sale!

**Archer Park Rail Museum  
Denison Street Rockhampton  
(between Archer and Cambridge Streets)**

Supported by



Managed by Friends of Archer Park Station and Steam Tram Museum Inc.

Archer Park Rail Museum : Denison St Rockhampton  
Phone: 4936 8191  
Email: archerpark@bigpond.com  
http://www.qldrailheritage.com/archerpark/

## SHARE YOUR WORLD!

WITH AN OVERSEAS EXCHANGE STUDENT!



SMS 'HOST' to  
**0428 246 633**  
for a free info pack!

Have you ever considered inviting an exchange student into your home? WEP is looking for Australian families to join their community of volunteer host families!

Treat your family to an intercultural experience like no other by hosting an exchange student from overseas. Share a piece of your heart and your backyard and support a young person make his/her dream of living and studying in Australia come true.

If you have a room to spare and an interest in other cultures, we would love to hear from you! Remember, sometimes the greatest rewards in life come from taking a leap of faith or doing the things you never thought you would.

1300 884 733 INFO@WEP.ORG.AU WEP.ORG.AU

### MEET ELINE!

Hello from Holland! I'm very creative and musical. I'm close to my family and I enjoy talking to my older brother and playing with my little sister. My goal is to become a primary school teacher when I'm older. In my free time, I walk the dog and go to the gym for a run. I can't wait to meet my host family!



### STEP 1 - REQUEST PROGRAM INFO

- Email or call Sylvia at WEP: [sylvialkelly@wep.org.au](mailto:sylvialkelly@wep.org.au) / 03 9598 4733

### STEP 2 - CHOOSE YOUR STUDENT

- WEP will send you comprehensive program and student information, so you can choose the student best suited to your family.



### STEP 3 - PREPARE FOR ARRIVAL

- WEP will assess your application, prepare you for your student's arrival and take care of everything, including school enrolment, assistance with your application for relevant working with children checks, flights, insurance and more!

**Lions Club of Emu Park presents**

## FESTIVAL OF THE WIND

**Sunday 8th April 2018**

**Sand Castle Comp & Team Beach Games**

**Cash Prizes of over \$3000 to Charity of your choice!**

**For info pack: We Want YOU!**

\*Festival of the Wind Facebook Page \*Phone 4939 6677

\*Email [alieshasmith@y7mail.com](mailto:alieshasmith@y7mail.com)



Want a fun and exciting after school or weekend activity? Take part in Surf Groms this term and Learn to Surf! Weet-Bix Surf Groms is a national junior development program, aimed at 5-12 year olds. It covers ocean awareness, beach safety and surfing proficiency. It encourages healthy lifestyle choices and helps children to engage with their peers and the environment. Every child also receives a Rip Curl merchandise pack including a Rip Curl backpack, towel and SurfGroms rash shirt!

Capricorn Coast Learn 2 Surf will be running programs over the school holidays and throughout Term 1. We have run a number of these programs over the years with plenty of positive feedback. All lessons are provided in a safe and comfortable environment in which children can develop their confidence and skill level. To book a spot please go to [www.surfgroms.com](http://www.surfgroms.com) or phone Pat on 0488076595.