Date to Remember

Playgroup
Every Thursday from 9-10:30am

P&C Meeting
Tuesday 8th February 2-3pm

Grub’s Up
Monday 8th February

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle
Saturday 13th February

GRIP Leadership for Year 5/6 Students
Thursday 25th February

School Parade
Parade is held at 12:45 on Fridays 2:40pm. Please feel free to come along and hear messages. Certificates and awards are also presented during this time.

From the Principal’s Desk

Welcome Back
Welcome back to another exciting year at Coowonga State School. And a special welcome to the new members of our Coowonga community.

One of the ways we induct new students into our school and remind all existing students of expectations and responsibilities is through our school values program. This program is shared on the interactive whiteboards with all students at the start of the year and assists teachers to review important values at Coowonga which include:

* how to wear your uniform with pride
* how to address staff and peers
* how to play sensibly and constructively
* how to be a ‘good friend’ and include others
* school rules and responsibilities
* play areas, out of bounds areas, expectations in play areas which help keep students safe
* anti-bullying messages
* cybersafety messages

These are just a few key components in our school developed program. Staff have already commenced this work with students.

Curriculum News
The Australian National Curriculum (ACARA) continues to develop, to inform a quality nationwide curriculum for all schools. One of those recent directives is that LOTE (Japanese) and The Arts are to become mandatory subjects for all Primary School students. There is very strong evidence to suggest that learning a 2nd language from an early age is not only beneficial for improving a child’s 1st language skills but, will also provide more opportunity in our ever increasing global world.

We are very fortunate that we are one of few schools who are in the position to introduce these subjects this year by a specialist teacher. Alice Edwards (Sensei) returns weekly and will be teaching Japanese and The Arts to all Coowonga students.

Sports Update
Coowonga has a very proud history in sporting achievements and to ensure this continues, we have applied for, and been granted, funding to assist our students skill development. In term 1, students will be participating in softball, as well as finishing the soccer program from last year. Both of these programs are conducted by accredited coaches. In term 2, we have an accredited coach joining us to provide expert coaching in athletics. There is also surplus funding from these grants to assist us to purchase softball and athletics resources.

Computer upgrades
A priority this year for Coowonga is to improve our use of digital technology. This will include:

* upgrade to our school website
* upgrade to our server
* upgrade to our Wifi connection
* 8 new/replacement computers/laptops
* extend use of virtual classrooms for students
* new and improved apps for ipads

Once complete, we expect that much of the communication between home and school will be completed electronically, including fortnightly newsletters. The website will be updated regularly and will be a hub of information.
Not only will this reduce our carbon footprint and improve effective communication, it will significantly reduce costs to the school, freeing up funds to spend on student learning and resources. There will be no need to panic if you are not 'digitally connected'. We will continue to offer traditional services where needed.

Permission forms that require signatures and returning will continue to be sent home in paper form however, they will also be downloadable from the website.

**Staff news**
We would like to welcome and congratulate Troy Wilson as our new groundsman. Troy has been extremely proactive as a volunteer rebuilding our grounds after Cyclone Marcia, so it is only fitting that he has been awarded the position upon the retirement of Allan Barsby.

Ms Waters is on leave until the 15th February. On behalf of the whole Coowonga community we wish her all the best and look forward to her return. I would like to thank Mrs Rutherford and Ms Barrett for filling in until her return.

Our second teacher will be commencing in Week 3.

**Upcoming events**
Thurs 25/2 GRIP leadership for 5/6 students
Fri 4/3 - 1st Gala Day of the year at Keppel Sands SS. Renowned author Michael Salmon. More details will be advised closer to the event.

This term is a very short term. It is a 9 week term which includes the 3 day 1st week of school and the 4 day last week of school.

Andrew Orr
Principal

**Playgroup**
Playgroup will commence this Thursday starting at 9am and finishing up at 10:30am. Chappy Deb and Rachael are doing a fantastic job and it is highly recommended that anyone with littlies out there join in the fun. It is a wonderful opportunity for the future school students of Coowonga and surrounding areas to have some fun and get a taste of life at school. It's also a great opportunity for parents to get out of the house and socialise. Playgroup is held every Thursday from 9-10:30am; bring a snack for morning tea.

**Attendance**
School attendance and student achievement are directly related. Attendance at school every day is absolutely necessary in ensuring your child has the opportunity to engage in quality education. Every day counts! If your child is unable to attend school parents are asked to phone or email the school with details of the absence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missing just.......</th>
<th>That equals....</th>
<th>Which is.......</th>
<th>Over 13 years of schooling that's.....</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes per day</td>
<td>50 minutes per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 Weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly Half a Year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lunches**
Lunch is an important part of our day at Coowonga and impacts greatly on how students function for the remainder of the day. We would like to encourage parents to please take into consideration what they are packing in their children’s lunch boxes.

**Bell Times**
Congratulations to those students who continually make an effort to arrive at school on time.
Please note the bell times:
8:50am— School warning bell
This gives the students time to go to the toilet and get ready for the day.
8:55am— School commencement
Students are expected to be in the class for roll call.
9:00am
Any students that arrive after the roll has been called, without a note, will be written down as unexplained late.
Headlice
Parents please continue to check your child’s hair each week for headlice. For treatment advice, consult your local pharmacist or hairdresser.

Newsletter by Email
If you would like to receive our fortnightly newsletter via email and have the added bonus of seeing it in colour, then please email me at the.principal@coowongass.eq.edu.au. Alternatively, visit our school website at www.coowongass.eq.edu.au for more photos and other school related events.

P&C NEWS
The next meeting will be held Monday 8th February at 2:00pm in the office. We encourage all parents & caregivers to attend.

Grub’s Up
Grub’s Up will start this Monday 8th February. We are currently in the process of preparing the menu for the term and have decided to make a package meal this year. It will consist of a main meal, popper, icy pole and dessert for $5. This Monday will consist of a chicken burger, popper, icy pole and frog in the pond. We should have a complete menu by the end of the week. If you would like your child to have Grub’s Up this Monday please let Rachael know by Friday.

P&C Meeting Monday 8th February – we try to keep our meetings as short as possible, if you are able to attend we’d love to see you there.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Saturday 13th February – Please remember to return your volunteer form (due back by this Friday 5th February). The sausage sizzle will be held on Saturday 13th February. Even if you can only help for an hour it would be greatly appreciated.

Community Notices
Please note: the following notices may be included in the school’s Newsletter, they are published in good faith and do not necessarily have the school’s endorsement.

Learn to Surf – Surf Groms
Want a fun and exciting after school or weekend activity? Take part in Surf Groms this term and Learn to Surf! Surf Groms is a national program for 5-12 year olds and encourages kids to participate in the wonderful sport of surfing while beating the summer heat.

It is even more affordable this year with a great range of programs and times available. You can even use your Get Started vouchers with us. We have holiday, Saturday morning and after school programs. To register please go to www.surfgroms.com

For enquiries phone Capricorn Coast Learn 2 Surf on 0488076595 or pateastwood@hotmail.com

FAMILY FUN DAY!

SUNDAY 28th February 2016
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), look through a variety of rail rolling stock, rail memorabilia and exhibits, live music, market stalls, vintage cars, and more.
Food on sale!

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

Managed by Friends of Archer Park Steam and Steam Tram Museum Inc.
Rockhampton City Council
Denison Street Rockhampton 07 5531 2901
Email: info@archerpark.com.au
www.archerpark.com.au
