Newsletters are Important

It is extremely important that you read your newsletter through to the end. It is the best way to keep up to date with happenings at the school. The newsletter is sent home weekly (usually Thursday) with the oldest child in the family, so please keep a look out for it. It is also available via our webpage at http://www.cooranbong-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/ and a link is placed on the school’s Facebook page.

Have you seen our Facebook page? If not, please have a look and “Like Us”.

Working Bee

The P&C have organised for 2 Working Bees to be held on each Wednesday during the school holidays. Any helpers are welcome to arrive from 10am onwards and are asked to bring garden gloves and tools. Children are welcome. The Kitchen Garden Program will supply a FREE sausage sizzle, drink and an ice block.

Everyone Belongs (Harmony Day)

Last Friday our school celebrated Harmony Day. Harmony Day celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity. It is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.
National standards for student leave during school terms

On 1st January this year (2015), the department’s Student Attendance Policy was reviewed and updated, with the new ACARA national Standard for Student Attendance implemented. These new standards are applicable in all Australian schools, government and non-government. The main impact it has, not only for Cooranbong school students but for all students across Australia, is for family holidays taken during school terms.

Previously, when families had holidays during school term, students were exempt from school, with their absences not recorded. Now, family holidays are no longer an accepted category for exemption from school attendance is recorded as ‘leave’. This will also be recorded at “Explained Absences” on student Semester reports (end of Term 2 and end of Term 4).

“Travel – Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school Principal. An Application for Extended Leave is to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year…”

(Excerpt from the Department of Education and Communities Compulsory School Attendance Policy 2015)

If your family wishes to travel during school terms, requiring the students absence from school, please discuss this with our Principal, Meg Avery. An Application for Extended Leave - Travel needs to be completed and must be accompanied by supporting documentation of dates and destination – travel documents for flights, cruise etc., accommodation confirmation, e-ticket or itinerary. Forms are available at our school office.

Any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school on 4977 1122.

Thank you to Mrs Walker for donating this Glockenspiel which is a musical percussion instrument which is often used in German music.
The impact of not going to school regularly

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days Absent</th>
<th>Total Number of years missed (compulsory schooling)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>2 years missed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 days per week</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>3 and a half years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>5 and a half years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 weeks per term</td>
<td>4 and a half years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average 5 days per term</td>
<td>1 year</td>
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Making Payments Easier

Please find with your newsletter some payment envelopes which we ask you to use when making payments to the school. There are more available from the school office.

Don’t forget you can also make payments via our new online payment system which is accessed through the school’s website. Items that can be paid include school fees, subject contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities.

Payments for P&C and/or canteen fundraising are not accepted via this online method, this includes uniform purchases.

You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed. Full instructions were in last week’s newsletter.

For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office.

Easter Hat Parade – Next Thursday

1 week and counting…

Just a reminder that all Easter hats for the parade are to be made at home this year. The parade will begin at 10.30 followed by the Easter Raffle draw and lunch at 11.30am.

Thank you to all the children who wore Mufti today and donated Easter Eggs towards our school raffle. There are more raffle tickets available from the school office if needed.
**Healthy Lunchbox Session**

We had a number of people attend the Cancer Council’s FREE Healthy Lunchbox Session yesterday. Every family who attended received a Show Bag including a great healthy lunch box kit and planner and learnt simple ways to get the whole family eating enough fruit and veg. Thank you for supporting the Cancer Council with your attendance.

**Lunchtime Fun**

Students have been busy during their lunchtime preparing for the upcoming school Cross Country. It is wonderful to see the PB’s that students are working hard to beat!

**Students of the Week**

Congratulations to Jessica, Imogen, Micah, Liana, Shekinah, Taneisha and Marley for being students of the week!

**Principal’s Award**

Congratulations to Hannah, Elke and Kaitlyn for receiving the Principal Award.

**Kitchen Garden News**

A special thank you to Josephine for donating a pumpkin to our school. Josephine grew it herself and it was certainly the biggest pumpkin we have ever seen! The students made yummy Pumpkin Soup and sold 60 cups of soup with a bread roll. All money raised from sales supports our Kitchen Garden Programme.
Term 1 Week 9

Thursday 26th March 2015

SOME CASH FROM YOUR TRASH. Book a site: phone 49737000 for more information.

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**Important dates for this term**

- 27th March: School Cross Country
- 30th March: Reading Rewards Day
- 31st March: Hearing Screening- Kinder
- 1st April: Vision Screening Kindergarten
- 2nd April: Easter Hat Parade
- 2nd April: Last day of Term 1

**Term 2:**

- 8th April: Working bee at school
- 15th April: Working bee at school
- 20th April: Staff Development Day
- 21st April: Students return to school
- 24th April: Zone Cross Country
- 5th May: Mother’s Day Stall
- 6th May: Athletics Carnival
- 12th April: NAPLAN – Lang Con & Writing
- 13th April: NAPLAN – Reading
- 14th April: NAPLAN - Numeracy

**Seeking volunteer mentors for Youth Frontiers Mentoring Program**

Are you interested in sharing your skills and experiences with young people as a volunteer mentor or do you know someone who is?

Last month, the NSW Government’s youth mentoring program, Youth Frontiers was launched. Youth Frontiers is an electorate based program that targets students in years 8 and 9. Every year, more than 1,200 young people will have the opportunity to participate. Young people participating in Youth Frontiers will receive a minimum of 30 hours mentoring, including at least 10 hours of one-on-one mentoring. The program will give young people an opportunity to build life skills and self-confidence by working collaboratively with their mentors to

Southlake Neighbourhood Centre
CAR BOOT SALE

Sunday 19th April 8.00am – 1.00pm at the Morisset Multipurpose Centre, 143 Dora Street, Morisset. Sites available from $15.00. MAKE
undertake a community project that makes a positive difference in their local community.

Each year in Term 4 the young people who have completed the most innovative and effective projects across the state will be recognised with a number of sponsored awards.

The success of the program depends on the commitment of volunteer mentors who can give their time to share their skills and experiences with young people. If you are interested in participating as a mentor, please contact Mara Greenwood of the YWCA at marag@ywcansw.com.au

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**Easter Holidays @ Hunter Wetlands Centre**

**Easter Fun Day Saturday 4 April**

Bring the family for a fun filled morning 9.30am to 1.00pm at the Hunter Wetlands centre. Meet the Easter Bunny and join in wetlands adventures, fun games, craft and face painting, BBQ and reptile encounter.

**Holiday Activities**

Dipnetting Canoeing Bike riding (bring your own bike or hire one) Playground Walking Trails Become a Wetlands Explorer and go in the draw for a weekly prize Bring a picnic or eat at Spoonbill Cafe

**Wednesday 15 April** book in for:

Bush Skills Adventure 8-12 years ($20) – make a damper, build a bush shelter, learn other bush skills.

Wriggly Wetlanders 5-8 years ($20) – explore the wetlands and get creative and crafty.

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**SPECIAL EVENT**


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**MYUNA BAY SPORT & RECREATION CENTRE**

April Holiday Programs 2015

PHONE enquiries / bookings : 131302

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adventurer Camp</td>
<td>13 – 17th April 2015</td>
<td>7 – 12 years</td>
<td>$336.00 / person</td>
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</table>

The program includes: all meals, accommodation and activities. Activities could include any or all of the following: low & high ropes challenge course, rock climbing, abseiling, archery, giant swing, canoeing, kayaking, flying fox and much more.