Farewell Mrs Miller

It is with a bitter sweet feeling that we farewell Mrs Miller from our little school. Mrs Miller has had an integral part of teaching our students all about the kitchen garden program, as well as working and supporting staff and students in the classroom and playground. Mrs Miller and her family have taken on a new venture, which is separate to her educational journey and we wish them the very best of luck and all the success in the world. We will all miss Mrs Miller and her enthusiastic and positive attitude to all things but are very excited for her and the new adventure she has undertaken!

Principal’s Award

A big congratulations to Coen and Eddie who both received a Principal’s Award. Both boys are not only achieving fantastic academic results but are also exemplar role models, have excellent attitudes towards learning and extra curricula activities and are popular amongst their peers. Well done boys for your excellent attitudes!

Vocabulary Books

It is wonderful to see so many students enthusiastic about achieving their personal best in their vocabulary development. The eagerness that our students are showing in taking control of their own learning is certainly a big reason why they are improving so quickly!
Strong vocabulary knowledge is a very important part of excellent Speaking, Reading and Writing skills. The booklet we have sent home to families is a full list of words that are essential from Kindergarten all the way to Year 6. The students who finish their Year 6 list will be extended on to Year 7 and 8 and beyond if needed, regardless of what year they are in. It is all about the needs of the individual student!

As a school we expect students in the different year groups to reach a particular list by the end of their year. The following colours are where we expect our students to have mastered by the end of their year.

- Kinder – end of Pink
- Year 1 – end of Rose
- Year 2 – end of Peacock
- Year 3 – end of Navy
- Year 4 – end of Gold
- Year 5 – end of Fushia
- Year 6 – end of Chestnut

We are of course working on these words as a school too. Together we will help our students be the best they can be! A big thank you to all our families who are encouraging and joining in on your child’s journey to a successful and fulfilling education.

**Easter Hat Parade**

We are all looking forwarded to celebrating our Easter Hat Parade together. This is a fun morning for families to join in with their children. A separate note has already gone home outlining the day:

- **When:** Thursday 24th March
- **Time:** 10:30am
- **Where:** Under the COLA
- **What:** Easter Hat Parade

Your children will get the opportunity to parade their hat as part of their class. There will also
be a performance by our K-2 students, a sausage sizzle thanks to our P&C, our super-duper raffle draw and lots of community spirit to be had. We can’t wait to see you all there!

Please return your order form for the sausage sizzle no later than Thursday 17th March.

Easter Raffle Tickets

Tickets for our Gigantic Easter Raffle were given out on Monday 22nd February to each family in the school. Each ticket is $1.00 and there are some yummy prizes to win! All money raised goes towards the P&C Fundraising efforts including walkway coverings and smaller projects.

Please return sold tickets to the P&C box in the office as soon as possible. There are more tickets available in the school office if you wish to have some more.

Crunch and Sip – Help!

As you already know, every morning at approximately 10 - 10:30am, our students have a healthy fruit/vegetable break. This break is a very short one, with our senior students staying in their classroom and eating while they are working. The aim of this brief break is to let our students have a little boost to get them through to lunch, as many of them have a very early breakfast.

We are finding that our younger students are taking a very long time during Crunch and Sip and we need your help to make this quicker. Could you please cut your children’s fruit up for them? With missing and wobbly teeth, our younger students are needing to go to the canteen to get their fruit cut up as they cannot bite into it. This option is no longer available next week, so please help and cut up their fruit into manageable bites.

Attendance – Letter below 85%

Thank you to all the families who are ensuring that their children are at school on time and picking them up on time in the afternoon too. It has certainly helped staff to get to their afternoon meetings on time, as well as keeping our attendance records positive. If your children are unwell, please remember to let us know either with a phone call, letter, email or using our School Stream APP, within 7 days. We can then sign your child off as having a ‘justified’ absence from school. A reminder that days off school for a ‘rest’, ‘mental health day’
Term 1 - Week 7

or ‘needing a break’ are unjustifiable reasons for your children being absent, unless in conjunction with a medical certificate stating this. Thank you so much for helping us keep within our mandatory guidelines.

Please note that Mrs Frazer’s Year 2’s and 3’s will be on separate days.

Thank you Mrs Walandouw for organising this exciting program so that all of our students can access specialised tuition!

Scripture and Values Education

Mrs Floyd sent out a letter to let you know about the scripture classes that will be starting next week. Scripture will be on Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 – 3:00pm. These lessons are non-denominational. If you would not like your child to attend these, please return your note to school to let us know. Those children who do not attend scripture lessons, will be involved in Values Education while scripture lessons are being taught. If you have any questions around this, please do not hesitate to ask! Thank you Mrs Floyd for organising this.

Sporting Specialist

Mrs Walandouw has organised a sporting specialist to join our school to further improve the skills of our students. This means that there will be a slight change to your children’s sport timetable from next week, until the end of the term.

Regardless of whether your child’s absences are ‘justified’ or ‘unjustified’, if their attendance goes below 85% a letter will be sent home to you so that you too can keep track of their time away from school.

University of NSW Tests

Each year the University of NSW conducts state wide tests in Digital Technology, Science, Spelling, Writing, English and Mathematics, for students from Year 3 and above. The permission notes that Mrs Frazer sent out, along with the testing fees are due back to school by Thursday 24\textsuperscript{th} March at the latest, if you wish for your child to participate. The first test to be conducted is Digital Technology and this will be held on Tuesday 17\textsuperscript{th} May. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Frazer, who has done a super job organising this for our students!

Monday: KT, K1H, 1/2F, 2 Frazer, 1/2E
Tuesday: 3 Frazer, 3/4B, 4/5/6W and 5/6O
Tell Them From Me survey

This term, our school is taking part in the Tell Them From Me student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help them improve.

Our teachers will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. The survey typically takes 30 minutes or less to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours. Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she can leave it blank and move on to the next question. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you do not want your child to take part in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to school by Friday 18 March.

Learning and Support – Mrs le Roux

Did you know that we offer a variety of support during lunch times? Not all students feel like running around and playing all of lunch so we have other options for them. Our library is open every lunch where students can read, play board games or be involved in solving puzzles. Mrs le Roux also opens up her classroom every lunch and offers the following quiet activities:

Mon – Colouring and Chatting
Tues – Knitting and Yarning
Wed – Puppet Conversations
Thurs – Calligraphy and Self Talk
Fri – Drawing and Talking

We also offer block building under the COLA and students have a huge variety of sporting equipment that they can borrow from our sports shed.

Our staff also offer guitar, drumming and choir opportunities for our students!

For such a small school we are thriving in our ability to offer a range of activities for all students. *Every Student Matters Every Day!*

**Scout Success**

Well done to Jamie in 5/6O for his perseverance and achievements last weekend while with his scout group. A leader who was working with Jamie said, “In my 20 odd years of being a leader I have never worked with such a young group who never stopped trying!”

Perseverance and persistence are indeed strengths that can take you to wherever you wish to be in life. Congratulations Jamie! We are proud of you.

**Basketball Trials**

Last week, James and Elvan attended the regional basketball trials.

“It was hard and there were a lot of skilled players. It was fun though!” – Elvan, Year 5.

“There were a lot of skilful players and it was difficult but I still had a lot of fun!” – James, Year 5. Unfortunately our boys didn’t make it through to the next round but they thoroughly enjoyed the day and came back even more enthusiastic about basketball! Well done boys.

**AFL Trials**

“On Tuesday I went to Maitland to trial for regional AFL. This year they had 120 kids trialling, the most ever, from as far as Tamworth. There were ten players from my club and I made it through to the second round. The ‘possibles’ and ‘probables’ then played each other. Unfortunately I didn’t make it into the final 22 but only one person from my club made it in. I had fun playing against such good players!”, Cooper Year 6.

Congratulations Cooper on giving it your best and representing Cooranbong PS with pride!
Important Dates for 2016

Fri 11 Mar  Bandaged Bear Day
Thur 17 Mar  Mufti/Easter Egg donation day
Thur 24 Mar  Easter Hat Parade
Fri 25 Mar  Good Friday
Mon 28 Mar  Easter Monday
Wed 30 Mar  Reading Rewards Day
Thur 31 Mar  Autism Awareness Day
Fri  1 Apr   Cross Country
Wed  6 Apr   Principal’s Reward Day
Fri  8 Apr   Last day of Term 1
Tues 26 Apr  Staff Development Day
Wed 27 Apr  Students return for Term 3
Fri 29 Apr  Zone Cross Country
Wed  4 May  Mother’s Day Stall

AN INVITATION TO CARERS

Do you provide care and support to another person?
You are invited to Carer Connections
Take the Opportunity to Connect with other Carers
and listen to our Guest Speaker!

GUEST SPEAKER:  June Morris - Service Manager
Newcastle/Lake Macquarie Dementia Advisory Service

TOPIC:  “Dementia and why you need to know about it”

VENUE:  Wallsend Diggers, 5 Tyrell Street, Wallsend

TIME:  10.00am – 12.00pm

COST:  Free - includes Morning Tea

WHEN:  Thursday 31 March 2016

RSVP:  Thursday 24 March 2016

For more information or to Register Contact:
MME Carer Education & Support Program – Hunter
on:  4924 6146 or 1300 887 776
or Email:  Educare.dgn@health.nsw.gov.au
(We ask that you RSVP for catering purposes)

LAKE MACQUARIE DOCKERS AFL CLUB

Tulkaba Oval, York St Teralba

2016 Registrations are NOW OPEN

To register please visit  www.lakemacquariedockers.com.au
OR attend training on Thursdays 5.30-6.30

NAB Auskick - 5 Years to 7 Years
$70 (includes 2016 Auskick Pack)

Juniors – U9s, U11s, U13s, U15s & U17s
$110 (no weekly fees)

Youth Girls - 12 Years to 15 Years
$60 (no weekly fees)

For further information please contact Brad on 0402 494 737,
Simone on 0452 433 353 or email lmfc@hotmail.com
**Monthly Craft Workshops**

Watagan Park, Cooranbong

Card Making - 8 cards for $25
Scapbooking - 2 page kit for $25
Work on Own Project - $15

Sat 19th Mar 1:00pm to 4:00pm
Sat 19th Mar 7:00pm to 10:00pm
Sun 20th Mar 1:00pm to 4:00pm

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Booking or Enquiries Contact:
Samantha: 0418 355 783 or samanthalbrown14@gmail.com

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**What is 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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Term 1 - Week 7**

**Nutrition Snippet**

The simplest way...

...to serve dinner in a flash.

A stir fry is a quick and easy dinner, perfect on school nights for busy families.
And it includes a range of colourful, healthy vegetables.
Pick and choose your favourite combination of sliced fresh veg – capsicum, zucchini, sugar snap peas, green beans, bok choy, celery, mushroom, onion, carrot and cabbage work well.

Go vegetarian, or add sliced lean chicken, pork or beef.
Mix 2 tsp reduced salt soy sauce, 1 tbsp honey, 3 tbsp water and 2 tsp cornflour in a jug for the sauce.
Prepare noodles according to packet directions.
Cook veg in a hot pan or wok, add sauce and stir to thicken. Remove from heat and serve over noodles.

For more information visit
www.eatittobeatit.com.au
or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

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**COORANBONG P.S.**