Welcome
Welcome to all students and their families for the 2014 school year. I'm sure 2014 will offer many positive opportunities and successes for us all.

Our enrolment has increased to 116. We have 24 new students - 20 in Prep, 1 - Yr 1, 1 - Yr 3, 1 - Yr 6 and 1 - Yr 7.

Welcome to our new families and their students – Black, Bloomfield, Brookson, Dawson, Dirago, Gardiner, Jessen, Kelly, Litfin, Moore, Sempf, Templeton, Wakefield and Whitbread. We look forward to getting to know and working with everyone. Should any problems / concerns arise during the year, please don’t hesitate to call / visit the school.

The staff and I look forward to meeting everyone at the school get-together next weekend.

Stuffing
We have commenced the year with a new teaching member on staff - Mrs Regina Birchley.

Mrs Birchley will be here for Term 1 whilst Mrs P is on Long Service Leave. We are very lucky to have Mrs Birchley as she is very enthusiastic and keen to teach well.

School Expectations
The school’s focus this year is to continue giving all students and staff clear expectations. This will allow for the smooth running of classes and effective learning everyday. Effective teaching and using data to inform teaching and learning are high priorities.

Coolabunia State School exists to provide a safe and supportive learning environment that empowers each student to realise his/her full learning potential.

A Coolabunia student will be taught and supported to develop the confidence, independence and motivation needed to deal with life’s challenges and opportunities.

At Coolabunia SS, we RESPECT Ourselves, Others, Things and Places

Our School Motto is – ‘Strive To Achieve’

Basic School Manners

- Be Courteous to all —use please & thank you, wait your turn, walk behind people who are talking, move sensibly around the school, use Knock-Enter-Wait when entering a room, listen to people, offer your help to anyone in need, welcome all visitors to the school

- Be FAIR at all times

Classroom Expectations

- Be BRAVE—attempt everything / seek help when needed / work hard every lesson
- Be READY to LEARN EVERY DAY— all materials ready / seated correctly / no fiddling / eyes & ears
- Be WILLING to ACCEPT— success / failure / advice / others’ opinions / the word NO
- Be RESPONSIBLE for—your words and actions
- Treat others as you expect to be treated by them

Help is only a hand up away!

School Leaders

2014 will be the last year students in Year 7 are in primary school. As of 2014, Year 6 will be our highest year level.

In order for Year 6 not to miss out on any leadership opportunities / experiences, the following leadership activities will include both Years 6 and 7.

- Yr 6 & Yr 7 will design their own school shirts
- Yr 6 & Yr 7 will attend the Small Schools Leadership camp at Barambah EEC. 12 – 14th February
- Yr 6 & Yr 7 will attend the Young Leaders day in Brisbane
- Yr 6 & Yr 7 will apply each term for FOUR new School Leadership roles – Welfare, Communications, Sports & Health, Environment.

Home Reading
Families should have received an information letter outlining how our revamped Home Reading system will work. There was a request for parent help. Hopefully this will mean 1 day per week.

Prep students will have their own system.

Please listen to and discuss home readers with your child/ren. Remember, they are practising skills and so the levels set are intended to be comfortable reading. We don’t want students struggling.

This is all about good reading habits. How often do your children see / hear you reading? What about you- dad?

LOTE - Japanese

The LOTE studied by Years 6 and 7 will be Japanese. This program will be provided by the School of Distance Education, as will other small schools.

Final arrangements are to be advised by Education Qld.

Weekly Newsletter
For our new families, this newsletter is produced each Friday and will be in students’ bags. Please look for this – it will include all necessary information on school activities. Occasionally, other notices may be sent home – they too will be on green paper.

Unbelievable Food Facts: ‘Doughnuts originally had a nut in the centre.’
Swimming
Our school swimming program runs for 5 weeks in Term 1 and Term 4. All students must be involved as it is part of the school curriculum.

Term 1 lessons begin in week 4, Thursday at the Nanango Pool. Precise groups are yet to be finalized by the pool.

There will be a lower and mid/upper sessions.
Lower session - 45 minutes  Mid/Upper session – 1 hour.
(Prep – Year 2)  (Year 3-Year 7)
Pool staff will be taking all lessons to comply with new Ed. Qld requirements. Teachers will support.

This comes at a cost and you will be advised when final costings have been confirmed.

Benefits – high quality, consistent lessons by trained professional coaches at a price much less than private lessons.

Family Fun BBQ Get-together - Saturday 8th February 2014
Each year the school has a Family Fun Activity. This is always a great social outing, which allows new and continuing families to meet and mix. We all need to get to know each other – this is what the small school is all about. Throughout the year we will work together and hopefully have good social times too.

What happens?
The day begins at 5:30pm. We will have tennis (for parents - so bring your runners!), and country games and want the whole family to get in and have some fun. The kids love it!
Around 6:30 the P&C will get the BBQ up and running.
- The P&C will supply all meal items except dessert. Each family is asked to supply a dessert.
- HELP will be required to set up / cook / clean-up – so please, jump in and do your bit!
- Please complete and return the attached RSVP on MONDAY.

Alcohol is permitted at these functions, but obviously commonsense is required.

Should the weather be poor next weekend, the event will be moved to the following Saturday.

P&C Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 11th February, 7:30
Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month.
The AGM will see a new committee elected, which will guide us through a busy year.
It’s always great to see new faces at P&C meetings. Being an active P&C member is an ideal way to be informed and involved in school activities and decisions. Please feel welcome to attend. It is also a good social experience.
Come at 7:15pm for a cup of tea/coffee and the meeting will begin at 7:30. Feel free to bring something to have with a cuppa.

P&C CHOCOLATE DRIVE FUNDRAISER
Chocolates will be distributed to students on Friday afternoon, 7th February. If families have Prep/Year 1/Year 2 children it may be more suitable for a parent/guardian to be on hand to collect boxes.

A money collection envelope is enclosed in each box. The closing date for the return of all money and unsold chocolates is Wednesday 5th March.

A $100 gift voucher (Coles Group & Myer which includes Target, Kmart, Coles, Myer, Officeworks.) is up for grabs for the family that raises the most money. Heaps of other lucky prize draws including, wait for it…CHOCOLATES, will be advised on parade on the 10th March. The P&C thank you for your support and HAPPY SELLING/SAMPLING CHOCOLATES.

Instrumental Music – Yr 4-7
Instrumental music testing will occur on Thursday 6th February. Parents of interested and continuing instrumental students are asked to complete the attached form.

Mrs Jo Hopkins is a private music teacher – lesson fees will be advised when student numbers are known.

Tuition will be approx $10.00 per lesson (depending on numbers) – payable on receipt of invoice, when the number of lessons is known. All going well, all new students will be able to participate. The number is limited by the time Mrs Hopkins is able to teach / instruments available.

To make the program available to as many students as Ms Hopkins can timetable, we suggest that students who have been in the program for 1 year, look seriously at purchasing their own instruments. This will free up instruments for beginners. (The school can currently support 18 students with instruments - flute, clarinet, trumpet).
As students with school instruments sometimes share with another student/s – they are only able to practise their instrument at home for two days/one night - as per timetable.

Instruments MUST BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL each WEDNESDAY, as we cannot chase up instruments on lesson day.

Permission Forms / Money – BY NOMINATED DATE PLEASE!
It is MOST IMPORTANT that Permission Forms and/or money required for school activities be sent to school by the required date. Quite often we need to know definite numbers for booking bus/es or other curriculum activities etc.
We cannot expect an extra bus to turn up without sufficient notice.

Money Envelopes – attached
It is easier for all if block payments can be made for activities such as swimming or sports transport as it streamlines accounting processes.
A reminder that whenever money needs to be sent to school for any school activity, it must come in the supplied collection envelopes, included in this newsletter. Only one envelope per family is necessary.
- All envelopes, notes – (money, attendance at sport, etc) to be handed to CLASS TEACHERS.

Please endeavour to have money in by the set dates, as we often need to send payments very promptly. It also makes our banking more streamlined. Please send the correct money, as we don’t keep change, for security reasons.

Student Contribution
Payment of the Student Contribution are now DUE – Please pay ASAP.

Student Contributions - $20 ea for first 2 students and $10 each for each additional student per family.

Unbelievable Food Facts: ‘Mexicans love chocolate sauce … on turkey!’
Handwriting /Maths Workbooks / RE Workbook
All Handwriting (Prep – Yr2) and Maths Workbooks (Prep – Yr 6) are available from the office.

Prices:
Handwriting Books (Prep – Yr 2 - ) $13.00ea
Maths Books
- Prep – Year 6 - $18.00.
- NO Maths Books required for Year 7

From the P&C Treasurer
Any money to be paid to the P&C is to be paid separately to money paid for school activities.
ie. Maths & English Text Books, Bookclub, uniforms, chair-bags, social functions as they arise.

Arrival Times at School
Families are reminded that the earliest appropriate arrival time is 8:15am.
Often, if students arrive before this time, there may not be a staff member present. Mrs Morris does not start work until 8:15 and the teachers and myself sometimes have meetings/appointments before school.
We don’t like to think there are students arriving early to school who might be unsupervised.
An 8:15 arrival gives students 40 minutes of play / work time.

We realize that families obviously have times when they do need to get going earlier than usual - when this happens, just let us know and we can make sure supervision is there.

NEW PLAYERS – please contact Mr Boyton (0409 895 527) prior to the starting date to arrange your session time.
Lesson times are 7:30am or 8:00am.
As this is private tuition – lesson fees are paid directly to Mr Boynton

Library
Students are entitled and encouraged to borrow from the school library.

Library Borrowing
Students can borrow after 1:00pm every day. Class visits also occur weekly.

Library Rules
Fiction books and non-fiction can be borrowed for two weeks, if you require the book longer, it must be returned for re-stamping.
Reference Books are only for overnight.
- All library books are to be transported in a WATERPROOF library bag.
- All damaged books are to be returned to the library for repair - DO NOT REPAIR YOURSELF.

Bookclub – Scholastic
For new parent information. Bookclub is offered to students eight times each year. It is not compulsory to purchase – but you will find a wide range of books offered at a reasonable cost.
- Any Cheques to be made payable to Coolabunia SS P&C Assn.

Bookclub – DUE 12th February
Students have been given Issue 1. If you wish to order - please complete and return the Order form with correct payment by Wednesday 12th February.

Tennis Lessons – Commence Wednesday 5th February 2014
Students who wish to commence / continue before school tennis lessons with Mr Brad Boynton are advised that lessons will begin on Wednesday 5th February 2014.

Head Lice
Please check your child/ren's hair for head lice, as the school has been advised of an outbreak. - Information included today.

DATE CLAIMERS
February
10 CBA Student Banking commences
11 AGM & 1st General Meeting, 7:30pm
12 Bookclub Orders & Payment CLOSES 9:00am
12-14 Leadership Camp Yr 7 – Barambah EEC
17 Tuckshop
20 Swimming Lesson #1
27 Swimming Lesson #2
March
05 Return Money & Unsold Chocolates
10 Swimming Lesson #3
13 Winners announced – Chocolate Drive Sales
13 Swimming Lesson #4
20 Swimming Lesson #5

Unbelievable Food Facts: ‘Doughnuts originally had a nut in the centre.’