Welcome back to Term 2, 2016!

We have got off to a flying start and I am pleased to share with you some of what has been happening the last few weeks, and some of the exciting things planned for this term.

Firstly, the District Cross-Country Day held at Rossville State School last Friday was a great success with lots of positive feedback coming from all the visiting cluster schools. A huge thank you to all our students, P and C, staff and volunteers for making the day such a success and providing us with the chance to showcase our wonderful school to the cluster.

Another Cluster Sport Day is planned for next Friday, the 6 May, to be held at Cooktown State School. The ‘Deadly Sport Gala Day’ is run by the Queensland Governments Sport and Recreation team and will feature various sports as well as visiting sporting personalities. Please ensure that you return the completed permission forms.

This week, our Year 6 Student Leader’s are attending a Leadership Camp with other school leaders from across the cluster at the Homerule Rainforest Lodge. The group, being led by Chappy and staff from the Tinaroo Environmental Education Centre, are focussing on developing the five key skills of; Making Decisions, Encouragement, Showing Initiative, Organisation and Communication.

NAPLAN testing is just around the corner with students in Grade 3 and 5 sitting the tests over three days from the 10-12 May. We wish them all the best of luck :)

Lastly, congratulations to last fortnights award winners Maria Yolmen, Ben Quin, Kenneth McIvor, Ayla Edwards and Zahli Hall.

Cheers, Amelia Jenkins

We Learn • We Show Respect • We Are Safe
New behaviour Management Charts in both Junior and Senior Rooms

Last year we used a traffic light system. Now it is similar but greatly improved.

All students start on green, which is ready for learning. Then during each session the names are moved both up or down depending upon the behaviour.

As per last year, students who were breaking rules would move down and have consequences such as a warning, time out and buddy class.

New this year is the option to move up. This has proved extremely successful with all students wanting to go up to ‘Role Model’.

In the Junior room each section corresponds to money earned while in the senior room points are accumulated to go towards a rolling chair for the next day.

SO if your child comes home and says they go up to blue you know exactly what it means.

Homework:
- Is now due on Fridays!!!
- Now has three parts: maths, Times tables and writing
- Some children have extension homework

The Mystery Unit: Creating Characters in Mystery Stories, has kicked with intrigue as the Seniors explore the detective world. One of the first and ongoing activities is to create a word wall or topic words and metalinguistic words for the unit.

There’s so much more to maths...

Exciting research about brain plasticity reveals that anyone can be a mathematician! There’s no such thing as a “math gift”. With hard work (see the back BOOST article on grit) every child can master mathematics to the highest levels.

When you think of maths, what comes to mind? In the SR class, we’re learning that maths is so much more than we thought. Creativity, communication and collaboration are important skills that real mathematicians use.

To develop these skills, we’re now participating in group maths challenges to develop these skills and deepen our mathematical understanding. In this picture, Reshonda, Danny and Jimmy are exploring various aspects of symmetry and growing patterns. This type of thinking is the same kind that scientists use to find new cures for diseases and understand the origins of life and the universe itself. Plus, it’s just old fashioned fun!
Read All About It!
Juniors create class newspaper.
This term the Junior Class is creating a class newspaper. We have already started looking at the different sections of a newspaper.

As part of their preparation for NAPLAN, year 3 students will be writing persuasive letters to the editor or editorial articles. Year 1 and 2 students will be writing news stories about school events.

The reporting will continue in science. We will be researching living things and weather, in order to complete gardening and weather reports.

Next time you’re reading a newspaper, or news online, you can share some of the sections that you find.

Term 1 Reports For Juniors
Earlier this week a short report was sent home, outlining children’s achievement through Term 1. If you did not receive a report for your child, please let Miss Tonya know so another can be sent.

Homework and Library
Homework goes home most weeks on Monday and is due back on Friday. Library day is Tuesday.

Effective Age Appropriate Learning for Preps
Effective Age Appropriate focus continues in the Prep class. The Prep class is continuing their involvement in the Effective Age Appropriate Learning project. Rossville school joined this project last year, as part of a study being undertaken by Griffith University in play based learning in Prep.

Parents may not be aware that increasingly schools are under pressure to formalise the Prep year into a more rigid ‘sit at your desk and write’ experience. The Griffith University team believe that the push to formalise schooling for Preps has gone too far and is not appropriate for such young children. The Effective Age Appropriate Learning project is about finding the best ways to balance fun and learning.

Rossville School has always tried to make learning as fun, interactive and engaging as possible. Last year’s focus on patterns and problem solving resulted in the Preps showing huge improvements in mathematical reasoning and problem solving by the end of the year.

This year the school is continuing to play with patterns and problem solving, but also adding activities aimed at building vocabulary. Lots of wordy fun to come!
Introducing GRIT

We have completed the unit about emotions and have now introduced GRIT once again. Last year we used the GRIT to train for the Cross Country but this year we plan to apply it to academic learning.

GRIT is a term coined by an American psychologist who researched why some students were successful and others were not. She found that the one common factor was what she called GRIT. It is the long term determination of working towards goals. This trait was more valuable to a successful student than intelligence, socio-economic status or the type of school.

Most children, that were here last year remember, that GRIT is made up of three strengths:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTIMISM</th>
<th>SELF DISCIPLINE</th>
<th>PERSISTENCE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“I know things will be okay”</td>
<td>“I control my thoughts, actions and feelings”</td>
<td>“I keep on trying”</td>
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We will be revising all the concepts over the term, but at home it would help to explore them with your child. Each week the news article will focus on one of these strengths and how you can help your child develop this strength.

Please send in any plants or seeds that would be useful for our improved vege garden!!