Principal's Report

Congratulations to our NAPLAN champions this week for using optimism, self discipline and persistence or GRIT to get through these challenging tests.

Deconstruction on our playground will commence next week. We will be tendering or auctioning off the old playground once it has been dismantled. We will be setting up activities and obstacle courses on the oval during the period of construction so that children are kept safe and entertained while the playground area is fenced off and out of bounds.

Students and teachers are all excited to start our new art electives this week. Students will have the choice of participating in a dedicated workshop on the following topics: fashion design, clowning, robotics and skipping routines. These electives allow children choice to engage in depth in different strands of the arts curriculum. Moreover, important life long learning skills such as goal setting, planning and self monitoring and evaluation are promoted. These skills relate to building the executive function of the brain.

I’m looking forward to our first creativity club this afternoon and hope that many of you join us for Circle of Security. Creativity club is open to all students and runs Wednesday afternoon from 2:30pm to 3:30pm. We certainly have creative students here. Check out this picture of Tennis Rossville Style: teams have 6 players a side and try to score “goals”!

YUMMO LUNCH DAY!!
Our first ‘Yummo Lunch Day’ will be held next Friday 22 May. A menu of food available to be purchased will be sent out early next week. Thanks to our wonderful school volunteers for organising this event for all our students.

Circle of Security at Rossville State School
Rossville State School, in partnership with the Cooktown District Community Centre (CDCC) will be running the Circle of Security series at Rossville Wednesday afternoons starting this week.

REMEMBER: Every Day Counts!
Senior Class Capers!!

Fractions ARE Fun!

This week I have definitely proven to the students that fractions are fun! So while sharing, pouring, chopping and chatting using chocolate and lollies we learnt a few more things about chocolate, oh no I mean, fractions.

"Not Homework!"

I am not exactly sure who dislikes, dare I say hates, homework more, the parents or the students?! Hopefully the following discussion makes homework a little easier, if not rewarding.

Some of the homework tasks are designed to not only benefit students’ learning, but also create opportunities for family time. So by simply doing worthwhile activities together in the afternoon and noting them on the homework sheet you are in a win-win situation. They are learning and you are getting to spend time with your lovely children.

The focus for this semester with maths is 'times-tables'. This is a very dreary topic for most, however as the year fives are starting to discover, when you are trying to multiply four digit numbers by two digit numbers it becomes a very long, difficult process even if you only get one multiplication wrong! Here are some tips to learning 'times-tables' more fun and rewarding:

- **It is really hard to start with:** For everyone’s brain learning something new it is not pleasant and your mind tries to do everything but the task at hand. Your brain simply does not like it! So this is where self-discipline comes in. Know that it will be hard to start, so simply try to get it over and done with.

- **Practice at least three times a week:** This is again brain-training in action. The more consistently your brain revisits an idea, the more the idea is cemented into your mind making it easier to complete.

- **Time each attempt:** It is very rewarding to see that you are progressing each time, even if it is only a couple of seconds. This will cue your brain into wanting to try a little harder next time.

- **Reward progress:** Set up a system with your child that you both agree on when 'times-tables' are completed. Some reward ideas are: money, screen time, favourite activity or a food treat. Maybe a simple chart could be set up.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the activities described or how your child is going at school. Email: hcarr51@eq.edu.au or phone the school to make an appointment.

Heidi Carroll

Knitting with Carol Gavin on Mondays in the Senior Room
Junior Class Capers!!

Zany Zahli zig-zags to the zoo to see a zebra!

Victor verses vicious Vikings and venomous vampires!

Rushon rides on Robert to Rossville!

Super Sam slipping and sliding strongly!

We are doing poetry this term, and one aspect we have learned about is alliteration—when words start with the same sound. The great alliteration sentences above show how creative our kids can be. In the next week or two we will be starting our own poems.

In Maths we are currently learning to tell the time. You can help your child learn by mentioning the time and referring to clocks in your home. Talk about what time it is as you are getting ready for school or dinner. I know at home I say this one a lot: It’s 8 o’clock, TIME FOR BED!

Homework goes home on Mondays and is due back on Fridays. Library day is Thursday. Return library books on Thursday.

Photos: During NAPLAN testing, we have had some very special guests in our room. The Yr 4s and 6s have come in while the 3s and 5s are doing NAPLAN. They helped us with our reading. These photos were taken by Netta.

SCIENCE

In Science, we are thinking about Exploration.

Yr 3s and 4s are learning about the Solar System, while Yr 5s and 6s are investigating what would be involved in mounting an expedition to Mars.

These Yr 3s and 4s have helium balloons because they were learning about the Sun. They learned that the Sun is made of gases, mostly hydrogen and helium.
Most students, teachers and families readily agree that the purpose of schooling is learning. As simple as it sounds, there are a lot of different aspects of the mind that need to be taken into account before learning can occur.

The Emotional Mind

A natural part of us being human beings is our range of emotional states. These emotions are very useful in lots of different ways. However, there are some emotional states that simply switch off the learning parts of our brain. So, during these times it does not matter what amazing, highly effective teaching show is going on, no learning will take place.

The Everyday-Routine Mind

Now let’s say that the brain is not overwhelmed with emotions, it still does not mean that the brain is ready to learn. Most of the time it idles along relying on prior experience and routine to complete tasks that it has completed before with simple modifications. It does not really want to use up valuable calories that are needed for learning something new.

A BOOSTED Mind!

One of the aims of BOOST! is to assist the students in being able to regulate their emotional mind, (for eg. Using their left brain to help deal with their right brain emotions), to help ensure not only their happiness but also that their brain is more likely to be in a state capable of learning.

Another aim of BOOST! and the Mind-Brain Education techniques that the teachers are beginning to utilise in the classroom, is to ensure that the mind is as focused as possible and is ready to learn.

So even when we agree that the aim of school is learning we need to understand what that means for the learner and the teacher. Next newsletter I will share with you some of the techniques that we are using to create the best opportunities for a “BOOSTED! Mind”.

Please Note: Oops!! Sorry! Left brain error! The cartoon that was supposed to be enclosed last week has been included today, so that you and your child can read together. It is designed to help them understand this process. If you would like more information on this unit please talk to or email Heid Carroll (hcarr51@eq.edu.au)

Team Activities to BOOST! our minds.