South Cape Cluster
Principal’s Report
Rossville State School
16 August 2016
Showcase Awards  X TWO!
Last week our Assistant Regional Director, Mr Ken Schaumberg, was here to present us with two regional Showcase awards: one recognising the BOOST! program masterminded and delivered by Heidi and Chappy; the other in recognition of the commitment we have made to developing our students in the areas of Science, Technology and Maths.

NAPLAN Results
NAPLAN results for students in Years 3 and 5 were posted home last week. Once again we are proud of our students’ achievements. All of our students achieved above National Minimum Standard. Furthermore, 50% of our students achieved in the upper two bands for reading and numeracy. Our next focus for improvement is writing.

Robotics Workshop at Cooktown SS
Last Friday a group of Senior students travelled to Cooktown for a whole day Robotics workshop, hosted by Cooktown P-12 Robotics Club.

I was extremely proud of the students who attended. There were some frustrations: our robot didn’t work, and there were some long sessions of explanations and theory to sit through. But our kids showed teamwork, persistence, resilience when things went wrong and great self-discipline.

DATES TO REMEMBER
- 23rd Aug Senior class bush-walk with BOOST!
- 7th Sept Soccer Carnival in Laura
- 8th September 2pm Music performances

Weekly Activities:
- Phys Ed every Monday afternoon
- Library open Monday + Wednesday morning tea
- Junior class library day changed to MONDAY
- Chappy visits us every Tuesday
- BOOST! Tuesday afternoons at 1:20 pm
- Electives, Wednesday afternoons at 1:20 pm
- Parade 2pm on these days:
  - 19 Aug
  - 2 Sept
  - 16 Sept
- 16 Sept last day of Term 3

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We Learn
We Show Respect
We Are Safe
Imagine the possibilities!!!

Wouldn’t it be amazing to walk up the front stairs of the school to the brightest, most welcoming of spaces? Friendly, inviting colours with comfortable, co-ordinated chairs; a plant or two and accents of textures in a truly functional space: that is the dream. Help us make it a reality.

Our little school could win $20,000, but we need your help!!!!!

All you need to do is rally as many friends and family to vote for our school online. How many different people can you organise? Grandma’s, distant uncles and neighbours can all help us but we need you to spread the word.

From Tuesday 23rd August 2016, rally as many friends and family to support our wonderful little school. Simply visit www.staffroomforimprovement.com.au to read the terms and conditions and register your interest today and start voting with your apples.

Some bright creations from the prep class. The Prep class has been expanding their vocabulary, especially words to express their feelings. In their writing the kids have used words like domineering and scrumptious.
Hello from the Juniors. What a busy class we have been in last few weeks. Below you will see Pippa, Ella, Luca and Zahli standing next to our height graph, showing that we can measure in centimetres and metres. Next to them, on the right is Eli, Kenneth and the girls who are involved in a science experiment. They are finding out if speed and weight will increase the momentum. At the bottom of the page is Rushon, Eliza, Ella and Zahli who are being great writers, busy publishing their procedures about an Olympic Sport. Every one is working so hard and improving their skills across the curriculum each day. All our Juniors have been as keen as beans to learn from the people around them and are working hard individually and in their groups practicing lots of new competences each day. We are a class who welcome challenges :)
Strength Words
Inside this newsletter you should find a colour-
ful A3 page with all the strengths that we talk
about at school. There are lots of different
strength that are not on these cards, but they
provide a great basis to work from. Over the
past few weeks one of our goals in BOOST! is
familiarise ourselves with these words. Can you
please help at home? Please place the poster in
your house where everyone can see it. The talk
about the strengths as much as possible. Some
questions to discuss could be:
How could you show.. (choose a strength on
the chart)?

Why focus on Strengths?
In school and in life there is a tendency to focus on peo-
ple’s areas of weakness rather than their strengths. At
school tests, report cards and teacher feedback focus on
how the student can improve. Although this can helpful at
times it erodes the students’ sense of who they are. Even
at home in our families, it is easy to think about what the
children are doing “wrong” rather than all the things that
they have achieved in the day. The overall perception is
that everyone has to be good at everything. Focusing on
strengths not only helps the individual know that they are
good at something but also that they don’t have to good at
everything. In BOOST! we have highlighted to the students
that you actually need different strengths in different
individuals to achieve a group challenge.

Strength Spotting
Your child needs your help.
Most people are not very good at identifying their own strengths. You can help your child by spotting their
strengths for them. You may also like to spot strengths in yourself and your other family members. The following is
a list of ways to spot strengths:

Energy: When someone is using a strength, it can feel energising. Look for activities that take effort but leave
you more energized when you’ve completed them than before you started.

Voice Tone: An increase in energy and animation as someone describes an activity is a clue they are describing
an area of strength.

Vocabulary: When you hear yourself or others use words such as “I love to …” or “It feels great when I ....” they
are likely to be talking about a strengths based experience.

Rapid Learning: When students learn something rapidly and effortlessly, it may be a sign they are learning in an
area of strength.

Ease: If something is surprisingly easy to complete, it may be a clue that a strength is being used.

Attention: When things easily draw your attention, a strength is likely to be in the picture.

Flow: Listen for statements such as “I thought I was doing _____ for fifteen minutes, but it was really two
hours! Where did the time go?”

Motivation: What things do you do just for the joy of doing it? You would even do it even if there were no ex-
ternal motivator such as pay or punishment.