It was fantastic to see so many parents at last Friday’s performance. Our drama group certainly showed talent and the loud applause they received at their curtain call was well deserved.

Some of you may have noticed that your children respond unusually to certain key words. For example, whenever they hear the word challenge, perhaps mentioned in a reality cook off tv series, they enthusiastically shout “yee-haw”. Don’t worry, your children aren’t going insane or developing old fashioned and rustic phrases of speech. Your children are just recounting some of the fun, exciting activities from our BOOST program. Over the past few weeks, they’ve been learning about how to turn a “challenge situation” or a “Grrrrr moment” into a success by using optimism, self discipline and persistence, otherwise known as grit.

It’s been great to see lots of friendly faces as parents have started to volunteer their time around the school. Thanks to Margo for helping out in the library and garden. We’ve also had Saxton’s dad Sean visit and help out in the prep room. We’d also like to thank Bec for her lovely donation of tomato plants for our garden. If you have a skill or an interest that you’d like to share at our school, please feel free to let us know. If you have a few minutes to spare before school, we’d love to have you here buddy reading with our younger students. The kids are always keen to see you around the school and so are we.

Cheers,
Amelia Jenkins

DATES TO REMEMBER:
- Wednesday 1 April, AFL Carnival in Cooktown
- 3 April—Good Friday, Holidays begin
- Friday 1 May, Cross Country at Rossville
- Friday 15 May, DATE CLAIMER—Cooktown’s Got Talent

Weekly Activities:
- French with Mme. Jo Tuesday mornings
- Chappy visits us every Tuesday
- BOOST! Tuesday afternoons at 1:20 pm
- Art Electives, Wednesday afternoons at 1:20 pm
- AFL with Dane and Dwayne every Thursday
- Library open Thursday at 1st lunch
- Parade every Friday afternoon at 2:00 pm

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We Learn • We Show Respect • We Are Safe

REMEmber: Every Day Counts!
Junior Class Capers!!

From Miss Tonya
This week we did a short number facts test. The number facts test checks how well we are learning basic maths skills, like: counting by 2s, 5s and 10s; simple addition and subtraction; and knowing what comes before or after a given number. From our number facts test, we’ve been able to set a goal for each child. Your child will bring home a copy of their number facts test this week, with their goal highlighted on it. This week I will be trialling a new idea for homework: instead of sending home a page of maths questions, I will just write each child’s number facts goal on their homework page. That way, families can practise maths facts in the way that works best for you – while driving in the car, washing up or feeding the chooks. Let me know what you think.

In English the Junior class has been learning reading strategies. Each strategy has an animal mascot to help us remember it. These are the ones we have learned so far:

- **Lips the Fish** tells us to get our lips ready to say a new word by making the first sound.

- **Stretchy Snake** reminds us to look at each letter and sound out slowly. S-t-r-e-t-c-h out the sounds in the word.

- **Skippy Frog** tells us its OK to skip a tricky word and read to the end of the sentence. Don’t forget to hop back to the beginning and have another go.

- **Flippy Dolphin** reminds us that some letters have 2 sounds and that sometimes we need to try both sounds to work out the word. For example, if you try to sound out ‘find’ f-i-n-d with the short i sound, you won’t get the right word. Flip to the other sound and try i instead.

The Year 3s have been extending themselves in Science, working with the Year 4s to form a combined Yr 3 /4 Science class. Currently we are studying rocks and minerals. We are just beginning to investigate how minerals are used in the things around us. Our next step will be to learn about the mining industry, thinking about the positives and negatives of mining. Our big end-of-term job will be to design a house, specifying what materials will be used in the construction and explaining where those materials come from.

**DAYS TO REMEMBER:**

Homework goes home on Monday (usually) and is due back on Friday.
Senior Class Capers!!

From Miss Heidi

**Homework**
Great effort everyone!! We obtained our first whole class goal and as a result had lots of fun at the homework disco.
If you could support your child by giving them reminders to do homework or **setting a time for homework** that would help them achieve their goal.

If homework cannot be completed, a note to the class teacher is very acceptable.

There are now **three different parts to the homework**. Although it would be ideal for students to complete all parts, completing as many sections as possible, means that students are showing some organisation and practicing a skill. **Reading** is a core component of homework, as reading is a real key for all learning. There is also an introductory **maths** sheet. Completing the maths’ worksheet means that students are showing what they understand about the new topic. If students do not understand how to complete the sheet then simply bring it to Tuesday’s Maths lesson. Finally, practising a **physical activity** is now part of homework. Playing catch with your child is now counting as homework as we realise how important it is to develop the whole child.

**Class work**
In **geography** students have commenced their assessment task. We are looking at different countries and the different environments around the world. The students also have to create their own environment and present this orally to the class. This is allowing them to be creative while demonstrating their understanding of biomes.
Prep Class Capers!!

Check out these creative drawings and the stories behind them from some of our wonderful and talented Preps!

The focus for this term is... **GRIT**

The whole school discussed that everyone at some time feels bad, sad or mad and that we can use our **thoughts** to help change our **behaviour**.

**Self-discipline** is one type of thought that we can use to change our behaviour for the better. It means that even though things are hard now, that I will be better off in the long run. And we want to realise that these challenges are actually opportunities to reach our full potential.

At home you can say, “Wow! Look at you using self-discipline!”, when they are completing chores they don’t want to do, for example tidying their room.