As we approach the end of the school year, it is important we all take the time to pause, reflect and regain our energy for what is always a busy time of year both at school and at home. It is also a time to reflect on the many great achievements at Rossville State School in 2015.

Our child centred teaching and holistic approach to developing confident, connected and creative citizens was featured throughout Far North Queensland, from Cardwell to the Torres Strait as we were honoured with the Regional Showcase Award for Excellence in Inclusive Education. We have been asked by leading universities to share our best practice and partner on ground breaking research. We were chosen by Associate Professor Bev Flukinger and executives from the Department of Education to feature in a film to be distributed to schools throughout the state on best practice teaching and learning in prep and the early years of schooling. Thank you to everyone for getting back your permission forms as every student in the school featured in some of the filming.

We continued a now entrenched tradition by hosting our second successful NAIDOC Day and started a new tradition with our inaugural but highly successful Talk Like a Pirate Day. We have had a great P&C this year who have worked tirelessly to deliver the popular ‘Yummo Lunch Day’, the Halloween Disco and the Cross Country Day. The School and the P&C held our first stall in many years at the Wallaby Creek Festival which was a great fundraiser and a way to showcase our school to the wider community and visitors to the festival.

Our Art Electives continued this year and are a great hit with the students with everyone looking forward to the fun and creativity of Wednesday afternoons. In 2015 we began our school’s Positive Education Program ‘BOOST!’ Promoting improved wellbeing and equipping our students to flourish throughout life.

With all of these great successes in 2015, our student learning and student gains in all aspects of the curriculum remained exceptional. We even got a new playground this year! Woohoo!! With only a few weeks of the school year left, we still have a lot to look forward to. Next week our senior students and transitioning year 3 students will travel to Holloways Beach Environmental Education Centre from Monday to Wednesday for an exciting and challenging school camp.

On Wednesday the 25 November, all interested kindy students are invited to attend our Prep Open Day. If you know a family who has a child entering prep next year, feel free to tell them about our amazing school and pass on our contact details.

Next Thursday the 26 November, Alby Anderson from NRL Development will visit our school to deliver Rugby League training sessions with the students. Next Friday the 27th of November we will be honouring our departing year 6s with a game of lawn bowls and a shared meal at our annual graduation dinner. Finally our annual end of year Christmas Celebration will be on the Thursday 3 December from 6pm-8:30pm.

The teachers have some very exciting and educational activities planned leading up to the last day of school. Remember, every day counts.

Cheers, Amelia Jenkins

**REMEMBER: Every Day Counts!**

---

**Enrolments for 2016 are now open. Enrolment packs are available from the school office or on the school website.**

---

**Term 4 2015**

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**
- Swimming Lessons—Every Friday starting Week 2
- School Camp—Monday 23 November—Wednesday 25 November
- Rugby League Development—10-11am, Thursday 26 November
- Yummo Lunch Day—Friday 27 November
- Year 6 Graduation—Friday 27 November
- Rossville Birthday Markets, Saturday 28 November, 3pm until late
- Cluster Swimming Carnival @ Cooktown—Wednesday 2 December
- Rossville SS Christmas Party—Thursday 3 December—6pm-8pm
- Term 4 Ends—Friday 4 December
- Term 1 2016 Begins—Wednesday 27 January

**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
- Library open Thursday and Friday mornings before school
- Parade every Friday afternoon

**Phone:**
07 4060 3988

**Fax:**
07 4060 3088

**Email:**
the.principal@rossvilless.eq.edu.au

---

**19 November 2015**

**Principal’s Report**
Recently we shared our stories with the Junior class around our “classroom campfire” to finalise our unit. They enjoyed hearing each other’s stories and here is one example:

**Bullies  By Lily Pattie**

Derrick Dunes is holding the back of my favourite jacket, but he doesn’t seem to care. All he cares about is going around with his gang in school or in the park stealing people’s bags, bikes, pens and who knows what else!

“Please,” I whisper to him. “Let me go”. He just sneers at me while his gang search me for my lunch money. Trust me; you do not want to mess with Derrick. While he is as big as an elephant I am as small as a mouse. I am in no position to fight right now but Derrick is now hauling me to my feet still grabbing me by the front of my jacket. I squeeze my eyes shut and wonder what they’re going to do to me.  I get my answer soon enough. Crash! He throws me into a desk breaking my nose! I can feel hot blood pouring onto my face. Before I can feel the pain Derrick’s gang gets busy tying me up with some skipping ropes they had stolen from the sports room. Before they have a chance to, I stagger away from them! Derrick is furious.

“Circle him gang,” he yells, but I can feel anger overcoming my fear and pain.

“Get away from me,” I scream at them and punch the guy closest to me in the jaw. It wasn’t my best but it was good enough to get him shaken up. The rest of them close in on me gnashing their teeth. But I am strengthening and I begin punching them and all sorts of stuff to try and get them to leave me alone.  Victory! They are going away. Only Derrick is left now; he licks his lips nervously and looks behind me and suddenly yelps and runs away. I frown.

“Did I say something,” I say in surprise. Then I realise that there is a load of teachers and school nurses standing in the doorway. As the nurses rush around me clearing me up, the teachers explain to me what happened.

My friend Sam had seen that I was in trouble and rushed to tell the teachers. The teachers had put together a group and went off to find me. By the time they had found me I had already bravely fought of the bullies and was about to fight Derrick when the teachers came to the rescue. I smiled as I thought how this day could change my life. NO MORE BULLIES AGAIN!!!!!!!!!!!!

*Moral to the story: never be afraid to stand up to bullies.*
Junior Class Capers!!

Today we practised writing paragraphs. We wrote paragraphs about what we have been doing in school:

On Wednesday we had a camera crew come and take videos of the teachers and students. The Preps were the main people they wanted to video. They took videos of us doing electives. Also they made videos of teachers talking about the students. We got to see the camera and some people got to look through the camera. That part was awesome! (by Zahli, Jackson and Sam)

Two people in the junior class have been getting ready to do a YUCKO food day! Jackson and Eli got the idea from Yummo food day. We changed the word to Yucko and we changed the menu. We changed every single one. We put brains, dog legs and spit. It was fantastic. (By Eli and Jackson)

We go swimming on Fridays at the Cooktown pool. At the swimming pool we learn lots of strokes. Also we do we lots of fun things. Last Friday we had a practice getting out of the pool in case there is an emergency. At the end of term on Wednesday we are going to have a swimming carnival. We will be great swimmers at the swimming carnival. (By Clint, Rita, and Willow.)
The students have explored empathy in their own ways. They defined empathy as:

- Walking in someone else’s shoes
- Feeling someone’s feelings
- Understanding the feelings of another

They then performed skits to show the different ways empathy could be shown at school. Some of these techniques are:

- Helping someone who is having difficulties
- Saying, “I see. That must be very … (frustrating, annoying, etc.)
- Talking through exactly what happened and how they feel
- Being with them and listening
- Not judging them
- Paraphrase what they are saying by repeating what they say in your own words

See how many different ways you can show empathy to others over the next few weeks. For in understanding someone else, not only do we understand ourselves better, we break down barriers of fear and judgement.

Check out some of these photos from our recent spooky Halloween Disco!