Welcome back to another year at Kowanyama State school. A special welcome to the new families and staff members. I know your time with us will be both successful and enjoyable. At the end of last week, 204 students were enrolled at our school—an increase on the number of students enrolled at the same time in 2013. Despite the huge amount of rain we have had for the start of the year, this is a great effort! My wish now is for all of students to be attending school every day.

A special welcome to the following teachers who have joined us this year:

- Sir Luke — Year 4
- Miss Maree — Year 5
- Sir Martin — Year 6
- Miss Anne — Year 7
- Sir Aaron — Secondary
- Sir Dan — Head of Department

Tuckshop / School Lunches

As families would know, school staff have been organising and selling lunches to the students every day for the last year. This week, Miss Jodi has started preparing lunches for our students. I am hoping this will be continuing into the future with support from families and students. Miss Jodi will soon have a menu available and students will all be encouraged to place their orders at the beginning of every day. Please see the school for more details.

Great Results Guarantee

All Queensland schools will soon receive additional funding to improve student performance. To receive the funding schools must complete an agreement that commits them to guarantee that every student will either:

- achieve the National Minimum Standard for literacy and numeracy for their year level or
- have an evidence-based plan, developed by the school, in place to address their specific learning difficulties.

As the results of all students are dependent on school attendance, this will form part of our agreement. If attendance is low, achievement will also be lower than the class average.

Student performance will be measured throughout the year and schools will be required to demonstrate how the extra funding is helping to improve learning outcomes for all students.

Family BBQ

A reminder that the Family BBQ will be held this Friday at 2.00pm. This will be a great opportunity for families to meet the new teachers and to visit their child’s classroom. It will be wonderful to see everyone at school this Friday afternoon.

Classroom News

Pre-Prep has had a fantastic start to the year. We have settled in well and have been learning all about our classroom rules and routines. We have also demonstrated how deadly we are as learners by practising the letters s, t and a as well as counting up to the number 5.

On the 24th of February, 2014, Pre-Prep will be doing a Focus of the Week presentation item on parade at 9:20am. It would be great to see all families there.

Miss Emma, Miss Shalika and Miss Coralie.

Students working hard to complete their handwriting.

The Prep class has had a great start to the new school year! They have done a great job in remembering their sight words and letters and sounds that they learnt last year in Pre-Prep. The students have been working hard and are settling in to new routines. Keep up the great work Prep!

Regards

Ross McHutcheon

Principal
The Jimmy Little Foundation’s ‘Thumbs Up! Healthy Tucker’ program aims to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal children by promoting the importance of nutritious foods. The ‘Thumbs up! Healthy Tucker’ program uses music and new media to help promote the message of “Good Tucker - Long Life” to children and community members in remote communities.

The “Good Tucker – Long Life” signage has been in the Kowanyama Retail Store since 2012 and the Jimmy Little Foundation has planned to deliver the music workshops at the Kowanyama School between 18th – 20th March 2014. During this time we will write, record a song and make a video for it with the children. There will also be nutrition promotion and cook-ups at the school and the store, supported by the Apunipima Healthy Lifestyles team.

Everyday counts

Healthy Ears and Good Hearing are important tools for classroom learning. Five things that parents can do to promote healthy ears are:

1. Ask for your child’s ears to be checked—every visit to the clinic
2. Give your child fruit to eat every day – this will help fight off germs
3. Check that your child is washing hands and face every day to wash away germs that make ears sick
4. Do not smoke near children – smoke is not good for children’s ears
5. Encourage nose-blowing to help keep ears healthy

(courtesy of Australian Hearing)