Date Claimers
- 28 November — School Fete / NAIDOC Celebrations
- 02 December — Senior Students’ Graduation Night
- 04 December — School Concert
- 05 December — Last Day of School
- 27 January — First Day of School 2015

Is your child at school today?
Focus of the Week
Use polite words and tone of voice.

School Attendance
As was mentioned in the previous Newsletter, we have seen some great changes in our school attendance rates this year—especially since the beginning of Term 3 and this has continued into Term 4. With only a few weeks of school left, we need to continue working hard on this. I have included a graph for your information. This tells the percentage story around student attendance. Which group do you think your child belongs to?

If your child is going to be away from school, make sure you call us or speak to the School Attendance Officers. Also remember to get a certificate from the Clinic if your child is sick. Everyone in the community needs to share in the task of making sure our children are at school. As the future adults and leaders of the community, they will thank us for our concern and persistence.

Good Attendance = Good Results
Yesterday, I had the privilege to be invited to the official opening of the Kowanyama River House. This business will be a great asset to the community and visitors alike. Congratulations to Thomas Hudson and his business colleagues who assisted him to make this happen. Thomas spoke about the journey he had taken to make this River House happen. It was a 6 year project and there were many hurdles along the way. With commitment and resilience, it has happened. Congratulations to everyone involved in this great project.

The message for all students and community members is clear. You can also achieve or participate in projects like this. It would be wonderful to see our students (and future leaders) establishing their own businesses in Kowanyama. The possibilities are endless.

One thing is certain though—education is the key to a successful future. Being literate and numerate is essential. The only way our students will be able to read, write, spell and do maths is for them to attend school every day. Because we all want this to happen, remember to contact the school or speak to one of our Attendance Officers for assistance in getting your children to school every single day. Their future depends on it.

New Flags
Thank you to David Kempton (Member for Cook and Assistant Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs) for sending us some new flags for the school. Some of our Year 6 students are also very excited to be showing off the new Aboriginal, Queensland and Australian flags. We look forward to proudly flying them at the front of the school.

Each of these bars represents a group of students. The group that represents 100% are the students that attend school every day. (Earlier this Term, this group was represented by 35 students.) The good news is that for this Term, the graph will look even better. Despite this, there are a number of students whose attendance levels are not good enough and they are at an unacceptable level.

Where is your child on this graph?
NAIDOC Celebrations

Our celebration of community culture will be held on Friday 28 November. (Cultural activities will occur on Thursday 27 November and be celebrated as part of the fete - the following day.) A reminder that we are still looking for community members who would like to assist us with these celebrations in a couple of weeks. Please contact the school for more information.

The Lorax

Our Year 5 students have been writing deadly stories about the Lorax. This story was written by Dr Seuss and tells us how the Lorax speaks to the trees and tries hard to care for the environment. The students have retold the story (one of my favourites) and they have also taken a great deal of effort to illustrate and present their own Lorax booklets.

Well done everyone!

Live Learn Leap

Live Learn Leap is a Sport and Recreation initiative between AFL Cape York Limited and the QLD Police and Citizens Youth Welfare Association operating in remote communities of Cape York Peninsula and Gulf Savannah Regions North QLD. Live Learn Leap has been here this week to promote health and fitness as well as a number of game skills through a range of popular sports such as basketball, hockey, AFL and cricket. The program supports Indigenous youth to become leaders of tomorrow through participation, volunteering, training, wellbeing and safety. Welcome again to the team—we know our students will benefit greatly from this activity.

Regards

Ross McHutcheon
Principal

Out There Kowanyama (OTK) Happenings

Don't forget - Christmas Holiday Program 15-19 December at the Church from 9.00-5.00 each day. Lots of fun activities for kids and teenagers. Also the Community BBQ, Carols & Corroboree by Candlelight will be held on 17 December. There will be guest speakers, singing, lights and lots of fun and food.

The police will also be putting up lots of lights and will be a part of this event. The police are paying for the lights out of their own money so if you want to donate to this please give to Senior Sergeant Paul.

If you would like to make a donation to OTK and their programs that help the community (remember none of our members are paid - we all volunteer!) then you can give the money to David Jack at the bank and tell him it is for OTK.

OTK volunteers will be doing some more work around the place to brighten up the community. Putting in place a community BBQ and putting food gardens in places that community groups can use. But because we are a small group of volunteers (who don't get paid), we'd love to see community people get more involved in volunteering and helping their own community as well. If you are interested in helping - message Lara on Facebook "Kowanyama Doc" or let Faye at the clinic know you are interested. Even just an hour or two of your time can help and it makes you feel good to help other people.

And thanks so much to Kowanyama State School for their support - without them we would not be able to send volunteers up with nowhere to stay for our programs. Kowanyama is lucky to have such a great school that works with the community! Please keep supporting them!

Dr Lara

Breakfast Program

Thank you to the officers from Kowanyama Police for providing breakfast three mornings a week. This makes us get to school early—before school starts!