The weeks are flying by, thankfully Hayley and I are all unpacked and not stepping over boxes and toys!

In class students have been working extremely well and it’s a pleasure to see well mannered and delightful children. A credit to all parents and family members.

Students have begun working in other KLAs, and are now studying History with the outstanding Ms Gabbie and Science with the awesome Mr Price. We have streamed the students into 2 groups, prep to year 2 and year 3 to 6. We rotate each group in the afternoon with the fabulous Ms Rossi taking the other group for guided reading and NAPLAN/prep activities.

Homework has started and as with any school is a contentious issue. If you have any problems or issues please see us we are more than welcome to discuss how we can help you and your child. I believe homework is a negotiation between parent and teacher, if you think your child is struggling with the work load, or needs more please come and see us.

AFL has kicked off and the students all received a jersey from the guys at AFL Cairns, forms were also sent home with the kids regarding registration to receive an AFL pack. Could these forms be back by next Monday 16/02/15.

On Friday mornings we have an informal gathering of parents and citizens at the school from 8:30 to 9:30. Come along for coffee and tea (supplied) just bring a plate to share.

We have started a tuckshop that will run on FRIDAY only. Thanks to Tammy at the roadhouse students can now order for 1st lunch only. Tuckshop bags will be sent home with students. Please remember to write your childs name, their order and the total amount.

Lastly, if you have spare school uniforms you don’t need anymore could you please drop off to our office to be used as spares.

Have a great week Jason Price
Welcome to another school year and a new semester of exciting curriculum! This semester students will not only be engaging in our core literacy and numeracy programs, but will also be exploring history in line with the Australian Curriculum.

Our prep to year 2 students will develop an understanding of terms indicating the passing of time which are frequently used in stories and conversations about the past and how these terms are used to describe dates and changes that have personal significance. You will have already received a note to explain what will be required in this unit to help students when it comes to their assessment time. Feel free to email or call me for any clarification with regards to the task.

The year 3 to 6 students will be looking at history from the time of early exploration around the world to the establishment of Australia as a colony. The focus questions for this unit will be; why did the great journeys of exploration occur? And why did the Europeans settle in Australia? The assessment will be a collection of work on the life of a convict.

Again, feel free to contact me for any clarification on what is required for this unit. Regards Ms Gabbie
Welcome to Mr Price’s classroom. I will be team teaching with Ms Gabbie, and will be in the classroom every Thursday, Friday and alternating Wednesdays.

As with Ms Gabbie we will be running well planned and concise literacy and numeracy lessons for period 1 and 2, and in the afternoon session I will be taking Prep to year 2 and year 3 to 6 in the KLA area of science.

Our prep to year 2 students will be using Primary Connections and investigating “Weather in my world”.

Students will:
- Observe and describe features of the weather such as temperature, cloud cover, wind strength and rain using appropriate language and symbols.
- Identify a variable for investigation.
- Identify activities that are suitable for particular weather conditions.
- Follow directions to make simple tools for observing and describing weather conditions.

The year 3 to 6 students will be using Primary Connections and investigating “Spinning in space”.

Students will:
- Describe the shapes and sizes of the Sun, Earth and Moon.
- Describe the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky from East to West.
- Describe the changes in shadows, and differences between day and night, and relates these changes to the spinning of the Earth.
- Make and record observations.
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Thank you.
Welcome back to playgroup and a big welcome to the new families who are joining us this year in Cooktown, Wujal Wujal, Hope Vale, Laura, Lakeland, Ayton and Rossville. Our playgroup families are a friendly bunch who all come together to socialise, support and engage with their own children as well as with other adults and families in a playful, fun and safe environment. At playgroup we respect you as your child’s most enduring educator. We endeavour to create play spaces and learning experiences that meet your child’s developmental needs and involves the whole child as a physical, social, emotional, intellectual, spiritual and creative being.

The playgroup activities and resources we provide are selected to:

- encourage individual and social creative free expression through imaginative play
- help your child reach fine and gross motor milestones,
- provide experiences in transitions (or routines)
- introduce your child to early literacy and numeracy concepts.

This month I will highlight two activities which introduce your child to early literacy and numeracy concepts:

**MAKE and TAKE:** This adult led activity is planned and prepared by the playgroup educators for you to make with or for your child. Each new homemade resource introduces your child to early cognitive learning and language development concepts such as colours, shapes, numbers (1-5), recognising child’s name, alphabet letters & sounds, and nursery rhymes. At the end of the session your child takes this resource home in his/her own Make and Take Bag for further play and learning. Your feedback on the success of each Make and Take activity is always appreciated.

**YARNING CIRCLE TIME:** Y.C.T develops early oral language skills through listening to stories, singing songs and responding to music. Y.C.T also encourages social skills as children, parents and caregivers are all sitting together on the mat to participate. Y.C.T is always held either at the end of the session or just before morning tea (depending on the community) so this activity also introduces your child to routine or transitions. The play-

GingGing Playgroup for children 0-5 years
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Chitchat with Chappy

It is so energizing to be back in the cluster schools. Last year our family travelled on a circuit of 8 remote schools as mobile chaplains – packing up and moving every Friday afternoon. I don’t think we could have done one more day of it by the end of the year!

Our exciting family news is that we are expecting our fourth member to the family in late August!!

As a school, we have adopted five values we really want to build in our students. Resilience, Confidence, Commitment, Encouragement and Kindness. This semester we are really focusing on building resilience. Being able to bounce back from an unplanned or unwanted situation is a core strength we all need as human beings.

So how do we grow our resilience? By teaching our students
1. How to problem solve
2. Build positive and healthy relationships
3. Optimism in the face of trouble
4. How to be independent when faced with challenges.

As a parent I have fallen for some resilience robbing strategies with my own children! Allowing your child to experience disappointment, like missing out on that 6th Birthday party for the year can actually give them the opportunity to grow resilience. On Friday afternoons we are running a series of challenges to exercise these five values. During the week when a student demonstrates any of these values they will receive a ‘strength award’ which they will be recognized for at the end of the week.

Have an AWESOME week! Chappy
Thank you AFL Cairns!!!

Awesome playgroup kids exploring and learning through play!

Our awesome playgroup mums helping kids learn!!!