Stay up to date with what’s happening at Weir! Download the Skoolbag app and follow our school: https://www.moqproducts.com.au/skoolbag/

Principal’s Pen

WELCOME TO THIS EDITION – Seven weeks are now behind us and we are getting to the ‘business end’ of the term. Apart from a few small challenges, the students have well and truly lived up to our high behaviour and learning expectations over the term. I would like to thank staff, parents and students for your support in making an improvement in culture at our school evident. It shows the community working together can achieve GREAT things. Please remember if you have any questions or you have concerns about your child’s learning, to contact your child’s teacher or school Administration.

PUPIL FREE DAY – Just a reminder to all parents that this coming Friday 4th September is an allocated Pupil Free Day. This Pupil Free Day replaces the allocated Pupil Free Day in term 4. There is no formalised school instruction on this day as teachers will be partaking in curriculum and planning. Please remember NOT TO SEND your children to school this Friday 4th September ……

EXCEPTIONAL CLEANERS – Day in day out there are a group of hardworking people that must be thanked – our CLEANERS. We are very lucky to have a great ‘crew’ of cleaners that keep our school and classrooms looking great. No matter when school is open our classrooms, staffroom, floors and toilets are always spot on. Our cleaners keep our school looking wonderful. If you see them out and about please let them know that they’re doing a super job. Weir State School salutes you!

LUNCHES – What kids bring to school to eat for lunches is of HIGH importance. We are all time poor, however, it takes the same time to put an apple or banana in a lunchbox as it does a packet of chips or a sugary snack. The perfect lunch is sandwich, yoghurt, fruit, nuts or salad. Please also remind your children if they have forgotten their lunch they are to get a sandwich from the office and not to take or ask for other student’s food.
BREAKFAST CLUB – Breakfast is the most important meal of the day and unfortunately 1 in every 4 students have little or no ‘brekky’ before coming to school. We have a breakfast club that supplies brekky most mornings by our wonderful staff so please remind your children that if they have missed their morning meal to visit ‘breakfast club’ which operates from 8:00am each day.

MATHEMATICS IN OUR LIVES - Mathematics is important in daily living; almost every one of us uses some form of mathematics each day. We repeatedly count, measure, carry out simple calculations and estimate. We use spatial awareness and measurement skills to read maps or to find our way around in new locations. In order to understand weather forecasts, news reports, opinion polls and bank statements we use our knowledge of chance, data and statistics. This knowledge is also applied when we make decisions about loan repayments, superannuation, insurance and buying the weekly lotto ticket.

Our homes are the site of many mathematical decisions and activities that occur regularly. Buying and cooking food, rearranging furniture, building sheds, sewing or knitting garments, paving, administering medications; the list is endless!

Families can take an active role in their children’s mathematical development by:

- Encouraging them to talk about what they are learning in mathematics at school.
- Listening carefully and asking questions when children are explaining their mathematical understandings.
- Reassuring and encouraging their children when they face difficulties.
- Taking opportunities to practise real-life mathematics learning in the home.
- Engaging children in discussions about the useful aspects of mathematics in the home and at work.
- Talking to teachers about their child’s progress in mathematics.

Many jobs require mathematics, but the kind of mathematics people needed fifty years ago is now inadequate. The rapidly changing nature of our jobs and their mathematical needs mean that our mathematical learning does not end with formal schooling. We all need to continue learning for life.

Remember that there are many languages spoken throughout the world but MATH is truly the only ‘universal’ language. (Dr Stephen Hawking, 1995)

This week’s proverb – “Those who embrace challenge learn the most!”

Thanks for reading - Mr B - Principal

From the Deputies Desk

No Uniform, no worries... Thank you for supporting our school system in providing school uniforms to those in need each day. We fully understand and can appreciate that there are days when students are unable to come to school in full uniform... and this is why we give students the opportunity to meet our school expectation of ‘wear school uniform with pride’. Many students come to the office daily and are issued with various school uniform items, all of which are then returned daily.
'Our uniform is part of our school identity, uniting our students and we want them to take pride in wearing it.'

If for some reason, your child has to come to school without full school uniform, please allow us to help. Students simply report to the Student Services window upon arrival (or the front office if the window is closed) and our wonderful office staff will gladly help.

**Rule of the Week**... As the term has now passed the halfway point and we are on our way to the September holidays, student resilience will be tested. It is for this reason that this week we ask students to:

- **Be Respectful**
- ‘Use School Appropriate Language’

It is well known that at Weir we have, and will continue to have, a strong stance against swearing. We are always working with our students around being SMARTer and making STRONGer decisions in regard to the words that they use in problem situations. Our focus this week, and moving forward is going to also look at the language students are using when repairing relationships and making things right when they don’t go so well. Using appropriate language when apologising and accepting an apology are so important. Teachers will work with students this week to build their skills in this area.

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**Values**... Our values are what we believe to be important, right, fair and just. During our lives we will be influenced by many people and situations. As we watch, talk and listen to our family and friends, teachers, coaches and the media, we begin to develop our own thoughts and opinions about the world around us. We also begin to make judgements about others and the events that occur around us. It is important for us to have a personal set of values to help us cope with situations and make sound decisions about how to act, feel, live and treat ourselves and others.

Children begin to develop their own set of values by observing the actions and responses of others, beginning with their first teachers; you! Their values will change as they mature, but the family values that you instil in them will probably stay with them for life. To help your child develop their own values it is important that they are given opportunities to talk about their experiences and reactions to personal, local and world events; to talk about what upsets them and why. Have a family discussion about some of these issues and your own and others’ values will become more obvious: animal rights, nuclear energy, euthanasia, world poverty, extreme wealth, drugs or crime.

Our children need to have strong opinions about their world; they will be running it when we are sitting in the nursing home or fishing by the river in our retirement!

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**Mr Coey’s Joke of the Week**...

*With our Chook Pen work underway and the arrival of our chooks closing in, it occurred to me... If we take care of chickens, that will literally make us ‘chicken tenders.’*
2020 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

Dear Parent / Carer

The University of New South Wales is offering your child an opportunity to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS).

ICAS assessments have taken place annually in schools for over thirty years and in 20 countries. Educational Assessment Australia (EAA), who design and deliver the assessments, is the not-for-profit arm of the University of New South Wales.

ICAS:

- is an annual skills development assessment program in key areas of learning
- assessments are available in English and Mathematics
- gathers performance information through a 30–60 minute supervised in-school test
- provides a continuous, independent and comprehensive record of a student's performance, and maps their development over the full period of primary and secondary schooling
- enables the progress of each student to be mapped in each skill against their previous performance, demonstrating personal improvement no matter the starting point
- uses fellow students’ results as a reference point; results are mapped against all students sitting at the same year level in Australia
- provides an excellent preparation for national testing
- enables students at all levels of ability to participate; ICAS contains questions designed to specifically explore the abilities of students of all standards – this includes those of both lower and higher levels of achievement
- medals are awarded to the top students in each subject in each school year in each state when sufficiently meritorious and the test was sat on the official test date
- achievement certificates are awarded to all students at a range of levels:

1. **High Distinction** to the top 1% of students
2. **Distinction** to the next 10% of students
3. **Credit** to the next 25% of students
4. **Merit** to the next 10% of students
5. **Participation** to all other students

- results are available to parents and students online; these online reports and analyses remain available indefinitely. ICAS reports indicate which questions were answered correctly, compare student performance to that of the other students tested and are highly suitable for inclusion in a student's portfolio for future tertiary
entrance or job opportunities

- entries are administered through the school, so teachers can also access the information

To enrol your child in ICAS, please complete the registration form attached and return it, with your entry fees, to school by **FRIDAY 18th September 2020**

** Parents please be advised that ICAS Test dates have been amended to support Year 6 students wishing to participate. (Yr 6 camp to run 20 – 23rd October) **
Cold Cups
50c each
Friday only
2:45-3:00pm
Athletics Carnival 2020

Our annual Sports Day will take place in Week 9 this Term. As you are aware Covid-19 has demanded many changes to the operation of our school, and unfortunately to our Athletics Day. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, parents and carers will be unable to share this day with their child/ren. We are extremely excited to be holding this event for our students and understand the circumstances are not ideal.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions Athletics day will also be held over three days.

Field event finals (age's 8-12 years) will be held on the afternoon of Tuesday 8th September and Wednesday 9th September.

Running events for all students in Prep – year 6 will be held on Thursday 10th September.

Students are encouraged to wear sunsafe clothes in their team's colour on Thursday 10th September.

Cuthbert - yellow    Elliott - green    Bradman - blue    Fraser - red

One of our staff members will be our 'photographer' for the day and will capture 'action shots' of students throughout the day. The photos taken will be available to parents/carers at a later date and updates will be posted on our social media platforms throughout the day.

Age champions and the winning team will be announced on parade on Friday.

We thank you for your understanding and for respecting that we are not able to have parents/carers to attend, however we still aim to hold and fun, exciting and competitive day.
$5/student  $15/family (3 or more students)

Remember to wear clothes that may get wet/stained. (White shirts are popular as they show off the colour.

Sun safe hats MUST be WORN to Participate.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions spectators will not be permitted
The Dental Van will be operating again at Weir State School.

We will be working under the strict guidelines and directives issued by the Townsville University Hospital and the Dental Board of Australia for the management of Covid 19 within dental care settings. All children that have returned a dental form will be seen. An examination and clean will be done and a letter posted home if further appointments are needed. Toothache or emergency appointments will be prioritised. Please return Dental forms as soon as possible. We will be sending out 2nd issues soon.

For further enquiries: Contact the Dental Van

**PH: 0409614095**
Community Partners

Many thanks to our Community Partners - The NRL Cowboys House, Cowboys Community Foundation and Coles – Second Bite Program for the generous amount of bread they have provided to give away to our parents.

We are truly grateful to have such Community Partners to help us support our students and families. How awesome!

Townsville Sunbus

Did you know that you can apply online for the School Transport Assistance Scheme?

For more information:

- Contact STASdigital.Helpdesk@tmr.qld.gov.au or 1300 119 289 for technical assistance with your online application.
Recycling at Weir

The benefits of recycling are supported at school in the following manner:

**TONER CARTRIDGES** are recycled through Planet Ark.

Printer cartridges are made up of a combination of plastics, metals, foam, ink and toner. Throwing them into landfill contributes to the growing problem of electronic waste. By recycling your toner cartridges you are helping to reduce this waste. Please place them in the Planet Ark box next to the purple Battery World bin, downstairs Block 7.

Bring your **BATTERIES** into school so that we can dispose of them in an environmentally friendly manner. Car batteries must be delivered to Battery World on Ingham Road. The purple Battery World recycling bin is placed downstairs of Block 7.

Spare **SHOPPING BAGS** are welcome at the Library so that our library books are always protected.
Learning for Life

What is Learning for Life?

Learning for Life provides families with opportunities to increase their children’s success at school. The Learning for Life program helps each child to reach their potential by supporting their education from primary through to post-school studies.

**Learning for Life provides:**

- **Support** from a Learning for Life team member who can help your child improve their attendance, change smoothly from primary to high school and give you information on services available.
- **Access to educational programs** that can further support your children.
- **Financial support** to help with costs related to education such as books, uniforms and excursions.

Am I eligible for Learning for Life?

To be eligible, you must:

- Have a child/children in Kindergarten/ Prep/ Reception to Year 6, who attend a school that we work with
- Have a current Health Care or Pension Concession Card
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to education through regular school attendance

What else do I need to know?

Learning for Life is a partnership between your family and The Smith Family. As a parent/guardian or caregiver, you will be committing to:

- Your children attending school regularly
- Returning a yearly progress report for each child
- Providing a school report yearly for each child
- Maintaining contact with The Smith Family

How do I apply for Learning for Life?

If you meet all of the above criteria and would like to apply for the Learning for Life program, please complete the referral form provided and return to your school.

For further information, please contact the Family Partnership Coordinator:

[Contact Information]
Learning for Life - Referral Form

Download

CodeCamp

Online School Holiday Camps!

Your child can design, code and create apps and websites these school holidays!

New programs
Get exclusive access to brand-new, instructor-led videos delivered over five days to keep your kids engaged at home.

Live tutor support
Our Australian-based instructors will be on hand via our live chat to assist your child with anything they need.

Your own pace
New tutorials will be released each morning - your child can choose when to complete their daily challenges.

Book now at codecamp.com.au

HAVE A BLAST!
SUBURBAN PARKS JUNIOR BLASTERS

When: Wednesdays, 4.30-5.30pm — October 14 to December 2

Where: Riverway Oval

Cost: $80 – includes a personalized Blast shirt, hat, bat, ball and more

Search: Suburban Parks at playcricket.com.au to register

Modified skills program for boys and girls aged 5 to 7

Contact Antony Stewart: antony.stewart@qldcricket.com.au 0466 795 648
SUBURBAN PARKS MASTER BLASTERS—TERM 4

When: 6pm-7.30pm, Fridays—October 16 to December 4
Where: Riverway Stadium
Cost: $100 – includes Blast cap and team shirt
Search “Suburban Parks” at www.playcricket.com.au to register

Competition open for to Boys and Girls aged 7 to 10

Contact Antony Stewart: antony.stewart@qldcricket.com.au 0466 795 648
INTRODUCING Inter-ACT our online drama classes for all students 7 – 18 years.

Our Drama Academy has been creating confident, articulate and happy students for 40 years.

During Term 2 we were unable to conduct our face-to-face classes due to the lockdown. We were motivated to develop an online programme in order to keep students creative and connected.

We received so much positive feedback from our parents that we decided to keep online classes going for those students who could not attend our studio locations due to health concerns.

Students who live in rural areas don't have easy access to programmes such as ours and we thought that this could be of real value to them.

Our online Inter-ACT programme consists of weekly lesson plans, videos for the students to watch and Zoom sessions each week.
Keep your kids confident, creative and connected with Inter-ACT Online!

O'GRADY DRAMA
07 3353 0555
www.ogradydrama.com.au

inter-ACT online
7-18+ years
Fully funded allied health training

breakthru Community College are currently offering a fully-funded, nationally recognised Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance (HLT33015) to all eligible Townsville residents.

This course is ideal if you are:

- Unemployed and looking to return to the workforce
- Available for face to face in-classroom training
- Interested in a career as a health care professional

Limited spots available

Seats are limited and enrolment is subject to eligibility checks. If you’re interested in starting a fulfilling new career as an allied health professional, please reach out to Tracy Dawson for more details.

Website: breakthrucollege.edu.au  
Contact: 0438 449 868  
Email: tracy.dawson@breakthru.org.au

This training program is funded by the Queensland Government as a Skilling Queenslanders for Work, Community Work Skills Project. breakthru is a registered training provider (#91512) with the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA).
Crafty Kids Workshop

Playful Paper Clay Pots

We at Townsville City Galleries are excited to share our latest Crafty Kids workshop Playful Paper Clay Pots!

Be inspired by the North Queensland Ceramic Awards and create your very own playful paper clay pot!

Open the "How to" guide attached to see where your imagination takes you! You can also click the link or image below to watch our fun video tutorial!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6C22DAG9BRA&feature=youtu.be
Townsville City Galleries have partnered with CityLibraries to offer packs of workshop materials available on a first come first serve basis. Get in quick as materials are limited! Head to Aitkenvale, Thuringowa Central or Flinders Street Libraries from Saturday the 15th August to collect! Packs are also available from Perc Tucker Regional Gallery from Sunday the 16th August!

The North Queensland Ceramic Awards is on display until the 20th September at Perc Tucker Regional Gallery. Opening Hours are Tues-Fri & Sun: 10am-1pm. You can also check the exhibition out in the virtual tour HERE!

We would love to see how your playful pots turn out so don’t forget to send a photo of your completed creation to us at ptrg@townsville.qld.gov.au or share with us on Facebook or Instagram!

Visit TownsvilleCityGalleries on Facebook or Instagram to see what other people have shared and keep an eye out for more fun activities on our webpage!

Have fun!

Townsville City Galleries

Townsville City Council
2020 biennial NORTHERN QUEENSLAND ceramic awards
Showing 31 July – 20 September 2020
Perc Tucker Regional Gallery

Presenting partner
NORTHEAST QUEENSLAND POTTERS ASSOCIATION INC.
"STAYING CONNECTED"

Museum of Tropical Queensland at Home

Museum of Tropical Queensland will remain closed until early 2021 as we undergo major internal works to repair the sail roof over the Great Gallery and exhibition spaces.

During this time we will continue to expand as a virtual museum offering schools, teachers and students the opportunity to engage, learn and connect with us online.

View videos by our curators and scientists, download learning resources, and explore our online collection with more than 788,000 objects with Museum at Home.

LEARN MORE
Queensland Museum Network Learning Resources

Create a collection of resources to share with your students through Queensland Museum’s online learning platform. You can search resources according to subject and curriculum areas to access learning resources, images, collection items, and videos of our scientists and curators.

Many learning resources are interactive, so students can also save and share their answers for feedback.

LEARN MORE

Explore our collections online

Teachers and students can discover a rich diversity of cultural objects from significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collections, material from the Pacific Islands and important social history, archaeology and technology in our online collections.

Explore cultural objects distinctive to our region including the Aboriginal Collection from the Wet Tropics region. This collection includes baskets, boomerangs, shields and other handmade artefacts that are unique to the rainforest peoples of North Queensland.

LEARN MORE
FREE STEM Learning Activities

Recommended for Year 5 - 9

Evidence of past volcanoes can be seen all over the world, including Australia. In this resource 'Explore Volcanoes', students model two different volcanoes and explore how and why volcanoes affect the Earth's surface, the environment and human populations.

Explore this and our 'Earth Shattering Science' range of teacher resources and student activities available online.

LEARN MORE

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Encourage Curiosity

Students can submit their own questions for answers or read existing mysteries that have been solved by our team of experts.

LEARN MORE
Engaging Stories

Contributed to by museum researchers from a variety of scientific fields, the Queensland Museum blog is an ideal information resource.

LEARN MORE

Weir State School

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www.weirss.eq.edu.au

Facebook