

Cordalba State School Community Connect

Edition #3

Semester 1, 2017

The small school doing BIG things!

Principal's Message

Welcome to the third edition of the Cordalba State School Community Connect. I believe it is very important for the community to know what is happening in their **local school** and hope you enjoy reading this issue.



It is hard to believe that we're halfway through another school year! We started 2017 with 69 students and four classroom teachers. Our **enrolment numbers** were down on previous years; but there had been a general downturn across the district. On a brighter note, we started the year with a big cohort of 12 prep students. They have settled into their first year of school life very well. We are currently taking enrolments for 2018, so if you would like to be part of our **small school family**, please contact the office on **4126 6184**.

The key focus of our **improvement agenda** at Cordalba State School is **reading**. We have implemented a number of strategies to improve the level of our students' performance in reading, which have targeted two key areas: **decoding** and **comprehension**. We have been guided on our reading journey by highly sought-after reading academic, Dr. Carol Christensen. We are privileged to continue to work with Dr. Carol who is the key founder of this program; and with visits each term it gives teachers an opportunity for direct feedback and advice about the implementation of the program.

We have seen a huge improvement in our students reading levels across the whole school. Some students have improved two years in their reading and comprehension levels in only two months! **Reading is a lifelong skill** and research has shown that students who can't read by the end of Year Six will struggle to find employment in their future lives. I would encourage all community members to read to their children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren to enhance their love and understanding of the written word.

*"The more you read, the more things you know,
The more that you learn, the more places you go"*

Dr. Suess

Matt



FIND US!

Cordalba State School
1A Cemetery Road, Cordalba 4660
07) 4126 6184
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◆ RESPONSIBLE

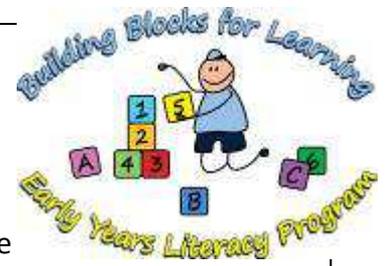
◆ RESPECTFUL

◆ SAFE

Building Blocks for Learning

From humble beginnings, our Early Years Literacy Program has grown to **encompass all students** across the school. Ranging from Prep to Year 6, students are placed into groups according to data collected as part of the program. Students in the lower school refine their **letter-sound knowledge** and ability to rhyme; other students focus on **decoding**, applying this knowledge and a developing awareness of spelling patterns; and upper school students work on a range of **comprehension processes**. This whole school approach enables close tracking of student progress across the year, and placement in groups can be adjusted, if required, according to growth or needs.

Look at our program in action!



Leadership Day

Original plans to hold a Leadership Day at the end of Term One at Lake Redbrook had to be postponed due to the torrential rain that came our way. Fortunately, Cordalba was happy to play host this term, and **students from Dallarnil SS and Booyal Central SS** joined our Year 4-6 students for a day of activity and fun. Each task required students to draw on their **teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills** to reach a positive outcome. Some students definitely rose to the challenge and many stood out as 'leaders'. It was a wonderful experience for all students, and certainly strengthened the links between the small schools. Supported by our School Chaplains and staff from each school, the day was a great success!

The pipe challenge was our favourite activity of the day. It was great fun doing the challenges with new friends - Jeorga & Sarah



I enjoyed working with other schools and making new friends. I learned that you can make friends from other schools - Samantha

'tis not winning - 'tis taking part that counts



↑ School band along with Isis High, performing the National Anthem.
↓ The service at school.

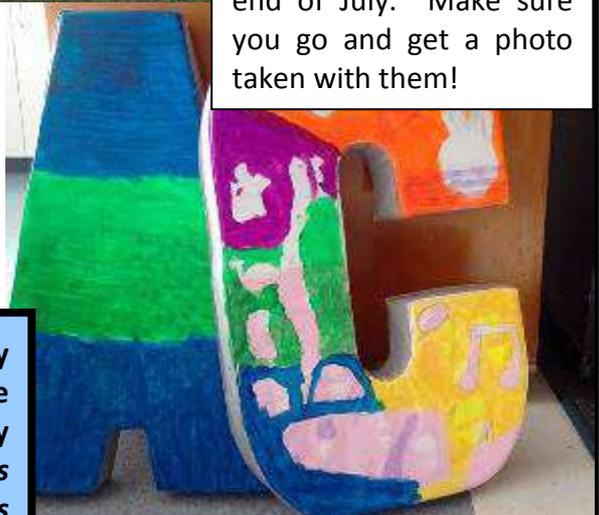


Anzac Day
The community Anzac Day Dawn Service, is **respectfully organised & delivered** each year by Cordalba SS captains & Year 6 students. This service is held in high regard and members of the wider community frequently praise their efforts.



BRC Art Initiative
How lucky to be selected to paint the 'letters' of the Childers Festival, an event organised by the Bundaberg Regional Council. **Every single student** gets to be involved, working within teams to design and paint letters that will be on display throughout the Childers Festival at the end of July. Make sure you go and get a photo taken with them!

A sneak peek at some of the initial artwork & design that has begun!



Our school truly embodies the nature of family, community and our motto, *"tis not winning – tis taking part that counts"*. What fantastic opportunities a small school can bring!



Building Relationships
Prep & Year 1 students invited the Year 4/5/6 class to join them for an afternoon of **technology fun**. The Prep/1 students were keen to show off their coding skills using the Bee-Bott, which can be programmed to follow a set of directions. The older students then shared their skills using the Sphero and Ollie. Students worked together & supported one another & mostly, had lots of fun!



Working Bee
Many hands make light work and this was indeed the case when staff and volunteers pitched in to help beautify the school gardens. It was a real demonstration of **school pride** working together to enhance our school environment. Many thanks must go to the volunteers who came along on the day and to Mrs Lait who got the ball rolling! How lovely and refreshed the gardens now look!



Koalas VS Wombats

Students have been busily preparing for the upcoming **Athletics Carnival** with the help of PE teacher, Ms Orreal, during PE lessons. Class teachers have also provided additional training before school, in break times and at the end of the school day to give students the best chance to engage in the carnival with improved fitness & skill levels. Students are aiming to win ribbons, house points and challenge personal bests in a range of track and field events.

Will the **KOALAS** take the trophy home or will **WOMBATS** reign supreme?!?!?



Students in all year levels entered items, individually or as a class, into the recent Childers Show. Look at our successes!!



↑ 1st prize, Yr 4/5/6!



↑ 2nd prize P/1!

1st prize Yr 2! →



↓ 1st prize, Yr 3!

A week in the life of...

Schools are such busy places. In addition to our regular curriculum program, take a look at what happens in just one week at Cordalba State School!

MONDAY: Tennis lessons for all classes with Mr Kevin Banner & fortnightly visits from the Learning Support Teacher

TUESDAY: PE lessons; Special Education Teacher supports students; School Chaplains at school & monthly visits from the Speech Language Pathologist

WEDNESDAY: LOTE lessons & Religious Education lessons

THURSDAY: Special Education Teacher supports students; Guidance Officer visits & Instrumental Music lessons

FRIDAY: Music lessons; Parade; School Chaplain at school & Years 4, 5 and 6 students attend afternoon sport in Bundaberg

Wow, what big things are happening at such a small school!

Cordalba Caterpillars Playgroup

Each week at **9am on Fridays**, families with children aged between 0-5 gather at Cordalba State School to experience a morning of fun! Each week a different theme is explored, with a range of activities to match. For only \$2 per family you are welcome to come along too!



Cordalba State School welcomes student enrolments at any time.

An inclusive, supportive school with modern new facilities and an emphasis on literacy and technology, students are well catered for by dedicated, passionate teachers in small classes.

Call now for further information, or to organise a tour of the school.

Principal: Matthew Parsons
Admin Officer: Alison Leeson

Email: principal@cordalbass.eq.edu.au

FIND US!

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