As Term 2 marches on, I am thrilled to report that our children performed admirably in the NAPLAN testing this week. We won’t receive notification of their results until much later in the year, but each child in our Year 3 and Year 5 cohorts approached the tests in a mature, calm and relaxed manner, showed confidence in their individual abilities and an eagerness to demonstrate everything they know and understand. Their positive approach to mandatory testing was exemplary and I can’t commend them enough. One student even exclaimed at the conclusion of one of the tests, “Miss, that was so much fun!”

So far, we’ve had a fantastic response to our Family Movie Night tomorrow night - at this stage we are expecting 40 adults and 40 children. The children are really excited to have an opportunity to show their parents through their classrooms and provide glimpses of the fantastic work that they do each day. They are also really excited about the movie and popcorn! I am really excited about providing another opportunity for our families and our staff to connect, the result of this will allow our children to make further connections in their learning journey. Once again, the night will begin at 5.30pm when classrooms will be open, the sausage sizzle will commence at 6.30pm and the movie will be shown from 7pm onwards. Our wonderful P&C has once again offered to fund the sausage sizzle completely so that everyone may enjoy a free dinner, and to them we are truly grateful. They are such a committed group of people who work tirelessly for the benefit of everyone’s children. Please make sure you read the information overleaf, outlining the wonderful works around our school that our P&C have been responsible for, that all contribute to making our school such a wonderful place for our kids to learn and grow.

It was wonderful to see so many parents attend the Prep/Year 1 assembly last Friday afternoon. The children and I had discussions beforehand about being brave enough to speak in front of lots of people and they all did very well. The children love any opportunity to share their learning and the fruits of their labour, and if as a school community we are able to join together and celebrate this learning, the message we are sending to our children says a lot about how much we value education. Further class assembly dates for this term: Years 2-4 – Friday 27th May; and Years 5/6 – Friday 17th June, both at 2.30pm.

In closing, I’d like to reiterate and hopefully clarify our current whole-school homework policy, known as RAHS (Reading and Homework Strategy) in case anyone has received mixed messages recently. In a nutshell, homework at LTSS involves READING. Class teachers may stipulate how much reading the children in their class must be doing each night, and children and families can decide whether the reading is individual, with a parent or sibling, or a shared experience as a whole family group. Research has shown that homework in the traditional sense provides little to no benefit to children who have already completed 5 hours of schooling each day. The children who have no trouble with the class work don’t really need to be doing more at home, and for those who are struggling, it can become a source of stress and angst for the whole family. However, reading is a cornerstone of all areas of learning (and life!) and needs to be practiced, and practiced often, so that continuous improvement is evident. So the next time your child announces that they have no homework, you’ll be able to tell them that they always have reading to do.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Family Movie Night tomorrow,
RECOGNISING AND APPLAUDING
OUR P & C ASSOCIATION
FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Do you know what your P&C has achieved lately?

* Purchase of new tables for the library
* Heavily subsidized camps and excursions (Cape Tribulation, Cooktown and Mungalli Falls, to name a few)
* Purchase of iPads, iPad covers and laptops
* Partially funded extension of the tennis court area
* Signage on the new extension
* 50/50 funding with the school for the repairs on our school news sign
* Repairs (sanding and polishing) to the Activity Building floor (children currently need to sit on blankets so they don't get splinters)
* New BBQ for school events

ONGOING:

* Fully funded School Performance Tours at our school
* Purchase and repair of all musical instruments
* Family Nights

And on top of all this, in 2015, $1000.00 raised from a cake stall went towards donations of $500.00 to Drought Relief and $500.00 to Little Aussie Helpers.

All of this work is done by a very small group of committed members, but they need your help!

The work they do benefits EVERY CHILD.

Ways you can help:

♦ Share your thoughts, ideas and suggestions for the betterment of our school at the next meeting
♦ Offer your time at District Sports Day and other school events
♦ Bake cakes and slices for our cake stalls (can be baked and frozen at any time—grandparents can help too!)
♦ BBQ duties
Happy Mother’s Day! I hope all the mothers out there had a wonderful Mother’s Day and enjoyed spending time with family. I hope that you enjoyed the lovely treats the students made for you. They worked hard and were all very proud of their efforts in cooking and creating a personalised box for their mum. Kaharne and Joel both proudly showed me their boxes Friday afternoon before heading home, however wouldn’t share the goodies inside. Thank you to Mrs Zamora for completing this task whilst I was on leave. I had a wonderful week with my parents who travelled up to visit me for my birthday and their first time to Tully.

A reminder that each night 5/6 students should be reading for 20minutes. This can be independently, to an adult, sibling, friend, pet or out loud to themselves. There are many ways this can take place in your home. It could be a family activity of everybody reading together or sharing in the one book.

As part of English studies we are seeking empty cereal boxes for our classroom. If you could send in any spare cereal boxes, that would be lovely as we explore persuasive advertising.

I hope to see you all this Friday night at our family movie night. Please come in and explore our classroom prior to the movie.

Angela Loudon

**SPORTING REPRESENTATION**

Congratulations to some of our students who have recently participated in District Trials and Championships:

**NETBALL** ~ Grace Smith and Hunter Richtsfeld (District Reps)

**FOOTBALL/SOCCER** ~ Grace Smith, Hunter Richtsfeld, Chelsea Zonta, Brock Bonassi and Brendan Verri (District Reps)

**CROSS COUNTRY** ~ Hunter Richtsfeld (District Rep)

**TENNIS** ~ Brendan Verri (District Rep)

**TOUCH FOOTY** ~ Grace Smith, Hunter Richtsfeld and Isabella Slater (injured) (District Rep)
Term Two Flies By!

Wow! Who would have thought it is Week 5 already! The children and I have been so busy with our learning projects and many other exciting and interesting things that it seems as though our days are just flying by.

During the last couple of weeks, we had heaps of fun putting up a tent! We excelled at working as a team and were able to use our problem-solving skills to figure out what to do when we ran into a couple of ‘glitches.’ After erecting the tent, we wrote out instructions so that it would be easier for someone to follow next time.

We have also been focusing on improving our persuasive writing skills by expanding our vocabulary to express ourselves decisively through the use of convincing, forceful words. During a group persuasive writing activity one group wrote a letter to the Principal attempting to persuade her to allow the students to sell icy-poles EVERY DAY! As a class we worked co-operatively to improve this piece of writing together and we will be sending the letter to Mrs Musumeci this week. We’ll see how successful we are...

We have also been busy with the many special events we have had recently. We were all very proud of the poppies we made for ANZAC Day and seeing them in our Peace Garden daily serves as a visual reminder of all those who have served our country throughout the ages to fight for the Australian values that we esteem: the ANZAC spirit of bravery, endurance and mateship.

Lastly, the children put so much love and hard work into their Mothers’ Day cards and gifts. I was so impressed with their efforts. I hope you were as delighted with the results as we were. Here’s a picture of Ryan and Brookye sharing their candle-holders and cards that they made for their special mums.