What a terrific start to 2016 the staff and students at Carool have had! Thanks again to the school community for your warm welcome. I was fortunate enough to head to the Bunning’s BBQ at Tweed on the 17th January, which is where I met some of the terrific P&C members. Congratulations on your hard work and the money raised on this day. Thank you to all of those who attended our first P&C meeting which was held on Monday. If you are not on the P&C committee, I strongly urge you to become involved for at least one year that your child is at school. It develops such a strong community support network and the work carried out by the parents is what drives our school.

Congratulations to the swimmers who participated in the Small Schools Swimming Carnival on Tuesday 2nd February. All students represented Carool Public School with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship. Some students have written about their experience on the next page.

The start of the school year is often very busy with lots of things happening. As I am teaching K-6, at the moment we are establishing class routines, expectations, and I am currently doing assessments. This is so I can develop my teaching and learning programs that cater for individual student strengths, and areas needing improving. Formal group work (Reading and Maths groups) and differentiated spelling will commence next week.

**What is Best Start?**

The Best Start initiative is an ongoing commitment in all government schools. It is intended to ensure that all students are on track in their literacy and numeracy learning by Year 3. The Best Start Kindergarten Assessment is designed to identify each student’s literacy and numeracy skills and understanding at the beginning of Kindergarten.

For parents of students in K-2, you received an envelope this week containing information on how you can assist your child at home, based on this assessment. If you have any questions on how you can support your child at home, please feel free to come and see me. The results collected from the assessment will guide my teaching and learning programs to cater for individual student needs.

*(continued on next page)*
There are a number of fantastic opportunities arising for our students this term and the newsletter will provide detailed information on these events. One of my main teaching focuses, as well as, my general belief in life is to grab every opportunity given to you, as each experience is only going to benefit your personal growth. The following information outlines some educational opportunities this term:

- **Writing competition: What Matters? 2016**
  
  **What actions do you think should be taken to build a better society?**
  **What would you change if you could?**
  **What do you want other people to care about?**

  **How to enter:** Write a 400-600 word opinion piece on what matters to you and why (specific criteria sheet available, see Miss Davies)

  For further information please see Miss Davies, or see the poster at school in the office window.

  We will also be discussing this in class.

- **UNSW Global Australia 2016 ICAS**
  (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools)

  The University of NSW offer competitions and Assessments every year for Digital Technologies, Science, Writing, Spelling, English and Mathematics. If your child is interested in participating in these, there is a small fee. The closing date for some of these competitions is the end of this term, with the assessment dates being sat throughout Term 2 and 3. For further information, please see Miss Davies or the information board. Again, I will mention this in class to the students that these apply to.

- **Say No to Bullying- Primary School Poster Competition**

  This competition aims to raise awareness of the issue of bullying by engaging children and teachers in dialogue to identify and address bullying behaviours within their communities. This year, the competition theme is **Differences Make Us Special. Don’t Bully.** The competition invites students to draw a picture depicting their interpretation of the competition theme. Discussions and ideas will be had in class. This poster will be designed during school time. Prizes for individual students will be awarded if successful, as well as, our school having the opportunity to win $1000. All school volunteers are required to complete a Working With Children Check. This involves reading group helpers, transporting students to events and the excellent Tutti Fruity program. Please see the note attached with the newsletter on how you can apply for this check. Any questions please see me.

  If parents are going to be assisting with transporting students to and from events this year, you need to bring in your license, registration papers and your CTP insurance so the school can photocopy these and keep a copy on file. If you did this last year, the school needs a new copy for this year. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

  Sophie Davies
  Principal

  ‘Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world’ Nelson Mandela

**TWEED COMMUNITY OF SMALL SCHOOLS SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

Below are the recounts from some of the students who attended the swimming carnival held at the Tweed Aquatic Centre in Murwillumbah on Tuesday 2 February.

**My family and I went to Murwillumbah swimming pool to participate in the Small Schools carnival. First I went in the 100m freestyle, but unfortunately I came last in that event. The next race was 50m breaststroke; I just came second in that event. Then it was 10 years old backstroke but unfortunately my name wasn’t on the list so I didn’t do it. Luckily the seniors were still racing for backstroke so I joined them. I didn’t receive a placing but thought I did well for a junior. Dad and mum said I looked like a professional! I was so proud of myself. Hopefully I will make it to district. By Phoebe.**

**The Best Carnival Ever!**

On Tuesday 2nd February six students went to the Small Schools Swimming carnival at Murwillumbah. Allira came with me in my car. When we got to Murwillumbah we were so nervous, but excited! I went in the Junior Boys 50m freestyle and breaststroke. Unfortunately I didn’t receive a place but I had lots of fun! It was a great day! Mum gave me some lollies and said I went really well. It was really fun! By Sonny

**Fun at the Swimming Carnival**

On Tuesday 6 people including myself went to the Small School Swimming carnival. The people that went were Elise, Sonny, Allira, Phoebe, Eliza and me.
The swimming carnival was held at Murwillumbah Public Pool. I went in 3 events. I came 1st in freestyle, 2nd in backstroke and 2nd last in breaststroke. I’m not surprised because I’ve never done breaststroke before. I’m really happy because this year I’m going to district with 2 of my good friends Elise and Phoebe. YAY!!!

By Milly

**The Swimming Carnival**

I went to the Swimming Carnival which was held at Murwillumbah pool with 5 other students. I decided to sign up for backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle which is pretty much all of the choices. I did it for a challenge and for fun!

I was sitting on the metal stool nervously waiting for my group to be called out. I was as nervous as a long tailed cat in a room of rocking chairs. I was in the 11 years group. I finally found myself standing on the diving block getting ready to jump off into the heated pool. A man was saying loudly “ON YOUR MARK, GET SET” … BANG! went the gun and we were off. I’m not a strong swimmer but I never really mind because it’s not about winning, it’s about having fun. I was coming 3rd in the race but I took too long taking a breath so I came last.

The same happened with breaststroke. I came last too but that’s alright because everyone’s different. In backstroke I finally came 3rd so that means I’m going to district. I was so happy!

By Elise

**2016 BUS PASSES**

Students have received their new bus passes for 2016. Please ensure they are attached to their school bags or in a secure pocket in their bag so they can show the bus driver if asked.

**UPDATE OF STUDENT DETAILS**

A number of forms have gone home with students this week that include the General Permission to Publish form and Update of Student Details and Permissions form. Please return to the office as soon as possible.

**PARENT ONLINE PAYMENTS**

A reminder to parents/carers that payment for various items eg uniforms, excursions etc, can be made via the school website. Using your Visa or MasterCard credit or debit cards click on the $Make a Payment tab. This takes you to a secure Westpac site where you can process your payments. If you would like more information or a demonstration please call into the office.

**P&C NEWS**

P&C News! Exciting things just ahead!
The P&C would like to welcome our wonderful new Principal, Sophie Davies! What a breath of fresh air and the kids are as happy as can be. 2016 is looking swell!

Our very first P&C 2016 was great! Thanks to the parents who were able to come along. It means so much to your School community to see your smiling, supportive faces there! Parents can do so much for the kids and the school when they have a voice and we all work together. A big welcome to a lovely new face today, Kylie Jorgensen-Browne (Harlon’s mum)

You are ALL invited to our next P&C (which happens to be our Annual General Meeting) on the 2nd March 3.15pm. Mark your calendars and do what you can to be there! We would all love to see you.

So what happens at a P&C meeting?
Fun and friendship, problem-solving and think tanking!
Miss Davies is working on getting our School Notice Board out the front of the school asap. That will look amazing! Can’t wait. It will be wonderful advertising for passers-by and a great way to give our kids a big pat on the back! We also moved to buy a brand new whipper snipper for Dave, our wonderful Groundsman!

Carool School needs more storage for all our sporting equipment so the kids can easily access what they want to. So watch this space!
We can’t thank Vanessa Seckold (Hayleys’ mum) enough for caring for the garden beds over the holidays! Watering by hand! Parents like you are absolute gold. We look forward to seeing the plants and new seedlings well watered and thriving again soon under your loving care!

Stay tuned and see you on the 2nd at 3.15pm!
ABSENCES
Parents/carers are reminded to explain all student absences from school promptly and within seven days from the first day of any period of absence through means such as telephone call, written note, or email. Justified reasons for student absence may include:
- Being sick
- A family emergency
Frequent or long term absences due to illness may require parents to obtain a medical certificate. Please read the attached Information for Parents leaflet on student attendance. If you have any questions please contact Miss Davies.

TUTTI FRUITY
Tutti Fruity will commence in the next couple of weeks. We will send home an order form the week that it will start. Please ensure your children bring their recess and lunch each Thursday until Tutti Fruity commences.

FROM THE COMMUNITY

Kingscliff Hockey Club
REGISTER NOW to play in 2016

Bilambil Terranora Junior Soccer Club is a family friendly club, with a focus on kids having fun while getting fit.

Contact us if your kids want to join a team, you need help with registration, or you're thinking about joining us and have some questions.

bilambiljuniorsoccer@hotmail.com
www.facebook.com/BilambilSoccerClub
0490 200 611

Tutti Fruity will commence in the next couple of weeks. We will send home an order form the week that it will start. Please ensure your children bring their recess and lunch each Thursday until Tutti Fruity commences.

FROM THE COMMUNITY

Go4Fun
Free Healthy Lifestyle Program for kids 6.5 to 13 years
✓ Helps kids reach a healthy weight
✓ Fun games & exercise for kids
✓ Build self-esteem & motivation
CALL: (02) 66 207 502 or 1800 780 900

Tumbulgum Rangers Sports Club
2016

+ Registrations will commence soon for the 2016 Football (Soccer) Season for boys and girls turning 5 - 15 years during 2016.
+ Sign-on will be at the Clubhouse in Bawden Street, Tumbulgum on Saturday 6th February 12:30pm - 2:30pm & Sunday 7th February 9:00am - 11:00am
+ Players aged 5, 6 and 7 years will receive a complimentary ball and shin pads.
+ All players receive a polo shirt.
+ Mini Roos games are played locally.
+ Older age groups play in the Tweed and Byron Shires.

For further enquiries please call and leave your details with:
Brian Breckenridge - 02 6676 6343.

Kingscliff Hockey Club
SIGN-ON DETAILS FOR JUNIORS
When: Sat 6th February
Where: Merv Edwards Oval, Sand St, Kingscliff (across the road from the Cudgen Leagues Club)
Time: Sat 11:00am-2:00pm (DST)
Inquiries: Time Prichard 0418 490 586, Ross Salmon 07 5524 6204

Players for all Grades are required ie beginners, 5 to 9yrs, along with Juniors up to 16 yrs. Season begins late March, 2016
This is a monster. My monster has a big eye in the middle of its face. It has 2 ears and spikes on them. The monster has sharp teeth in his mouth. Hayley

BEAUTIFUL WORKS OF ART FROM OUR STUDENTS

Top left and right- watercolour paintings by Dane & Wakinyan.

Bottom left and right – oil pastel drawings by Hayley and Gypsy.