Week 8 – 17/3/16

Welcome
Welcome to week 8. I would like to thank all of the dedicated staff at Wowan for making term one such a great success and the students for making our job so enjoyable. Also a big thanks to our parents who have supported the school throughout the term, your support is truly appreciated.

I hope that all of our families have a splendid Easter break and come back to school refreshed and ready for term two.

Teacher Interviews
We welcome any parents who wish to have a meeting with their child’s teacher to ring the school and book a suitable time. I understand that there is only a short time left for this term, therefore we are happy for parents to arrange a time for early next term if it is more suitable.

Cross Country
It was great to see the amazing parent support our students had at our Cross Country last week. All of the students loved having parents watching them run. The students had lots of fun with plenty of smiles on their faces while they were running the gruelling race. Congratulations to all of our place getters on the day and the students who were selected to compete at Small Schools this Friday.

Good luck to the students on Friday.

Soccer Gala Day
On Monday the Year 3-6 students travelled to Jambin to participate in a Soccer Gala day. They enjoyed the opportunity to participate in different sporting activities and making new friends from other schools within our cluster. It’s great that our students are given the opportunity to make friendships across schools and further develop their team work skills through sport.

Camp
There is a camp meeting at Jambin school today starting at 4pm. Early next term I will have more details about camp and the final costs for families. The students have been working very hard this term raising money for camp. Thank you to all of the families who have supported the fundraising efforts by giving their child/children money for sausage sizzles, icy cups or pizzas. For Term One we have raise $350 to go towards reducing the cost for school camp.

School Centenary
On Monday a Centenary meeting was held at school. It was great to see the number of community members that participated in the meeting and many great ideas have been generated from the meeting. The centenary will be held on the 17th of September and it will be a family day which show cases the school and its history. The committee has created a Facebook page which you can join to keep up to date with progress and communicate with past students. It can be found by searching Wowan State School 100 Year Celebrations.

School Review
On Monday and Tuesday of this week I participated in a School Peer Review Workshop. These two days have helped develop my understanding of the processes that will occur when our review takes place next term. I am looking forward to the experience as it will provide feedback to myself and the school community about areas which need further development within the school.

Attendance
If your child is away for any reason please remember to contact the school either by telephoning on the day or providing a note to your child’s teacher when returning to school.
Crazy Hair Day

On Monday we will be raising money for the Leukaemia Foundation through hosting a Crazy Hair Day. We encourage students to wear free dress and be creative with their hair styles. We have purchased hair spray which students will use to decorate their hair. Please help support this course and start thinking about some crazy hair styles, I’m excited to see the outcomes.

Easter Celebrations

On the last day of school we welcome parents and families to come along and celebrate the term and Easter. Our afternoon will begin at 1:30pm with our bonnet parade. Students in prep-3 will be creating their bonnets in class and years 4-6 will create theirs at home. We will then proceed with the famous egg drop. This is where students and families have created a crafty egg protection creation which will guard a raw egg when dropped from the veranda onto the cement below. Please ensure that when creating the guards we are able to get to the egg without breaking it to check if the egg survived. Items usually used are cotton wool, bubble wrap and tissues. Then the afternoon will end with a whole school egg hunt within the school. It will be fun afternoon to end our term, hope to see you all there.

My School

My School is a website which compares similar schools. Similar Schools are schools across Australia which share a similar ICSEA, this number is calculated from the census and calculates our community’s education levels, income and other various things. Some similar schools which parents might know are Moura SS, Alice Springs SS and Clermont SS. Our year threes performed exceptionally well in this data set and our community should be very proud of this effort. Year 5 results have been withheld due to low numbers.

Our school results have continued to improve from 2014 to 2015. It is very obvious that these improvement trends are a result of the strong focus our teaching team has put towards having high expectations for all students and our belief that every student can learn and will succeed at school.

You can see these results by visiting https://www.myschool.edu.au/ and searching for Wowan State School.

Our current results can be viewed on the next page.

Wowan’s Improvement Agenda—Writing—Update

This term we collaboratively developed our key improvement agenda for the year, which is writing and improving curriculum delivery. To begin our improvement agenda this term we have placed a strong focus on understanding our current data and how this can be used to drive improvement within our school.

All staff have participated in numerous Professional Development sessions in regards to building data literacy skills in the use of CQ3S within our school. CQ3S allows us to look at individual students and track their progress and pin point individual questions or topics students are getting incorrect in their diagnostic testing. Next Wednesday staff will be travelling to Biloela to participate in an information session on CQ3S, run by our regional Project Education Office.

This term the students have been working towards improving their narrative writing skills and next week they will be completing a story for assessment. This will be the first assessed item for the Year 1-2 students and will be used to guide next terms teaching and used as a tracking tool to track progress. For the Year 3-6 students this will be their second written assessment and they will be demonstrating how they have developed as writers throughout the term. I will be collecting all the data to check individual student progress from the beginning of the year and provide feedback to students on their progress and where to go next for their writing.

Also before the end of term our staff will complete in school moderation. We do this by having other staff marking student assessment items and then comparing the outcome with the base teachers results. Moderation is completed to ensure that we have consistence in our marking across the school. As a school we also participate in cluster moderation which will occur next term.

In term two we will be further developing our school’s curriculum plan to demonstrate what role writing plays across all of the curriculum areas. We will also be working on how staff can drive our improvement agenda through the feedback they are providing students in relation to their writing skills.

Our goal is to have all students in years 3 and 5 performing above the national minimum in NAPLAN and have 33% in year three and 42% in Year five performing within the upper two bands.
Preps have eagerly begun home readers and letter and number sight cards. As your child does their homework at home each night, it is then repeated every morning with either Penny or I. Preps are going great with their daily Ants on the Apple activities as well as letter writing and their phonics activities.

The Prep and Year 1 class have signed up for a pen pal kind of group called the Easter Exchange. In the Easter Exchange there are 25 other schools around Queensland and one in WA. We as a class write a letter to each school about Wowan and our school as well as send them an Easter craft item. So far we have received 17 letters and craft items which are displayed on a large map in the classroom.

In Science over the past two weeks we have began discussing and preparing our assessment tasks. The Prep, Years 1, 2 and 3 group have planned which objects they will wrap around a water bottle to create the best insulation. We will then measure the temperature of each bottle to see which helps keep the water the coolest. Year 4, 5 and 6 children have to design, make and test a filter to clean water. This will be happening in Week 9 as Soccer was on this Monday therefore no Science.

In Technology we have all been using the code.org site to learn the basic steps of programming. The Year 1, 2 and 3 children have been learning about debugging, moving north, south, east or west, as well as using repeat blocks. The Year 4, 5 and 6 class have continued with using angles, pixels, sequencing and debugging programming to complete a task. Some activities in both groups are getting a bit tricky but great problem solving is occurring between children and adults.

In Art the Prep, Year 1, 2 & 3s have created their Easter Bonnets for the last day of terms Easter Bonnet Parade. This week we have been completing some Easter craft activities including stained glass Easter eggs and an Easter basket.

### Reading & Comprehension:
- Making Predictions
- Guided Reading Groups

### Grammar & Punctuation
- **Grammar**: Proper Nouns and Pronouns
- **Punctuation**: Full Stops, Question Marks and Exclamation Marks

### Spelling Focus
- Penny - Ants on the Apple and Alphabet
- Jo - 'er', 'eer' & 'er' and 'ou' & 'ow'
- Liz - 'dge' & 'ge' and 'kn', 'wr' & 'gn' - silent letters

### Maths Focus

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>Week 8</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>P Number &amp; Place Value</strong></td>
<td><strong>Patterns &amp; Algebra</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Comparing quantities</td>
<td>- Exploring patterns in the environment</td>
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<td>- Ordering collections</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Ordering numerals &amp; quantities</td>
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<td><strong>1 Chance</strong></td>
<td><strong>Number &amp; Place Value</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Describing outcomes of chance events</td>
<td>- Partitioning ten</td>
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<td>- Representing counting sequences</td>
<td>- Solving addition and subtraction problems</td>
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<td>- Exploring ‘teen’ numbers</td>
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### Student Achievement Awards
Banjo, Maggie, Thomas, Ashton

### Behaviour Awards
Ava and Madelyne

**Our Vivacious Vocabulary Words**
- stunning
- magnificent
- awful
- splendid
- rumble
- gigantic
- filthy
- splendid
My goodness how time flies when you’re having fun!!! The term is almost over and what a busy couple of weeks it has been. All grades have started assessment or monitoring tasks in both English and Geography. Each and every student is trying their very best. Thank you.

Sport is also playing a big role right now with Cross Country and Soccer Days, as well as Aussie Animal visits and singing at the MPC. Wowan State School is only small but every effort is made to give the students a well rounded education with lots of outside experiences.

**Students of the fortnight!!!!!!**

Cooper—Rory—Kaelan

**ENGLISH Years 2 and 3**
- C2C Unit of Work—George’s Marvellous Medicine
- Text type
- Purpose of written text
- Audience—who is it written for?
- Antonyms and Synonyms

**ENGLISH Years 4, 5 and 6**
- Short Stories—C2C Unit of Work
  - The Loaded Dog
  - Main character grid
  - Vivid language—Similes/ Alliteration
  - Monitoring Task
  - Art will be integrated with our English unit

**Geography Years P, 1, 2 and 3**
- C2C Unit 1— What is Place?
  - Prep Assessment—Modelling and Mapping a personal space
  - Year 1 Assessment—Features of places
  - Year 2 Assessment—Planning a Town
  - Year 3 Assessment—Representing Places

**Geography Years 4, 5 and 6**
- C2C Unit 1— Diversity of People and Places
  - Year 4 Assessment—Mapping and Location
  - Year 5 Assessment—Describing Location
  - Year 6 Assessment—Measuring Diversity of place.

**Just a Thought:** Every child has the right to be supported and protected by the people in their lives....
It is hard to believe that term one is already nearly over. It only feels like yesterday that we were unpacking school bags and labelling books on the first day of school.

I am very proud of the effort that the students have put in this term with their work. Some students have made significant progress this term. I have found as the term has progressed the students are getting more involved in lessons and have really become active learners within the classroom. I encourage them to continue this next term. Remember students you are the leaders of your own learning.

It’s great to see a high number of students within my class have outstanding attendance records for term one. The following terrific students have an 100% attendance record for term 1:

- Gemma-Lee Eames
- Kamrin Donovan
- Zakayah McMahon
- Zaylah McMahon
- Lindley Olsson

Top job, I am very impressed by this outstanding record.

I encourage any parents who wish to know more about their child’s progress to book in for a parent teacher interview with me. Also early next week students will be taking their data books home to share with their families. These will have their diagnostic test results and some work samples. Please remember to have a read of your child’s writing and compare their beginning of term sample to the one just completed. You should see some great improvements. If you have any questions in regards to items in this folder please contact me.

I hope that all of the students and families have a safe and enjoyable Easter Break.

**Students of the fortnight:**

Roxy – For your outstanding results in our diagnostic testing, your improvement is astonishing.

Jai – For working hard on your writing and always trying to improve through editing your work.

Jack – Behaviour

Good luck to the students competing in Cross Country
FROM THE MUSIC ROOM
Once again the students excelled in their performance at the St Patrick’s Day Luncheon. Several members of the audience commented on how much they enjoyed it.
Prep—Year 3 charmed the audience with “Ye cannae shove your Granny” and the years 4-6 class followed up with “Who threw the overalls in Mistress Murphy’s Chowder”. Every student should feel very proud.

Now it is full steam ahead to prepare for the Eisteddfod. Prep—3 are learning the basics of reading music. They are progressing really well.

Years 4-6 are coming along with the Ukulele playing. They are also progressing with their theory and gaining more confidence in reading musical manuscripts.

Don’t forget your Homework.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS
Size 10 and 12 school shirts have arrived. Also size small hats are back in stock.

PREP PHOTO
Our prep photo which was taken at the start of the year by the Central Telegraph will be published this Friday.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
School photo envelopes are being sent home today. Please note that these envelopes are personalised envelopes with student names and details already printed on them. Students are to return their own envelope on photo day, Tuesday 12th April and hand it to the photographer. Spare envelopes and Sibling envelopes are available at the office.

HOME READER BAGS
We have more home reader bags available now. Due to a new supplier, the home reader bags will cost $6.50.

P&C EASTER RAFFLE
P & C are holding an Easter Raffle and are asking for donations of Easter Eggs or Easter items from families. Any donations can be handed in to the office. Raffle tickets were sent home with last fortnights newsletter. Please return all tickets and money to the school by Wednesday 23rd March. Raffle will be drawn at the school’s Easter Parade on Thursday 24th March.

SCHOOL BANKING
School banking is every Thursday. If you would like to deposit money into your child’s account please send it in on Thursday. If your child would like to participate, forms are available from the office.

PAYING ACCOUNTS
Please remember that as a small school we do not have the ability to give out change. This also applies to uniform sales paid to the P&C. The correct money is much appreciated.

MOBILE LIBRARY
The Mobile Library visits the school every second Tuesday. The next mobile library visit will be after the Easter break on Tuesday 12th April.