

WHAT'S ON

FEBRUARY

- Thursday 7th P&C Meeting
- Thursday 21st P&C AGM Meeting

MARCH

- Thursday 13th P&C Meeting
- Good Friday 21st
- Easter Monday 24th

APRIL

- Thursday 17th P&C Meeting
- Weipa parent interviews 1st-4th
- Anzac Day

MAY

- Labour Day Holiday 5th
- Thursday 8th P&C Meeting
- 3/5/7/9 State Wide Testing 13th-15th
- U8's week 23rd-30th
- Education Week 26th—1st June

JUNE

- Weipa Fishing 6th—8th
- Queens Birthday P/Hol 9th
- Thursday 12th P&C Meeting
- Aurukun TB testing 17th & 19th
- Reports Issued 26th (Weipa except Year 12)

JULY

- Mapoon NAIDOC Celebrations 10th
- Thursday 17th P&C Meeting
- Croc Fest Weipa 22nd-24th
- Weipa NAIDOC week 21st-25th
- Westpac Maths Comp 31st

AUGUST

- Athletics Carnival
- Thursday 14th P&C Meeting
- Cape Yr6 Leadership Camp 11th

SEPTEMBER

- QCS 2nd & 3rd
- Thursday 11th P&C Meeting
- Weipa Parent Interviews 15th—19th

OCTOBER

- Thursday 9th P&C Meeting
- SFD 20th
- College swimming carnival
- Mapoon Dare to be deadly transition trip to Cairns 27th-31st

NOVEMBER

- Weipa Senior Presentation evening 12th
- Thursday 13th P&C Meeting
- Senior Formal 14th
- Last day Yr 12 14th
- Mapoon Yr 6 Graduation
- Yr 10/11 Work experience 24th-28th
- Last day Yr 10 & 11 28th
- Reports issued 28th Yr 10 & 11's

DECEMBER

- Thursday 4th P&C Meeting
- Reports Issued 4th Prep-9

Term 1:	Jan 29	-	Apr 4
Term 2:	Apr 15	-	Jun 27
Term 3:	Jul 15	-	Sep 19
Term 4:	Oct 6	-	Dec 12

STUDENT FREE DAYS

- APRIL:** Mon 14th
- JULY:** Mon 14th
- OCT:** Mon 20th

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL CARE

- Weds:** Fun Activities
- Thurs:** SOCCER activities
- Times:** 2.35 - 3.33pm

Meet in front of PE shed at HighSchool. Don't forget your **HAT & WATER BOTTLE**



Welcome back to school, we have definitely hit the ground running for the 2008 school year following the Colleges tremendous success in 2007. 2008 will be a year for the College to cement previous successes and using the momentum generated from this, to achieve greater results for our students, parents and communities. I would like to congratulate our graduating Year 12s for their achievements in gaining OPs, employment or training pathways. The College is working to ensure pathways for each of these graduates are available, secure and successful, this is part of our Service Guarantee. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all College staff for their efforts during the 2007 school year. Welcome also to the new staff, teachers, parents and students to the Western Cape College community. As always, at the start of every year I set a number of strategic priorities to drive the progress of the Western Cape College. This method ensures that the commitments we make to our communities are fulfilled and our accountabilities and responsibilities met. The priorities for the 2008 school year will drive College activities and deliver continued success.

The Western Cape College priorities for 2008 are:

1. Complete the *Bound for Success: Education Strategy for Cape York* implementation strategy.
2. Consistency of Curriculum through P-12 and across campuses with an emphasis on quality and excellence of teaching methodologies.
3. Improve student attendance.
4. Improve retention and completion.
5. Improve literacy and numeracy attainment.
6. Improve the depth of knowledge and performance of staff and leadership in Indigenous education.
7. Implement successful behaviour management strategies.
8. Focus on information technologies and the integration of these into the curriculum.

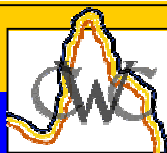
The activities of Western Cape College staff will be driven by these priorities to ensure our continued success in producing positive learning outcomes for the children of the Western Cape. For additional information on the Western Cape College and our policies I invite you to visit our website on www.westerncapecollege.eq.edu.au.
Regards, Ian Mackie, Director Western Cape College.

**Mapoon Students Lead the Way!**

All of the students at Mapoon Campus are superstars, and loving being given opportunities to show-off their deadly skills. We have decided to capitalise on this talent pool and hopefully one-day shoot ourselves to personal fame and fortune through their achievements. To ensure this dream is realised, we have introduced new student leaderships roles for Year 5 & 6 students, to further develop their capacity for great success. In 2008 the Mapoon Campus will elect their first School Leaders and Sports Captains. Students have already held nominations for the election, and showed amazing confidence and enthusiasm by even nominating themselves for the roles. All nominations were seconded by peers, and the election speeches will be held in the coming weeks. Following the elections, the successful candidates will accept their new role at a special Badge Ceremony with peers, parents and invited guests. It will be a tough race as all of the candidates possess wonderful leadership qualities. So, in the future, when a Mapoon student is being hounded by the paparazzi and asked "Who gave you the first leadership opportunity that lead you to being Prime Minister?" they will surely reply, "The staff of Mapoon Campus", and the fame will roll in! So watch to find out who will be the future leaders of Mapoon Campus, and maybe one-day, Australia!

**GREAT START TO THE NEW YEAR FOR AURUKUN**

Aurukun would like to introduce you to the talented new staff who have become part of our team for 2008. This year we have two Prep classes that will be taught by Miss Reegan Einam and Miss Janice Cosnett. Miss Trina McBurnie has taken on the role of Year 2 teacher after completing her final teaching prac and internship at Aurukun in 2007. Year 4/5 will have Miss Colleen Page as their teacher while teaching in Year 6 will be Miss Ruth Sligo. Miss Laura Brewell is starting her teaching career with Year 6/7 and returning for a short contract is Mr Noel Waterman in Year 9/10. This year Aurukun also welcomes Mr Adam Rolender who will be our full time Guidance Officer. We are extremely happy to welcome our new staff and hope they find their experiences both exciting and rewarding. Proudly, but with a tinge of sadness Aurukun has said goodbye to many students as they embark on the next stage of their learning at boarding schools. These students have displayed maturity in their classes at Aurukun and an eagerness to reach their goals by following a school pathway to help them in achieving this. This year Marisha Walmbeng and Claudia Moodonuthi (Clayfield College), Antonio Marpoondin (Nudgee College), Reginald Blowhard (Djarragun College), Nadia Wolmby and Jade Wolmby (Blackheath Thornburgh) and Angus Waia (Western Cape College – Weipa) will be completing Year 8 at these schools. Dean Tybingoompa (St Brendan's), Marita Yunkaporta (Djarragun College), Rickeisha Kerindun and Sadonia Kerindun (Mt St Bernards) will also continuing their secondary schooling at these schools. These students join the many students already at boarding schools from Aurukun and are inspiring role models for other students at demonstrating the excellent standards being achieved.



Hello from PAFT for 2008

A quick note from Yvette and Letitia; the Parents as First Teachers Team. We are both busily compiling our first home learning kits for 2008 and will be delivering these door-to-door in the near future. Once again the kits will contain many informative pieces of interest for families. We hope one and all has a happy, safe and restful holiday and both of us are looking forward to all of you very soon.

Until then, *Yvette & Letitia*

Teacher Induction at Weipa Campus

Weipa Campus of Western Cape College welcomed 16 new teachers at the commencement of the new school year. To assist these newcomers to get to know more about the local communities and provide an opportunity for them to meet some of the people they will be working with in their various roles at the school, the College organised a Cultural Awareness Evening last Thursday. The evening commenced with a Keynote address by Dr Gary McLennan and was followed by a question and answer forum led by a panel of local identities. With an audience of over seventy people, the evening was a resounding success with participants requesting further events of a similar nature. Special thanks to the Values Education Team, the DARE team who assisted in the organisation of the event and all those who attended.



WESTERN CAPE COLLEGE WEIPA CAMPUS Parents and Citizens Association

On the 21st February 2008 the Annual General Meeting of the Weipa Campus P & C will be held.

Venue & Time: Weipa Campus Western Side Common Room at 7pm

At the AGM the Executive Committee of the P & C will be elected.

Officers Bearers include: President First Vice President, Second Vice President, Correspondence Secretary, Minutes Secretary, Treasurer (P & C Accounts), Wages Treasurer (Tuckshop Wages), Publicity Officer, Grants Submission Officer.

Once elected the President will call for Sub Committee Office Bearers

Tuckshop Committee includes: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Smart Choice Representative (2)

Fundraising Coordinators will be sought for Annual Fundraising P & C Events

(Some positions have already been filled – Thankyou to those who have volunteered)

This can include but not limited to:

College Discos

Wrist Band Coordinator – Fiona Bielby

Family Fishing Classic Bar – Meetings / Permit / Ordering Stock/ Ice / Rosters

Family Fishing Classic Food – Meetings/Liaising with Tuckshop Convenor /Tuckshop Subcommittee / Rosters

Family Fishing Classic Fairy Floss

Family Fishing Classic Novelty – Fish Pond/Prizes

Athletics – organise volunteer roster liaise with Tuckshop Committee/ Convenor

Cross Country organise volunteer roster liaise with Tuckshop Committee/ Convenor

Swimming Carnival – Light sticks Fiona & Jenny

Christmas Raffle 2008

Croc Festival – Meetings and Liaising with Tuckshop Convenor / Tuckshop Subcommittee

Melbourne Cup Coordinator – Kym Prentice

Love to see you there! Many Hands make Light Work! Light

Refreshment Served.

WCC WC P & C Committee 2007

Welcome Miss Maude.

The staff, students and parents of Mapoon Campus would like to welcome the newest addition to the teaching team— Mrs Maud Hastie. Miss Maude is an experienced teacher who has come to us from Yarrabah. She is very excited to be here and she fell in love with the community the moment she arrived. She will be teaching the Year 4/5/6 class in 2008 and will be a great asset to the Campus. We wish her the best of luck for the school year and her new life in Mapoon



Learning in the Early Years.

The Queensland Government has introduced a Prep Year of full-time schooling for children who turn five by June 30 in the year they start school. International research shows the benefits of children taking part in full-time quality programs before they start Year 1. This research also shows that if children start formal schooling when they are a little older, they generally do better than their younger peers. An *early years curriculum* has been developed specifically for use in schools with prep classes. The Prep Year builds on your child's learning at home and in other places like kindergarten and child care. To get a copy of the *Early Years Curriculum Guidelines*, and to read more about the Prep Year, go to QSA's website at www.qsa.qld.edu.au

How can I get involved?

Western Cape College recognises the vital role of parents in their child's education. There are many opportunities for you to participate in your child's learning. Contact Kathy Street for suggestions on how to become involved in the school and your child's experiences in the Early Years program.

The learning experiences in the Prep Year will help your child to:

- * take on responsibilities become more independent
- * respect other people
- * cooperate with others
- * make sensible choices about their health and safety
- * develop their physical skills
- * develop their oral language
- * develop their understanding of literacy and numeracy learn how to be thinkers and problem solvers
- * use their imagination and creativity
- * learn about their environment.



WHAT WILL I SEE MY CHILD DOING?

Your child will be:

- * investigating interests
- * making choices
- * talking with teachers and other children
- * planning with their teacher about the things they might do, and carrying out their plans
- * designing and making things
- * singing, dancing and painting
- * listening to stories
- * playing games indoors and outdoors, climbing, balancing, jumping
- * planning and sharing in make-believe play
- * using computers to draw pictures, make signs, play games and find out about the world.
- * taking part in everyday experiences like gardening, cooking and tidying up
- * writing and copying signs during their play
- * learning about size, shape, weight and measurement as they construct things indoors and outdoors



Self Othering: A New Concept to Managing Classrooms

At Western Cape College we are always looking for new and different ways of thinking about Indigenous education. As part of our annual teacher induction program this year the College was lucky enough to have Dr Gary McLennan visit our Weipa and Aurukun Campuses to talk to staff about his concept of self-othering. Our Director has discussed this concept in previous columns and Gary's visit enabled all staff to gain greater understanding of this new thinking. Gary has been working in education for over thirty years and has worked in many different countries and contexts including as a senior lecturer at Queensland University of Technology. Gary talked about looking at Indigenous education through understanding various philosophical, social and political dimensions. The historical approaches to Indigenous education were discussed and new ways of thinking presented. The concept of self-othering advocates educators coming to a classroom equipped with the hope of transformation. This means that teachers innately believe that all children have the potential to succeed and this is reflected in the way they manage individuals and classrooms. Gary highlights self identity as an important contributor to personal success and achievement. Essentially, self-othering promotes greater understanding of differences by understanding how and why people have formed their individual identity. This understanding gives people the opportunity to create personal transactions for the betterment of others. Therefore, in a schooling context this understanding provides teachers with increased understanding of individual students' to ensure their learning and personal needs are met. The presentation by Gary at Aurukun and Weipa was well received with positive feedback from teachers and staff with all leaving certainly thinking about these new concepts and their place in the classroom.

