

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
- 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

JULY: Mon 14th
OCT: Mon 20th

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL

Mon: 2.30-3.30pm Active After School
3.30-5.00pm Boxercise
Thur: 2.30-3.30pm Active After School
3.30-5.00pm Boxercise
Meet in front of PE shed at High School.



FROM THE DIRECTORS DESK

Homework is a very important part school life and your child should be receiving homework even as early as year one. Homework time of an afternoon can be stressful for parents and students. After a day in the classroom the last thing some students want to do is more school work and parents are often concerned about the amount of homework, too much or not enough? The amount of homework students should be doing depends on year level and individual needs. In the early years it is important for parents to get their children in the routine of doing homework, this eases transitions between year levels where homework time increases. Developing homework habits is a really valuable contribution parents can make to their child's education. Homework allows student's to revise work learnt during the school day, prepare for the next day's activities and in the higher grades perform research activities for assignments. These activities after school provide an environment for students to plan and prioritise; essential life-skills. Families' lead busy lives and homework needs to fit into these lives, promoting the importance of prioritising, scheduling and planning to ensure everything is completed on time. Homework time is also a time parents can use to engage in their child's education, this however does not mean do the homework for them! Helping children understand tasks can be a bonding activity between parents and children, however if you are concerned about your child's abilities to understand certain activities please talk to their teacher. Some homework tips include:

Set up a homework space that is quiet where homework is done at a regular time

Plan what work needs to be completed and allocate time spent on each activity

Take short breaks between activities

Set realistic goals

Talk to your teacher if there are problems

Praise students for their efforts not their results.

If you would like to find out more on homework policies at Western Cape College visit

www.westerncapecollege.eq.edu.au. If you are concerned about homework or your child is having trouble with homework please talk to your teacher.

Regards, Ian Mackie, Director Western Cape College

**Mapoon Excellence Story**

Here at Mapoon Campus we are very privileged to have such hard working and dedicated Teacher Aides such as Sheree and Jason Jia. Many of our Aides have once been wonderful students of the school and have continued to be valued members of the community by showing their excellence as role models and Teachers today. Another such committed and professional Teacher Aide is Heidi Booth. Heidi has been at Mapoon for nearly 20 years and been working at the school for 4 years. She works and studies full

time and is currently in her second year of an Education Degree. Heidi's contributions to the school are above and beyond her job description which she does regularly and without fuss. Heidi rises to many daily school challenges with gusto and vigour and has a strong and professional work ethic which is acknowledged and respect by all staff and students. She is currently working in Miss Alex's 1/2/3 class and will shortly start her preservice training in the coming weeks.

We wish her well and know she will do a terrific job. Thankyou Heidi for all your hard work.

You are an inspiration to many students and a highly valued worker of Mapoon School.



My name is Grant Marbendinar, I am 14 years old and in year 9 at Aurukun State School. I was born in Cairns, but grew up in Aurukun. My totem is the Taipan. I like coming to school to learn, play basket ball with my friends, and use the computers. I am very excited because I will be going to a

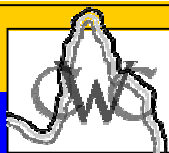
boarding school next term. I think that school is very important to do well in life. Because of where we live it is important for me to keep one foot in black-fella way, and one foot in white-fella way. My dream is to become a policeman so I can help make Aurukun a safe place for everybody.

Education Week in Aurukun is affording the students many opportunities to undertake activities that they have not previously experienced in the areas of Science, Art and Maths. These activities have been designed to challenge students and help them understand the power of critical thinking and problem solving.

The students have been having an exciting time making air powered rockets, making and playing with goop, competing in Maths bingo and becoming budding artists using the techniques of Andy Warhol.

Education Week will culminate in a finale at the Athletics Day Carnival with students, families, community members and staff watching students participate in races, viewing pieces of the Art Exhibition and sharing lunch.



**Expression of Interest**

Expressions of Interest are being called for a person/s, on an as needed basis, to provide consultancy services, which includes submission writing, and the evaluation of projects and programs, facilitate activities and meetings, as well as follow-up and monitor progress of tasks. The successful applicant may also be required to prepare strategic reports for the Western Cape College. The successful person may be required to travel to schools in the Cape and Gulf to fulfil this. Interested persons are advised to contact Ian Mackie at the Western Cape College (4090 6411) for further information. Expressions of Interest close Friday, 20 June 2008

Traineeship News

Elfreda Yunkaporra is organising her Resume and Curriculum Vitae this week in readiness for her Business Administration Traineeship with the Department of Corrections. This position will be based in Aurukun and afford Elfreda who has completed four years at a high end boarding school in Cairns, the opportunity to continue to develop her career pathway. Good Luck with your interview Elfreda!

Mentored Career Pathway

Leona Yunkaporta, who completed year 12 in 2006 and undertook a traineeship in Business Administration with Rio Tinto in Brisbane is currently working as the Admin Officer at Aurukun Campus, Western Cape College. She is saving to move to Brisbane in 2009 where she will begin her studies to be a teacher.

AFL Sponsored Career Pathway

Miles Kerindun will complete year 12 this year having completed 5 years at St Augustine's in Cairns with an AFL Scholarship. Miles will undertake a two year apprenticeship with AFL when he completes year 12. He will be providing mentoring for other young Indigenous students to achieve and follow their dreams to positive career outcomes and work. As outlined in the recent article in the Weekend Australian, Miles leads by example through his healthy lifestyle choices which enable him to participate in all opportunities available to him. Miles is a great advocate for all young men in Aurukun.

Deadly Tutors Maths Program

19 enthusiastic and dedicated teacher aides from prep through to year 7 recently participated in the **Deadly Tutors Maths Program**. This program has been developed by Dr Annette Baturo and her research team from the Queensland University of Technology. The program develops teacher aides' skill and knowledge to enhance rural and remote indigenous students' numeracy outcomes. The **Centre for Leadership and Teaching Excellence** coordinated the teacher aide workshop as a result of Dr Baturo's eagerness to share their skills with the aides of Western Cape College while visiting our area as part of the **Parents as First Teachers** program. Together with her research assistant Charlotte Cottier, they presented a three part program over 4 days. They were both extremely impressed with the enthusiasm of our teacher aides in learning and developing new skills along with their dedication to improving student numeracy outcomes.



Teacher aides practised and developed games and language skills in a number of mathematical areas such as counting, place value, number facts and fractions. They developed a range of skills to take back to their classrooms to assist students of all abilities. Plans are currently being made to have the QUT team return to Western Cape College to run further **Deadly Tutors Maths Program** teacher aide workshops along with both teacher and parent workshops. For further information please contact Mandy Whybird or Sheryl Devers on 4090 6482.

**WESTERN CAPE COLLEGE
WEIPA CAMPUS P & C NEWS**

It was a fairly quiet not well attended meeting last Thursday week but we did manage to scrape in the quorum. Thankyou to those members who continue to push forward and give so much of their voluntary time it is truly appreciated. At this meeting information was given about the function of the WCC Management Board and what the P & C report should look like at the next Management Board Meeting on the 26th May. The report is the result of last month's meeting in relation to the S.W.O.T (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats) of the Hostel and Cape School concept. Teacher representative Amalia Smith shared with the P & C information regarding the Teacher strike last week and the importance and rationale of the strike action. Accommodation and its maintenance have been sadly neglected in the past 10 years and quite frankly across the Cape appalling. Teachers are in the process of lobbying the State Government and Mrs Smith was keen to have parental support in this matter. What we can do as Parents: Talk about this issue and spread the word to others, Ring or fax Jim Turnour MP for Leichhardt, Ring or Fax Hon Rod Welford Minister for Education and Training and the Arts, On line - Editor Courier Mail and On line - letter to the Editor Cairns Post- if you would like further information contact Amalia Smith at the College on 40906444. Instrumental Music Program, P & C supported the need for a music levy in line with the Mr Tom Stewart's paper presented last month. These small levy's will help with the maintenance of existing instruments and additional music equipment. P & C donated \$500 towards the Creative Generation Trip to Brisbane this month best wishes to you all. Just a reminder to all recipients of P & C support there is an expectation that a small general report of your activity is sent to Mrs Fiona Bielby at the College for the newsletter, P & C correspondence and commitment from family to help at fundraisers. The P & C are becoming very focused with this and it would be appreciated if we could have your support with these few helpful conditions. Many hands make light work. Magazine Coordinator Miss Annie has started to collate the magazine for 2008. If you would care to help she is contactable at the College. In the past a committee of interest parents, staff and students have assisted. Look forward to your interest and help. P & C are gearing up for our major fundraiser to be held on the College Grounds on the 6th, 7th and 8th June. Please give Jenny Aspinall a ring on 40699473 if you can help serving and cooking on either of those days in the evening. Next P & C meeting is on the 12th June 2008 at 7.30pm in the Resource Centre. See you there.

Internet Safety (Part 5 of 5)

Growing Up with the internet - Tips for Different Age Groups
Your involvement with your children's internet activity will depend on their age and experience.

Teenagers (12-18 years)

The internet becomes a valuable tool for homework and projects for teenagers. At the same time, younger teens start to become more independent and self-assured, wanting more freedom and coming under more peer influence. Their online and email contacts tend to expand. Some may challenge the use of filtering or blocking software and attempt to access 'forbidden' material. Many are 'net savvy' and understand basic computer programming, sometimes even going so far as to attempt to hack into different systems. They are more able to differentiate between advertisements and other material, and recognise persuasion techniques. Many older teens can write their own programs and know how to manage computer hardware and software. Their use of the internet includes school research, job and further education searches, global communication and enhancing their technical skills. This increasing knowledge can also get them into trouble if they explore ways of getting around technical tools and methods for breaking into private systems.

- Stay in touch with what your children are doing online. While it may become less feasible to actively supervise their access, continue to discuss internet issues and share internet experiences.
 - Keep the computer in a public area in the home. It helps to be able to keep an eye on what's going on.
 - Reinforce the safety messages in cyber rules. Younger teenagers in particular should be reminded of the need to protect their privacy.
 - Remind teenagers that material posted to blogs which have not blocked caching by search engines can be very, very hard to remove from public view. They may not want to post something now, only to be embarrassed by it later in life!
 - Ensure teens understand that posting to newsgroups makes their email address public. Have them change email address if they suspect they are being tracked.
- Ensure both you and your teenagers understand laws relating to copyright, privacy, software piracy, hacking and obscenity. For further information please check out www.cybersmartkids.com.au or please contact Natasha Sankey – Laidlaw (Guidance Officer) at school on 4090 6444

Cape York Fishing Classic
Volunteers Needed
6-8th June 2008
for this major P&C fundraiser

Would you please return your form to the Office to let us know how you can help.
Many hands make light work!
Jenny Aspinall, President, 40699473

