**Gold Award**
Georgia Ford and Sophie Burrell

**Silver Awards**
Ayisha Mason Fernando, Sophie Burrell, Madeleine Jones, Deakan Keven-Faulkner and Harry Fields-Waddington

**Uniform Awards**
Beau Edmonds-Turnbull, Damien Nicholls, Lily Thomas, Cody Turner-Bourke, Joseph Aitken, Megan Johnson and Jessica Coppola-Smith

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**Important Dates to Remember Term 1 2016**

- **Thursday 10th March** - Selective High School Placement Test
- **Tuesday 15th March** - P & C AGM Meeting 6pm in school library
- **Wed 16th March** - Zone 11yrs & Open Rugby League trials
- **Friday 18th March** - Canteen - Red Food Day
- **Saturday 19th March** - P & C Prawn and Chicken Fundraiser
- **Monday 21st March** - Harmony Day
- **Tuesday 22nd March** - My Friends and I at 2:20pm
- **Wednesday 23rd March** - SRC Disco
- **Thursday 24th March** - Darling Dental Clinics
- **Thursday 24th March** - Assembly by 4/5G, item 2M at 2:20pm

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**Executive Team**
- **Principal**: Cara Cracknell
- **Assistant Principal (Kinder to Year 2)**: Nicole Chegwyn (Mon - Wed) and Anne Doak (Thur - Fri)
- **Assistant Principal (Yr 3 to 6)**: Jill Cook

**P & C Executive**
- **President**: Lauren Witten
- **Vice President**: Cath Bubb
- **Secretary**: Vanessa Johnson
- **Treasurer**: Scott Cracknell and Jelka Schurink (Canteen)
Chanel Stockdale - Being an active participant in class discussions
Emily Barwick-Taylor - Excellent knowledge of all sounds learnt
Riley Robinson - Great work in Mathematics
Tahnae Roberts - Improved effort in Mathematics
Johnathon Cook - Making a repeating pattern in Mathematics
Jack Gosbell - Careful listening during painting
Hope Clarke - Effort during visual arts
Xavier Wadwell - Participation in class music
Colbie Butler - Working well in spelling
Codie Hogan - Effort in recount writing
Joshua Thompson - Demonstrating a positive attitude to learning
Elloise Sharpham - Working well in spelling
Emma Jarrett - Beautiful artwork
Zoe Reid - Her increased participation in discussions
Brendan Thompson - A positive attitude towards learning
Taela McCahon - Working well in Mathematics
Riley Scott, Tyler Flemming and Janeen Wadwell - Excellent community spirit
Joseph Aitken - Wonderful reading with Ms Cook
Toby Keven-Faulkner - Demonstrating good reading skills during reading groups
Isabella Vernon - Showing persistence during Mathematics activities
Bodin Wallace - Always being an interested learner
Reuben Haak - Impressive single point perspective artwork
Darcy Simpson-Craig - Excellent spelling and recount writing
Byron Lees - Being a great listener and contributing during discussion
Ella Howard - Showing maturity and settled work habits
Ellie Caslick - Improved diligence

Our students performed their role splendidly last Friday when participating in Clean Up Australia Day. Our students were armed with gloves, their wide-brimmed hats and water bottles and took to the streets of Kootingal. Students waved at passing cars and greeted all people that they met with our trademark smiles. It was a great morning for all students and staff.

The past few weeks have been busy on the sporting front. Students have participated in both soccer and softball trials as well as training for our second round match in the Brian Taber Shield for cricket.

Our Open Cricket team competed against Nemingha Public School this Tuesday at Nemingha. Although they were defeated by Nemingha Public School, they performed splendidly under some sweltering conditions. Thank you to our parents who assisted in the transportation of our students to Nemingha and supporting them during the match. Your support is invaluable. Thank you also to Mr Griffiths for guiding and coaching our students over the past number of weeks.

Our softball teams play Tamworth Public School next Monday at the Carter St fields from 11am. Good luck teams and Ms Cook!

Well done to our students who competed at the North West Swimming carnival on Monday. Our senior girls relay team of Sophie Hobden, Savannah Barber, Hannah Turner-Bourke and Georgina DeBelle competed along with Joseph Barber and Jessie Johnson. Although they were not selected for further representation, our students put it commendable performances.

Good luck to our students who are completing the Selective High Schools Placement Test on Thursday. This is a long process for students wishing to gain selection into a Selective High School. I look forward to seeing your results in the coming months.

Kootingal Public School is again coordinating the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) tests. ICAS is an independent, skills-based assessment program that recognises and rewards student achievement. This program is an international program that has operated for the past 30 years. Students from years 2 to 6 are eligible to participate. Nomination forms are available from the front office area and on our website under Latest News and Features. I coordinate the tests and the dates for each test are located on the form and on our school website calendar.
Congratulations to Hayden Cook and Deakan Keven-Faulkner of Year 1. Both Hayden and Deakan are participating in the MiniLit reading program with Mrs Knight. It was delightful to see the boys progressing in their reading and reading confidently. Keep up the great work Hayden and Deakan!

This past week, Liara Mason Whitten Fernando, Taleah Pinnock, Sophie Hobden, Luke Goodhand and Emmielle Kingdom participated in the Gifted and Talented Rich Task workshops at Tamworth High School. Our students worked with other students from Tamworth High School’s partner schools around the theme of war. This Friday, our students will present their tasks to the staff and families. The presentation commences at 1.30pm in the library at Tamworth High School. We are looking forward to viewing all the projects designed by the students.

Next week, our students in years 4 and 5 are attending a Taster Day at Tamworth High School. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience a day in the life of a high school student. For our students in years 4 and 5, high school is not far away. For them it may seem like an eternity, but those years will go extremely fast. A permission note has gone out to all students, regardless of their designated zoned high school.

Our PBL team has been working hard over the past few weeks examining our student data, in particular behaviour referrals. This is a very important part of the PBL process as it ensures we are targeting the most prevalent behaviours. As a team, our focus is firstly the behaviour in the playground. The team decided to tackle this area first as it is a common area for all students and staff.

Once we have completed our data collection, the PBL team will compose a series of lessons to explicitly teach the expected behaviours to our students. These lessons are delivered by the classroom teacher and are followed throughout the week.

To remind our community, our core values are Safe, Supportive and Effective Learners and our logo is a star.

On Tuesday 22nd March we are fortunate to have a company called School Performance Tours come to our school to present a show called ‘My Friends and I’.

With a winning blend of drama, poetry, puppetry and staging, this light hearted, humorous production tackles the problem of bullying head on. Throughout the show students are assured that if they are being bullied it is not their fault and there are things they can do about it.

The show explores the effects of bullying on the victim as well as offering strategies to deal with bullies. Strategies such as self confidence, walking away and talking to someone who can help, are presented as useful tools to disarm bullies. Students are also reminded that we all need friends and, that to have a good friend, you must be a good friend.

With its colourful cast of puppets, masks and student volunteers, ‘My Friends and I’ gets its serious anti-bullying message (bullying is not acceptable and cannot be tolerated) across in a fun, entertaining way.

Cost per student is $4.40. A note will be sent home shortly.

Mrs Anne Doak
Assistant Principal (Relieving)
The 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Kootingal Public School P&C Association will be held on Tuesday 15th March 2016, at 6pm in the school library. Members are reminded to submit an apology if they are unable to attend. The following positions will all be declared vacant and nominations will be accepted in writing or at the meeting.

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Canteen Treasurer
- Canteen Co-ordinator
- Student Banking Co-ordinator

For position descriptions or more information contact
President – Lauren – 0403 193 955
Secretary – Vanessa - 0428 662 722

It would be great if every family could send along a representative to the AGM.

Escape Travel, in Tamworth are proud to be in partnership with Kootingal Public School. Family and friends of the school can be a part of the Kick Back Club, that will see 1% of the cost of any holidays booked in our office in Tamworth go back in to the P & C to benefit the school.

Anyone enquiring and booking an airfare, holiday, travel insurance or accommodation just needs to mention at the time of enquiring that they are a part of the Kootingal School Kick Back program, and we will set aside 1% of the value of their holiday aside to go back to the P & C. Just remember, we don’t know if you are a part of the school, so you need to tell us.

P & C News

Come & Try Hockey Days 2016

Hockey is a great sport & here are just some of the reasons why you should give hockey a go this year:

- All the family can play – tadpoles and monkey for the youngsters, Junior comps from under 9’s to High School, Men’s & Women’s grade competitions & veterans competitions
- Caters for all levels of ability from 1st timers through to international standard
- Hockey is one of the safest team sports to play
- Tamworth boasts access to some of the best hockey facilities in the country
- Play in all weather – no washouts
- Access to some of the state’s best accredited coaches
- Opportunity to meet other kids from different schools, build social circles & learn to play in a team environment
- Hockey is great for fitness
- Opportunity to represent, become a frog, or one day a Hockeyroo or Kookaburra. Tamworth boasts representatives in most NSW state teams from 13’s to Masters, current national junior and senior squads, as well as numerous Olympic representatives over the years.
- Come & try days are FREE & you can borrow sticks, shin pads etc for the day.

Tamworth Hockey will be holding 3 come & try days on Saturday mornings from 9:00 – 10:00 am (5th, 12th & 19th of March). Sessions will be held on the artificial surfaces near ALEC and will include coaching sessions & mini games for all involved. All of the local clubs will be on site to take registrations & answer any queries you might have. No need to book in – just come down to any or all of the sessions & have a go.

Please contact our Hockey Development officer Steve Littlejohns on 0438 627299 for any additional information regarding the come & try days or registration for the upcoming competitions.

Playgroup NSW – Kootingal

Playgroup is a lightly structured, informal gathering where parents, carers, babies and children up to school age come together in a relaxed and friendly environment to connect, play and learn. Essentially, it is one of the first, and most important, social networks for children and families. Sessions are usually held once a week and may involve craft activities, outdoor play and morning tea.

The goal of playgroup is to give children an opportunity to socialise and connect with other children. Creative and unstructured learning through play is essential to children’s development, helping them explore and understand their world. Playgroup helps children develop their social skills, make friends and get ready for preschool and school. Playgroup enables parents and carers to spend quality time with their children while creating their own social networks, making friends and sharing ideas and experiences. Playgroup creates stronger communities by bringing local families together and creating grass roots connections.

Kootingal Playgroup is coordinated by Kimberley Capel and is held every Monday morning during the school term in Homebase 1 at Kootingal Public School. Interested families can contact Kimberley about the program on 0403552220. We would love to see you there!