COCOS ISLANDS DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Parents, Carers and Community,

At the end of Term 3, the Athletics Carnival celebrated two days of jumping, throwing, running, and team games. Everyone's enthusiastic participation, including parents in their events, made the days a wonderful time for our community. Well done to the Yellow faction, who, for the second year in a row, won the carnival. Thank you to the Shire, Coop and the staff who contributed to a successful event.

Term 4 has begun with great energy. Our Year 9 students have embarked on their Immersion Camp, quickly adapting to life at the Rotary hostel. They are learning vital life skills—mastering laundry, keeping their rooms tidy, and preparing their own lunches—while navigating new routines at Kent Street Senior High School. Special thanks to Mak Jordan for her guidance and encouragement during this important transition. We look forward to the stories and personal growth they will share with us when they return in Week 10.

To support our Year 10 students as they transition into Year 11, we offer a comprehensive orientation camp designed to build confidence, foster connections with peers, and clarify the expectations ahead. We also guide students through early enrolment and subject selection, ensuring they can pursue their preferred courses and individual interests. Our staff provide personalised advice and ongoing counselling throughout this process. Special thanks to Mak Jordan and Mak Mia for their dedication in assisting each student to make informed choices and feel prepared for the year ahead.

2026 CALENDAR

SEMESTER 2 - TERM 4

24 Oct	**School Fete on HI**
26 Oct	Wellbeing Week Activities Y6 - 10 WI
27 Oct	**Wellbeing Week Activities HI**
28 Oct	Wellbeing Week Activities Y6 & Y10 HI
	Visiting Artists WI
	Colour Run HI 4:30-5:30pm
29 Oct	**Visiting Artists HI**
30 Oct	WORLD TEACHER DAY
	Wellbeing Week Integration Day WI
3 Nov	R&R on West island
4 Nov	**R&R on Home Island**
9-20 Nov	Visiting Artists
16- Nov	**Yr 10 Exams**
17 Nov	R&R on West Island
18 Nov	**R&R on Home Island**
23 Nov	Yr 6 High School Transition
25 Nov	**Yr 10 Parent Meeting - Orientation**
23-27 Nov	Yr 10 Workplace Learning

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

18 Dec 2026 - 01 Feb 2027



At the end of last term, the school celebrated RU OK? Day. This day reminds us that a simple question can make a real difference. As parents and carers, you are often the first to notice when something isn't quite right with your child. They might be quieter than usual, pulling away from friends, sleeping poorly, or not enjoying the things they normally love. Asking "Are you OK?" and then really listening, without rushing to fix things, shows your child that their feelings matter and that it's safe to talk. The conversation doesn't have to be perfect. It often helps to choose a relaxed moment, on a walk, or while cooking together. And remember, this applies to the adults in our community too, so check in with each other. If you have concerns about your child's wellbeing, please reach out to the school. We are here to support you. Together, we can help every young person feel noticed, valued and connected, not just on one day, but every day.

Finally, to stay informed about the many activities and events coming up—such as swimming lessons, Year 6 and 10 graduations, and the end-of-year concert—please check the Parent Term Planner, our Facebook page, and school notes sent home. We look forward to sharing these special moments with you as the year draws to a close.

Pak Eli
Principal

TERM HIGHLIGHTS

SECONDARY SCHOOL MRS SINCLAIR

KEEP IT UP

Second Semester in Secondary School is Sweet!

Term 3 saw our secondary students learn about Australia's democracy; the Y7&8s got a chance to visit our local Magistrate's court and enact a mock trial, which we later redid at school with the students doing their best impressions of cunning defence lawyers, accusatory members of the prosecution and indignant witnesses. The Y9&10s considered how our democratic style of government compares to others and potential threats to it. They enjoyed visits from guest speakers such as former Cocos AFP member Sinead Done, who shared very cool stories about her times in the Solomon Islands, Afghanistan and East Timor.

As part of our focus on rewarding positive behaviour and consistent attendance, we were able to take students to Direction Island for a day of snorkelling, swimming and sitting back and chilling in Week 8 of Term 3. For some, it was their first chance to snorkel the Rip as they missed out in Term 2 and their minds were suitably blown!

Our surfing elective continued and we were thrilled to see some students take up the opportunity to surf after early close on a Monday for a couple of weeks in the term. Surfing is not easy and it's great to see the students' balance, fitness, strength and confidence develop as they spend more time in the water. Every single one of these days is dominated by huge grins as students relish being outside, in the ocean, surrounded by their friends cheering them on and the Cocos turtles popping up their heads to see what all the fuss is about.

Term 3 ended with another first – our first overnight camp! Surfing, setting up tents, sausage sizzle, Spotlight and that was just the first few hours! The students were thrilled to just hang out together, share snacks and chat and trust me, pretty much their entire night was spent chomping and chatting. The final day of term was spent helping Renae & Emma from Tangaroa Blue complete a Count & Sort of the marine debris collected in the beach clean ups, some students snorkelled the Aquarium at Pulu Maria for the first time, some fishing, a spot of volleyball, some snoozing (because very little sleep was had) and before we knew it, it was time to head home. All of the staff had a great time and agreed that we are very lucky to work with such a great bunch of students!



TERM HIGHLIGHTS

SECONDARY SCHOOL
MRS SINCLAIR

KEEP MOVING FORWARD

DON'T GIVE UP

Second Semester in Secondary School is Sweet!

Term 4 is proving to be significantly quieter because our Year 9 students are attending the Y9 Immersion at Kent Street Senior High School. Understandably, their trepidation was palpable at the airport on the last Friday of the holidays, but I'm thrilled to report that it was quickly replaced by excited smiles. The students have made friends and are slipping into their new schooling routines with ease.

Back here, familiar face and beloved visitor from the Department of Environment and Water Regulation, Sam Culbertson visited in the first week to help kick Term 4 off with very engaging activities focused on Water. We headed off to Home Island on Wednesday of Week 1 to visit the bores at Sandy Point and the Desalination Plant. Charlie showed us around the Desalination Plant and gave us a very clear explanation of how the seawater is converted to drinking water! Mel showed us the bores and explained the process of how they draw in the seawater and get it to the Desalination Plant, complete with a really engaging activity where the students made their own model bores. A huge thank you to Charlie and Mel from Water Corp – thank you for your time and sharing your knowledge with us and to Sam Culbertson who always comes armed with fantastic, informative activities and resources!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FISHING FLUENCY CERTIFICATE WINNERS



R & R ASSEMBLY AWARD WINNERS





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS

SPORTS DAY FIELD EVENT - DAY 1



SPORTS DAY TRACK EVENT - DAY 2

