Dear parents and carers,

The end of semester is a busy time for households as students put the finishing touches on assignments and prepare for important exams. This is especially so for our Year 11 and 12 students as they complete important assessment. I wish all students well in these exams and I am sure that they will reap the rewards of their hard work this semester.

All assessment will be completed by Monday next week and normal classes will run for the remainder of the week. I encourage all parents/carers to ensure their children attend school all of next week.

Reports for Semester 1 will be posted home Friday July 13 and the Parent-Teacher interviews will be held on Monday July 23. We will again be using the online booking procedures with instructions being posted out with reports. If you have any difficulties, please contact the school. I look forward to seeing you at these important interviews.

This week and next, our Year 8 and 9 students will be visiting the Queensland University of Technology Kelvin Grove and Gardens Point Campuses. This is an exciting opportunity for these students to have their first look at a university and it will hopefully inspire them to pursue further study after school at one of the many universities in Queensland.

For those parents who are considering applying for their student to enrol in our LearnIT Laptop Program for next year, a reminder that the information evening is on Tuesday 19 June at 7pm.

On Tuesday July 10, we will welcome 16 Taiwanese students and their teacher to our school for their study tour. The group will be with us for 19 days. A big thank you goes to the 13 families who are welcoming these students into their households. Without your support these tours could not take place. I am sure that the whole school community will make our visitors welcome during their stay.

I have had a couple of inquiries regarding senior sport and the issuing of leave passes to Year 11 and 12 students on a Wednesday afternoon. Year 11 and 12 students who are not involved in sport will be issued with passes once all interschool teams are full and the students are turning up to participate. It is important to remember that Wednesday afternoon is scheduled school time and it is a privilege given to students by the school once interschool sporting teams are full and we are meeting our District commitments. My position is that senior interschool sport is an important part of the school curriculum and we need to fulfil our commitments to the competition and to other schools. In 2010 we did not do this as we forfeited a significant number of games. At one stage our place in the competition was rightfully being questioned by other schools.

Over the last two years, I have asked students in Years 11 and 12 to commit to one season of interschool sport per year. I believe this to be fair as it gives all students at least one season where they can access an early finish on Wednesday afternoons to pursue study, work and other commitments. Of course, many students will play both sporting seasons and I commend these students for this. Last year students supported this and we did not forfeit a game in either sporting season.

At the present time, many students are not turning up and honouring their commitment and we have forfeited several games recently. Year 11 and 12 leave passes will recommence once teams have settled and students are participating in their chosen sports.

Finally, I wish all families a safe and enjoyable holiday break and look forward to the return of students on Monday July 9.

Best wishes,
Jim Box

Our Year 9 Debating Team has once again met the challenge offered by participating in the 2012 Queensland Debating Union’s competition. Caboolture SHS has been ably represented by Abigail James, Jetta Ferguson-Male, Shannai Johnston and Shazura Lawrence. The team has swept all before them and progressed to the finals, storms through the preliminary rounds undefeated. Along the way they have notched up several 7 point victories (on a similar scale to winning an AFL game by 100, or Queensland beating NSW by 40 in the State of Origin). They have defeated schools including Bracken Ridge SHS, St Paul’s School, St Patrick’s College and Sandgate District SHS, winning arguments from advocating
that bike helmets should be compulsory, insisting that all citizens should pass a test on Australia’s system of government before being eligible to vote (try getting your head around that topic!), to calling for the ban of all sports involving the use of animals.

The team and coaches, Jayne Hooper and Rebecca Smith, eagerly await news of the finals that commence in Term 3. We wish them the best of luck!

PACT is a Queensland-wide not for profit community organisation that supports children and young people (3-17 years) who are required to give evidence within the Criminal Justice System as victims of, or witnesses to, a crime. In 2010-2011 PACT supported **1280** children and young people.

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Do you know anyone else who may be interested? If so, suggest they contact PACT today to find out more about becoming a PACT Child Witness Support Volunteer.

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Every day, thousands of Australian children suffer the effects of asthma and eczema and families struggle with illness management and children's behavioural and emotional adjustment.

Positive Parenting for Healthy Living is an adaptation of the successful Triple P - Positive Parenting Program, offering practical ideas and support for parents of children suffering asthma or eczema. This innovative group program is designed to help parents manage their child's illness, assist children in coping with their illness and emotions, and prevent and manage difficult child behaviour.

Over the next few months and for a limited time only, parents of 3-10 year old children suffering asthma or eczema are able to access Positive Parenting for Healthy Living Triple P free of charge as part of a University of Queensland research project. Contact Amy Mitchell on (07) 3365 7305 or email healthyliving@uq.edu.au , or visit www.exp.psy.uq.edu.au/healthyliving for more information.