

6th June 2012

MEG'S MESSAGE

I'd like to congratulate two of our students who have made it through to the Zone Athletics Carnival. Curtis was successful in the 100m and 200m race and Tom made it in the 100m. Well done boys!

Our little school has been a hub of activity the last fortnight. We have been learning about "Living Things" in science, which has had us out and about in the grounds discovering various flora and fauna. Our "museum in a box" kit from the Australian Museum arrived this week, to the excitement of our students, and is filled with hands on science activities. We even have some insect props and finger puppets to incorporate into our drama activities.

MINI OLYMPICS DAY POSTPONED

The mini Olympics day that was due to be held this Friday, 8th June, at Kitchener Public School, has been postponed. Unfortunately, their oval is too wet to successfully run the day.

The new date set is Friday 27th July, which is early next term. Updated notes will be distributed closer to the time. I have spoken to the Kitchener school about the money that we have sent them for the children's lunches and they are having a meeting about it this afternoon. At this stage though, it looks like they will retain the money until next term. If you have any concerns about this, please feel free to come and see me about it.



Upcoming Events

- **11th June**— Queen's Birthday public holiday.
- **12th, 14th June**—SOS for Year 5.
- **13th June**— P&C Meeting, 6pm.
- **14th, 15th June**—Mrs. Avery and Miss Naysmith at QuickSmart follow up workshop.
- **20th June**—Students' Reports sent home.
- **20th June**— Mrs. Dunstan at a SAM network meeting.
- **21st June**—Helen Dyball coming to Congewai to give a talk on "Snails".
- **25th June**—Naidoc Week Celebrations at Cessnock Performing Arts Centre.
- **26th-29th June**— Parent/student/teacher interviews.
- **28th June**—Miss Naysmith at an "Autism and Asperger's" course at Singleton.
- **29th June**—Last day of term.

MR. MACGREGOR/MR KINGSTON

Unfortunately Mr MacGregor will no longer be conducting technology lessons this term. He was offered a block of work at another school, which he initially accepted. He will still be visiting Congewai though and upgrading our iPads when necessary. The children have benefitted greatly from his skills!

Mr Kingston will be here until the end of term and began his technology teaching by successfully introducing 'Glogster', where the children made digital posters.

Here are some of the students responses to 'Glogster'.

"It was awesome! I could create things and like change them easily" - **Bridget**

"It was really fun. I could customise things" - **Curtis**

"Cool! I've never seen a poster with a video on it before!" - **Jacob**

"It was good. I could put make pictures with my name on it" - **Bryce**



SCHOOL COOKING—FOODS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Mrs. Woodward and Miss Naysmith have been very busy organising a variety of meals for our students to cook. The theme they have chosen for the term is *Foods from around the world*. So far students have made food from the following countries:

Italy—Pizza

Germany —Hot dogs (Frankfurts from Frankfurt)

China—Fried Rice

Thailand—Stir fry

Japan—Sushi

Next week children will be making **bangers and mash** to coincide with the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympics being held in **London**.



QUICKSMART—MATHEMATICS PROGRAM

Our senior students involved in *QuickSmart* have been working with Miss Naysmith three times a week. They have been working in pairs with her and participating in flash card work, Mental arithmetic games, computer work and individual worksheets. The sessions go for 30 minutes a day. We are pleased to report that 75% of the students participating have made remarkable improvement already, while the other 25% of students are progressing steadily.

Miss Naysmith has made flashcards for all these students (at their individual levels) to practise at home. Please remind your child to practice these daily.

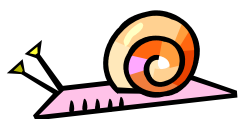
On the 13th and 14th June, Miss Naysmith and I need to attend the follow up *QuickSmart* workshops to evaluate how the program is working in our school, to share our results as a school and to liaise with other schools running this program.



HELEN DYBALL—SNAILS

A local community member, Helen Dyball, will be visiting our school on 21st June to present information to our students about 'snails'. This coincides with our Science theme, Living Things. Helen breeds and collects garden snails from around Congewai and then sells them to Hunter restaurants, who sell them as escargot.

I'm sure she will have some very interesting information to share with us!



NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATIONS

NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) week celebrations will be held at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre on Monday 25th June. Students will be able to listen to an Indigenous story, watch an indigenous dance group and listen to the Didgeridoo being played. The cost per child is \$2.00. Unfortunately there is only enough seating at the centre to allow us to take 5 parents. If you would like to go, please let me know. If I have more than 5 parents wanting to go, we can draw names "out of a hat" at our next assembly.



1-8 JULY 2012

SPIRIT OF THE
TENT EMBASSY:
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