



### STAGE 2 EXCURSION TO SYDNEY

The day is finally arriving, when our six Stage 2 students head down to Sydney to explore its many attractions. Students will need to be at Paxton PS no later than 6.45, where I will meet them. I recommend a light breakfast for any children susceptible to travel sickness. Students will need full school uniform, including their hat, a packed morning tea and lunch and a water bottle. First stop will be the Harbour Bridge for a bridge walk, followed by a tour of the Rocks, a ferry ride and a visit to Sydney Aquarium. We plan to be back at Paxton PS by 6.30pm. I will have the contact details for parents, and can be contacted throughout the day on my mobile phone **0411 535 467**. It promises to be a great day!

Last Saturday Congewai PS became Checkpoint 2 for the Great North Walk 100's event, run by the Terrigal Trotters. It was a very interesting day, and the P&C raised over \$1300 selling food and drink. The organisers had the good sense not to advertise this as a 'fun' run, as it became very hot and by the time they reached us the runners had already covered 50 kilometres, with at least another 50 to go! Thank you to all of the families, staff and community members who were able to help out on the day.

**Mr Howe**



Tennis has been a real hit (!) with the students this term and last, and their progress has been a joy to watch. Thanks to Coach Chris and her able assistant Gabby Naysmith - we have just two more sessions to go.

### Maths Site Trial

We are currently trialling a new maths site in class - IXL Maths. It seems comprehensive and is closely linked to the maths curriculum. Attached is a letter detailing username and password details for each student—this can be accessed from your home computer. We would welcome parent feedback!

### Remembrance Day 2013

On Monday 11th November we commemorated Remembrance Day here at school. After a class discussion, the students assembled by the flagpole and Curtis read the poem 'In Flanders Fields'. This was followed by a minute's silence, then Katie recited 'Ode to the Fallen'. A quiet, reflective and melancholy moment at Congewai PS.



#### Congewai PS Contacts:

Ph: 4998 1366 Fax: 4998 1603

email: [congewai-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:congewai-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

web: [www.congewai-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.congewai-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

## cyber(smart:)

Last week our Stage 3 students attended a Cybersmart session at Bellbird Public School. It was time well spent - our students learned about the importance of keeping passwords and personal information safe and private, avoiding contact with unknown internet users in chatrooms and cyber-bullying. Parents, to follow this up with your kids at home go to: [cybersmart.gov.au](http://cybersmart.gov.au) for information and activities.

### **Focusing on Reading at Congewai!**

Having every student becoming an active and engaged reader is one of our primary goals at here at Congewai. Reading is a crucial skill that is required right across the curriculum and one that broadens the horizons of all of us.

Each day in class children engage with books in 3 ways. Students participate in **Home Reading** or **Recreational Reading** activities, reading books that they can read fluently to promote expression and confidence. In daily **Guided Reading** groups, students study a more challenging text over several lessons, developing fluency, expression and comprehension skills. Finally **Modelled Reading** takes place where the teacher reads a story to the class, providing students with an example of how expert readers read and access to a rich source of vocabulary and experience.

This can all be reinforced with reading at home, where children can read to parents or big brothers and sisters. And don't forget that children are never too old to hear their parents read a story - parents are expert readers and it is an opportunity to model the importance of reading to your kids.

## *Energy!*

*Stage 2 and 3 Energy projects are due next Friday, 23rd November. The information report component can be presented via our Smartboard if you wish!*