

CONGEWAI PUBLIC SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 4, 2013



FAREWELL TO OLIVER, ROSIE, LYNDA AND ADAM

It is my melancholy duty to bid farewell to Oliver, Rosie, Lynda and Adam Smith, who are moving up to Patterson at the end of this term. In my short time here I have really appreciated the support provided to the school, especially with Lynda's help in the garden, classroom and kitchen. Oliver and Rosie have been wonderful learners and friends, and I am sure that they will settle in quickly to their new school. On behalf of the school community, I would like to thank you for your help here, and wish you all the best in your new adventure.

Miss Naysmith is away until next term as she undergoes a minor procedure. We wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her in Term 2.

Mrs Woodward will be travelling overseas in Term 2, and Ms Theresa McDonald will be coming in for Principal's Release on Wednesdays and as the Learning and Support Teacher on Thursdays.

Congratulations to all of the Congewai students who participated in the Zone Cross Country last Wednesday. It was a very hot day, and there was not much shade around. Our students ran against the top six runners of the bigger schools, and acquitted themselves well. A special acknowledgement for Thomas Swift, whose ninth place in the 8/9 year old boys was one place off Regional representation.

This week I attended a professional development session in Newcastle learning about teaching strategies in multi-stage classrooms. Today I attended the Regional Principals Conference at Pokolbin where discussions centred on the Australian Curriculum and new school support model among many other topics. Thank you to Ms Kerry Newton for taking the class on these days.

- **Mr Howe**

PAINT THE TOWN **READ!**

We are supporting this great reading initiative on Wednesday 10th April. A bus will pick up Congewai students at 10.20am, to begin activities at 11.00 in the grounds of Cessnock TAFE. The event concludes at 12.30, whereupon the bus will return children to school. All children are asked to wear red shirts that day—we have a small supply of red shirts here at school if families have trouble locating one of their own. We will be taking lunch in with us, so no hot lunches that day please! Please find permission note attached.



Upcoming Events

- **April 10**—Paint the Town **REaD**
- **April 12**—Last Day Term 1
- **April 25**—ANZAC Day March
- **April 29-30**—Staff Development Days
- **May 1**—Students return

Premier's Reading Challenge! Congratulations to Oliver, Bryce, Lachlan, Caitlin, Curtis, Kim and Ben, who have all made a start on the Challenge. The challenge runs until September, and the goal is 30 books for K-2 students, and 20 for yr 3-6 students. Look for the PRC books during library time with Ms Dunstan on Friday.

What I Am Reading**Oliver Smith, Year 1****Title:** Zac Power—Spy Camp**Author:** H.I. Larry**What it is about?** Zac goes on spy missions to stop the baddies from B.I.G.**Who else would like this book:** Other grade 1 and 2 boys will love these books!
There is a whole series of them!**ANZAC DAY SERVICE**

Parents, can you please let me know this week if you intend for your child to participate in the ANZAC Day service on the 25th April, during the second week of the school holidays. There will be representation from the Cessnock Community of Great Public Schools, of which we are a part, and children can march with this group.

**Mr Howe****MORNING READING**

Each morning from Monday to Thursday we dedicate the first 20 minutes of the day to reading. Children swap over their home readers and spend some time reading with a teacher or a school friend. If any parent or grandparent would like to come into class and listen to a student read, you are very welcome!

What I Am Reading**Ben Miller, Year 2****Title:** The Bad Book**Author:** Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton**What it is about?** It is a book with a lot of jokes and illustrations, mostly about yucky things.**Who else would like this book:** I think that older kids in Grade 5 or 6 would also like it.

What I Am Reading**Caitlin Johnston, Year 2****Title:** Fairy Tales**Author:** Unknown

What it is about? It is about 2 little girls who want to be fairies. My favourite part is where they dress up as princesses!

Who else would like this book: I don't think that everyone will like it, but I really do!

**THIS WEEK IN MATHS!**

Mathematics is going full steam ahead here at Congewai! Our Stage 2 and 3 students are enjoying minute maths, designed to improve their recall of basic number facts and operations. In addition, this week Year 6 are ordering and converting tenths, hundredths and thousandths, Year 5 are measuring dimensions using millimetres and metres, Year 4 are reading and writing 4 digit numbers and Year 3 are using known number facts, such as $13 - 5 = 8$ to work out problems such as $130 - 50$.

Our Kinder students are working with addition and counting on, Year 1 students are reading and writing 2 digit numbers and Year 2 students are investigating the properties of 3D shapes. These are busy maths sessions!



We are finding the Copacabana PS Get Smart website an excellent source of mathematical games and activities to complement in-class learning. This of course can also be accessed from home.

**BE THE BEST PARENT
YOU CAN BE**

With **Triple P**—Positive Parenting Program—Triple P is a parenting program for all families that provides practical answers to everyday parenting concerns.

Families NSW is offering Triple P to all families with children aged 3-8 years.

Please note that bookings ARE ESSENTIAL so that we can keep course sizes manageable. Courses are six weeks duration commencing Tuesday May 7—June 11, 2013 10am –12pm, 5 Hall St, Cessnock.

To find out more or to book into a course please contact

Cessnock Family Support 4990 4507

For more information visit www.families.nsw.gov.au