

# Congewai News

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Newsletter Week 1 Term 2 2014

Welcome to term 2.

I'd like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to staff, students and parents who've welcomed me to what is certainly a fantastic school. I was absolutely amazed by the wonderful Kid's Café last term. I also wish to thank Ms Carrie Sewell for doing a fantastic job as Relieving Principal during term 1 and hope she enjoys her new class at Laguna PS as much as she enjoyed her time at Congewai.

This term our students will be learning about lots of new things, in English we will be focusing on reading skills particularly fluency and understanding, spelling, and writing.

Our maths program is very comprehensive and our students will be focusing on one major skill per week, complemented by a similar learning strand.

In science and HSIE we will be exploring our Built Environments and Cultural Diversity. In Drama we will be using and creating puppets and exploring many aspects of Creative Arts.

This term we will be undertaking child protection lessons. This is part of the DEC curriculum and all students should participate. We will be investigating such things as "being safe", bullying and getting on with others. A note outlining the lesson subjects will go home this week. Please see me if you **do not** wish your child to participate in these lessons.

Art lessons with Kes Harper will start next week on Tuesday afternoons after 12noon. These are fantastic lessons which all the children (and staff) enjoy.

Tennis lessons also commence next week on Thursday mornings. I'd like to remind students to make sure they bring a drink bottle for the morning lessons.

We'd like to invite volunteers to our classrooms to conduct QuickSmart Maths lessons. These are fantastic instructive and intensive maths lessons, usually conducted by our SLSO Gabby Naysmith. We'd like to free up more of Gabby's time to spend in the classrooms, so have decided to offer training to parents who'd like to assist in this fantastic program with our children. Please complete the "expression of interest" form within this newsletter and return it ASAP. You will be given full training.

We will be repainting our "cow" this term. Please look for more information in next week's newsletter.

Each term, schools conduct 'emergency procedure drills' to instruct students on the procedures for any emergencies. These may be evacuations, lock downs or bush fire emergencies. On Friday, our students, staff and any visitors will be participating in an 'evacuation drill'. This will take place at 12:50pm and our students will learn what to do should our classrooms need to be evacuated.

You will have noticed some changes to our newsletter. From now on our newsletter will be distributed to families each Monday afternoon (or next day in the case of public holidays), allowing us to give the week highlights and information about the upcoming week. We will also have news about the classroom learning including the mathematics learning focus so you may assist your child at home.

## **Diary Dates:**

Wednesday 30/4/14	Squaring the Wheel performance - Cessnock Performing Arts Centre
Friday 2/5/14	Emergency Evacuation Drill
Thursday 8/5/14	Life Education Van
Tuesday 13-15 / 5/14	NAPLAN for all year 3 and year 5 students

## Staffing Overview

*To ensure maximum learning experiences for our students the following staffing procedures are now in place:*

**Monday, Tuesday and Thursday** the school will operate two classrooms from 9-1. The Infants, Kindergarten to Year 2 will be taught by Mrs Sue Woodward, the Primary, by Mrs Donna Stackman. During the morning a literacy focus will be in place followed by mathematics during the middle session. Whole school lessons in Science, HSIE, Creative and Performing Arts, Library, Environmental Studies, PBL, and PE will take place in the afternoon sessions, taught by Mrs Stackman.

**Wednesday and Friday**, will be whole school, with Mrs Woodward teaching during Wednesday when Mrs Stackman will be undertaking Principal duties. On Friday, the whole school will be taught by Mrs Stackman. As during the other days of the week, mornings will be a literacy focus and middle sessions will be focused on mathematics.

Mrs Woodward and Mrs Stackman will be assisted in the classrooms, Monday to Friday by Ms Naysmith and on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday by Mrs Dunstan. Mrs Dunstan will be focusing on Office duties for the whole day on Monday, Tuesday, and on Friday afternoon after 1 pm.

We will continue kitchen garden and cooking lessons on Wednesday mornings, this highly valued program teaches our students many skills, including literacy and numeracy while having lots of fun.

Please feel free to offer time to assist with reading and maths groups during these times. Children love seeing their family members involved in the school and classrooms, and this gives a valued lesson in the importance parents place on education.

## News from the Classroom

### **Infants:**

Literacy - spelling, reading with take home readers, speaking and listening and focus on hand-writing. We will focus on how to give a good news report and identify characters in reading.

Maths - We will be focusing on numbers, addition and subtraction and data

### **Primary:**

Literacy - spelling lists will commence, punctuation focus, grammar and how to write 'good' sentences.

Maths - Whole number, addition and subtraction and data.

### **Whole School:**

Science - Identifying needs and wants and how that applies to our local area

HSIE - Our families and similarities and diversities

Child Protection - Relationships

PDHPE - Making decisions

Environmental Science - Planting our kitchen garden and planning

**Homework** will start next week, this week we'd like our children to concentrate on their home reading program.

## ***Excursion Reminder***

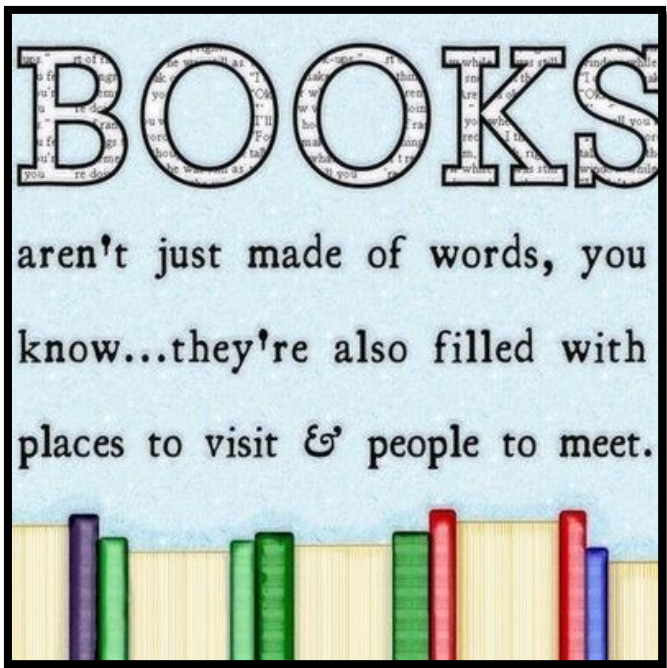
### ***Squaring the Wheel***

*Squaring the Wheel brings together circus skills, puppetry, magic, wacky mechanisms and unexpected music, coming together in a theatrical stage extravaganza with a comical and physical language.*

**Years 3-6**

*Wednesday 30 April*

*Cessnock Performing Arts Centre*



*Library lessons  
are on*

*Thursday  
afternoons*

*Bring library  
books in!*

All children who borrow (and return) receive a library sticker.

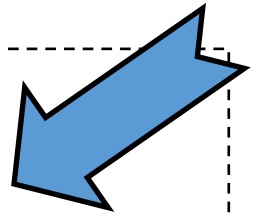


*Do you know where the evacuation  
meeting point at school is?*

**Our kids will after we have our evacuation drill on Friday at 12:50pm.**

**Ask them where it is!**

**We need you!**



## QuickSmart Maths

We would like some parent helpers to assist with maths each day at 11:30. One of the main areas we need help is with our Quick Smart Maths program. This great program helps our students with intensive number skills.

I would like to be trained to assist with Quick Smart Maths after recess each day

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

Best contact time: \_\_\_\_\_



*Please cut out and return to Mrs Stackman ASAP*

## NAPLAN Testing

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. It is important to remember that NAPLAN tests are not pass/fail tests. NAPLAN tests provide very valuable information, but there are no consequences for individual students for poor or good performance. At the classroom level it is one of a number of important tools used by teachers to measure student progress. To provide an overview of the format of the tests, a full set of example tests is available on the following website:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/the-tests/the-tests.html>

In 2014, NAPLAN tests will be held on 13-15 May.

Year	Tuesday 13 May	Wednesday 14 May	Thursday 15 May	Friday 16 May
Year 3	<b>Language conventions</b> 40 minutes <b>Writing</b> 40 minutes	<b>Reading</b> 45 minutes	<b>Numeracy</b> 45 minutes	Catch-up day
Year 5	<b>Language conventions</b> 40 minutes <b>Writing</b> 40 minutes	<b>Reading</b> 50 minutes	<b>Numeracy</b> 50 minutes	Catch-up day

Just a reminder - Our staff do not commence duty until 8:30am in the morning, therefore it is not advisable to bring your children to school until staff are available to supervise. We do thank you assisting us in ensuring your children are safe at school. Please see us should you have an emergency and need to drop your children at school early.