

Congewai News

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Newsletter Week 3 Term 2 2014



Welcome to week 3!

I'd like to start off with some really good news.

We've been chosen to join the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program for schools. This ties in with the school's existing kitchen garden program and will extend it into a comprehensive learning package for our students. Miss Naysmith and I are travelling to Mayfield at the end of the month to participate in 2 days of intensive training in both kitchen and garden programming for our school. This is the first session of training with follow up advanced training later in the year. We're all very excited to be chosen to be part of this highly regarded program.

We've had a jam packed last week with our children enjoying their visit to Healthy Harold. The lessons participated in by the children will be followed through this week in class. We'd like to thank Mrs Murphie and the parents of Wollombi PS for bringing the Wollombi students across to join us for the day. After participating in tennis lessons and Healthy Harold lessons, all students created either an iBook about our school or an iMovie about Small Schools. Groups were formed and lots of laughter was heard as the children created masterpieces of literacy and movie making.

NAPLAN commences this week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for our year 3 and 5 students and I ask that disruptions are kept to the minimum where possible for the

morning sessions through to lunch time.

The Small School's Athletics Carnival is on next week, Tuesday the 20th May, 9:30am to 2:30pm, at Turner Park, Cessnock. Transport to and from the park will need to be provided by parents. The canteen is available at recess and lunch. This is a whole school event with all staff at the carnival all day. All students should attend. We've been asked to do the marshalling for the Infants on the day and I'd like to ask for parent volunteers to assist our school staff for both Infants and Primary. Further information will be sent home later this week.

Our Primary Class, years 5 & 6, is attending the Grip School Leadership conference in Newcastle on Wednesday 21st May. Mrs Miller and I will be transporting all students to this engaging and worthwhile conference and permission notes will be sent home next week.

Included in this newsletter is information and an expression of interest note for the Small School's Canberra excursion next term. The note outlines the itinerary and the cost of the excursion. I'd like the EOIs in asap please to enable planning.

For the first time Laguna PS is hosting Musica Viva, on Monday 2nd June. The band is Tigramura, a latin-based outfit. Our school has been invited to attend. Further information will be sent home soon.

Don't forget....Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution Day is on Friday. We're making Rainbow Salad Wraps for lunch.

Till next time....

Donna Stackman

Diary Dates:

Tuesday 13 to 15 / 5/14	NAPLAN for all year 3 and year 5 students
Friday 16/5/14	Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution Day - Rainbow Salad Wraps
Tuesday 20/5/14	Small School's Athletics Carnival - Turner Park, Cessnock
Wednesday 21/5/14	Grip Leadership conference to Newcastle—years 5 & 6
Monday 26/5/14	Year 6 Transition to Mount View HS—mini lessons....all year 6 students welcome
Monday 2/6/14	Musica Viva at Laguna PS for all students
Tuesday 24/6/14	NAIDOC performance at CPAC University Science Show—Congewai PS

Respect, Responsibility and Ready to Learn

News from the classrooms

Infants and Primary:

Note - due to NAPLAN the Primary students will not have homework this week. They should read each night and practice times tables and visit Sumdog or Mathletics for mathematics practice.

Literacy - This week we will be focusing on punctuation and good sentence writing. We will revisit narrative (story writing) structure and get creative.

Maths - We are focusing on addition and subtraction and length

Library lessons - We are using a fantastic book called "Are we there yet?" by author Alison Lester to investigate our community both near and far.

Art lessons will be postponed next week on Tuesday due to the Athletics Carnival....for the next lesson, all students are asked to bring a photo of their home to use as part of the collage which will be created next week. Children may bring their photo in at any time and it will be kept safe for them until ready to use.

Cooking - Last week we enjoyed making pikelets with fruit. This week we will be making our Rainbow Salad Wraps on Friday. We won't be cooking on Wednesday.

...enjoying art....



Fitness Sport is lots of fun!



Let's Continue to Make our School Even Better.

I've spent the last two weeks observing and exploring our grounds, our school buildings and learning programs and discussing possibilities and potential with our school staff.

We've identified some "issues", debated options and thought about some solutions.

My aim is to continue to have our school grow and develop and continue to be what I see, one of the best schools in the Hunter. I'd like to encourage our parent community to develop ideas of how we can continue, grow and improve.

We've got some fantastic innovative programs here, the kitchen garden and cooking program being just one of them. How can we build on that? Be accepted into the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program is a good move forward....

Please come to see me if you have any ideas or come to Wednesday's P&C meeting

-Donna

Head Lice Reminder - 7 day check

As mentioned last week the dreaded head lice have struck again. It's important to check your children on a regular basis and if treated, treat again after 7 days, again, treating all other items.

Small School's Athletics Carnival

Turner Park, Cessnock

Tuesday 20th May, 2014



Enjoying Thursday's tennis lessons.....



Don't forget.....Friday is Food Revolution Day!

This is a global initiative with lots of different countries ,including our own, participating.

<http://www.foodrevolutionday.com>



Making **ZINES** with Kes during art lessons is lots of fun!



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	Language conventions 40 minutes Writing 40 minutes	Reading 45 minutes	Numeracy 45 minutes	Catch-up day
Year 5	Language conventions 40 minutes Writing 40 minutes	Reading 50 minutes	Numeracy 50 minutes	Catch-up day