

Congewai News

Congewai Public School Ph: 024998 1366

email: congewai-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au



Newsletter Week 9

Term 2 2014

Welcome to week 9, the last week of a busy, yet productive term. I've had a great introduction to our wonderful school, its children and its surrounds. Many thanks for the warm welcome extended by our parents and families. I've really enjoyed my first term.

Our children enjoyed their last art lesson with Kes on Thursday and some truly interesting critters were created in their flip books. Kes has introduced the children to some very creative techniques which I'm sure they'll extend into other creative work throughout the year.

We will have our last tennis lesson for the term this Thursday, our students skills are getting better each week, with balls hit with more precision and accuracy.

This Friday is PJ and Slippers Day! We're all looking forward to a comfortable day in our jimmy jams and as this is a Year 6 Fundraiser, we ask that all children bring a gold coin donation toward the Year 6 gift to the school. It is also our term's canteen day. Order forms were given to each

child on Friday for both recess and lunch. We ask that correct change is given with the order as we have very limited change available at school. Please mark clearly on the order form the items children would like to order and return the order by Wednesday at the latest. Unfortunately we can't accept late orders as the orders must go to Ridgely Didge pie shop first thing on Thursday morning.

The first day back of next term is a Staff Development Day with children returning on Tuesday, 15th of July. We look forward to seeing you all then.

Enjoy your holiday and we'll see you all again on Tuesday the 15th of July!

Till next time....

Donna Stackman

We'd like to advise of the upcoming P&C AGM on Wednesday 23rd of July at 5:30pm.

All parents and community members are very welcome.

Diary Dates:

Monday 23/6/14	Report Cards home
Tuesday 24/6/14	NAIDOC performance at CPAC University Science Show—Congewai PS
Wednesday 25/6/14	Canteen orders due back to school Parent Teacher Communication meetings Canteen orders due back today - no late orders taken - correct money please
Friday 27/6/14	Year 6 Fundraiser PJ and slippers day ~ gold coin donation Canteen
Monday 14/7/14	Staff Development Day Term 3
Tuesday 15/7/14	Students return to school for Term 3
Thursday 17/7/14	Community meeting regarding information for Crawford Bridge
Friday 18/7/14	NAIDOC celebrations at Wollombi PS - parent transport please



Respect, Responsibility and Ready to Learn

News from the classrooms

Literacy - Again our Kinder students will take their reading focus book home for extra practice. Our L3 literacy program has been working really well for our Kinder students, with the L3 instructor being very impressed with the children's progress when she visited our school last Thursday. Next term this will be complemented with our home reading program. Selected books will be sent home each week for our Kinder students to read as part of their set homework. These books will form the framework for the home reading program for the remainder of the year.

This week Infants will be looking at the structure needed to write narrative, creative text. We started this form of writing last week and the children had a lot of fun creating stories about a lost little zombie called Zook.

Maths - Again this week's topic is patterns and algebra along with 2D shapes.

Library lessons - Library lessons are on Thursday and will be our last for the term. Last week our Infants enjoyed a book called, "My Daddy Snores!". This week we're creating our own version of the book in groups with the primary students.

Cooking on Wednesday: This week group 2 (Lili, Ben, Kye, Gabrielle and Jade) is preparing Chicken and Vegetable wraps. A note was given last Thursday for those children who will need to bring something in and it's also listed on our information board.

Public Speaking: Our students should be busily practicing their speeches for public speaking on Wednesday. We'll be selecting students to represent our school at the local Public Speaking selection trials, as mentioned in last week's note home. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students and I'm told they were very creative last year.

NAIDOC performance Tuesday 24th June: 9:30 at the Cessnock Centre of Performing Arts. Please refer to the permission note which was sent home last week.

University Science Show Tuesday 24th June at school: This really interesting science show makes science fun! Parents and family members are very welcome to join us for the fun, 1:15—2pm

Celebrating NAIDOC day with activities at Wollombi PS on Friday, 18th July, 2014. Our area's Small schools will combine to participate in cultural activities which will celebrate one of the oldest cultures in the world. Please look out for information on our school's Face Book and a note which will be sent home to families later this week.



Respect, Responsibility and Ready to Learn

Over the last couple of weeks, I attended some very interesting meetings and professional training sessions. Our Public School sector has undergone some big changes over the last few months, the biggest changes for over 50 years. One part of these changes is the Local School, Local Decisions framework which has led to reforms in how schools undertake practices and daily requirements. A huge part of this are the systems which schools will use in the very near future. This means Principals and Office staff have to learn to use totally different systems for all operations which run our schools. This requires a lot of training, both now and in the future, to ensure we understand what is required of us to successfully do our jobs.

New Curriculums

As well, our curriculum has seen some huge changes. All curriculum areas have now been revamped to reflect the changing shape of NSW, Australia and our wider world. Teachers have had to learn an entire new selection of practices to teach to and this has been a steep learning curve for everyone. These curriculums will continue to roll out for school implementation over the next couple of years. This year, the new English syllabus was undertaken, next year it is Mathematics. Many schools, including ours, are trialling the new maths syllabus now, ensuring that we have a scope and sequence which fits our school.

Speech Pathology

Miss Naysmith and I also attended a work shop presented by All Areas Speech Pathology on Wednesday. Some very good resources were given to us during this workshop and if you'd like to discuss how these may be able to help your child, we're more than happy to talk about the activities with you.

What do our combined efforts produce?

Our Cessnock area Public Schools have combined together to fund screening for all 2014 Kindergarten students upon entry to school and five, one on one speech assistance sessions for those students who require a little help with language. This program was trialled this year and as it has been enormously successful, all Principals met last Monday to work out a funding model to undertake this again for the 2015 year. This is just one of the initiatives that our area's Public Schools have successfully undertaken through working together as a combined group, both primary and high schools.

Kindergarten 2015

We are now taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2015. Enrolling now will help us develop an effective Kindergarten transition program that will take place later on this year in term 4.

If you have children who are ready to start school next year please see Mrs Dunstan in the office at your earliest convenience. Likewise, if you know of local families who have children ready to start school next year and they are considering Congewai Public School as an option, please encourage them to come to our school and arrange a meeting where we can show off the wonderful programs we have here.

We will be holding some open days later in term 3 inviting visitors to our school, and showcasing the great things we do as a small school.

~ Donna

Fitness skills take
concentration



Term 3 Assemblies

Assemblies take place on the even weeks of school commencing with week 2.

They are on Monday's, after committees, at 2:30pm.

Parents and family members are very welcome to join us!

FRIDAY



Term 2 Year 6 Fundraiser PJs and Slippers!

Gold Coin Donation please

Included in the fun of the day, our Canteen, and Friday FUNDAY afternoon.

Don't forget hats and sneakers for playing outside.

Crawford Bridge repair work.....Information for Residents

Our school has been asked by Cessnock City Council to be the host venue for information sessions regarding the upcoming repair work to Crawford Bridge. Representatives from Council will be available on Thursday, 17th July, 2014, from 4pm to 6pm, to answer questions. Please come along to the school if you have queries and your questions will be answered.