



Diary Dates:

Saturday 31st Jan - Fundraising
BBQ ...details in this newsletter

Monday 2nd February - Assembly

Wednesday 4th Feb - P&C meeting 5:30pm

Friday 6th Feb - First library session for the
year (don't forget your library bags)

Welcome to week 1 of the new school year!

We trust you've had a restful holiday break and are looking forward to the great things 2015 will bring us. Our school staff are looking forward to a great year, one with new learning programs and lots of great opportunities. We've been busily planning our first term of learning, making sure our students are immersed in learning while still having fun.

We welcome new students to our school, Meg, Clayton and Mikey, and know they will enjoy being part of our school community as much as our returning students do.

We are happy to again offer canteen to our students, commencing Friday of next week. This again will be Friday of each even school week, and a menu for the term accompanies this newsletter. Even though we only have canteen on those particular Fridays, students will be able to purchase frozen treats at lunch time each day.

While we are commencing our learning programs this week, we are focusing on testing and programming to ensure the best learning outcomes are achieved by our school members. We will be sending home information about the term's learning programs next week with other important notes for families. We ask that notes be completed and returned promptly to ensure a smooth

commencement to the school year.

During this first week, our Kindergarten students will be undertaking Best Start assessments to assist in their learning plans. During this time all other students will be undertaking whole school learning in preparation to the weeks ahead of them. It will of course be a busy term, full of interesting things, lots of laughter and interesting challenges.

We have no doubt that an exciting school year awaits us. We know it will be filled with academic achievement, creativity, many sports challenges starting with the Small School Swimming Carnival coming soon, exciting trips, and good friendships. Feel free to approach us with questions, ideas or concerns throughout the school year. As the year unfolds, we are here to ensure you feel a sense of belonging to our school community, and we encourage you to work in partnership with us to enhance your child's learning experience. Please be in touch, visit often, and hopefully take part in events, fundraisers and all else that we have to offer.

Until next week,

Donna Stackman



Fundraising BBQ

Saturday 31st January, 2015
9am - 1pm

We have been given the opportunity to conduct a fundraising BBQ at the machinery clearing sale at 1564 Congewai Road, Congewai this Saturday.

Even though we were offered this at late notice for our parents, we feel this will be a great opportunity to raise our profile among the wider community as well as raising funds for our school's learning programs with an expected 150 registered buyers at the sale, coming from both surrounding areas and those farther afield. Please complete the form which accompanies this newsletter, indicating if you are able or unable to assist our staff members with the BBQ and return it to school by Friday.



STAFF CHANGES

We welcome back Mr Cagney and Miss Naysmith to our teaching staff along with Mrs Dunstan as our office manager and Mr Blake as our school grounds assistant. Mrs Van der Wel will continue to join us for library and Mrs Woodward will be joining us as our preferred casual teacher but will not be with us on a weekly basis. We know she'll be enjoying her extra time with her family.



CANTEEN

Our yummy canteen starts Friday next week, 6th February.

Please return orders by Wednesday 4th February.

New attendance procedures for all NSW students in 2015

We'd like to remind parents that they must notify the school of a reason for a student's absence for roll marking procedures. We are no longer able to give a leave exemption for students taking family holidays outside of the school holiday period. We'd like to encourage families to holiday or travel during set holiday periods as their children will now be marked absent on the rolls.

Parents must also give a reason for a child's absence to the school within a reasonable time period. This may be done via a note or a phone call, when the child returns to school. If a child is going to be absent for longer than a day or two, it would be appreciated if the school was contacted to notify of continuing absence.

If parents need to collect a child from school during school hours, they must complete the early leavers notification. A late arrival note should be also completed if a child is late for school. Both notes are available at the school's office.



We have been looking at the way we do homework at Congewai and are finalising our homework expectations policy.

Full details will be included in next week's newsletter and this week we would like our students to spend time reading a favourite book or books to their parents.



Our first assembly for the term will be on Monday of next week, commencing at 2:30pm in the school hall. We hope to see you there.