



Sharing with our buddy school in Singapore!

Diary Dates:

Kindergarten Transition commences: Monday 12th October (see all dates inside our newsletter)

Grandparent's Day - Thursday 22nd October 9:30 - 11am

Emergency Drill - Tuesday 27th October

Locked Down Drill - Thursday 29th October

Road Safety for Kids - Thursday 5th November

Sculpture in the Vines excursion - Thursday 19th November

Beach Days - Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th December

Report Cards Home - Monday 7th December

Carols at Congewai - Friday 11th December

School Presentation Day - Wednesday 16th December

Welcome to Week 1, of term 4.

Wow the holidays went fast didn't they, we hope you all had a great break and are fresh and ready for a fantastic last term of the year.

As you can see in our diary dates, we've got a few things already booked into our school's learning calendar. Accompanying this newsletter are some excursion notes, permission notes, a calendar to place on the fridge with dates of things we know are coming up already and space to place those things which will come up in the next few weeks. We do try to give parents and families plenty of notice of upcoming learning opportunities for the kids, but sometimes things come along with little notice but are too interesting to pass up. As a small school we have more flexibility to involve our students in these and we do thank our families for enabling us to do this.

We commence swimming lessons this term, using our sports grant from Sporting Schools. Included with this will be our intensive swimming days and our lessons will be taught by our school's staff members. Miss Naysmith and I undertook teaching swimming training with the Austswim Association during the school holidays and we will be conducting the lessons for our students on a weekly basis commencing in week 3, at the Cessnock Swimming Pool except for Friday the 6th November which will be at Kurri pool. Please complete the swimming information note which was given to your child / children today and return it asap, as this information is very important to us and is used to develop lessons for your child.

Our Kindergarten Orientation Days commence for our next year's Kindergarten students, next Monday. We would welcome all new potential students and their families to join us for this important introduction to 'big school' and we'd like to invite our existing families to share the invitation with others that they may know of who are ready to start school. We do

have information on our school website about our 'Ready, Set, Go' program, please feel free to have a look and share it around to others who may wish to come and join us.

We celebrating Grandparent's Day again very soon and we'd love to invite all our grandparents to join us for the morning for fun filled activities and morning tea on Friday the 23rd of October. Our students will be creating invitations this week to give to their grandparents and we hope to see lots of our families on the day.

We had a very interesting visit from Enviromentors during the last week of school and our students learned a lot about the importance of rubbish minimising and reusing and recycling. As part of this they all had a discussion about minimising the 'throw away with one use' rubbish and wish to do this with the items they bring to school, particularly within their lunch boxes. Please ask them for more information about this and how they can bring lunch box foods in things that can be used more than once.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, I am away for the rest of this week attending my daughter's wedding. Mrs Beneke, Miss Naysmith and Mrs Dunstan will have everything in hand in my absence, and as always, they'll be keeping me in touch with what's going on at school each day. Have a nice start to the term everyone, and I'll see you all again next week.

*Until next week,
Donna Stackman*



We do love cooking lessons!

News from the classroom:

Notes out today

- ◇ Whole school: Swimming information notes
- ◇ Child protection notes
- ◇ Walking to the creek notes

Speaking and Listening topic: As this is our first week of school, we'd like our students to think about what they'd most like to learn about , to do, to investigate! This leads into our new aspect of learning form our Primary students which is....

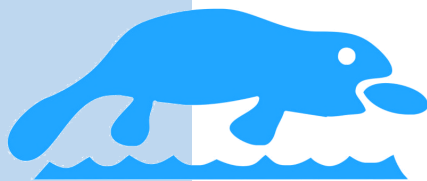
Genius Hour: This is time given to self directed learning where students have the chance to explore their passion about any particular topic. They may wish to learn how to master a skill, to explore knowledge about a subject, to learn a process, to create an item. To do this, they must reflect on their interests and 'passions' and become more self aware. This will integrate into our PBL and wellbeing focus at school and part of this will be to share the skills with their younger peers at the end of the term.

Friday - Library: Mrs Van Der Wel will joining us on a couple of days this term and Mrs Beneke and Mrs Stackman will be conducting weekly library lessons. Borrowing will take place each Friday as usual and this term, we'll be tracking borrowing with the aim of encouraging reading and borrowing for all students.

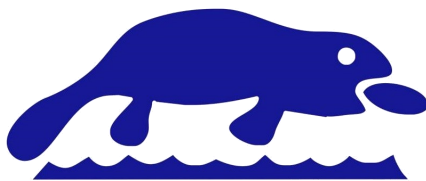
Kitchen Garden: We'll be working in the garden a lot this term, enjoying the warmer weather and getting our summer crops in. We'd really appreciate adult help, if you're able to help on any of our 'garden day's' we'd love to see you. We garden each Tuesday at 12:15 until lunch time.

Sport: For the next two week, we'll be practicing fundamental movement skills, along with all the things we learned in gymnastics. We'll also be practicing ball games and ball sports.

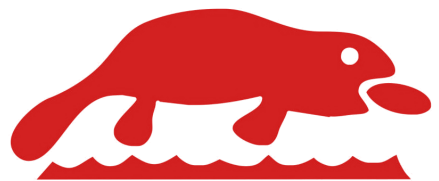
Beep Test: To improve our fitness levels on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, we'll start the day of with our "Beep Test", keeping a record of how well we do as individuals. School staff will be doing this also and we'd love parents to join us if they wish, we start at 9am and go for 15 minutes maximum.



RESPONSIBILITY



RESPECT



READY TO LEARN

Positive Behaviour Learning

Last term we gave a worksheet out to all families, asking for core words or phrases which they felt reflected our core values. We'd like to thank those who have returned the sheets and who've added words to our large sheets on the wall at school. We'd like to encourage all our families to bring the sheets back into school this week and of course to continue to add words to our larger sheets. We'll be working on these this term, developing our school's core value statement, ready for the end of year celebrations.

- Mrs Stackman

Don't forget...Head Check Friday!

On Friday afternoons, check kids hair, give it a good going over because the crawlies do like to hide, and treat if necessary.



Evacuation Drill



Safety matters

Emergency Drills and Locked Down Procedures

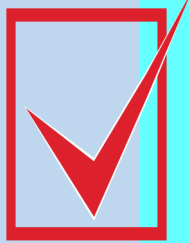
Why do we practice these with our children? In the event of an emergency there is very little time to get everyone into a safe area and ensure minimal harm in the very unlikely chance of an emergency of some sort, therefore it is really important that our children and school staff are able to follow a planned emergency procedure. To ensure that, we practice procedures on a regular basis to embed knowledge of what to do and how to do it, in the event of an emergency.

In an evacuation event, our children and staff know that they must move immediately to our emergency points at the front gates of the school. In a locked down event, they know that they must move to a central point within the school, depending on the location, and move to the floor as a group, calmly waiting until the all clear is given as a safe time to emerge.

To practice these two events, we have scheduled drills for Tuesday the 27th and Friday the 30th of October.

Late Arrival to School or Early Leaving from School

We'd like to remind parents that any late arrival at school or early pick up of students must be done via the school's office. Mrs Dunstan will give you a quick note to fill in which then goes into our school roll, and this follows Department of Education procedures for daily attendance at school. We do appreciate parents calling to let us know of student absences, this allows us to ensure we plan to catch up on missed learning when the student returns.



DID YOU KNOW?

Creating neural pathways and reshaping existing neurons is called neuroplasticity. This is the brain's way to become more efficient and faster at completing tasks. As the brain ages through childhood the neural pathways used grow stronger and the pathways less used begin to diminish. Different tasks rely on different pathways and these pathways have the ability to change and grow—even as an adult.

An important reason to always have a go at new things!

Our Term 4 Learning Topic

This term we are furthering our learning about the importance of WATER in our world. This follows our learning about the Oceans last year and we'll be adding learning about fresh water into our learning matrix and add learning about rock pools at the end of the year. As part of this investigation we'll be conducting "water watch" tests from the water in the creek, checking the health of the water and the life it supports, and we'll be walking to and from the creek, along the road way on Wednesday mornings, on the 14th, 21st and 28th of October, leaving school at 9:30am, returning to school by 11am. We'll also use this journey to build on our road safety lessons and learning, and parents are more than welcome to join us for these trips.





Ready Set Go

Ready for Kinder - Kindergarten Transition Program 2015

Monday	October 12	9-11 am
Monday	October 19	9-11 am
Monday	October 26	Full day
Monday	November 2	Full day
Monday	November 9	Full day
Monday	November 16	Full day

All children who are ready to start school in 2016 are more than welcome to join us !



Enjoying the yummy feast on the last day of term 3, as part of our studies of countries around the world. Many thanks to our families for participating, preparing such delicious foods and supporting our learning topics.



Carols at Congewai

We'd like to invite all past Congewai Public School students to join our choir for the night, so please share this invitation with all who those you know!

Further information can be obtained by phoning the school.