

This Thursday



Diary Dates:

Kindergarten Transition has commenced. Dates are on our school website.

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 3, of term 4.

We're eagerly looking forward to our special visitors, parents and grandparents and those who take on a special role, on Thursday, when we will celebrate the important role Grandparents and other special friends play in our children's lives. Parents and their children will take part in a special activity which will commemorate the day, showcasing this year's theme of "Moments in Time". Our activities start at 9:30 in the morning and we'll finish our event with a delicious morning tea at 11am, joining the children in their recess time.

We had a great second day of our "Ready, Set, Go!" program today, our Kindergarten Orientation program. Today our young visitors learned more about what it's like to be in 'big school', immersed in writing, reading and school readiness activities. Lots of laughter was heard and business was seen everywhere. We'd like to ask that parents let their friends and neighbours with school aged children know that our Orientation has now commenced and invite them to join us. Our program is available on our website.

Thank you to all those who've added words and phrases to our wall charts. We'll be using them to create our school values mission statement and we'll discuss this at our next Congewai Catchup on Wednesday November 4th.

Last week a term calendar was sent home with our children. Please feel free to put this on the fridge or your noticeboard. We've included the dates of events that we currently know of, with space to add any that come up throughout the rest of the year. Please note: The calendar shows swimming 27/11/15...this day is no longer available, please take it off the calendar.

Swimming starts on Friday. We do need permission notes and medical information notes back before we can allow children to attend and we'd like to remind parents to ensure all items of clothing etc are clearly named.

Our school has signed up to take part in the Department of Education's Class Movies. Class Movies showcases initiatives of the department and schools. Due to the fantastic successes of our students within the Early Action for Success program, we've chosen to target this as our subject. We simply take footage of our students doing great things, send the footage to the Class Movies team and it's professionally put together into a DVD. Included with this newsletter is a permission form for your child's participation.

Until next week,
Donna Stackman



News from the classroom:

Notes due back this week - *please disregard if you've returned these notes*

- ◇ Whole school: Swimming permission and medical information notes
- ◇ Whole school: Child protection notes

Speaking and Listening topic: How do I show I am a responsible family member at home?

Video Conference with Singapore: Our primary students have their second video conference with Singapore this week, sharing with the Singapore school students their favourite Australian foods. They demonstrated how to spread vegemite on toast (a very important skill), how to drink warm milo through Tim Tams, how to suck the chocolate off Fanta's before eating the toffee and how to lift the lid of a meat pie to add sauce, just to name some.

Friday - Library: Well done to those kids who borrowed last week, again, children who borrow this week will receive a sticker on their chart.

Sport: Swimming lessons start this week. Please make sure all items of clothing (including socks and undies) are named. Students will need to bring plenty to drink, fruit for fruit break and sunscreen to reapply at the pool. Please apply sunscreen when dressing in the morning.

Water watch: We'll be walking to the Congewai Creek on Wednesday, for the second of our Water watch lessons. Students enjoyed observing the environmental aspects of the creek and dipping in the water to check its health. This week they'll be making more complex observations and conducting water experiments. Parents are more than welcome to join us, we leave at 9:30 on Wednesday.

Behavioural Reading: Mrs Vogt has been working with some of our younger children trialling the Behavioural Reading method. She and classroom teachers have seen a shift in abilities since adding this method to our 'tool box' of reading strategies. Mrs Vogt will be conducting information workshops for our teaching staff shortly and we will then share this with parents. In the mean time, we'd like to share some quick and easy tasks with parents that they can use to reinforce classroom learning.

To help build essential neurological connections, here is an exercise you can do in the car. It's a great little exercise, trains our **working memory** and **fluency** and it can be done anywhere and anytime.

Exercise ONE - The Number Plate Game

Readlook away.... say

Part 1

Read the Number Plate, look away and say it out loud. Eg: RAV134 . Look away **RAV one three four**

Part 2

Break the Number Plate into sound groups and say them out loud. Eg: TRAY22 . Look away **TRAYTw.... En.... ty ...two**

It doesn't matter what the groups are and helps if you change them around and try them differently.

Part 3

Take it to the next level.

Try Part 1 & Part 2 with signs, like shop name and road signs.

Eg: The Little Doll Making Shop

1. Read, look away and say **The Little Doll Making Shop**

2. Read, look away and say **TheLit tleDo..... llMakingShop**



We'd like to invite all Parents,
Grandparents and those who play this
role in our children's lives, to our
Grandparent's Day

on

Thursday 22nd October
9:30am—11:30am

*A Special Invitation for
Very Special People*

Swimming Lessons Timetable

Leaving school at 9:20am



Friday 23/10/15

Cessnock Swimming Pool

Friday 30/10/15

Cessnock Swimming Pool

Friday 6/11/15

Kurri Aquatic Centre 12-1:30

Friday 13/11/15

Cessnock Swimming Pool

Friday 20/11/15

Cessnock Swimming Pool

Intensive swimming 12th & 13th November Cessnock Swimming Pool

Please note: Calendar shows swimming 27/11/15...this day is no longer available,
please take off the calendar.

These two had far too
much fun at last week's
waterwatch activities!



This is what
happens when you
use a bucket for a
seat!



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.



Dipping in the creek to discover how healthy the water way is. We found wrigglers, small tadpoles and water spiders. The water was surprisingly clear and flowing easily.



PBL: We've started creating posters to remind us of how to act in certain areas around our school. This visual reminder will assist in showing our new students what to do when they're in these areas. Have a look for them when you next come to school.

Save the date!

**Small School's
Swimming Carnival for
2016**

February 16th 2016

Do you have any of these iphone/ipad chargers spare at home that you're no longer using?

We are in real need of several of these at school and would be grateful for any donations.....

