



Congewai News

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Congewai Public School

- a proud member of the Cessnock Community of Great Public Schools



Enjoying the last day of swimming lessons for the year!

Diary Dates:

Newcastle Herald Newspaper awards and morning tea—
Tuesday 24th November 11am

Congewai Playgroup - Thursday 26th November 9:15am

School Assembly - Friday 27th November 2:30pm

Australia's Biggest Mud Pie making competition -
Wednesday 2nd December 11am

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
and last day for students.

Welcome to Week 8 of term 4.

We've got some great events and learning opportunities for our students ahead in the next few weeks, starting with an invitation to our school newspaper team to the Newcastle Herald School Newspaper Awards morning tea on Tuesday. Cain and Sean will attend as our team's representatives and will meet teams from the other schools who've had articles and stories published as part of this annual undertaking. It's a well deserved recognition for our small school's team who all worked very hard developing ideas, frameworks and articles for our school's entry.

Next week we attend our annual Beach Days on Thursday 3rd and Friday the 4th, after participating in Dirt-girl's Australia's Biggest Mud Pie competition on Wednesday the 2nd. We're certainly going to be very busy having a lot of fun.

The hot weather last Friday reminded us that we live in a bush fire area and part of this requires a firm strategic plan of action should we be unfortunate to be in a situation where we might have to evacuate. Our staff are undertaking professional learning this week in preparation to ensure we know exactly what to do and we'd love input from our families to confirm a plan of action. Our bush plan framework has been sent home today with our weekly notes and we'd love input and suggestions before it's finalised by the end of the week. Please return any suggestions by Friday please.

The Congewai Playgroup is on again this Thursday. This very informal get together for parents of young children

is hosted by our school and all parents are invited to bring their children up for a play, while parents get a chance to chat and meet new friends, catch up with old ones over coffee and cake. Please feel free to pass on an invitation to any parents you know, as this early introduction to school benefits all.

We'd like to see everyone at this week's assembly, as it will be the last one of the school year, with our school Presentation Day on Wednesday 16th of December. Please come and join us at 2:30, this Friday.

We had a great last day of swimming lessons last Friday, beating the heat by enjoying the refreshing water at Cessnock pool. It was great to see our children's skills and confidence so far away from what was demonstrated at the commencement of this term's lessons. I'd like to acknowledge and thank our great teaching team for their care, dedication and gentle encouragement of our students, this has really shown great results in skills for all our children.

*Until next week,
Donna Stackman*



News from the classroom:

Notes out today -

- ◇ Beach Day permission notes and medical forms
- ◇ Bush fire preparation plan
- ◇ Homework survey for parents

Speaking and Listening topic: “Why is it important to be kind to others?”

Friday - Library: Don't forget library books.

Canteen: Canteen orders in by Wednesday please for Friday's canteen.

Sport: We'll be continuing our fitness program this week, focusing on fundamental movement and ball handling skills. Of course this is dependant upon favourable weather.

Reporting to parents: Our reports to parents are almost finalised, ready to go out to families Monday 7th. This year, we're adding something a little different, look out for it.

Choir: Today our students finalised the song list for our Carols night. They've all got copies of the songs to practice at home and they hope you'll practice with them too. Who can sing the best in your house hold? Here's a good way to get them to sing... sing badly and loudly with them, they'll want to drown you out!



Homework Survey



Some time ago, a discussion about homework was undertaken by parents and school staff. Over the last few years, much research has been done about the benefits of homework, the different time loads given by different schools and teachers, the battles going on in most family kitchens each afternoon, the impact on learning for students and the list goes on. The primary outcome from the majority of these research undertakings is that homework for the most part is a waste of time. It makes no positive impact on learning for children and adds to the battleground of parents.

This year, we as a school have minimised homework to include spelling words, focus on reading and number skills. As originally decided upon, we are now asking our parent community to decide on where we go next on the homework issue. We ask that you complete the survey sent home today, adding comments where you wish. We will collate all answers and communicate results to parents before the end of the year, to decide on our future homework policy for our school. Please return surveys by the end of the week.

As we are now reaching the end of our year, our children will not receive homework for the rest of the year. We do however expect them to be practicing their choir songs at home and of course they may use Reading Eggs, Mathletics or Skoolbo to practice learning skills at home.

We're collecting for our Christmas hampers now.

Please take goodies up to the office.



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.



Sculpture in the Vineyards

We had a terrific time at this year's Sculpture in the Vineyards, visiting Stonehurst Cedar Creek and viewing the many sculptures installed as part of this year's exhibit. Our children discussed the installations and were lucky enough to be allowed to touch many of them, exploring the mediums used to create the artworks and investigating the methods used by the artists. Some very insightful comments were made as to the thoughts of the artists during the creation of the pieces and the moods the finished pieces invoked. Our students then made their own mini sculptures and learned some interesting techniques of their own.



Staff in this week - Mrs Wittmann is in on Tuesday (she's very excited about this as she's missed us) while Miss Naysmith and Mrs Stackman, Cain and Sean attend the Newcastle Herald School Newspaper Awards in Newcastle.

Mrs Stackman is attending the Primary Principal's Association meeting on Friday.

Our school hall is getting insulated and lined!

We are very excited to announce that after many years of being very hot in summer and cold in winter, our school hall is being insulated and lined. Work will commence early on Tuesday morning (tomorrow) and will be finished in time for this year's Presentation Day. While still remaining without air conditioning until our school can fund this, it will now be more in keeping with what our school hall should be, usable and much more comfortable to be in. We can't wait!!!!!!



ALL WELCOME

Come and join us at

Congewai Public School

Thursday 26 November & 10 December

9:15 - 11 am

Wednesday 2nd December



Go to the link below for a look at the promo. Please note that pictures will be uploaded onto **Instagram** as part of this participation, we could win some great prizes. Please let us know if you don't wish your child to be in the photos.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8C1G0QNN5E>

