



Proudly representing our school!

Diary Dates:

Ship O Fools performance @ Ellalong PS - Wednesday 29th April

Mrs Dunstan's Big Head Shave - Wednesday 6th May

Tocal Excursion - Thursday 7th May

Mother's Day Stall - Friday 8th May

NAPLAN Year 3 & 5 - Tuesday 12th May to Thursday 14th May

Starting the term with a good lot of rain to replenish our gardens, grounds and water tanks is a great way to welcome a new school term, seeing lots of happy faces on happy kids is another great way. We got both today on the first day as we finally commenced term 2, as we had a late start to the term due to last week's storms. Our school came through relatively unscathed, a few branches down and a little water through our hall and sports shed, the only damage. We'd like to thank parents for their patience during our enforced closure while power was restored to the area over the weekend. We also hope our community didn't suffer too much and all are well and safe.

Thank you to Mrs Dunstan and families for representing our school during Saturday's ANZAC March on Saturday. Jade, Tamsyn and Gabrielle joined her behind our school banner.

Our students have been invited to join Ellalong Public School for a water saving performance by the Ship O Fools performance troupe. This is a cost free performance and we will be travelling either by bus or via teacher vehicle transport. We have been invited to join the Ellalong students for lunch and a special canteen menu will be organised by the Ellalong Canteen. Please find all details on the information and permission note which will be sent home later this week.

As you know, Mrs Dunstan has registered for the Biggest Head Shave and will be undergoing this brave 'losing of the locks' on Wednesday at 12 noon at Grice's Cake Shop in Vincent Street Cessnock. We would like to invite you to sponsor Mrs Dunstan or make a donation on her behalf to show your support.

Many in our immediate school community have been affected by cancer and we as a school feel it's an important cause for us to support. We will be travelling to the bakery on the bus to watch Mrs Dunstan shave her head and children can purchase a lunch treat from the bakery should they wish to.

Coming up shortly after that is the excursion to Tocal Homestead. This is just one part of this term's study on Australia's history and our Hunter history in context. Information and permission notes for this excursion have been sent home today.

We have some staff changes this term as we've said 'farewell' to Mr Cagney whilst he pursues other interests and learnings. We welcome Miss Fitzpatrick and Mrs Beneke, who'll be sharing a teaching role at our school.

Mrs Wittmann had accepted a position with us and is known to our students as the wonderful teaching artist who's conducted speciality art days for both Congewai and Wollombi schools during last year. Unfortunately Mrs Wittmann has been flooded during the devastation that hit Dungog and may not be able to start with us for some time. Miss Fitzpatrick will fill in for her until she is able to start. Mrs Beneke has been at our school as a casual teacher and she and our children have had a lot of fun together and she joins us for 3 days per week. Together the two ladies will be delivering a dynamic learning program, adding talents and enthusiasm to our learning scape.

Until next week,

Donna Stackman

News from the classroom:

Home Readers: This term we are adding something a little different to the home reading program. Kinder students will receive 2 home readers. They will need to read each book on multiple occasions, discussing the books with parents and practicing a 'tricky' word from the book. This word may be written, spelt aloud, added to, used in a sentence and discussed. This follows our L3 program which is used in the classroom and I'd like to invite all Kinder parents in to the school to learn more about how the program is implemented in class.

Year 1 and beyond students will also get 2 books each week. They will have a 'review' style task based on one of the books (child's own choice of which book) to complete each week.

We have discussed and outlined the expectations of home reading (and homework) today and will remind children each day this week.

Homework: homework will commence in full next week. For this week, we would like the children to focus on reading. As usual, they may access Studyladder, Mathletics and Reading Eggs to further enhance their own learning.

Library: Friday is the first borrowing day for the term and we'd like to encourage all students to borrow on a regular basis. So much research proves that regular reading is the most important support to a student's learning in all aspects of education.



MOTHER'S DAY STALL

FRIDAY 8TH MAY @ 11am

- all gifts \$5 each with a limit of 4 per student

Small School's

Athletics Carnival

May 19th

Congewai PS is running the canteen for this event, as well as being the organising school for the Athletics. Are you able to help with the canteen for the day? For an hour or two?

This is a big opportunity to raise \$\$ for our school's learning programs from which all of our students benefit.

Please see us at school if you can give us some time.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE WEEK'S TIMETABLE

- ◆ To ensure our learning day gets off to a good start, taking advantage of our prime learning time, our students will be entering the classroom as soon as the bell is rung in the morning. They will no longer be lining up in the mornings. This is to ensure a crisp learning environment is fostered, with students prepared for learning as soon as entering and we hope to minimise time spent in the cool morning air. We have discussed this with the children today and have found them to be quite excited about the changes.

Please note the new canteen menu for term 2 and 3 as decided by our Student Council this week.