

Train Your Brain with Mr Squiggle....

Diary Dates:

Students return for Term 3 -
Tuesday 14th July
Education Week Awards -
Wednesday 29th July
Education Week Open Day -
Friday 31st July
Father's Day Stall - Friday 4th
September
Father's Day - Sunday 6th Sep-
tember
Terrigal Trotters - Saturday
12th September

Welcome to Week 1, of term 3. We've already had a better start to this term than the last one and I trust everyone had a restful holiday and are more than ready for another school term, full of learning and experiences.

We've a lot planned for our students this term, with a learning focus on "Countries Around the World." This learning unit will combine aspects of many curriculum areas and students will immerse themselves in different areas of learning, specifically designed toward their level of understanding and to extend their capabilities. This unit of work will finish with a Cultural Sharing Day on Friday 18th September at 1pm. Keep an eye out for your invitation.

We will be hosting a clearing sale at our school in approximately 5 weeks and we'd like to invite our families and the Congewai community to consider what they'd like to bring to the sale. This is a chance to do some cleaning out of things at home and to enable our school to fund raise at the same time. Big ticket and small ticket items are both suitable. All items will be auctioned with a percentage of the sale price paid to the school. Our school will hold a BBQ on the day as we'll be inviting volunteers to spend some time cooking or serving.

Education Week starts on Monday July 27th. During this time we celebrate the great achievements of our school and Public Education. The Cessnock Community of Great Public Schools will hold Education Week Awards on Wednesday July 29th, where students, teachers, non-teaching staff, community members and school programs are recognised for their contribution to education. If you have a suggestion for an award recipient in any of these categories, we'd love to have you share it with us. Our school will hold an open day on Friday 31st of July, and we'd like to invite parents and family members to visit our classrooms and spend some learning time with us. We'll finish with a light morning tea and we'd

like each family to bring a plate to share.

Ellalong Pub Raffles - The Ellalong Social Club runs a weekly raffles at the Ellalong Pub. Funds raised from these raffles are shared among local groups, our school included. Groups are rostered on to sell tickets for the raffles with our school community rostered on approximately 6 times per term. This has been traditionally a school family run commitment and this year our school staff has stepped in to cover when one of the timeslots needed to be covered. This has become increasingly difficult to do with our school staff living some distance away, which has meant some very late nights. We'd therefore like to ask if any of our families are able to fill in the timeslot currently available. This requires a commitment of about 2 evenings (on a Thursday) per term. Please contact us if you're able to assist.

Woolworths Earn and Learn - We've registered for this year's Earn and Learn through Woolworths supermarkets. Commencing on Wednesday the 15th July, for each \$10 spent, a sticker is received to place on a sticker sheet. Completed sticker sheets may be placed in the sticker box in the school's office or placed in the collection box at Woolworths supermarkets. This allows us to spend credits at a great school supplier, Modern Teaching Aids at the end of the promotion.

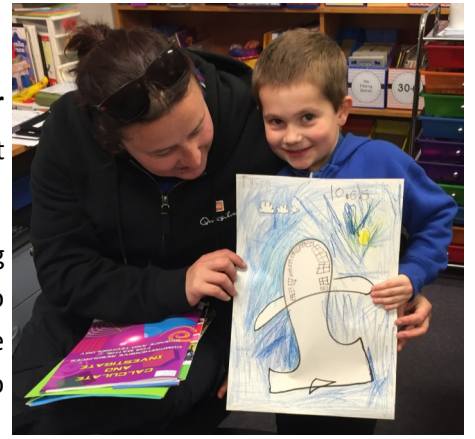
P&C - At the last P&C meeting, it was decided that our school's P&C would enter into 'recess' until further notice. Therefore our school will be hosting an informal get together for families and school staff each term where school matters, information discussion etc, will be shared among all. Keep an eye out for the first meeting notice in our newsletters soon.

Until next term,
Donna Stackman

News from the classroom:

Speaking and Listening topic: Due to the short week this week, our speaking and listening will commence next week. The topic for next week is "I think everyone should do as I say because.....".

Maths: Each Monday and Tuesday, students will be immersed in learning about measurement, shape, time and mass and capacity. On Wednesday to Fridays students will study number. As always, students are encouraged to use our online learning tools such as Studyladder, Mathletics and Skoolbo to reinforce and practice learning concepts.



Kindergarten and Year 1 Home reading: Kindergarten and year 1 have home reading books chosen by teachers to complement the classroom reading program. They are expected to read a book each night and should read each book up to 3 times to reach deep understanding. Home reading folders including books and reading logs are to be returned each Friday along with homework folders.

Friday - Library: Library lessons will continue to take place on Fridays with Mrs Van Dr Well and Mrs Beneke sharing the library role. As usual, library borrowing and return is on Fridays and all students should have a library bag to borrow books. Some students have overdue library books and we encourage all students to return books when they're due.

New This Term -

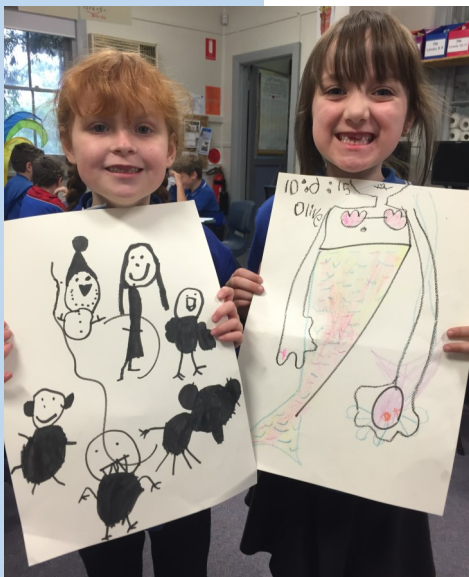
Class Photographer - Each week one of our students will be our "class photographer." Their job throughout the week will be to take photographs each day of things happening in our school which they feel is important. Each Friday they will be assisted in uploading their photos onto our Face Book page, showcasing events and happenings, along with a short explanation of their chosen pictures. Students names will be chosen at random to ensure fairness but names will not be placed into any public media.

Years 2-5 Home Reading Book Club: Each week our primary students may choose their own 'book club' book for home reading. On Friday they must discuss their book with the rest of their class. Each student will have a choice of activities they must do as part of this weekly homework. Students received a reading journal today to use as part of this program.

Goal Setting and tracking skills: To further enhance our involvement in Early Action for Success our students will begin to take responsibility for their own learning. As a component of this, this term our students will begin tracking their own learning and have today, started by developing their own learning goals for the term. They will then track their skills (aligned with the learning continuums in mathematics and literacy) after consultation with their class teachers. Discussions with the students last term resulted in great excitement about this opportunity.

Each student has a learning progress journal to record successes in with a 'where to next' section to focus future learning goals.

Countries Around the World: This term our unit of study will be exploring countries around the world. We will be investigating cultures, foods, customs, national dress and beliefs, just to name a few areas of study. We will be integrating this into our Kitchen Garden program for the term and will finish off the unit of study with a Cultural Day at the end of term. Each student will have a home project linked with the study unit and this was discussed fully with students today with an overview sheet has been sent home today with students.



Our term 3's Canteen Menu starts this week.

Please look for your family copy with today's newsletter.