



Diary Dates:

School Assembly - Monday 15/02/16
 Small School's Swimming Carnival - Tuesday 16/02/16
 Clean Up Australia Day - Friday 4/03/16 9-10am
 Kindergarten Best Start Reports to parents - Thursday 17/03/16
 Last swimming lesson - Friday 18/03/16
 Responsible Pet Program visit to school - Thursday 24/03/16 11:45– 12:25
 Good Friday - Friday 25/03/16
 Easter Saturday, Sunday, Monday - 26-28/03/16
 Students return to school - Tuesday 29/03/16
 Harvest Festival - Sunday 2/04/16
 Last day of term - Friday 8/04/16
 ANZAC Day Monday 25/04/16
 Term 2 Staff Development Day - Tuesday 26/04/16

Welcome to week 4, how quickly they're going by.

We had a very full week last week, welcoming new students and their family to our school, meeting our new School Administrative Manager Mr Jasper and congratulating Mrs and Mr Beneke on their lovely news regarding the upcoming addition to their family. Mrs Beneke will be taking maternity leave at the end of term 2 and will return next year. We know she won't be able to stay away though and we look forward to meeting her new bub and having lots of cuddles.

Today we formally introduced our 2016 School Captains and Vice-Captains to our school community at assembly. We'd like to congratulate Sean and Gypsy, Cain and Cherry in taking up their new roles and know they'll do a great job of representing our school and joining the Student Council in helping our school continue its strong tradition of excellence.

Tomorrow many of our students will be joining Mrs Beneke and Miss Naysmith at the Small School's Swimming Carnival. This yearly sporting event is an important part of our sporting calendar, an opportunity not only for our children to participate in sport, but to renew friendships with other students from small schools and to develop new ones. We, as a small school's group, participate in many events and excursions together, allowing both learning and social development of our students. We'd like to wish our students success in their events and we know they'll

have lots of fun.

Last Monday we held the first of this year's Congewai Catch Ups. During the discussion, our parent community decided to formally close the P&C, and continuing with the Congewai Catch Up in its place. The less formal proceedings of the Catch Up while still enabling participation in school decision making, planning and consultation, was seen as more fitting to our school community. Our next Catch Up will be on Monday 14th of March, straight after school.

During the Catch Up, dates for this year's Harvest Festival were finalised, plans for an end of year Family Aussie Picnic were discussed, along with ideas for a School Family Social night. Please put Sunday 2nd of April on your calendar as the date for the Harvest Festival. More information will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

We'd like to invite our school families to commence sending in items for our Easter Raffle Baskets. This will be the first of our year's fundraisers and as a small school we rely on the fundraisers our community supports so strongly. Raffle tickets will be sent home with families with our newsletter in week 6.

*Until next week,
 Donna Stackman*

CLASSROOM NEWS:

Speaking and Listening topic of the week: My favourite movie

Website for parents: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au>

This is a great Department of Education site for parents to access to enable them to find information about schools, home-work, school curriculum and many other topics. It's also great for kids too.

Swimming Carnival last minute information from the organiser:

- Students attending the carnival should have returned their permission and medical information notes to the school with their entry fee payment of \$2.50.
- Students with medical conditions must take their medication to the pool with them.
- Students must meet Mrs Beneke and Miss Naysmith at the Cessnock Pool at 9am. Swimmers will be then completing a Safety Swim Test in the shallow end of the pool. They will be issued coloured arm bands according to their swimming confidence and ability. Swimmers with disabilities who can swim 50m may qualify for Zone or Regional representation. Please let Mrs Beneke know if you think your child may qualify for this.
- Swimmers with Swim Club times for Butterfly, 100m freestyle and Ind. Medley races should submit details to the recording table on the day of the carnival.
- Parents must pay their entry fee of \$2 to the pool upon entry
- Canteen will be available from 11am. It is suggested that students not visit the canteen until after their race event to enable them to put in their best swim.

Creative Arts: We will be participating in some quite messy creative arts activities involving painting and movement this week. We will be exploring the impact of movement and colour twice during the week. We can't say which days this will occur at this stage, but your child may (almost certainly) come home with some paint of their school uniform. This will be school paint and will be washable. We **will** be having far too much fun!

Bus to swimming lessons

Due to our increase in enrolments, we will be traveling to and from swimming lessons in the Cessnock High School bus. Mr Blake will be driving the bus for us. We were able to book this bus for every Friday except for this Friday, 19th of February. We will be taking the Ellalong Hotel bus this Friday which fits 10 students, therefore we will require some parent assistance with transport this Friday. Miss Naysmith can take up to 4 students in Mrs Stackman's car which leaves us with at least 2 students who will require transport. If you can assist by transporting your own and possibly other students, could you please let us know asap.

STAFF INFORMATION

Mr Blake, our school's Grounds Assistant, will be at our school on Fridays instead of Thursdays from now on. This change is so he is able to drive our students on the bus for swimming lessons on Fridays and we'd like to thank Millfield PS for accommodating this change.