



Congewai News

Phone: 4998 1366

Fax: 4998 1603

www.congewai-p.school.det.nsw.edu.au

Congewai Public School

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



"It's too hot to play outside today!"

Diary Dates:

School Assembly - Monday 29/02/16

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

Students return - Wednesday 27/04/16

Welcome to week 5.

We had a very busy week last week with many of our students attending the Cessnock Small School's Swimming Carnival on Tuesday. Congratulations to Gabrielle, Cherry, Cain, Chelsea, Hayley, Gypsy, Koby and Sean, you're participation and sportsmanship was fantastic on the day and we're very proud to say you're Congewai Kids. Many of our kids earned places in their races and two, Koby and Gypsy swam times which have given them entry into Zone. Well done! All the practice has been successful.

We'd like to thank parents for joining their children for the day and those who transported other children, ensuring all had an enjoyable day. As a small school these things are greatly appreciated by our school staff, and our whole parent community.

I'd also like to thank parents for transporting their children to last week's swimming lessons. We will be able to travel on the Cessnock High School bus again this week and for the remainder of our swimming lessons.

Mrs Woodward joined us for a couple of days last week and it was great to have her with us again. She is coming back for a few more days throughout the term and we will place those dates in the newsletter.

This Thursday at 2pm, we'd like our school families and community to join us for a Farewell Afternoon Tea for Mrs Dunstan. As School Administrative Manager, Mrs Dunstan has been at our school for several years and she's participated on many activities and events during that time, giving a hand, helping kids in the classroom and the playground, mending "ouchies" and working to ensure our school has run smoothly. I'm sure you will want to join us in sharing memories and a laugh or two, and wishing her well in her new role.

*Until next week,
Donna Stackman*



22nd February, 2016

CLASSROOM NEWS:

Speaking and Listening topic of the week: Share an unusual fact or piece of information about something

Maths: We'll be looking at fractions later this week in the primary classroom, revisiting number early in the week with the whole school along with a revisit with time.

Literacy: We'll be using some of our reading time to look at visual literacy, really looking at pictures and deciding what story they tell.

Library: Last week we took the final step in migrating to the new operating system for libraries for the DoE. This system called Oliver, allows students to use their own library portal. This afternoon we had a look at what that looks like, talked about what it will be able to do and how we will use it.

Tell Them From Me Survey:

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>
The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by **Monday 7 March**. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

We'd like to ask parents to check kids hair for little visitors on a regular basis. We've had a couple of notifications last week and as usual we'd like to make Monday night -
"Check for head lice" night.

STAFF INFORMATION

Mrs Woodward will be with us on Thursday, teaching K-2. Although Mrs Stackman will be at school, she will be busy in the office and has several meetings.

Mrs Stackman will be absent on Friday as she will be attending a meeting for Teaching Principals in Maitland with other Teaching Principals. Mrs Beneke, Miss Naysmith and Miss Kirsty will be at school as usual, along with Mr Blake who will be driving the bus to and from swimming.