



# Congewai News

## Newsletter

6 August 2020

*Safety*

*Respect*

*Learning*

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TERM 3 WEEK 3

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

## Diary Dates

### Term 3

#### Week 4

12 August

Cessnock HS

Yr 6 Transition 12 - 2p.m.

CANCELLED

Mt View HS

Year 5 Taster Day

14 August

Imaginaturalists Incursion

#### Week 5

18 August

P & C 3.30p.m.

21 August

Imaginaturalists Incursion

#### Week 6

24 August 1-2p.m.

Mt View HS

Transition Visits

28 August

Imaginaturalists Incursion

#### Week 7

TBA

Mt View HS

Enrichment Class Test

4 September

Imaginaturalists Incursion



**Library: Thursday**

please check for any overdue books – we are missing a few.

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hi everyone,

### Education Week

We are celebrating Education Week this week and we have enjoyed a special film presentation, "Film By", a Leaders Breakfast and a special lunch and yarning circle where we discussed what school was like for our staff, parents and grandparents. The recipient of our special school award for Cessnock Community of Great Public Schools Education Week Awards was Gabrielle Lindsay for always demonstrating the values of our school. Congratulations Gab! We admire your strong commitment and positive attitude to learning, your representation of the school through strong attendance and respect for the uniform and what it stands for.

**We congratulate all of our students for the dedication they show every day.**

### Adventurer Day

Our learning about resilience and persistence last term culminated with a very special "Adventurer Day". Students and staff dressed up as adventurers, with all sorts of themes on the day. Mrs Sattler made a great Dr Who!

We enjoyed minute-to-win-it games, newspaper challenge, games and a movie with popcorn. This was a great way to celebrate what was a fairly challenging term for all with new leadership, remote learning and a virus lurking in the background.

### Learning this term

This term, we are learning about how we remember the past and why it is important to do so. Students have had some amazing ideas and have started to demonstrate really strong questioning skills which I commend them for. It would be great if you could talk to your kids about memories you have of your own past and the sorts of things you have to keep memories alive for you and your family. Do you have any old photos you could share with them? Do you have any traditions you share as a family?

Numeracy skills are being strengthened with Maths Bootcamp each morning where we combine maths with exercise and movement. Students are really enjoying this and number fact recall is becoming more automatic. Parents can assist with this by asking their children to mentally compute simple addition/subtraction, multiplication/division problems any time throughout the day. Car trips are a great opportunity to have some fun with automatic recall of times table questions – you

would be surprised how much kids enjoy these challenges (and it even helps stop the fights in the back seat!).

We have started to learn about fractions and decimals. This is always a tricky concept as it can be applied in so many ways – half a piece of paper, half a cup, half of all the students. It is for this reason however, that it is so important to develop strong understanding.

### **PBL**

We are continuing to learn the values of our school through PBL lessons each week. The focus continues to be hygiene, though we are also promoting what it looks like to be a respectful person and engage in learning.

### **Hats**

As the weather starts to warm up, we encourage students to start wearing their hats more consistently. We will remind students of this over the next week, but move to keep students who are not wearing a hat to stay under cover as of Week 5.

### **An Inspiration**

Late last term, our class wrote a letter to Kate Miller-Heidke to ask her a little about her song “Caught in the Crowd”. This is a song we have been studying, which discusses big ideas like acceptance, bullying and standing up for what you believe.

We thank Clint Crighton for passing our letter along to Kate via email and were thrilled to receive a response from her.

Dear Congewai Kids,

Thanks very much for your letter!

Here are my answers to your questions:

*What was the inspiration behind the song?*

The inspiration for the song came from a real school experiences. My co-lyricist and I weaved together a couple of different memories to turn it into one story.

*How has Covid impacted you? Have you still been writing songs/performing?*

I've been performing a lot less, because everything is cancelled. But luckily I have some writing projects to work on from home. Also, my album is coming out soon so it has been a lot of work preparing for that.

I have done a couple of streamed performances from home, but I really miss playing for a live audience. It's just not the same when you can't connect with real live humans.

*What/who influenced you to become a singer?*

I always loved singing. It made me feel happy. My cousin was a singer/actor and I worshipped her when I was a kid - I wanted to be just like her (She is Mournie Kransky from The Kransky Sisters, in case any of you have heard of them!) Also, my mum was really supportive and got me a piano after I pestered her a lot! She also introduced me to a lot of musicals when I was a kid (West Side Story, The Sound of Music, Annie, Oliver etc), which I fell in love with.

*How old were you when you wrote and sang your first song?*

I was about 10. I'm pretty sure the song wasn't great, but I kept trying. When I started playing guitar around age 14, I wrote a lot more songs.

*Are any of your songs based on real life?*

Yes, nearly all of them are. It's not always my life (my life isn't that interesting) - sometimes I steal stories from my friends or from things I read/see. But it has to be based on a true feeling, otherwise the song won't be compelling.

*What were your experiences like at high school?*

Tough. Primary school was tough too. I didn't have many friends and I found it hard to fit in. The popular kids didn't like me. It was really hard at the time. But looking back, I wonder to myself, if I had been a popular kid, would I have spent so much time playing guitar and writing songs by myself in my bedroom? Maybe not. I do think that if you have a hard time at school, it can be VERY painful at the time, but ultimately it can help turn you into a more interesting, thoughtful person.

*Do you have any tips or advice for us if we wanted to become singers?*

Learn to play an instrument a little bit so you can accompany yourself. Piano is good. Print out lyrics to your favourite songs and sing them. If you want singing lessons, it's best to wait until you're around 14/15 years old when your voice has developed a bit more. Until then, just have fun!

I wish you all good health and happiness. You're very lucky to know William.

Kate

Melinda Stokes  
Principal



CCGPS AWARD  
CONGRATULATIONS GAB

SCHOOL LEADERS BREAKFAST  
GAB, KIYE & OLIVE



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following students for receiving a Bronze Award.

Olive, Caitlin & Clayton



## OFFICE NEWS

### Sport Shirts

Sports shirts and hats have arrived. Shirts are \$25 and Hats \$10.

### OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE SURVEY

Ellalong Public School has been suggested to operate an out of hours care facility to cater for students in the area, possibly commencing in 2021. Students would be transported by bus. If this is something you think you might use please complete the survey in this newsletter and return by Thursday 13 August.

Chris Sattler  
Admin Manager



## Congewai Public School

wishes Abigail L a very happy birthday for 26 August.



## EVERY DAY COUNTS...

**A day here or there doesn't seem like much, but...**

When your child misses just...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is...	This means that the best your child can achieve is...
1 day each fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ a years of school	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

*Give your child every chance to succeed...*

**Every day counts!**



Cessnock Family Support Service presents this **free** program

# Bringing Up Great Kids

**Bringing Up Great Kids** is a reflective parenting program to support parents to review and enhance patterns of communication with their children. *Australian Childhood Foundation: [www.childhood.org.au](http://www.childhood.org.au)*

## Topics covered include:

- Messages from the Past
  - The Message Centre
- Giving and receiving messages
  - The Message Behaviour
  - Messages about me
  - Passing on messages

**Where:** Both Via Zoom and limited numbers at Cessnock Family Support Service ☺

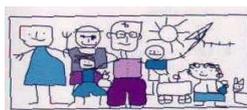
**When:** 4 Tuesdays

18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Time:** 10am am to 12.00pm

**Contact:** Cessnock Family Support Service

by phone **02 4990 4507** (Mondays-Thursdays 9am-4pm) or by email: [admin@cfss.ngo.org.au](mailto:admin@cfss.ngo.org.au) for further information if you are interested in attending – Registration is essential and no childcare will be available.



Cessnock Family Support Service is funded by NSW Department of Communities & Justice

## Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) – Start Up School Survey

To assist us to explore the possibility of an OSHC service Ellalong school, parents are asked to complete the survey below. This decision about establishing a service will be based on this survey, so if you are interested in using this proposed service, please take the time to complete this survey.

1. Which year group are your children in? – Please indicate how many in each year group.

Kindy – Year 2	Years 3-4	Years 5-6
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2. When do you think you would be most likely to use the OSHC Service? Please indicate number of children. (If occasionally indicate days)

Service required	Regularly					Occasionally (No of days)
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	
<b>Before School Care</b>						
<b>After School Care</b>						
<b>Vacation Care</b>						
<b>Staff Development Days</b>						

3. Please circle the times you would most likely require the service to be open (From – to)

Before School			
After School			
Vacation / Staff Development			

Please return this note to your child’s teacher by: Thursday 13 August.

Parent / Carer Name:

Phone number:

Child Name(s):

Class(s):