Dear families,

This week I have news of two performances visiting our school.

**African Rhythm with Eddie Quansah**

On Monday 9th March, our students have the pleasure of experiencing the rhythm and sounds of traditional Africa. African rhythm and drumming are ancient musical forms from which much of today’s music has evolved. In ‘African Rhythm’ Eddie Quansah shares the language of the drum and explains the part that the many different drums play in African ceremonies and rituals. Through drumming, chanting and singing, this is a highly participatory performance where students learn simple rhythm techniques and have the opportunity to play and sing with Eddie accompanying them on the trumpet. Cessnock Public School is fully funding this musical performance in the interests of our students’ musical and cultural development. There is no cost to families.

**The Protectors**

This performance is on Tuesday 17 March. It is a show about protecting yourself from bullying and strengthening self-esteem. It shows children ways to deal with bullying issues and to take brave assertive actions when it comes to making hard choices at school and online. The performance usually costs $5 per child. Both the school and our P & C really value opportunities like this to help our children combat bullying. The P & C have agreed to subsidise the cost. So, our P & C have kindly offered to pay $1.50 per child and the school will match this. This means we are asking families to only pay $2 per child. This is a great example of the P & C and school working together to benefit our students. Remember too, to check out Cessnock Public School’s P & C Facebook page.

**Gates**

A reminder that in the interest of keeping our students safe we lock our school gates at approximately 9.40 & unlock them again at approximately 3.15-3.20pm. If you need to access the school grounds between these times please use the Rawson Street entrance. Here we also have ramp access.

**Telephones**

Too many children are bringing mobile telephones to school. Our policy states that mobile phones should not come to school. If you require your child to bring a phone to school it must be accompanied with a note explaining why. The note and the telephone must then be handed in to Fran at the front office. No note-no phone. If your child brings a telephone to school without a note we accept no responsibility at all for its safekeeping. If there is a special circumstance and your child does require a telephone please send the note into me.

Have a good week & as always please contact either the school staff or myself if you have any concerns.

**PBL Corner - Perfect Page Week 7**

This week in our PBL lesson, students completed a lesson about PAYING ATTENTION. Paying attention in class and in all school settings is a vital part of going for learning, respect and safety.

**PBL Awards**

PBL Awards were not awarded last week, as there were no stage assemblies.

**Public Speaking Competition - Postponed**

Our school Public Speaking Competition has been postponed until 7th May (Week 3 Term 2) due to the Regional Public Speaking Competition not being held until Week 5 Term 3.

**National Ride to School Day**

This Friday, 13th March is National Ride 2 School Day which encourages students to ride, walk, skate or scoot to school in a safe manner. This is an annual event in which our school participates. Please be aware that students are expected to comply with the law and wear helmets – including those who skate and scoot. Parents can join in the fun by walking or wheeling with the students.

Two benefits of this initiative are:

- Students are more likely to reach the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity they need each day.
- Students feel happier, healthier and perform better in the classroom.
ICAS Tests

This is the last week to enter and pay for students to compete in the UNSW ICAS tests. If you have misplaced your form please come to the office for a copy. These tests are open to students in Year 2 to Year 6 for English, Maths and Science and Years 3 to Year 6 for the additional subjects of Computers, Writing and Spelling.

Regional Swimming

Congratulations to Lennox Vasilis for representing our school at Regional in the 50m backstroke.

P&C Meeting Reminder

Come along to our meeting Monday 16th March, 5.30pm at the ECBC. For any further information you can contact any representative of the P&C or check out the P&C Facebook page.

School Contributions

Our school keeps this cost as low as possible and so this year they are set at $40.00 for all students. This amount covers school resources to continue valuable programs and innovations, especially around technology. Please pay at the office as soon as possible, by cash or cheque.

Term Reminders

Week 7
Monday 9th March – African Rhythm performance K-6
Friday 13th March – National Ride to School day

Week 8
Tuesday 17th March – "The Protectors" anti-bullying performance
Friday 20th March – Athletics Carnival

Week 9
Monday 23rd March – Bell Shakespeare Theatre Company presentation for Years 2 to 6

Week 10
Monday 30th March – Combined Principal’s Awards Assembly
Thursday 2nd April – Easter Hat Parade

Community News Flyers are available for viewing on the school website.

Thought for the week: Keep your face always towards the sunshine – and shadows will fall behind you. Walt Whitman