Dear families,

Thank you for the well wishes re my trip to Japan. Our 3 year old grandson’s only English was “nanna, pa & ok let’s go”. I was reminded just how busy little people can be!
As wonderful as our trip was it was really good to return to school last week.
What a challenging start to the term with the terrible storms you all experienced. I hope you & your loved ones were safe and didn’t suffer too much damage.

A big thank you to our P & C for once again running a Mothers’ Day stall. All children came away with lovely gifts which they were very excited about. Cooninda had a warm feel to it Friday morning with morning tea, photographs, and gifts.

This week is NAPLAN test week for Years 3 and 5. Testing begins Tuesday with Language Conventions and Writing; Wednesday Reading and Thursday Numeracy. Friday is a ‘make up’ day for children who are absent on a testing day.
NAPLAN is one tool that helps identify strengths and weaknesses students have in Literacy & Numeracy. The school receives feedback for individual students and trend data across the year groups. During the week I have organized all Year 3 & 5 students to complete the tests in their own classroom with their own classroom teacher. This means that during test times Year 4 & Year 6 will be working out of their classrooms. We will keep disruption to a minimum while creating as comfortable test conditions for students as we can.

Every 2 years the school organises Life Education to visit. This year they are visiting us in Weeks 9 and 10 of this term.
From their website.....
“Life Education New South Wales is a community-based, independent organisation at the front line of positive and preventative drug and health education. In NSW over 300,000 students in over 1400 schools take part in the preschool, primary and secondary programs each year. Helping young people make informed decisions about drugs and their health is at the heart of the program, which is driven by the popular Life Education mascot Harold the giraffe. Specialist educators utilising their experience and training work with schools to develop programs to support the provision of best-practice drug education. Sessions are age specific and sequential with written and electronic resources provided to support both students and teachers in the delivery of ongoing drug education in their classroom. A visit to the mobile Life Education van facilitates the development of students’ knowledge and skills to identify risks and make informed decisions.”
Here at Cessnock Public we value the lessons very much. Visits are quite expensive and this year will cost $10 per student. To help all students attend I have arranged school funds to subsidise visits bringing the cost down to $5 per child. Mrs Welsh will send a note home soon with more information.

Public Speaking Competition
Our school Public Speaking Competition was held last Thursday and congratulations to the following winner and runner-up of each stage:

**Early Stage 1**  
Winner: Zoe Biggers  
Runner Up: Lexi O’Heam

**Stage 1**  
Winner: Mayghan Gleghorn  
Runner Up: Noah Elly

**Stage 2**  
Winner: Kayla Johnson  
Runner Up: Dustyn Rumney

**Stage 3**  
Winner: Lennox Vasilis  
Runner Up: Savannah Horn

Zone Cross Country
Well done to all our participants in the Regional Cross Country last Friday. Congratulations to Jonah Williams who gained 5th place and will now be competing at State in a few weeks’ time.
PBL Corner – Week 4

This week, students continued learning calming techniques in our PBL lessons through engagement in the Rock and Water program. PBL Awards were given this week to students who always use equipment safely.

Canteen Helpers Needed
If you are available to volunteer in the canteen from 9:00am to 12:00pm on any day of the week/fortnight please talk to Annette Lambkin in the canteen.

Deadly Australians
This educational show is on next Monday. Don’t forget to come and pay at the office - $6 per child or $12 per family if you wish your child(ren) to attend.

PSSA Soccer this Friday
Good luck to all students in the boys and girls soccer teams representing our school at Abermain this Friday.

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 - Term 2
Week 4
Monday 11th May - Year 4 Science lesson with University of Newcastle
NAPLAN Assessments on 12th, 13th and 14th.
Friday 15th May - PSSA Soccer at Abermain

Week 5
Monday 18th May - Year 4 Science lesson with University of Newcastle
Monday 18th May - Deadly Australians - Reptile show
Tuesday 19th May - ICAS Digital Technologies (Computer)

Week 6
Monday 25th May - Year 4 Science lesson with University of Newcastle
Monday 25th May - Principal Award Assemblies
Wednesday 27th May - Student Asthma Training

Week 7
Wednesday 3rd June - ICAS Science

Week 9
Monday 15th June - Times Tables Competition
Monday 15th June - ICAS Writing
Tuesday 16th June - ICAS Spelling
Tuesday 16th June - Hunter Life Education

Week 10
Monday 22nd June - Principal Award Assemblies
Thursday 25th June - So You Think You Can Dance

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

Thought for the week: I am determined to be cheerful and happy in whatever situation I may find myself. For I have learned that the greater part of our misery or unhappiness is determined not by our circumstances but by our disposition.
Martha Washington