Dear families,

The school year has started well. I have been so pleased at the way Kindergarten have begun their school journey. If you see Mrs Welsh or Mrs Stewart give them a smile. If you think your child was tired at the end of their first full week of school spare a thought for our Kinder teachers – they probably went to bed before Big Dog!!

Please remember classes formed at the beginning of the year are always subject to change. At the moment I am hopeful classes will remain the same as they are but officially we will not have confirmation from the Department till later in the term. This is always the case for all Public schools.

One of our most important school assemblies will be held on Friday at 10am in Cooinda. This is our Leaders’ Induction ceremony where all school leaders receive their badge of office. This includes our School Captains and Prefects, Sports Captains, SRC members, and Library Monitors. Our students display tremendous leadership qualities and we aim to provide as many opportunities as possible for as many students as possible. If your child is not receiving a badge I am hopeful they will still be given plenty of opportunity to develop great skills. Our students are leaders in so many ways and never cease to amaze me.

Soon, (Wednesday 17 February) we will be launching our Children’s University strategy for all our students 3 – 6. We are very excited about this new program which provides a very real opportunity for all our children years 3-6 to graduate from Newcastle University in Term 4. More details to come soon but the launch will be in the morning of Wednesday 17 February in Cooinda.

School photos will be Thursday 18 February.

School contributions are due please. We set our fees as low as possible to help cover the many resources we make available to all children. The contribution fee is $20 and resources $20 making a total of $40. Please pay at the front office.

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

Kind regards,
Jenny Rozynski
Principal

PBL Corner - Week 3

This year we will be conducting lessons on a fortnightly cycle so this week learning will be the same as last week - to reinforce core values and classroom expectations.

Peer Support

Peer support will commence this Tuesday at 1:15 which involve groups of students K-6 in engaging learning opportunities based on “living Positively”.

Stage 2 Camp - 18th to 20th May (Wednesday to Friday)

This year we have decided to move the Stage 2 camp into Term 2. This allows for a separation between the Stage 2 camp and the Stage 3 Excursion to Canberra later in the year. There has been a change in venue to the Great Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens. The camp has a range of activities for the students and as part of the price they will also get to visit the Shark and Ray Centre at Bobs Farm. Transport will be by bus to and from the camp. Students will need to be following school expectations to be able to attend. The cost will be $270.00 and can be paid in installments to the office. Notes will be going home shortly.

Stage 3 Camp

Is still in the process of being organised but at this stage will be either Week 7 or Week 8 in Term 3.

Animals on the school grounds

At each gate there is a sign which states “No animals past this point” to remind parents/carers that animals are not to enter the school grounds unless prior permission is obtained for a pet to come for a news session. This is to ensure that there are no children in the room or school who have allergies and/or reactions to the animal. If pets are at school for a news session they must be taken home directly after by parents/carers.
Parent Information Sessions
These sessions are to allow teachers to outline to parents what the class will be doing during the year, special events and recommend how parents can assist their children (resources needed for school and tips for homework/home-reading). These sessions are not one-to-one with teachers to discuss individual children - this will occur at a later date. If you need to speak to your child’s teacher individually please make an appointment for a mutually convenient time. Primary – will be held on Wednesday 10th at 3:45pm Infants - will be held on Monday 8th at 3:45pm.

Children's University Keyboard/Piano Lessons
As part of Cessnock Public School’s involvement with the Children’s University, Mr Kermode will be offering free half-hour keyboard/piano lessons in the school library on a Tuesday and a Thursday during the lunch break. This will be a structured course where students will be taught music theory as well as keyboard/piano skills. The course will be a 20 hour course and will require a commitment from students because each new lesson builds on what was learnt in the previous lesson. Student numbers will be limited. If your child is interested in being considered for this course, please see the office ladies and complete an expression of interest form by Friday, February 26. (Week 4)

Book Club
Book Club Issue 1 should be handed in to the office by Friday, February 19. (Week 3)

P&C News
Cessnock Public P&C will be holding their first meeting of the year on Tuesday 16th at 5.30pm in the school library. P&C meetings are great way to keep informed and contribute to the education of your own child as well as the whole school. Please come in to meet your friendly P&C team and find out what they can do for you, light refreshments will be on offer. For more details on the meeting check out the fabulous Cessnock Public P&C Facebook page. A flyer with details is available in the very handy school notes stand located in the front foyer.

Hats & Water Bottles
It is now hot weather and water bottles are being used more frequently. Please ensure that they are cleaned out with hot water and refilled with cold water each day. Water bottles which are not cleaned effectively and frequently can develop very nasty stomach bugs and make students ill. The broad brimmed hats required at school must be worn when students are in the playground or they play under the cola area. School hats are available for purchase from our canteen in sizes S, M, L and XL.

Administering Medication at School
School staff can only administer medication at school which is prescribed by a doctor. The medication bought in must have a pharmacy label attached which identifies the student, the dosage and time of day to be administered. Parents/carers will need to bring the medication to the office and complete the forms required for administering of medication.

Breakfast Club
From 8.15 am to 9.15 am located in the building opposite Cooinda, students can have a healthy breakfast for a coin donation. Cereals, scrambled eggs, yoghurt and toast are served by volunteers each weekday. Students also experience social interaction with their peers, use of table manners and develop domestic independence. If you are interested in volunteering in Breakfast Club please see the front desk for more information.
Term Reminders

Term 1

Week 3
Monday 8th - Infants Parent Information Meeting at 3:45pm
Wednesday 10th - Primary Parent Information Meeting at 3:45pm
Friday 12th - Induction Assembly 10:00am - K-6

Week 4
Wednesday 17th - Launch of The Children's University
Thursday 18th - School Photo Day

Week 5
Friday 26th - Cross Country

Week 6
Wednesday 2nd March - Careers Through Reading for Year 5 with University of Newcastle
Friday 4th - Clean up Australia Day
- National Ride to School Day

Week 7
Wednesday 9th - Careers Through Reading for Year 5 with University of Newcastle

Week 8
Wednesday 16th - Careers Through Reading for Year 5 with University of Newcastle
Thursday 17th - Close the Gap
Friday 18th - Sports Carnival

Week 9
Wednesday 23rd - Careers Through Reading for Year 5 with University of Newcastle
Thursday 24th - Easter Hat Parade 10:30
Friday 25th - GOOD FRIDAY - PUBLIC HOLIDAY - CHILDREN DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL

Week 10
Monday 28th - EASTER MONDAY - PUBLIC HOLIDAY - CHILDREN DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL

Week 11
Friday 8th April - Last Day of Term 1

Term 2

Week 1
Wednesday 27th April - Students return to school

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