Dear families,

Welcome to Week 7 of school.

Each week I have been reminding families that classes can still prove to be temporary. Staffing does not finalise until the end of Term 1. Our numbers are smaller this year than historically. To this end we will be notifying families of K-2 students of changes in the coming weeks. We do have to reduce our 6 x K-2 classes to 5 in the coming weeks and move/lose a teaching position.

Our school cannot negotiate staffing numbers with the Department as they are simply locked into number of students enrolled. Mrs Kim Smith (AP K-2) has been working really hard with her team over the last few weeks to minimize any disruption. All children have had a settled start to the school year and the upcoming change will be positive for all. It gives us an opportunity to regroup children in a positive way. Input from Sally Eagleton- our Instructional leader & Kerrie Hughes – our interventionist has been invaluable. The staff know our students exceptionally well. Changes will be announced Week 9 with classes reformed Week 10. I cannot make or share the changes at this stage as some staff members are currently in the process of making career decisions.

Congratulations to our team of mums - special call out to Candice Hunter. Our school won the ‘Decorate Your Gate’ competition held by the Newcastle Jets. They will be visiting soon to run a clinic with some of our students. Well done team.

Last week I had the pleasure of receiving a donation of $1000 on behalf of our school from the CEO of Laureate Australia. Mr Kirton’s class K-6K has made big plans for the money. More news to follow in the coming weeks.

This week all Primary students will be participating once again in activities to help them gain their 30 hours of learning for Children’s University. On offer this week – we have Horsing Around (learning lots about horses) street theatre, dance, choir and many others. If you are able to spare some time before or after school or during lunch to share a skill/a hobby or experience please contact me here at school.

Please note a change in time for our Easter hat Parade this year. It is Thursday morning 24 March at 11am. The later start is due to some children & families being involved in out Got It program.

Next Thursday 17 March our school will be celebrating Harmony Day, Close the Gap Day and national Anti Bullying Days together. We will start the activities in Cooinda at 10am. Classes will then move back to their rooms or outside to participate in fun activities related to any of those three days. All families are invited. I’m hoping this hot weather will be gone & you can enjoy a picnic lunch with your child. Please come if you can.

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–Week7
This week in PBL lessons, students focussed on the school expectation that students use FRIENDLY TALK when speaking to each other and to staff. Students controlling what they say and using polite and friendly language is vital for maintaining a happy and friendly school environment. PBL awards for this week were given to students who follow the school expectation to be in the RIGHT PLACE at the RIGHT TIME.

‘Decorate Your Gate’
Towards the end of last year our school entered a competition with the Newcastle Jets. We were to decorate our school gate showing our support for the Newcastle Jets football team and submit a photo. We received a phone call on Friday afternoon advising we had won the photo competition and our prize is a coaching clinic at school with representatives from the Newcastle Jets. We will advise as soon as we have confirmed the date.
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.

P&C News
The P&C team has been busy creating the Easter Hamper prizes and are so excited about making sure these hampers are bigger and better that they have added a 4th and 5th prize to WIN. These prizes have only quality chocolate and goodies. Remember too that included with the baskets are baked fresh on the day Bakers Delight Hot Cross Buns. Get your tickets sold and returned by 23rd March. Last ticket sales are the morning of The Easter Hat Parade, where the P&C will also hold a Morning Tea stall before the parade begins. More ticket books available at the front office.
Thank you to all that participated in the Domino's Dough Raisers Pizza night last Monday. The amount raised will be posted on the facebook page when the count is in.
Reminder that HitNitz natural solution and preventative spray are available in the front office to purchase.
The March general meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th at 5.30 pm. The P&C are trialing the new Cessnock McDonalds Conference room as a venue. All welcome, why not bring along a friend.
For more details check out the entertaining Cessnock Public P&C Facebook page.

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.

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

Breakfast Club
From 8.15am to 9.15am 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 school officer for more information.

Term Reminders

Term 1
Week 7
Wednesday 9th – Careers Through Reading for Year 5 with University of Newcastle
    - Cessnock Library Visit for Stage 3

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

Week 9
Wednesday 23rd – Careers Through Reading for Year 5 with University of Newcastle
Thursday 24th – Easter Hat Parade 11:00
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
Tuesday 5th – Public Speaking Competition
Wednesday 6th – ANZAC display
Friday 8th April – Last Day of Term 1

Term 2
Week 1
Wednesday 27th April – Students return to school
Community News information is available for viewing on the school website.