FROM THE PRINCIPAL.....

What a great day we had at the school swimming carnival, and how lucky were we with the weather! It was terrific to see so many parents and family members there to support the children. The teachers, led by Mrs Croft, did an excellent job in the organisation of the carnival. I do wish to extend thanks to all the staff and the group of parents who assisted with time keeping, judging etc. It all helped to make the carnival run very smoothly, and on time. It was so good to see so many children having a go, and full credit goes to each of them who achieved their personal best on the day. Our best performers represented our school at the Zone carnival last Friday. A full report about our carnival will be in next week's newsletter.

Due to the large number of children using the canteen at the morning tea/recess break, we are going to trial a new procedure. That is - all children will need to order their food for recess as they do with lunch orders. The bags need to be clearly labelled RECESS or LUNCH. This might help all children get their food quicker and allow them more play time.

A reminder that School Photos are on next Monday. So the classes can look their best, please try to ensure that your child has a clean school uniform, black shoes, and for the girls - hair tied back neatly.

Talking about uniforms, many thanks to the mums who cleaned out the uniform shop last week. We now have some 2nd hand shirts, shorts, uniforms and jackets for sale. The uniform shop is open on Friday mornings from 8.30am.

Due to the retirement of Margaret Heslop at the end of 2012 after many years of committed service to our school and public education, the school was able to advertise for a new Assistant Principal. We are delighted to announce that Mrs Ruth McGlashan has been offered the role.

Mrs McGlashan has wide ranging experiences in the Assistant Principal role, and a great depth of understanding and knowledge across education, which will prove to be a fabulous asset to our school. Over the last seven months, Mrs McGlashan has been working in a temporary role as Assistant Principal National Partnerships in leading literacy and numeracy in our school, so it is terrific we have secured her in a permanent role at our school.

Active After School Care will commence this Wednesday for Tai Kwon Do and the children involved have received their note.

As discussed at last week's P&C meeting, we would really like to see some ‘jazzing up’ of our school playground. The children have lots of ideas – we just need some help from the community to turn them into a reality. If you have any contacts for painting, fencing or landscaping please let me know. The ideas for playground improvement include wall murals; repaint of games on the ground; a sandpit area near the library; a chook yard; signage; some more furniture; some playground sculptures eg painted telephone poles or scarecrows etc etc etc. If parents also have ideas, please let me know.

Many thanks for your support,

Mrs Cathie Ferguson

Coming Events

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www.facebook.com/CessnockWestPS
http://twitter.com/CessnockWestPS
School Photos
Envelopes for school photos went home last week. Family photo envelopes are available at the office. The cost of a family photo package starts at $15. Money for School Photos is to be brought in on the day of the photos, Monday 4th March.

Cricket Boys Cessnock West vs Nulkaba
As the Cessnock West Boys took to the field they looked good in their baggy green and gold caps. The coin toss was won by us and we chose to field. Cessnock West had two Ford cracking catches by both Kris J and Jonas C. Our fielding displayed some exquisite bowling and wicket-keeping by our boys. A copious amount of fun was has along with wides bowled. As we took to batting our target was high but so was our enthusiasm. At fourth batter Joel G smashed a thumper for four. Brock B took out Man of the Match for his sportsmanship and leading our boys.

In the end Nulkaba took the game and our First Annual Cessnock West and Nulkaba Ashes trophy. Next year we hope to bring it home to rest in our trophy case.

C Vogel

P&C News
Our first P&C meeting for the year was last Tuesday and we welcome our new families. We have a few events coming up and would be really grateful for the school community’s support. If you haven’t already received them, we are sending home raffle tickets for an Easter Raffle that will be drawn at the end of term disco. We are asking for donations of Easter eggs and these can be left at either the front office or the canteen.

Another event that is not too far away is the Mothers’ Day Stall. This will be held on Friday 10th May and if anybody could donate suitable gifts for the stall this would be great. These can also be left at the front office.

I would like to say a BIG thank you to Joanne and Teressa for meeting with me last week to sort and price clothes in the Clothing Pool. Teressa does a great job with the Clothing Pool and if anybody has time to help her I know she would really appreciate it. Also thank you Mr Vogel for your great handyman skills. If anybody out there has ‘spare’ plastic coated hangers or skirt hangers that they could donate to the Clothing Pool, this would be great. We are trying to hang most of the clothes to keep them from being squished into tubs and to make it easier with sorting.

If anybody in our schooling community could help with some jobs around the school we are trying to organise some ‘working bee’ days. If you have any skills in the areas of fencing, laying pavers or landscaping in particular, we need your help! Please see me or leave your name with Mrs Barry.

Megan Donn
Secretary