FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Active After School Sports Program
Our active After Schools program commenced last Wednesday and all students had a great time. The visiting athletics coach complimented our students on their behaviour and sportsmanship. As both the athletics and racquet sports will be held in the infant’s playground please collect your child from the bottom gate in Alfred St.

Assembly
Last week 5/6N did a fantastic job of running the assembly and informing us about Japanese culture. This week 5/6O will be running the assembly. Parents are welcome to join us at assembly time.

Punctuality
One of our school targets this year is to improve student punctuality. We have a large number of children who arrive late to school. The first session of the day is known as ‘prime learning time’, and it is very important that children arrive at school before the bell. The school bell rings at 9.00am, followed by a brief assembly in class lines in the playground. According to DEC policy, any late arrivals after the bell are marked as ‘partial absences’ and are placed on the student record cards. These are regularly monitored by both the school and DEC. Already this year quite a few families are arriving well after the bell, so please take this general reminder as a prompt to get into good habits and assist your child’s learning by being at school before the bell.

Stronger Smarter
As part of the Cessnock Community of Great Public School’s (CCGPS) commitment to Aboriginal Education we are fortunate enough to have access to 6 Stronger Smarter facilitators within our area. The CCGPS of which CWPS is a member has made a commitment to support Stronger Smarter by making partnerships with the Stronger Smarter institute in QLD. Using local and QLD facilitators the CCGPS is endeavouring to build a strong team of school and community leaders with a focus on:
1. Professional Learning
2. Quality Teaching
3. Relationships and Engagement
4. Leadership and connection

Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10th March</td>
<td>MVHS Yr 6 Parent Info session 5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18th March</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting + AGM 6.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 20th March</td>
<td>Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 21st March</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26th March</td>
<td>Cross Country - back up date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Permission Notes & Payments Due

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>School Fees</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>By end of Term 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 3 - 6</td>
<td>ICAS Competitions Computer Skills</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>$11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>$17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Due Date</td>
<td></td>
<td>By Wednesday 2nd April</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.facebook.com/CessnockWestPS  http://twitter.com/CessnockWestPS
The CCGPS have created an opportunity for Principals, highly committed executive staff and aspirants to attend a workshop series during Term 1. CWPS will be funding 6 staff members to attend this workshop series. This will provide opportunities for staff to build capacity, network and create a strong, committed group of leaders that will support our goals into the future. The Stronger Smarter process will benefit all students in CWPS as its main focus is to build high expectation relationships. Our 6 staff members spent Sunday 2 March, day 1, of their training at Mount View HS. Thank you for your commitment to the students at CWPS. It should also be mentioned that many other teachers volunteered to do the training but we were limited in numbers.

Playground Trees
I am sure you heard about the tragic accident at Pitt Town PS where a tree came down in the playground killing a student. CWPS has always had its trees inspected regularly as to DEC guidelines. As an extra precaution we have organised for an arborist to come to school to check the health of our trees and determine whether any trees or branches need to be removed.

Sports Flags
Year 6 2013 raised money throughout the year to purchase a gift for the school. It was decided they would put funds towards the purchase of sports house flags. (See photo) These flags have been ordered and we hope to have them before our next sporting event.

Many thanks for your support,
Mrs Ruth McGlashan
**Student Absences**
This year you will notice a focus on school attendance for all children at CWPS.

The law in NSW (Education Act 1990) states that all children between the ages of 6 and 17 are required to attend school regularly.

It is the responsibility of parents and/or caregivers to ensure that their children attend school every day unless:
- Your child is too sick to attend school
- Your child has been injured
- Your child has to attend a special religious ceremony
- Your child has an infectious illness for example, chicken pox, measles or mumps
- There is a serious family situation which requires their involvement.

Regular attendance makes learning easier for your child and helps build and maintain friendships with other children. If students miss the basic skills in the early years of school they may have problems later on. Regular attendance at school will help your child to succeed in later life.

The school works closely with the Regional Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) to ensure all children are attending school as they are required to.

ALL students are required to maintain a minimum of 85% attendance. Students who are continually below this 85%, will be referred to the HSLO for intervention programs. This means that as of today, if your child has had more than 4 days absent, they will be under the 85%.

Legal undertakings may be used to ensure the child is attending school, failure to abide by these undertakings may result in court action which can include a range of penalties including fines of over $10,000.

Parents are required to notify the school within 7 days of the reason that their child was absent. Last week, all families received copies of the Absentee Notification forms to explain absences. Should you require more of these, they are available from our website or from the school front office.

Should you wish to discuss your child’s attendance, you can speak to your child’s teacher or Marissa Floyd, Community Liaison Officer.

**P&C News**
The next meeting will be the AGM followed by a P&C meeting, to be held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 18th March 2014 in the school library. Entrance is via the double gates in Alfred St. All positions will be declared vacant on the night and although we have people interested for most of the positions we are still looking for a secretary and vice-president – maybe this is the job for you! Please feel free to contact me if you would like to know more about any of the roles. We look forward to meeting you.

Megan Donn
Secretary

---

**Clothing Pool**
Located in the old canteen near the bus stop.
Open - 8.40 - 9.10am
Purchases are limited to 2 sets per size.

---

**PLAYGROUND RADIO**
The following students will be presenting their Radio Show on the School’s Playground Radio Activity during this week and Monday and Tuesday of next week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEDNESDAY 5 MAR</th>
<th>THURSDAY 6 MAR</th>
<th>FRIDAY 7 MAR</th>
<th>MONDAY 10 MAR</th>
<th>TUESDAY 11 MAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YASSMIN L</td>
<td>SUSAN A</td>
<td>PIPER H</td>
<td>MENTOR</td>
<td>CHARLOTTE B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XAVIER H</td>
<td>EROWY N</td>
<td>LAURA H</td>
<td>PLAYGROUND</td>
<td>AINSLEY D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYLVIA C</td>
<td>JOEL G</td>
<td>BRIANNA M</td>
<td>REQUESTS</td>
<td>HANNAH D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEC MEC T</td>
<td>NACAN E</td>
<td>KIARA H</td>
<td>(FREYA H)</td>
<td>SANDRA G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEAGAN S</td>
<td>MATAVARI A</td>
<td>SAVANNAH L</td>
<td></td>
<td>SHERBAN B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHRISTINE L</td>
<td>LIBILAH H</td>
<td>LARA S</td>
<td></td>
<td>MIKAYLA H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATELIN O</td>
<td>KATELYN H</td>
<td>TAMLYN C</td>
<td></td>
<td>ELLIE M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEGAN C</td>
<td>JORDO J</td>
<td>GRACE B</td>
<td></td>
<td>JACINTA W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To listen to their Radio Show Podcasts and check out what’s happening on Playground Radio go to our Website:-

http://cwps-playground-radio.wikispaces.com/
Grow Up Smiling with Medicare

On January 1 2014, Medicare initiated a new dental scheme for children which replaced the old Medicare Teen Dental Plan. It has expanded the benefits by increasing the eligibility age range, benefit amount and the services that can be provided at the dentist.

Means tested and eligible families can walk into any dental practice and receive up to $1000 worth of dental services for their children, over a 2 year calendar period.

Medicare’s ‘Grow Up Smiling’ (GUS) scheme will have a total benefit entitlement capped at $1,000 per child over a two calendar year period. GUS will have a means test, which requires receipt of Family Tax Benefit Part A or certain other government payments ie. Centrelink entitlements.

It allows provision of services for essential dental treatment, such as check-ups, cleaning, x-rays, fillings and extractions. High end (crowns, bridges, root canal) and orthodontic items are excluded.

- all preventative services
  - cleaning & fluoride
  - 6 monthly checkups
  - brushing instructions
  - nutritional advice
- fillings
- tooth removal

For more information go to: