FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Another busy week which began with a visit from a group of students and teachers from China who were interested in observing our school to compare our system with those in China.

Parent / teacher interviews on Tuesday were well supported and I would like to thank parents/carers for their interest and support and teachers for providing an opportunity for all parents to attend by staying at school until 6 p.m. Working together in this way strengthens the bond between school and community and is very beneficial for students, parents and teachers. Thank you everyone.

The softfall area was completed this week with court markings. This area now provides a fantastic playing area for basketball, soccer, volley ball and general games. The students are indeed very fortunate to have a great area like this.

It is wonderful to hear so many positive reports about our students’ behaviour and sportsmanship when representing the school or attending performances and excursions. It demonstrates to the wider community that you are proud of your school and your achievements. Congratulations everyone and keep up this great effort.

Don’t forget to check the Education Week calendar and join us on Friday for class visits, assembly and lunch. The children love to show parents/carers and friends what they are doing at school and the art work on display in the primary corridors is certainly worthy of a visit.

Education Week is This Week
Wednesday 30th July: Stage 2 and 3 students will travel to MVHS to watch a musical.
Thursday 31st July: Education Week Disco after school.
K-2 4.30pm-5.45pm
3-6 6.00pm-7.30pm
Friday 1st August: Zone Athletics Carnival
Open Classrooms at 12pm, followed by assembly at 12:30pm. Parents are welcome to stay and have lunch will their children.

If you wish to order a pie or sausage roll from the canteen all orders need to be placed by Thursday 31st July. Alternatively you can bring a picnic lunch to share with your children.

PAVe Year 3 & 4
A reminder to Year 3 & 4 to return permission notes as soon as possible so your child can participate in these excellent programs. It is important that all students return their form with the appropriate box ticked.

Many thanks for your support.

www.facebook.com/CessnockWestPS  http://twitter.com/CessnockWestPS
Stage 2- Powerhouse Museum Excursion
On Friday, Stage 2 students visited the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. The Museum is a place for cultivating curiosity and creative learning. We had a fantastic day exploring lots of the exhibits in areas such as science, design and technologies. The students enjoyed watching the 'Full Steam Ahead' science show where the students explored 'steam' and watched the demonstrations, the incredible power of steam and the technology that helps harness such power. Some of the other favourite exhibits included the space level in particular the Zone Gravity Space Lab, the Wiggles display and the Transport level.

The students displayed outstanding behaviour and made the Stage 2 teachers very proud. We would like to make a special mention to the parent helpers, Mrs Suuval, Mrs Snedden-Clarke, Mrs Bullen, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Brazier, Mrs Frankland, Mr Beveridge, Mrs King, Mrs Rendoth, Mrs Glover, Mr Bender, Mrs Pearce and Mr Boyd who assisted us on the day. Days like this would not be possible without the help of our family members. Thankyou!!
We look forward to doing it all again next year.

Mrs Betteridge, Mrs Coolahan, Mr Pearson and Mr Vogel.

Chinese Visitors
On Monday, 21st July we had some visitors from China who came to visit our school. They are on a four week holiday, being shown around by Mr Kingston's mother in-law, Sandra. They were in the Hunter Valley wine tasting and wanted to see what an Australian school looked like, so they came for a visit. They were extremely surprised and amazed. In China their school days are around 12 hours per day. There are between 60 and 70 students in the class. There is very little student teacher interaction, except for the fact that the teacher talks for all of the lesson then the students are just expected to learn. Students do not talk at all in class. As they said "School in China is like the military". They had a wonderful time and wish to thank all the students who talked to them and let them participate in some of their activities.

PSSA Basketball Gala Day
On Wednesday we competed in the PSSA basketball gala day. It was an amazing day. Both the boys and girls teams did very well with both teams registering wins. The girls team just missed out on going through to the finals, with the top two teams progressing to the finals, the last game between Nulkaba and Cessnock West decided the second placed team. Unfortunately Nulkaba won, but the girls did very well to finish third in their pool.

Charity Basketball Match
Have you noticed that Mr Kingston NEEDS a haircut and a shave? Want to do something about it? Read on... This Saturday there is a charity basketball match at Cessnock Basketball Stadium. The money raised is going to CanTeen. There will be a gold coin donation accepted at the door to watch the game. There will also be a sausage sizzle for $3.00 and cans of drink for $2.00. The half time show will be a head shaving and there will also be a lucky door prize. Later that evening there will be a trivia night at Bellbird Workers Club. What's this got to do with Mr Kingston? Well if you haven't worked it out yet, he's getting his head and face shaved!!! Not to mention he's also
playing in the charity basketball match. Please come down and support CanTeen this weekend.
When: Basketball: 12:00pm, Head Shaving: Half Time, Trivia Night: 5:00pm
Where: Cessnock Basketball Stadium and Bellbird Workers
Why: Raising Money for CanTeen
Cost: Basketball: Gold coin donation, Trivia Night: $10 per head with a table of 8
Contact Madeline Benson on 0421073355 for more information or to book a table

Mr Kingston

Library News
Parent Helpers
Thank you to the parents who have been regularly donating their time to do odd jobs in the library, it is really appreciated.

If you would like to learn how to use the covering machine so that books can be covered before going into the collection for borrowing, please see me at 9:00am or 2:30pm on Thursday for training. Once trained in using the machine, you are welcome to come in and cover books at any time that suits you. Please let me know if you intend on coming in, so I make sure I’m ready for you.

Thank you
Mrs Jae Rolt
Teacher-Librarian

P&C News
Hello everyone, just a reminder that the pie drive fundraising sheets have been sent home. If you didn’t receive one with your newsletter and would like to order please see the ladies in the office as they have order forms available. Please order up big and return your orders by August 1st as this is a great fundraiser for our school. We also have a Dominos Pizza night coming up in August. Dates to follow in the next newsletter.

The next P&C meeting is on the August 19th in the Library at 6.30pm. All welcome and if anybody wants to come along and join us feel free. If you have any ideas or just want to join in don’t hesitate to come along.

Ian Glover
P&C Secretary

Scholastic Book Club
Orders are due back by
9am Wednesday 30th July 2014
Orders will not be accepted after this time.
If paying by cheque please make out to Cessnock West Public School not Scholastic

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.

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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/
Helping kids make sense of the MH 17 air disaster

Submitted by: Michael Grose 23 July

Reports of the recent shooting down of Flight MH17 over Ukraine air space have saturated newspapers, television and the Internet for the last week. The events were shocking, and many of the images shown on our television screens have been quite confronting. Worldwide outrage has been the result.

But what about the impact of the event and the subsequent media coverage on children and young people?

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of such tragedies and natural disasters. In reality we can’t do this.

So what is a parent, teacher, or other caring adult to do when such events fill the airwaves and the consciousness of society? Here are some ideas:

1. Reassure children that they are safe. The consistency of the images can be frightening for young children who don’t understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Let them know that while this event is indeed happening it will not affect them directly.

2. Explain what happened. It is important not to simply assume that children and young people understand what has happened. Be calm and stick to the facts, using a map to show older children where it happened.

3. Be available. Let kids know that it’s okay to talk about the unpleasant events. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need. You do not need to explain more than they are ready to hear, but be willing to answer their questions.

4. Help children process what they see and hear, particularly through television. Children are good observers but can be poor interpreters of events that are out of their level of understanding.

5. Support children’s connections for others. They may have genuine concerns for the suffering that will occur and they may need an outlet for these concerns. It is heartwarming to see this empathy in children for the concerns of others.

6. Let them express feelings however they feel. Many children may feel empty or angry with these events. Let them express the full range of emotions.

7. Avoid keeping the television on all the time. The visual nature of the media means that images are repeated over and over, which can be both distressing to some and desensitizing to others.

8. Be aware of your own actions. Children will take their cues from you and if they see you focusing on it in an unhealthy way then they will focus on it too. Let them know that it is happening but it should not dominate their lives.

Children’s words can be affected in ways that we can’t even conceive of so adults need to be both sensitive to children’s needs and mindful of what they say and how they act in front of children.

In difficult times, it is worth remembering what adults and children need most are each other.