FROM THE PRINCIPAL

School Gates
The Alfred Street gate near the library will be closed until further notice due to the removal of one of our trees. Students will need to walk down to the gate near the canteen or around to the front entrance.

Children participating in AASC will need to be collected from the gate near the canteen.

Students who ride their bike to school will need to bring them in through the front office. The front access gate will not be opened until further notice.

Mini Fair
I’m sure everyone who attended the Mini Fair last week would agree that the Years 5 & 6 students did a remarkable job of organising it. There were many different activities for the children to try and many great knick knacks and food to purchase. Thanks should also go to the parents and staff for their contributions and support. A total of $4268 was raised and this will go towards funding the Year 6 farewell and also to providing a farewell gift to the school.
Korreil Wonnai AECG Kullaburra Awards 2014

Last Wednesday afternoon Mrs West and I had the privilege of attending Kurri Kurri HS to attend the Korreil Wonnai AECG Kullaburra Awards 2014 ceremony. This ceremony is to celebrate the success and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in the Korreil Wonnai area (Cessnock / Kurri Kurri). These awards celebrate the successes of Year 12 as well as attendance, all-rounder, sport and leadership categories. CWPS award recipients were Jacinta W, Chezlee W, Shuan T and Aidan H. One of our new students Yessinia S was also nominated for an award by her previous school. Congratulations to all students on this outstanding achievement.

Assembly

Last week 4V did a fantastic job of running the assembly and showing us their beautiful artwork modelled off Starry Starry Night by Vincent van Gogh. This week 5/6O will be running the assembly. Parents are welcome to join us at assembly time.

Customer Service Award

I was very excited and proud last week when I found out CWPS had been nominated by one of our community members for OUTSTANDING Customer Service in the category of Social Media. A gala presentation dinner will be held this Friday August 29th at 6:30pm at Cessnock Leagues club where the winners and runner ups will be announced.

Punctuality Reminder

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 so 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.

Road Safety Tips - Key points to remember around schools

To comply with national child restraint laws, your child should be restrained in the car as follows:

- 0 – 6 months - Approved rearward-facing child car seat
- 6 months – 4 years - Approved rearward-facing or forward-facing child car seat
- 4 – 7+ years - Approved forward-facing child car seat or booster seat.
- Make a rule that every child passenger must be securely buckled into a seatbelt or child car seat before you start the car.
A sleeping child must remain firmly buckled up while the car is in motion.
Reward your child with lots of praise for good road safety behaviour.
Assist your young child to buckle up – always check the buckle and make sure the belt is not twisted.
Ensure your children always get in and out of the car through the ‘safety door’. This is the rear kerb side door of the car.
Never allow children to get out of the car on the traffic side.
When possible, children should remain in the car until an adult opens the ‘safety door’. This helps ensure that children get out of the car safely.
Children aged between four and seven years cannot travel in the front seat of a vehicle with two or more rows, unless all other back seats are occupied by children younger than seven years in a child car seat.
A child that is properly secured in an approved child car seat is less likely to be killed or injured in a car crash than one who is not.
NEVER leave a child of any age in a vehicle without supervision. A small child may rapidly suffer from dehydration, heat exhaustion and consequent organ failure. Older children could play games that may lead to danger.

Livelifowell - Keep active in the colder months
Don’t be a winter wannabe and let you and your children be sedentary this winter. Encourage children to engage in active play such as bush walking, bike riding, kicking the footy, or playing a game of tag all year round.

Many thanks for your support.
Mrs McGlashan

2014 Book Fair and Dress-Up Parade
When: Thursday September 4th 2014.
Purchasing will begin AFTER the costume parade.
Students may come with their parents after the parade - with teacher permission.
Almost everything for sale at the book fair can be re-ordered if stocks run low and they are delivered within 1-2 days. Please ensure you do not take the last copy of any item, this ensures that no matter what time of day you come to the fair, every book is available for you to purchase.
Students will have the opportunity to come with their class later during the day.

Viewing: Students will have time to view the books on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Parents may look at the books before school on Tuesday and after school Monday and Wednesday only.

Cheap books and poster sales - Books ($1 and $2) and posters ($3 and $5) will be available for the children to buy at lunch time only on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. These items are NOT available to be re-ordered, so once sold, they are gone.

Other Details
Book prices start at $1.00.
Dress-up competition and parade. One prize per class (lucky draw).
Come dressed as your favourite book character. If you already have a costume - you can wear it, if you don’t have a costume but you have a sports uniform - you can wear it, if it is actually a costume from a movie - you can wear it (most movies have books these days anyway).
Parade will be at 9am under the primary COLA. We will only use the hall if it is raining – the
primary COLA gives us more room to spread out. There will be guessing competitions and lucky draws to enter throughout the day.

Would you like to donate a book?
Parents, when you visit the Book Fair, please consider donating a book to our library. A book chosen by you or your child would make a fabulous addition to our library. All donated books will be recognised with a personalised book plate in the front and your child will be the first to borrow the book. You will also receive a special book mark as a thank you.

Thanks Mrs J Rolt
Teacher-Librarian

P&C News
Hello everyone the latest from the P & C is one last reminder to rock on down to Dominos Pizza shop on Wednesday 27th between 4pm and 8pm to buy a pizza or two to raise some dough for the school!! Don't miss out.

The Fathers' Day stall is coming up again on Friday 5th September. It all kicks off at 9am and should be all done & dusted by 11 ish. Any donations to the Fathers' Day stall will be greatly appreciated. If you have anything at home you think a dad would love to get as a present and would like to donate it to our stall we will sell it with pleasure!! Also anyone that would like to donate a bit of their time to come along and volunteer to help out on the stall would be great. Any help is greatly appreciated. If you can spare a half hour or more selling, wrapping or donating some time it won't go astray and helps us all!!

That's all for this week. Cheers

Ian Glover
P&C Secretary

PS I can't wait to see what I get this year. Woo hoo!!

Canteen News
By the end of term there will be some foods which will no longer be sold at the canteen. As stock runs out I will let you know which foods are not longer available. Meatballs and chicken noodle cups are no longer available. The price of white order bags have now gone to 20¢ each due to a large number of parents who are still not buying bags of their own. Just a reminder that no late orders will be accepted after 9.30am. If you know you are going to be late please bring your own lunch. Please move away from the window to write orders on the bags so as not to hold up other parents and students.

Thank you
Linda Fernance
**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/

**Art Work from Cessnock West students at Maitland Art Gallery**
Spring Awakening

Cessnock TAFE Grounds, Darin St, Cessnock

A family friendly festival with entertainment & activities including story-telling & drumming workshops, to be held in the Cessnock TAFE grounds which will be transformed with fire, lantern & lighting installations. This is a FREE event designed to step you out of the ordinary and into the extraordinary!

Bring your friends, a chair, a rug & a picnic - or warm yourself by the fire with a hot chocolate.

Free lively entertainment and plenty of delicious food choices will keep your warm, delighted and well-fed.

Why not make your own lantern to bring along? Lantern making workshops are being held at Cessnock Performing Arts Centre on 27 August at 2pm and 6 September at 11am.

Call CPAC on 4990 7134 to reserve your place!

Parenting Ideas PD

Building Parent-School Partnerships

Conversations parents should have with kids about learning

Parents help create the stories that kids carry around in their heads about a lot of things, including their feelings of self-worth, their capabilities and their attitude towards school and learning.

We want children’s overarching story to be positive and fulfilling, particularly when it comes to learning. As a parent of three 20-somethings, I see how important it is that kids become lifelong learners. All these have changed careers or jobs, and have needed to adapt to changing technical circumstances far more than I had to in my first 10 years of work.

There is no doubt my kids, like the students you teach, need to take risks, persevere, goal-set and plan, embrace learning and change as a natural part of life.

A willingness to adapt, the confidence to learn and an ability to form networks are the new currencies for success in the technologically-enhanced world they will inhabit.

What learning conversations should parents have with their children?

Parents should talk to their children and young people about the following success skills: taking risks, perseverance, goal-setting and planning, personal organisation, leadership, and networking.

This list is not exhaustive, but it is a start. Let’s go a little deeper: Parents need to hold conversations with kids about taking learning risks and social risks at school. They may fall but that is okay.

The next conversations they need to have are about perseverance. What does perseverance look like and feel like when it is okay to give up? Believe it’s best to fail fast and then move on to something else rather than keep flapping a dead learning horse.

Goal setting and planning have always been important processes for success. Today they are more important than ever as the world you are preparing your kids for rewards self-starters and astute, curious learners.

That world will also throw up many opportunities for young people to display leadership. Being a leader is not about holding a position, but about building personal capacity and showing a willingness to take the lead when a situation arises.

Networking is something we teach at school, but we should. The number of loose ties (as opposed to close ties or good friends) kids can cultivate could determine their future success. Loose ties become a type of social capital, providing a bridge to take young people from where they are now to where they want to be. As the saying goes, it’s not what you know but who you know that counts.

So what conversations are you encouraging parents to have at home about learning? They need to have conversations, and they need to be both right conversations for your kids, rather than just idly conversations about school results, getting good marks and doing their homework.

Start the conversations about learning through your school newsletter, parent teacher nights and other forums such as Facebook that parents talk with their children about the educational matters that really count.

Parentingideas.com.au

Success skills

networking

perserverance

Leadership

goal-setting & planning

personal organisation

BIG3 Points

1. Parent attitudes to learning affect children’s attitudes to learning

2. Inform parents about the skills, attitudes and mindsets that underpin effective learning, and discuss how they might support them at home.

3. Use your school newsletter and other media to stimulate conversations about learning at home.