From the principal…

I am sure that all parents are aware of the funding that has been released to all schools under the Gonski reforms. Under these reforms each school received funds to improve outcomes for their students.

At our school we have used these funds to support students from K-6 by:

- increasing our Learning and Support Teacher (Mrs Coughtrie) allocation from three and a half days per week to 5 days per week to provide increased time in Year 3-6 classrooms;
- offering a speech assessment and intervention program for identified Kinder students;
- implementing an Early Intervention Program to support students in Years 1 and 2 (Mrs Stoker);
- conducting a cultural program for our Aboriginal students; and
- supporting professional learning opportunities for staff by releasing our Assistant Principals to work with them in their classrooms in implementing the Focus on Reading program.

At the end of the year, as part of the school’s evaluation practices, the effectiveness of these interventions will be examined.

Please note the information included later in the newsletter about this year’s Athletics Carnival.

PS… just a reminder about the disco this Thursday night for students K-6. Students in Years 3-6 who have ordered their pizza will eat before they dance while K-2 students will eat after they dance! The cost of entry to the disco is $5 or $10 for a family with all proceeds from the disco and the pizzas going towards the P&C fundraising goal for 2015.

Session times: K - 2 4.45 to 6.15pm
Years 3 - 6 6.30 to 8.00pm

Every child’s safety is everyone’s concern.

Denise Rispen
Principal

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
Reading and writing K - 6 - Mrs Johns & Mrs Thurston
Assessment and pedagogical change in English – Mrs Johns & Mrs Thurston
Write On! - Pascoe & Miss Bell

ASSEMBLY - Assembly Fridays at 12.40pm

Week 7 1/2M
Week 8 1/2G

Junior choir will also be performing at this week’s assembly.

GATE CLOSURE TIMES
Mornings 8.45 – 9.30 Afternoons 2.30 – 3.15

AWARDS
Gold: 1/2P-Bodhi S.

THIS WEEK - Week 7
2/6 UNSW Science competition
3/6 CAPApillar Day
Meeting for families involved in the Speech Program - 3.30pm
4/6 Disco
5/6 Junior Choir performing at this week’s assembly
Student Parliament fundraiser - see later in the newsletter for details

NEXT WEEK - Week 8
8/6 Public holiday
9/6 Girls PSSA Softball
10/6 Athletics Carnival
14/6 Working Bee - Sunday 11am. All welcome!

ENROL NOW FOR KINDERGARTEN 2016
If you have a child who will be commencing Kindergarten next year please contact the Office at your earliest convenience with their details. This will enable us to place all names into our system and get the enrolment package out ASAP.

CAPAPILLAR DAY
In order to secure your child’s spot, please return the permission note and money to the office by this Wednesday. Please inform your child’s teacher if they are unable to participate on the day so the position can be offered to another child.

HEAD LICE
Parents please be aware there are head lice in the school at the moment. Please check your child/children’s hair regularly, and assist us by taking the necessary action to treat your child/children’s hair.

SCHOOL GARDENS WORKING BEE
Unfortunately the working bee planned for yesterday had to be postponed until the 14th June 2015. Our wonderful gardening mum, Ala Burrows, has wonderful plans in mind for the day that now have been put on hold until the 14th June. Hopefully Ala will have many helpers who are able to assist on the day.
P&C
The P&C mum’s dinner was a great night and it was lovely to see many new faces. Thanks to Vice President Nat Hogan for organising it! The annual P&C disco is happening next Thursday 4th June and includes the option of ordering a pizza for dinner, order forms need to be returned by COB Monday 1st June.

The cost of the disco is $5 entry and then the $5 for the pizza order.

The P&C meeting normally held next week, will be held over until the 15th June because of the Public Holiday.

STAGE 2 BLUE MOUNTAINS EXCURSION
Last week 92 students from Years 3 and 4 attended their FIRST overnight school excursion. We travelled to the Blue Mountains and the Jenolan Caves to support our Science unit called ‘Extreme Earth’ and our History unit ‘First Contacts’.

The children saw ‘The Three Sisters’ at Katoomba, had an exciting ‘ear-piercing’ ride on the Scenic Railway and a Cableway and Skyway ride as well as the opportunity to discover nature at it is most untouched, during a beautiful bushwalk along the Scenic Walkway.

After all these wonderful adventures, we then headed to the Jenolan Caves. The bus ride down to the Caves was an adventure in itself!!!! (If you’ve ever been there you’d know exactly what we mean). As most of NSW sat in front of a TV watching the first State of Origin on Wednesday night, we were deep within the Lucas Cave discovering thousands of years of nature’s wonders. It was absolutely breathtaking and although very tired after such a huge day, the children loved the adventure that the caves provided.

As you can imagine, getting 92 children to sleep was not too difficult that night. I think most were asleep before their heads hit the pillows.

The next day we headed to the township of Blackheath to discover more of the Blue Mountains World Heritage Park and listen to Aboriginal guides sharing our first Australians’ history and culture.

We had such a wonderful time away with our classes, and were extremely proud teachers over the two days. This was because everywhere we went we were complimented by the guides and the general public about the ‘well-mannered, sensible, respectful and excellent listeners’ we had. Parents, you should be also very proud of how your children behaved while they were away, being so young they displayed great maturity. This made this excursion one of the best. Thank you kids!!!!

We can’t finish there however. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank 3 wonderful mums who gave up their time to come and assist on the excursion. Thank so very much to Jo Mazzitello, Bec Paterson and Georgina Piper - your extra sets of eyes and hands were greatly appreciated!!

Thank you from the tired but very proud teachers, Mrs Pascoe, Miss Bell, Mrs Scott and Mr Manning.

CRAZY HAIR DAY
This Friday Year 6 Parliament will be holding a Crazy Hair Day to raise money for the Unicorn Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation, supporting patients suffering from neuroendocrine cancers.

We ask for your support by bringing a gold coin to help support this worthy cause. Full sports uniform should be worn on the day so that your Crazy Hair stands out!

Thank you for your support. Year 6 Parliament.

WHAT’S NEW IN THE CLASSROOMS

Early Stage 1 - K/1J

K/1J spent some wonderful afternoons creating maps of the local area and then overlaying these with Gamilaray symbols for water, trees, bush and tracks. We started by looking at Google maps and aerial views of Caves Beach, then sketched and painted. This week we will label our maps with English and Awabakal words to show the different areas of our work.

In Maths we learned about volume and area. One beautiful afternoon, we set up water and containers outside our room and experimented with comparing the capacity of different containers. Did any container have the same capacity? We printed thumbs onto the shapes of Australian animals to show area. We compared the wombat and the platypus. Which animal had the most thumbprints?

Reading groups are very busy and we are seeing some amazing changes in how the children are growing and changing. We have started to video ourselves reading and will compare our skills later in the term and year. In writing, Year 1 are learning about using paragraphs to organize ideas and Kinder are writing sentences with wow words.

We are almost half way through this year and I can see some amazing changes happening in this group. The level of thinking and cleverness seems to grow beyond belief. Great work K/1J!

Stage 1 - 1/2M

This term we have been studying animals in English and we have been learning to write persuasive texts. We have also been making persuasive speeches. In HSIE, we have been studying natural and built environments and we have been exploring ways to minimise our waste and make our environment a healthier place. In Maths, the children have been having fun learning about area and capacity. This week our class is hosting the school assembly and we will be performing the Wombat Wobble. We would love parents and grandparents to come along to the assembly at 12.30 on Friday.

Stage 2 - 3/4B

Well, what a week not only for 3/4B, but the whole of Stage 2! We all had such an amazing time on our Blue Mountains excursion and all brought some wonderful memories back with us. Before we knew it, we were looking at the Three Sisters and the view overlooking the Blue Mountains. Next stop, Scenic World! Stage 2 experienced some fantastic views and rides including the cable cart and enjoyed the serenity of the rainforest. We all got to walk through the Lucas Cave and were lucky to see some of its breathtaking rock formations and crystals, making sure we minded our heads for the bats to fly past! After such a massive day, we were all in need of sleep ready for our last day.

Throwing on our warm clothes for the crisp morning at Jenolan Caves House, we headed down to the grand dining room for a delicious breakfast and were ready for our bushwalking tour before heading home. It was such a great experience and I am sure we all slept quite well over the weekend ready for week 7!

Here are some photos. There will be more to come!

Stage 3 - 5D

It’s been a busy start to term 2 in 5D and I am very grateful for the opportunity to work with such a great group of students. We had a lot of fun learning about our solar system in science. We are studying the digital text ‘Inanimate Alice’ and are all eagerly awaiting the next episode.

Keep up the Excellent work 5D!
SPORT
Good luck to our 2 girls – Ruby J and Chloe S representing Hunter in the state girls’ soccer.

PRIMARY ATHLETICS CARNIVAL 2015
Our school athletics carnival will be held on Wednesday the 10th June (weather permitting), the back-up day is the following Tuesday, 16th June.

There are some small changes to the carnival this year. As you are aware students have been participating in field events during sport time, developing their skills and techniques in shot put, discus, long jump and high jump. During these sessions students have been trying their best to qualify for each field event ensuring them a spot in the competition on the day. We have done this so the field events can be held on the day with smaller numbers, allowing the children who qualified, time to complete the events accurately.

ALL students will have the opportunity to HAVE A GO in field events on the day, achieving participation points for their house. The students who qualified to compete will have their own area while the HAVE A GO area will be close by for remaining students to continue developing their skills for next year, also allowing them to cheer on their team mates during competition. Long Jump will not be able to have the HAVE A GO area due to the uneven ground and size of the long jump pit.

ALL students will be competing in the 100m and 200m track events. Heats and finals will be held on the day and finals will be based on times.

Students wanting to compete in the 800m track event will need to arrive at 8.30am for a straight out final.

Other changes:
• No marching- allowing us more time to complete events.
• War Cry before Relays- allows K-6 to surround the track together to cheer on the house relays. All students will be dismissed from the one area on completion.
• No tabloids in the middle of the track as students will rotate with their age group to each event to either compete or have a go.
• Stop for lunch at 1.15pm- allowing canteen to stagger the orders for infants and primary. Students will have time to snack during field events and track events while other age groups compete.
• K-6 Rolls will be marked under the COLA at 9.20am sharp and ALL students will head onto the track for the 200m Heats.

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me. We would greatly appreciate some parent helpers on the day especially for timekeeping. Also if you are confident and willing to help in the running of field events, alongside a teacher please let me know.

Mrs Katie Scott

BAND NEWS
Senior band sounded super last Friday at assembly even though numbers were depleted. A special mention to Renee B who was the lone flautist but managed to be heard over the crowd - great job Renee. Also a special mention to our band Leader Kristian Bunt who has been doing an exceptional job organising and assisting in assembly set up and pack up - thanks Kristian.

Chocolate money is due this week, however we do have some boxes left if anyone is able to sell them over the next week or so. CAPA day is happening this Wednesday. The children will experience another great opportunity to refine their skills and to play with the band from Nord's Wharf. Looking forward to hearing the band at the special assembly at 2pm on Wednesday. All parents and friends are welcome to attend.

Band Committee meeting is this Thursday morning in the kinder room and as always, everyone is welcome. We will be discussing the upcoming Bunnings barbecue on June 21 (helpers needed!) and the items being purchased with the proceeds from chocolate drive.

Upcoming events:
• CAPApillars day - this Wednesday
• Bunnings bbq - Sunday 21st June
• BandLink - 22nd and 23rd July at the Newcastle Jockey Club
• (details to follow soon)
• Have a great week!

Michelle Thurston

CANTEEEN
Wednesday 10 June is our Athletics Carnival. There will be a pre order sausage sizzle available for lunch on this day. There will be an order form sent home today with the newsletter; spare forms can be picked up from the canteen or the office. Please fill out one order form per child and return it and full payment back to the office or the canteen by Friday 5 June. We will also be selling other items throughout the day. See the reverse of the order form for details.

I am in need of a volunteer this Friday 5 June and next Monday 8 June, if you are able to help out please let me know on 0400006373

Thanks Jackie B

Roster Week 7
Monday 1 June – Ala B & Belinda P
Tuesday 2 June – Kristy J & Rebecca P
Thursday 4 June – Mel McS & Jo C
Friday 5 June - Jo M, Alicia D & Kiani K

Roster Week 8
Monday 8 June – Wendy S
Tuesday 9 June – Sue G & Kerry W
Wednesday 10 June – Athletics Carnival
Thursday 11 June – Dea F, Bec W & Benita O
Friday 12 June - Liana W, Yeni L, Denise McK, Kim S & Lisa G

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS
This Wednesday will be your LAST CHANCE to get Sports Shirts before the ATHLETICS CARNIVAL on the 10th of June. They are $30 and are available in a size 6 - 16. Now is the time to check you have your house colours ready!!

We also have plenty of stock in warm winter uniforms - Jumpers ($16), Jackets ($44) & Long Sleeve Tees ($10) plus long pants for girls & boys.

Did you know we stock scarves, gloves and raincoats too??

The uniform shop is open Wednesdays 2:30-3:30. A huge thank you to all our friendly volunteers - there to help with all your uniform needs each week!

Just a reminder...For your convenience we also offer an order service -
1. Download the form from our school website
2. Fill out your order form.
3. Pay online via direct deposit - details are on the order form.
   Attach a copy of your direct deposit receipt to your order OR Pay cash at the office.
4. Drop your order & receipt to the school office (or send with your child to hand in to the office).
5. Your order will be delivered to your child's classroom.

It's that easy - no need to rush around!

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