Welcome to week 2, our first week certainly went fast and it was great to see smiling faces join us again with such enthusiasm.

We’ve some hot days coming this week so we encourage our children to all have plenty to drink and would like to remind families to ensure drink bottles are sent to school. If they’re frozen, they can be wrapped with a tea towel and sat on classroom tables, nice and cold and ready to drink through out the day.

Swimming commences this Friday with lessons taking place at the Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre. Please ensure swimming skill information forms, permission forms and medical information forms are returned prior to Friday. Staff use the information forms to plan lessons, so it’s important that this information is at hand.

We’ve come back to a very overgrown school this year, with lots of rain and warm weather encouraging growth from both grass and gardens. We’d like to ask if parents would be able to give us a small time each afternoon to do some weeding and tidying in our gardens prior to the end of school to enable our students to start their kitchen garden program. With many younger students, it’s a little difficult to do the heavier work necessary and we really need lots of adult assistance. There’s a jobs list on the whiteboard noticeboard and we’d greatly appreciate any time you’ve got available.

We’ve had to change our date for Mrs Dunstan’s farewell to Thursday 25th of February due to other commitments coming in. Please join us at 2pm for afternoon tea and to share some memories.

We’re in the full swing of learning this week, children will bring home learning packages for home, a reading journal to be returned each Friday and our Kinder and Year 1 will have their homework folder with reading and spelling tasks. Our students are also encouraged to use our interactive learning programs at home and have been given their own copies of all passwords for home use.

The school office is now part of the main classroom building for greater efficiency with the other office now being the Principal’s office and meeting room. We’ve placed a large box on the outside entry wall of the classrooms for all notes, bankbooks, payments, etc, in the morning. We’ve also put envelopes and pens along side to use if needed. As our office is only staffed part time this year, this should make things a little easier for our school community to hand in notes. Of course we still encourage our students to hand in such things as this is part of their learning responsibility.

Until next week,

Donna Stackman

Diary Dates:
School Assembly - first for the term Monday 1/02/16 at 2:30pm
Swimming lessons commence - Friday 5/02/16
Small School’s Swimming Carnival - Tuesday 16/02/16
Farewell to Mrs Dunstan afternoon tea - Thursday 25/02/16 at 2pm
Clean Up Australia Day - Friday 4/03/16 9-10am
Kindergarten Best Start Reports to parents - Thursday 17/03/16
Last swimming lesson - Friday 18/03/16
Responsible Pet Program visit to school - Thursday 24/03/16 11:45– 12:25
Good Friday - Friday 25/03/16
Easter Saturday, Sunday, Monday - 26-28/03/16
Students return to school - Tuesday 29/03/16
Last day of term - Friday 8/04/16
ANZAC Day Monday 25/04/16
Term 2 Staff Development Day - Tuesday 26/04/16
Students return Term 2- Wednesday 27/04/16
Swimming commences this Friday

Could we please have notes etc back asap?

Voluntary Contributions

Please ignore the set amount on the voluntary contribution envelopes....

The amount is $45 per family, not as listed on the envelopes...apologies for the mix up.

Swimming Commences This Friday

Could we please have notes etc back asap?

Small School’s Swimming Carnival

Tuesday 16th February

Cessnock Swimming Pool

We have been notified that this carnival is for 8 year olds (including those turning 8 this year) and older. Mrs Beneke and Miss Naysmith will attend the carnival and Mrs Stackman will be at school for children not attending the carnival. Further information will be sent home soon.
News from the classrooms:

**Classroom structure:** Our students have been settled into their classrooms. While the years 2-6 will have their home desks in the library/primary classroom and Kinder and Year 1 will have theirs in the Junior classroom, our lessons will follow a flexible learning model. Students will receive direct instruction either individually or within small groups from teachers at ‘engine room’ desks and will then move to implement that instruction in a specific learning task. They may choose to do these tasks at their home desks or at another place of their choosing within the classroom or outside in a learning space.

Some lessons will be whole school, such as creative arts, science, history and some aspects of the physical and health curriculum. Some will be specifically targeted toward learning needs and abilities, such as literacy and mathematics. This allows for lessons to be tailored for both learning interests and needs.

**Literacy:** Students will be focusing on grammar structure, reading competencies and understanding, spelling tasks and persuasive language over the next 2 weeks.

**Mathematics:** This week our students will be investigating number (addition and subtraction), space, position and patterns and algebra.

**Speaking and Listening:** As in previous years, our students will be all talking about a specific subject / topic for speaking and listening. This takes place immediately after fruit break and is a whole school task. Each Monday a topic is given to students and is also published in our newsletter, so parents may assist in preparation if needed. Students may bring props etc to give emphasis to their topic and may present their topic in various ways. Each talk should go for no longer than 1-2 minutes. Below is the speaking and listening roster:

- Tuesday: Sean, Cherry, Gabrielle, Clayton
- Wednesday: Gypsy, Kiye, Olive, Tayler
- Thursday: Cain, Mikey, Tyson, Hugo
- Friday: Teachers

**This week’s topic:** Think about a time when you laughed really, really hard. Talk about what happened to make you laugh?

**History:** Last week we looked at ourselves and our students completed work on “All About Me”, they will blend this into our first learning topic of ‘family history’ where we will look at the journey our families took to reach the place where our students now call home. Please expect to answer some family history questions from students over the next couple of weeks.

**Library:** Library lessons took place today and we’d like to remind parents that Friday is borrowing day. All our students are encouraged to borrow.
It was great to see most students with canteen orders today. We’d like to remind parents that we need orders by the previous Friday for the following Monday’s canteen. As most food is purchased weekly, it is really difficult to fill late orders.

Students may purchase frozen treats, popcorn and chips at recess and lunch without

**Canteen Now on Mondays**

Put this on your calendar!

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Students may purchase frozen treats, popcorn and chips at recess and lunch without

**Cangewai Catch Up!**

Come and join us for our first catch up for the year….

Monday afternoon straight after school, February 8th, 3:15pm

Up for discussion: future of our P&C, fund raising tasks and timetable, Family Nights

Playing 21 is a great way to quickly practice addition and subtraction skills. Players also must be critical learners to successfully play.

How to:

Picture cards = 1 point.

Shuffle the cards, place card pack face down.

Students draw 2 cards, add the numbers together, writing the total down. They then draw single cards, adding the number to their existing total. They must come as close to 21 as they can, and can stop when they think they’re as close to without going over. If they draw a card that takes them over 21, they ‘bust’.

Modification: Make the goal number bigger, eg: 50.

As in previous years, we do try to let students and parents know if one of our staff is going to be absent. Of course this prior advise is not possible in the case of illness.

Mrs Stackman will unfortunately be absent from school this Friday due to other commitments. Mrs Beneke and Miss Naysmith will be conducting swimming lessons with assistance from Mrs Dunstan.

Our students were advised of Mrs Stackman’s absence last Friday and they’ve promised not to have any fun what so ever, at swimming while she’s not there.