Welcome to week 3!

We had a very full week last week, starting with our first assembly for the year with the announcement of our School Captains, Gypsy and Sean and Vice Captains, Cherry and Cain. Congratulations to our senior students, we know they will represent our school very well and bring great maturity to the role. We’d like to invite all our parents to next week’s assembly to acknowledge our school leaders during our badge pinning.

A great week was had as always, finishing with our first swimming lesson for the term. It was so fabulous to see our students return to swimming lessons with such confidence and a ‘have a go’ attitude.

I’d like to thank Miss Kirsty and parents for the wonderful tidy up of our school gardens turning it from a wild weed patch to neat vege gardens. Gardening is on each Wednesday at 2pm and we’d love lots of adult helpers where possible. We’re planting our new crops this week and look forward to the nutritious, organic produce it will produce.

Sadly, Mrs Dunstan’s last day was on Friday. Due to family commitments she had to take immediate leave before commencing her new position. She will be back to say her farewells to our students and their families on Thursday 25th at 2pm and we look forward to seeing her again. Please join us for this afternoon tea.

Mr Jasper will be filling the School Administration Managers role starting today, for a few weeks until the role is filled permanently and we’d like all to make him feel welcome to our school community. Mr Jasper will be with us on a five day fortnight, Monday, Tuesday and Friday on the odd week and Monday and Tuesday of the even week.

Until next week,

Donna Stackman

Diary Dates:
- 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
- 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

Put all your notes, payments, bankbooks, canteen orders, etc here in the mornings in our collection box on the front wall
**News from the classrooms:**

**Literacy:** Reading Journals - We were really interested to read some very interesting responses to reading books in the children’s home reading journals last week. There are many, many ways in which students can respond in some way to the book they are reading. They may wish to do a book review, turn the story into a comic strip, write and tell us about an interesting part of the book, describe a character, create a new ending to the book, add some more information to it if it’s a non-fiction book, design a new book cover, write a letter to the author or illustrator to ask for further information about the book, create a poster, add a new character, create a diorama about the book, do a book report video, design a series of questions to ask their favourite character….and the list is endless.

Their reading journal is to be handed in each Friday and is based around a book either from home, the school or town library or borrowed from our home readers.

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

**Speaking and Listening:** 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:** *Create and discuss a new sandwich which you think will become the next ‘best thing ever!’*

**History:** We will be continuing to investigate our families origins and their journey to the spot in which they currently live.

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Enjoying swimming lessons, practicing for the carnival, learning skills and fine tuning competencies, honing breathing and stroke techniques and having great fun!

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**SMALL SCHOOL’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

**Tuesday 16th February**

Cessnock Swimming Pool

9:15 at the pool for a 9:30 start, meet Mrs Beneke and Miss Naysmith in the stands. Students will need parents to transport their children and they are more than welcome to stay with our students to cheer them on. Please return notes and payment to school asap.