**Swimming Carnival**

What a fantastic day! A huge congratulations to all students who came along and participated on the day. Best of luck to Jordarna, Izaiah, Zaria, Sam, Seth, Jarrod, Rhett, Toby, Flynn and Jayden who have qualified to compete at the Zone Swimming Carnival next week.

**SMART Science Show**

Our students enjoyed a Laser Light Science Show last week. They learnt about what light is made up of, the different colours of light as well as how lasers work and how far laser light can travel. We look forward to a Robot Science Show later in the year.

**NAIDOC Art Workshop**

Aboriginal students in Years 4, 5 and 6 visited Cessnock High School this week, and will return again later in the term, to create some artworks that will be displayed at the High School during NAIDOC Week. The students had a wonderful time creating their artworks. We look forward to seeing the completed project later in the year.

As always, the students displayed beautiful manners on their visit—congratulations and thanks!
The “Tell Them From Me” student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

Prohibited Employment Declaration

All parents / carers who volunteer in any capacity (reading groups, canteen, P&C, driving students to and from sporting/excursions etc.) at Kearsley Public School will need to fill out a prohibited employment declaration form. These can be collected at the office or we can send one home with your child. A new form needs to be done each year, so if you filled one in last year a new one will need to be done for this year, thank you.
**P & C News**

Wow, the school year is certainly under way and already feels like it is flying by! A great day was had by all who attended the annual swimming carnival last week. It was great to see all the kids getting involved and supporting their house as well as showing good sportsmanship towards each other. Thanks to the Kearsley teaching staff who organised a very successful day. Don’t forget, the P&C are holding a Red Food Day next Monday, 22 February, where the students have the choice of having a hot dog or pizza for lunch with a popper and chips for $5.00. Orders are due in ASAP, so don’t miss out. For newcomers to our school, the P&C meet on the 1st Thursday of each month in the school library at 1.30pm. We discuss all matters regarding the school and canteen, fundraising and general items that may be occurring in the community. It’s a great way of finding out what is happening within the school community, voicing your concerns/opinions and meeting new friends. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 3 March 2016 at 1.30pm, which will be our AGM, where all positions will become vacant and elections will be held to fill those positions. Our general meeting will immediately follow the AGM. Everyone is welcome.

The canteen is urgently seeking volunteers to fill days each month. If you can spare one day a month or one day a week (3 hours, 9am-12pm), all help would be greatly appreciated. Thursdays are currently very short on volunteers. If you can help in any way, please contact Amy Archibald on 0431891776 or email amykarchibald@gmail.com ASAP. If some days cannot be filled, unfortunately the canteen will close on those days.

**So don’t forget, the next P&C meeting will be held on Thursday 3 March 2016, at 1.30pm. Hope to see you all there.**

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**Voluntary School Contributions 2015**

The voluntary contribution rate has stayed the same as the last few years. We will have a $25 gift card for one lucky family who will be drawn from a hat. To be eligible please make your payment by the end of term 1 to go into the draw for a $25 GIFT CARD.

$30 for families with 1 student ($7.50 per term)

$50 for families with 2 students ($12.50 per term)

$60 for families with 3 or more students ($15 per term)

These fees are not compulsory but are very much appreciated as they are put towards purchasing much needed supplies and equipment used daily by the students of our school.

**School Swimming Carnival News**

The School Swimming Carnival was held last Friday 12 February and was a huge success. Ribbons and the winning house will be awarded at next weeks school assembly **Friday 26 February at 9:10am**.

**General Permission Notes**

A general permission note was sent home with ALL students with the last Newsletter. It gives students permission to use the internet, permission for walking excursions, permission to have photos taken at school etc. A separate permission note will need to be filled out for each child. Please initial each one and sign at the bottom and return to your class teacher by **TOMORROW**. If you have misplaced your permission note another can be collected from the office.
ICAS Competitions 2016 Yrs 3 –6

Once again the University of NSW is conducting the “International Competitions and Assessments for Schools” (ICAS) for students in years 3 - 6. These are external assessments in Computer Skills, Science, Spelling, Writing, Mathematics and English. If your child wishes to enter there is a fee for each competition. It is NOT compulsory for students to enter these competitions, only if they wish to do so. You can choose which competitions you wish to enter. There is a minimum of 3 participants per exam so we are taking expressions of interest to see who would like to participate. If we don’t reach the minimum we will not be going ahead. Please fill out the expression of interest form and return to the office by Friday 26 February 2016.

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<th>SUBJECT</th>
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<td>Tues 31 May</td>
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$1000 FREE KIDS DENTAL* WITH THE CHILD DENTAL BENEFITS SCHEDULE!

Great news, the Child Dental Benefits Schedule continues in 2016! The Commonwealth Government dental scheme provides eligible children with a $1000 free kids dental benefit* on selected dental services within a 2 year calendar period.

In 2014 and 2015 many families were surprised that they were eligible for the free $1000 benefit*. To gain access to benefits, children must be eligible for Medicare, must be between 2 and 17 years of age for at least 1 day of the calendar year with the child or parent, guardian or carer receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A or another relevant government payment.

Not sure if you’re kids are eligible? Contact your local Pacific Smiles Dental Centre, have your Medicare card ready and they can easily check to see if your kids are eligible or have remaining benefits from 2014.

Information provided by Pacific Smiles Dental: visit pacificsmilesdental.com.au for further information.

*Free when services covered by the Commonwealth Government's Child Dental Benefits Schedule are bulk billed by participating dentists for treatments provided to eligible patients.

Ritchie's/IGA Supermarket Cessnock

Help Kearsley PS raise money simply by shopping at IGA Cessnock. Collect a card and key tag from the office and just swipe it each time you shop. NO forms to fill out they are already registered and ready to use! Last year donations to our school totalled $133.69, these funds were put towards purchasing prizes for our Positive Behaviour for Learning reward system. If you are new to our school community or have misplaced your tag please call in to the office as every little bit helps. We really appreciate your support!

Clean Up Australia Day

At 2:30pm on Friday March 4, as part of Clean Up Australia Day, we will be cleaning up in and around the school grounds. Senior students will be walking down to Jeffery Park to clean up our community. Could the students please bring a pair of gloves to wear for the clean up and an old plastic shopping bag to collect the rubbish in. Children will only be picking up paper litter, not anything sharp or dangerous. Parents and community members are most welcome to come along and help the students.
Cassock Schools as Community

Koe-nara

facebook.com/KoeNaraCassock
pinterest.com/koenarascullas/

ISSUE 2, February 2016

P A G E 5

Term 1 2016

Playworks @ Koe-nara, Mondays 10 to 12
Supported playgroup session with Free Play, Music & Story
Let’s Play @ Koe-nara, Tuesdays 10 am to 11.30 am
Discover how to use the everyday as play materials
And a visit to School Library

Playworks @ East, Thursdays 9am to 11am
Supported playgroup session with Free Play, story & a few songs

Babies at Koe-nara, Thursdays
12.30pm to 2pm
Meet new friends, find out about local services and what to expect next in your baby’s development

Young Pandas Playgroup at Koe-nara, Fridays 10am to 12pm
Supported playgroup for parents who are under 25 years of age, create a scrapbook for your child, meet new people & learn about other services. Morning tea is provided.

For more information contact Jane Hodgson on 49909354 or 0428 265 164 or Jane.Hodgson@cst.nsw.edu.au
Koe-nara, on the corner of Repton & Quarrying Sts, Aberdeen

1-2-3 MAGIC & EMOTION COACHING
PARENT COURSE

Learn to manage difficult behavior in children 2-12 years old
A three session program for parents and carers at Cassock Family Support Service
5 Hall Street, Cassock
on Tuesdays 22nd & 29th March & 5 April 2016 from 10am to 12noon
This program is facilitated by Cassock Family Support Service Inc

Terms of the course
- 1.5 hour sessions
- No childcare available
- Registration required
- No tickets required
- Centrelink support available

Topics covered include:
- Managing behavior
- Setting limits
- Parenting skills

Bringing Up Great Kids

Bringing Up Great Kids is a reflective parenting program to support parents to review and enhance patterns of communication with their children. Australian Childhood Foundation: www.childhood.org.au

Topics covered include:
- Messages from the Past
- The Message Centre
- Giving and receiving messages
- The Message Behaviour
- Messages about me
- Passing on messages

Where: Cassock Family Support Services
5 Hall Street, Cassock
When: Mondays from 22nd February to 14th March 2016
Time: 9.30am to 12pm
Contact: Cassock Family Support Services
Phone: 4990 4507

This program is presented with the support of NSW Community Services, Department of Family and Community Services
**Kearsley Canteen Roster—Term 1, 2016**

### February

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All volunteers who work in the school canteen, reading groups or who volunteer and are on school grounds need to pay a membership fee to be covered for insurance purposes. Please pay your $2.00 P&C / Canteen membership to the school office ASAP. A prohibited employment declaration form needs to be filled in as well. These can be collected at the office or one can be sent home with your child. Amy Archibald is doing canteen rosters and can be contacted at amykarchibald@gmail.com for any questions regarding rosters. Thank you!

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**SCHOOL BANKING**

Please send in bank books every Thursday for Mrs Duggan to process. Some great prizes can be earned for regular banking! Thank you.
Everyone deserves a personal travel manager

Let me tailor your next holiday

Jane Fowler
Your Personal Travel Manager
1300 655 479
E: Jane.Fowler@travelmanagers.com.au

FREE Back To School Gift Packs
with any shoe purchase.

SPORTSPOWER CESSNOCK
100 Vincent Street, Cessnock, Phone: (02) 4980 4081

Good for Kids good for life

BENEFITS OF TEAM SPORTS

Participation in team sports is a great way to increase your child’s physical activity. But did you know there are a number of other benefits to team sports, including:

- Teaching children skills in teamwork
- Increasing communication skills
- Helping children gain confidence through interaction with other kids
- Teaching children it is ok to lose sometimes
- Making new friends
- And most importantly having fun!

There are many different team sports to choose from such as soccer, netball, touch football and hockey. Why not see what team sports are available at your school or in the community for your child to participate in?

NSW Health Hunter New England Local Health District

PHONE 4924 6499

CMRL REGO 2016
It's time to REGISTER ONLINE NOW!
Go to the CMRL webpage (CMRL.net.au) and click on the “register now” button or follow us on Facebook and click on the link provided

* All players from 6 to 16 $105
* All under 17’s $135
Our registration fees for the 2016 season include all club fees, so NO CLUB FEES are required to be paid throughout the season. This registration payment also includes the additional $5 participation fee imposed by Newcastle Rugby League.
Every player will receive a club polo, shorts and a pair of socks to kick off their season.

For registration problems call
TAMMY AVERY on 0402 697 417
for general enquiries call
Spot Mitchell (secretary) on 0411 024 296
Our Relay for Life team - Le Krasey Krew - is now taking orders for the 2016/17 Newcastle/ Hunter/Central Coast Entertainment Book. We would love it if you could support our team this year. For those who would like to order one...please text or email Kathy Pynsent on 0418417301 or kathy_pynsent@hotmail.com
Thank you!