

# Newsletter—Abermain Public School



Len Boughton  
Principal



Term 1 Week 2 - 2 February 2011

Dear Parents

## Welcome back New Kinders.

### Involvement in school P&C and Canteen

I encourage all parents to become involved in the school. P&C meetings are held once a month. The next meeting will be Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm. Please come along and be part of your child's school.

Our canteen is always looking for volunteers to help run it. It would be great if we could have the canteen open five days a week this year. Skills gained through working in the canteen (eg cash register, food handling) can be useful in putting together a resume when applying for paid employment. Can you spare a day to help? If so please contact the school office. At the moment we have no one to operate the canteen on Monday, Thursday or Friday.

Please note that the canteen will not open until some time after the next P&C meeting.

### Gates

For student safety and child protection gates at the school are locked each morning.

The only gate accessible during school time is the pedestrian gate at the front of the main building. This gate is closed, but not locked.

### Good News Great Results

The quality education that students receive at Abermain PS was clearly demonstrated in the National Partnership in Literacy and Numeracy results at the end of 2010. These results are from external testing over time. They refer to improvements in Reading and are described in terms of Effect Size.

The table below gives a very brief overview of how to interpret different Effect Sizes.

- 0 – 0.2 This is the effect size of normal development with little or no schooling
- 0.2 – 0.4 The typical effect size from being in a classroom with a teacher
- 0.4 – 0.6 Something important is happening

0.6 – 0.8 Some major improvements

0.8 – 1 Almost too much to expect

Grade results for Abermain were Year 3 0.9, Year 4 0.64 and Year 5 0.32. The school community should be very proud of these outstanding results and congratulations go out to the students and the teachers who have taught them over their time at school since Kindergarten.

*If you are interested in knowing more about how the Effect Size is calculated, you can access this paper from the Australian Council of Educational Research website: [www.acer.edu.au/documents/RC2003\\_Hattie\\_TeachersMakeADifference.pdf](http://www.acer.edu.au/documents/RC2003_Hattie_TeachersMakeADifference.pdf)*

## Gardens

Abermain PS has spacious and beautiful grounds but maintaining the gardens is a constant struggle. We have a General Assistant two days a week only. This year staff have agreed that each class will have an individual garden that they will be responsible for. This will give students another way of demonstrating pride in their school.



## Maths text fees

All students from Year 1 to Year 6 are now due to pay for their Maths text books. The cost per student is \$30 and this can be paid at the school either in full or by regular instalments. Students will be issued with their texts once payment has been made.



## Parent Teacher Afternoon

An information afternoon will be held by classroom teachers on Wednesday 9th February. This afternoon gives parents the opportunity to be given general information about how the class will run in 2011. There will not be time during the session for the teacher to discuss individual student needs with parents. Parents who wish to discuss issues relating to their individual child are encouraged to make an appointment time with the teacher for another date. Students will receive a timetable for the afternoon at a later date.

## Swimming Carnival Reminder

**Friday 11th February at Cessnock Pool** for students who are turning 8 years and above this year. There will be swimming races for competent swimmers, novelty events for non-swimmers as well as 25 metre races.



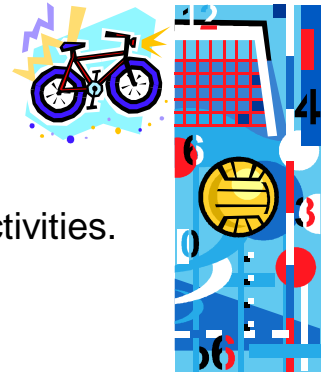
Students will be under the supervision of teachers in their House Groups. Cessnock Pool has advised that this year spectators will be required to pay \$2 entry when they arrive at the pool.

Permission notes need to be returned by Monday so that buses can be booked. If any parent can help on the day please contact Mrs Taylor.

## Active After School Community Program

- Cycling will commence on Monday 7th February
- Sport Games will commence on Tuesday 8th February.

Please return notes if you wish your child to take part in these activities.



## Education Tax Refund

Buying new school-related equipment? Don't forget to keep your receipts; you might be eligible for an Education Tax Refund. More information at [www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au)

## Encouraging literacy skills at home

### Let your child help you write shopping lists

This is a great way to get them reading words that don't always come from a storybook. Children can help you read recipes and then write out lists of items you need and link names to products that you point out in the refrigerator or the pantry cupboard.

More ideas at <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/ezine/yr2009/issue01/shopping/index.php>

## Don't forget to label your child's belongings

You can:

- use a permanent laundry marker to label clothes, hats and shoes, or sew or iron on personalised labels
- go through your child's bag with them each night
- check that labels haven't faded with washing
- if something doesn't come home check the school's lost property area (in the corridor opposite the staffroom).

## You are welcome at school

Children love to see their parents and carers at their school, whether helping out in the classroom, canteen or being involved in other ways. Research shows that students perform better at school when their parents or carers take an active interest in their school work. Your contribution to the school is needed and valued.

Ways you might get involved:

- help in the classroom
- listen to children read
- help children on computers
- help with school excursions
- prepare food and serve children at the canteen
- coach a sporting team.

## Tips for packing their lunch boxes

- Pack food that is easy to open, easy to eat and not messy.
- Write their name on their lunch box, water bottle and any other containers.
- Include a frozen drink bottle to keep food cold. Wrap it in a tea towel in case it leaks.
- Use insulated lunch boxes or cooler bags.
- Avoid using plastic wrap because children find it hard to pull apart, paper bags are better for the environment too.
- Pack tissues or paper around fruit so it won't bruise.
- Remind your child to wash their hands before eating and use the toilet at recess and lunch.
- Pack a water bottle for your child each day and remind them that they can also get water from the taps or bubblers throughout the day.

### Quality Work shared with Principal

Beau Wilson

Amy Henshaw

Tarnaea Rowland

Kenau Refalo

Andrew Passfield

Jessica Winter

Bailey Van Laarhoven

Noeh Page

Corey Wilson

Seth Sherlock

Deacon Fellowes

Shelby Hancock

Emily Bodley

Callum Campbell

Jack Perry

Jak Woodbury

Bailey Rumney

Grace Bennett



### Uniform Shop

Open every THURSDAY

morning

9.00 am—9.30 am

# Abermain OOSH

Quality Out of School Hours Approved Child Care

**Permanent or Casual Bookings**

Fun Activities—Healthy Snacks Provided

**To enrol or book your place please contact:**

**0417437869 or 0405165086**