



31st October, 2014

## SAFE RESPECTFUL LEARNERS

### DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

#### 31st October

Kinder 2015 Orientation

#### 7th November

Kinder 2015 Orientation

P&amp;C Disco - School

Playground Equipment -

Official Opening

#### 14th November

Kinder 2015 Orientation

#### 21st November

Kinder 2015 Orientation

#### 26th November

Presentation Day

Year 6 Farewell

#### 27th November

Year 6 Breakfast/Fun Day

#### 15th December

"Carols" at School

## "CLEVER KIDS"



"Clever Kids", a transition to school program exclusive to Abermain Public School, culminated with a graduation ceremony last Friday. More than twenty students enrolled in Kindergarten for 2015 have participated in the highly successful program.

They have gained skills to enable them a smooth transition into school as well as a greater language base and independence skills. Parents, grandparents and carers have shared the experience with their little ones, taking away ideas, strategies and activities to support their children at home.

Last Friday our Clever Kids donned their mortarboards, threw on a bow tie and were presented with their certificate of graduation before their peers and loved ones. Jessica Willard from the Advertiser joined us to capture the moment that these clever children started their schooling journey.

"Clever Kids" will be run again next year to ensure that all students and families are given the opportunity to develop the skills they will need to be their very best at school.

*Ms Melinda Stokes  
Instructional Leader  
Early Action For Success*

## This issue:

Aboriginal Education

School Uniform

Play Equipment

Kindergarten -

"Learning Centres"

Awabakal Excursion

Student Leaders 2015

Kinder Orientation



## Quality Work Shared with the Principal

*Mya Perry, Reanna Finneran, Mitchell Brown, Cameron Bate, Jaylen Burrell, Max Cumpson, Tahlee Roderick, Roman Wilson, Cameron Bate, Nicholas Turkington, Lucas Whyburn, Lister McWhirter, Justin Hasler, Noah Blair, Lydia Besoff, Hayden Fullerton, Emma Davies, David James, Kalob Hasler, Seth Fraser*

Safe

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Respectful

#### School Uniform

I would like to thank all the parents who have commented on our proposed uniform changes during the community consultation period. The overall response was very positive and suggestions made have been considered by the uniform committee and the School Council.

Due to overwhelmingly positive response, the changes will go ahead. In response to community suggestions, a skirt for girls will be included. More details of the uniform and the time frame for change will be distributed to parents in our next newsletter.

#### Play Equipment

Our new play equipment is proving very popular with students. Staff will monitor the equipment during hotter days to make sure that the temperature of metal parts is still low enough to be comfortable for students.

On Friday 7th November an afternoon of activity has been planned by the P&C. There will be a BBQ from 5-6pm with the official opening of the new play equipment taking place at 5:45pm. This will be followed by a student disco from 6-8pm.

#### Parental Permission

If your child arrangements at the end of the day have changed (eg going to a friend's place from school) it is important that the school has a note to confirm the arrangement. In terms of student welfare the school needs to know who has permission to pick a student up at the end of the school day.

Mr Boughton  
Principal

Learners

**UNIFORM  
SHOP**

**OPEN  
MONDAY  
& FRIDAY  
9am-9:30am**

**CANTEEN**

**OPEN  
Monday  
to  
Friday  
Including  
RECESS**

## ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

Two weeks ago we held our second community meeting relating to Aboriginal Education at Abermain. I am so impressed with the support and am very grateful be working with such a proactive group of parents. At the meeting we discussed ways to incorporate authentic lessons into classrooms programs to meet student learning outcomes. We also began to plan what our new Aboriginal Outdoor Learning Area will look like near the Bush Tucker Garden. Mr Edwards (parent) came to the school last Friday and begun to clear out the weeds from the Bush Tucker Garden with some students. Thank you to Mr Edwards and our students for making such a great start on this process. We will be having a working bee to continue getting this learning space underway during the Halloween disco next Friday night. Our next meeting will be Term 1 next year and everyone is welcome to attend.

*Mrs Jarlett  
Teacher*

## KINDERGARTEN “LEARNING CENTRES”

Kindergarten students have been meeting each Tuesday and Thursday between 1-2pm to enjoy play-based learning in “Learning Centres” - a program designed to meet the language needs of young students. Students develop social and language skills within small group activities which are aligned with the curriculum and have an emphasis on fun and engagement. Some of the activity stations include dinosaur play, water play, restaurant play and office play. Students are expected to provide a written response to the activity they have participated in. Students have been highly motivated and vocabulary and writing skills have improved markedly. The students are enjoying these sessions greatly; it is wonderful to see their motivation to learn through play.

If you are a parent or carer who is interested in supporting this great learning opportunity please speak to Mrs Parry or Mrs Sheldon.

*Ms Stokes  
Instructional Leader  
Early Action for Success*



*Safe, Respectful Learners*



## STAGE TWO AWABAKAL EXCURSION

Last Thursday, students in 3-4J and 3-4T visited the Awabakal Education Centre at Dudley. The aim of the day was to teach students about how local environments change over time and how Aboriginal people lived in the Awabakal National Park before European settlement. Throughout the day students had the opportunity to learn about how the bush was used as a kitchen pantry and what plants were used for first aid. We were told how Aboriginal people used trees to make bowls, coolamons (which are used to carry babies, or food supplies), weapons and shelter. Students had the opportunity to make shelter to sleep in and I was very impressed with their imaginations and the use of the natural materials they had around them. We also got to see evidence of sand and coal mining after European settlement and learnt Aboriginal people only lived in any given area for about 6 weeks to help with the sustainability of food.

After a nice stroll through the bush we got to go dip netting to find creatures living in the pond and identify what they were using an information chart as well as make our own coolamons out of newspaper. It was a fabulous day filled with very wonderful information and I would like to thank all of the students for their outstanding behaviour. I was, and am, one very proud teacher!

*Mrs Jarlett  
Teacher*

Safe

Respectful

Learners



*Safe, Respectful Learners*

# LIBRARY NEWS



## BIRTHDAY BOOKCLUB

### OCTOBER

Amarli  
Wanasinghagee  
Byron Whyburn  
Joseph Reading  
Jazlyn Leigh  
Joel Roddenby  
Emma Corcoran

## LIBRARY

All students are well and truly enjoying the amazing resources available to them in the library. I have been encouraging the confident readers from Years 1 and 2 to start borrowing from the fiction section of our library. There are a number of small chapter book series that are manageable, with illustrations to support comprehension. I encourage all parents to read to and listen to your children. This will help show them the importance of reading and build imagination skills which is an essential skill for all areas of our lives as children and as adults.

Overdue notices will start to be sent home with children who have outstanding books. If you are unable to locate any books, a monetary value for the book is printed on the overdue notice. If you could help towards the cost of the book, it would be greatly appreciated.

*Miss Craig*  
*Teacher Librarian*

## CAN RECYCLING

We currently have a large bag for recycled aluminium cans outside the library. If you could help out by bringing in your empty, squashed aluminium cans, so we can raise some funds for the school, that would be much appreciated.

*Miss Craig*  
*Teacher Librarian*

## What is a homonym?

Let's face it, English can be a crazy language. Take homonyms, for example. These are words that are identical in pronunciation and spelling but have different meanings. This homonym list will provide some clarity.

Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-a-to-z/english\\_glossary/8Qum/1084/homonym](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-a-to-z/english_glossary/8Qum/1084/homonym)

## Sun Safety

This spring has seen temperatures soar. A new information pack with the latest advice on sun safety is available for school and parents.

Find out more: <http://www.school.nsw.edu.au/studentssupport/studenthealth/sun-safety/index.php>

## STUDENT LEADER SPEECHES

I would like to congratulate the ten Year 5 students who presented speeches for a leadership position in 2015. All students did an outstanding job, and all should be proud of their efforts. Having worked at Abermain for a number of years, I have witnessed many leader speeches, and I believe the delivery of speeches and the content this year were some of, if not the best I have heard. Well done!

Students who achieved their PAWS badge before the end of Term 3 had the opportunity to stand for student leader and all ten took the opportunity. Six leaders will be elected, and will be announced later in the term.

I look forward to working with the Student Leaders who are elected in 2015.

*Miss Craig  
Teacher Librarian*







P  
B  
L

## **PBL LUCKY DRAW WINNERS**

Tiffani Musgrave, Charlotte Morrow, Joshua Humphreys

## **PBL BORROWER OF THE WEEK**

Megan Coulson (Week 2)

Rory Turkington (Week 3)

Kelyka Ward (Week 4)



### **PBL PAWS BADGES**

Congratulations to the following students who have earned their PAWS Badges:

***Jorga Fernance, Bethany Bushell, Shanaya Burrell, Miah Gay, Alyssa Soper, Emma Corcoran, Harrison Fitzgerald, Tyarah Follan, Jack Perry, Ryan Bennett, Tom Robertson, Billy Reading, Jackson Davis, Samuel Davies, Cooper Subat, Chelsea Dunn, Michael Edwards, Caleb Vanderdrift***

## CESSNOCK HIGH SCHOOL FIREPIT OPENING

I had the pleasure of taking four of our school leaders to the opening of the Cessnock High Schools Firepit and surrounding outdoor learning area last week. What an achievement, this area was constructed by high school students with the support of a variety of learning services working with the school. Thank you Taylor, Brianna, Tiffani and Tarryn for joining me and representing our school.

*Mrs Bower  
Assistant Principal*



## DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

We're the first generation of parents responsible for equipping our children with digital citizenship skills - how to use technology safely and responsibly, and how to evaluate, manage and use the information and tools they find online.

Here are some tips to get you started:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/using-technology/raising-good/digital-citizens>

Safe

Respectful

Learners



## 2015 KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

Kindergarten 2015 orientation program begins this Friday (31 October, 2014). We welcome all new families to our school and hope that the following four weeks allows both students and families an opportunity to visit and receive information that will support them in a smooth transition to “Big School”. It is a very exciting time for all!

*Mrs Bower*  
*Assistant Principal*

2015 Kindergarten Orientation Program	
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2014	1.00 pm - 2.00pm <b>Parents &amp; students</b> - Library
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2014	1.00 pm - 2.00pm <b>Parents</b> - Library <b>Students</b> - Kindergarten classroom
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2014	1.00 pm - 2.00pm <b>Parents</b> - Library <b>Students</b> - Kindergarten classroom
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2014	1.00 pm – 3.00pm <b>Parents</b> - Library <b>Students</b> - Kindergarten classroom

## THE WIZARD OF OZ

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October, Stage 2 and 3 students had the opportunity to see a performance of the wonderful Wizard of Oz. We travelled from our school on a bus to the Hunter School of Performing Arts in Broadmeadow to see the students from this school perform for us.

When we arrived at the school we walked into the theatre and chose our seats wisely. After we picked our seats carefully, we were staring at the curtains waiting for them to miraculously open.

When the curtains finally opened we saw a beautiful meadow with one small shack. A young girl walked out onto the stage and started talking about where she lived. This was Dorothy and she lived in the countryside with her Auntie Em, Uncle Henry and her little dog Toto. I was gobsmacked that they used a real dog to play the role of Toto!

I won't bore you to tears with the rest of the story of The Wizard of Oz because most of you already know it unless you're extremely old, been hiding under a rock for a hundred years or you're from a country which does not have a clue what this story is about.

I was amazed how the performers remembered all their lines and were so enthusiastic about the script. I was also astounded by how young they all were. There's no way I could do anywhere near as well as they all did.

The costumes for all the characters looked unbelievable, I especially liked the scarecrow because her clothes were so daggy and baggy and stuffed with straw it looked like she had been standing in a sunny field for a hundred years.

But the most horrible thing was the evil Witch of the West's laugh!! It was so high pitched it was like someone screaming! It made my friend Jackson and I cover our ears it was that loud.

Overall, I think the play was marvellously fantastic. I was really glad I got to go because it was a great experience. It was so much better than going to the movies to see it as we could see live people on stage performing. I would absolutely love to see more performances at the Hunter School of Performing Arts.

*Written by  
Nicholas Turkington*

Safe

Respectful

Learners

### **P&C DICSO**

The P&C will be holding a family disco at the school between 5-8pm on Friday 7th November, 2014. The theme of the disco is "Halloween" and there will be a sausage sizzle starting at 5pm. We hope to see you all there!

### **SNAX WITH ATTITUDE FUNDRAISER**

Orders and payment must be returned to the school office by Monday 10th November, 2014. Delivery and pick up details will be advised at a later date.

### **DOMINO'S PIZZA FUNDRAISER**

The P&C will again be holding a fundraiser night at Domino's on 3rd December, 2014. More details will be sent home closer to the night.

2014-2015  
**NSW Family Energy Rebate**



**\$150\***  
TOWARDS  
ENERGY  
BILLS

**APPLY  
ONLINE  
NOW!**

**2 MINUTES TO FILL IN A FORM**  
<https://applications.fer.trade.nsw.gov.au/>  
\* eligibility criteria apply


**Trade & Investment  
Resources & Energy**



**Apply before  
Midnight  
16 June 2015**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE**  
**PHONE** - Service NSW 13 77 88  
**EMAIL** - [fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au)  
**WEB** - [www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/info/familyenergyrebate](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/info/familyenergyrebate)





**SAFE, RESPECTFUL LEARNERS**