Dear Parents,

What amazing weather we have been experiencing the past two weeks. It doesn’t feel like winter is just around the corner. The cooler weather will hit us soon and it is now time for all students to wear their full winter uniform each day.

A wonderful day was had by all the children at school on Wednesday as we celebrated National Simultaneous Storytime. The children dressed up as their favourite animals as well as having Crazy Hair! More is written about the day later in this newsletter. A big thank you to Mrs Scanes for organising the day.

On Tuesday evening, it was great to see 12 Cowan families attend the Interrelate sessions that were held at Brooklyn Public School. The presenter, who introduced the topics in a fun, non-confronting way, was excellent. I am sure that the children who attended, maybe even some adults, learned lots of things on the night. There were probably many questions being asked on the drive home.

NAPLAN testing was held last week for our students in Years 3 and 5. NAPLAN week always brings with it waves of anxiety and claims about schools performances. The problem is not the tests themselves but the way they have been made a high stakes issue and data misused. At Cowan Public School we don’t ‘teach to the test’. As educators we have a far more holistic approach to the schooling of your children. Parents should be aware that a quality report by a professional teacher encompassing a range of measures over time, accompanied by a face-to-face discussion, is a far better indicator of student capabilities than a NAPLAN report.

The students who sat the tests did enjoy completing them, and they all did their best.

Over the past two weeks our PSSA teams have played some great netball against some very strong teams and some exciting friendly soccer games. All teams are improving their play with each game. Two weeks ago we played against Berowra and last week we played against Hornsby South. Both weeks we played at Cowan. Although we lost all games, all four teams displayed great teamwork.

Our netball girls are showing the benefit of their training sessions. Their defence is getting stronger each week. The goals will start coming for us! Our netball and soccer teams will be travelling to Wahroonga Public School.

Good luck to our 21 Zone Cross Country competitors who will be competing at the Zone Cross Country being held on Monday at Rofe Park, Hornsby Heights. All the children have been training hard to achieve personal bests.

Last Thursday, our four school leaders, Jessica, Jack, Gabby and James were very fortunate to be able to attend NSW State Parliament House in the city where they attended a morning tea held by our local State Member of Parliament, Mr Matt Kean. School leaders from other local schools also attended. They were lucky enough to also meet the Mayor of Hornsby, Steve Russell, the Premier of NSW, Mr Mike Baird, and former NRL and Manly Sea Eagles legend, Steve Menzies.

CPS Overrun By Wild Animals
...Much Fun With NSS & Crazy Hair
The men all spoke about their experiences of what being a leader meant to them. It was a wonderful experience for our students and one I was very jealous of as I missed out on meeting the ‘Beaver’ Menzies. Photos on Page 3.

Just a reminder that on Fridays this term, Mr Rowland is conducting our Music lessons for each class. The $25 cost for these lessons was included in the Term 2 costs sheet. If you have not paid your Term 2 fees yet, maybe even Term 1, could you please get these in as quickly as possible so we can continue to run these extra programs that benefit all our students.

Until next time.

Paul McSweeney
Principal

National Simultaneous Storytime & Crazy Hair Day...
The animals were loose at Cowan on Wednesday for the National Simultaneous Storytime. It was a delight to observe so many different animals from varying continents enjoying a day together. I felt sorry for polar bear and penguin who persevered and tolerated the warm climate. Mind you there was one giraffe who was really feeling the heat. I sincerely appreciated the effort that the children and their families put into making it such a “wild rumpus”.

We all laughed at the chosen story ‘Too Many Elephants in This House’ by Ursula Dubosarsky, and engaged in the creation of jigsaws and elephants. The finale was a Mini Safari in which animals from all over the world teamed up to explore and discover hidden facts about elephants. Each child received a gift of a special pencil with animal rubbers to remember the day.

Photos on Page 5!
Thank you, Mrs Scanes

Library Reminder…
To all children and parents:
Cowan students are extremely fortunate to have access to an extensive and ever growing library of quality resources to borrow and enjoy. I would appreciate your help in insuring that all books are returned to the Library BEFORE school on WEDNESDAY mornings. We have a growing list of overdue books which is very disappointing.

Walk Safely To School Day…
Active kids are healthy kids. Thank you to everyone who walked to school safely today, and received their sticker to wear. Walk Safely to School Day helps to promote road safety and health in our community. More information about this initiative can be found at www.walk.com.au.

Zone Cross Country…
We wish our Zone team of Jacob, Tyler, Will, Kai, Grace, Macy, Annie, Daisy, Alexis S, Sam, Maddie, James A, Corey, Holly W, Emily, Lily, Jessica, Jack, Ethan, Armita and Gabby their PBs on Monday at Rofe Park.

Term 2 Costings…
These were sent home with students yesterday, and are as follows:
- Powerhouse Museum Excursion K-6 $20 per student
- Music Lessons K-6 $25 per student
- Writers’ Festival K-6 $5 per student

Please remember that these costings can be paid in total, or in instalments. If assistance is required, please contact Mr McSweeney, or Mrs Hope, in confidence.

Thank you, again, to Mrs Scanes and our hard working P&C for organising the Cowan Rush Hour; the profits of which has subsidised our students to attend the Writers’ Festival at a considerable reduction in cost.

Powerhouse Excursion K-6…
Consent notes were sent home yesterday with students. A copy of the consent note appears on our school website, under ‘Notes’. Details are:
- Wednesday 11th June
- Cost per student—$20
- Dress in correct winter uniform, including school shoes and school hat
- Bring morning tea, lunch and a bottle of water
- Consent note & payment due Wednesday 28th May.

Kindergarten Information Session…
This is happening on Thursday 19th June at 9.15am in our School Library. Posters and flyers have been distributed to all our pre-schools in Berowra. We welcome any parents with children starting Kindergarten in 2015, or subsequent years, to come along and find out about the benefits of attending our School. Please spread the word to any families who you consider may be interested.

Home Corner Furniture For K/1…
Please keep a lookout for any children’s kitchen type items, eg. Kitchen sink, cupboard, table & chairs, utensils. We would like to create an area for creative play. Donations of pieces in good repair are most welcome. Any queries, please see Mrs Jansons.

Cowan Public School … a vibrant and caring learning community

Awards
Congratulations to the following students who received awards recently:

Bronze: Brandon, Charlotte, Luka, Sasi, Thomas
Jacob, Maddie, Armita
Opportunity Class Year 5 2015…
Reminder for our current Year 4 parents. Online applications are now open if you would like to apply for a placement for your Year 4 child to attend the Year 5 Opportunity Class at Warrawee Public School next year. You can apply online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement. If you require a paper copy, please see Mrs Hope in the school office. Applications MUST be in by Friday 6th June 2014.

Cake Days...
Our next cake day is Wednesday 28th May with the Young, Maksoud and Davis (E&B) families providing. Thank you to these families in advance. If your child forgets their cake money on cake day, we do allow IOUs, however, we ask that these be paid by the following cake day.

…and information from our DEC Website…
Too Sick For School?
As the cold weather hits, so do the winter bugs. It’s often hard to know whether to send your child to school or let them stay home to recover, especially when that means an adult cancelling work. For safety's sake, if your child seems unwell you should always keep them home from school and seek medical advice.

School A to Z and the NSW Health have created an at-a-glance chart to help answer your questions about common childhood illness and how long sick kids need to miss school. Find it by typing this link into your web browser www.bit.ly/1hyn2E

Mental Maths Strategies
We teach children a range of different strategies to add and subtract numbers. By showing them several methods for solving maths questions, we’re helping them to look for patterns. All this builds a good sense of “number” which means they understand the relationships between different numbers and why different ways to add and subtract work well. The goal is that your child will understand many ways to approach a maths problem and will be able to choose a way that makes the most sense to them. School A to Z has a lot of resources, including help sheets on mental maths strategies, here: www.bit.ly/JkiUsY

Does Speaking Another Language At Home Confuse Children?
Are your children fortunate enough to be growing up in a home where two or more languages are spoken? Many parents worry that bilingualism can cause confusion and even delays in learning for their children, but according the Raising Children Network, that’s not the case at all. A good knowledge of your native language can actually help your child with learning English. Bilingual children who are read books and spoken to in their in their native language find it easier to learn to read and write in English when they get to school. More information is at www.bit.ly/1m0agnk

Cowan Public School … a vibrant and caring learning community

Our school leaders at NSW State Parliament House in Sydney
Contact Details:
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Phone: 02 9456 1065
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Email: cowan-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
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Staff:
Principal: Mr Paul McSweeney
Snr Admin Manager: Mrs Marie Hope
Classroom Teachers:
Mrs Cate Ruzek
Mrs Mary-Lynne Jansons
Miss Clare Daly
Library, Class & Visual Arts Teacher:
Mrs Lynne Scanes
Learning/Support Teacher:
Mrs Carina McSweeney
Technology Lessons:
Mr Tim Rowland
School Admin Officer:
Mrs Lynette Hodder
Teacher’s Aide:
Mrs Carole Adnum
General Assistant:
Mr Mark Janssens

Advertisements

BLUE LIGHT DISCO
Saturday, 31st May 2014
5:30pm—8:00pm
Age U/14 years
Tickets: $10 (sibling discount, $5)
Canteen available—including chicken nuggets and hot dogs
PCYC Performing Arts Centre
22 Waitara Ave, Waitara
Tel: 9477 2310 Email: hornsby@pcycnsw.org.au

NO ALCOHOL - NO DRUGS—NO PASSOUTS

Ready Set Trot
Learn to ride a pony in a fun, safe and interactive environment.
Visit our website for more information
www.readysettrot.com

Feeling stressed? Dealing with pain, tension headaches or injuries?
Massage therapy can certainly help!
The benefits include:
- deep relaxation
- pain relief
- improved circulation and healing
- reduced tension and anxiety

Come and visit your local Remedial Massage Therapist, Katja, specialising in Swedish, Remedial and Deep Tissue Massage - available most days by appointment.

- Health Fund Rebates available
- Discounts for Cowan residents

Katja Walker (0425 999 283)
AMT Member # 1-5837
Phone or text: 0425 300 025
Email: katapats@gmail.com
Wild animals on the loose...

National Simultaneous Storytime & Crazy Hair