Dear Parents,

A big thank you to all our parents who turned up last night for the Parent Information evening. The teachers were able to explain to the parents in attendance the class schedules, homework expectations and subject content for the year, as well as having a chance to listen to whole school plans and other events happening within the school. If you didn’t attend, come to school and meet your child’s teacher and find out about all the wonderful things occurring in their classroom and around the school.

A reminder that our After School Care facilities are available every afternoon from bell time until 6.00pm. Starting next Friday, The Cowan OOSH will have a staff member at school and will be open every Friday afternoon. If you would like to use the facility on a Friday afternoon on a permanent or casual basis, please let the school know or contact Meryl at The Cowan OOSH. For Fridays to be successful for all parties, it would be beneficial to have more children attending, even on a part-time basis. We greatly appreciate the service that The Cowan OOSH provides for our community.

The P&C held its Annual General meeting yesterday and it was great to see many of our families represented. A new executive was elected. Congratulations to our new President Jo Young, Vice President Brooke Jay, Secretary Kelly Tunny and Treasurer Patsy Marshall. They will no doubt carry on with the excellent standard set by our outgoing executive very capably led by Amanda Janssens. A big thank you to Amanda and her team for the wonderful work they have done assisting the school. I really appreciate the very active and supportive P&C that we have here at Cowan.

Just one of the many reasons why any student living in Cowan should be attending our school.

The P&C’s first event for this year is the Annual Cowan Bush Dance. Save the date. It is being held on Friday 27th March. Mrs Kershaw and her band are counting down the days and the children are already learning the dance moves in morning fitness. More info about the Bush Dance in upcoming newsletters.

Our school PSSA League Tag teams began their competition matches today and have had a great start to the season. The teams were chosen and last Friday they had a chance to learn the rules and play some friendly games against other schools. In Round One today both the Senior and Junior teams played against Hornsby South. The Juniors had a 6–6 draw, with Kai the Player of the Match. The Seniors won 5–3, with Lily the Player of the Match. Next Friday we play against Asquith. The games are played each Friday morning at Foxglove Oval.

The Hornsby Zone Swimming Carnival will be held on Tuesday 10th March at the new Kuring-gai Aquatic Centre, formerly known as West Pymble Pool. The following children have been selected to represent Cowan on the day: Lily, Emily, Natasha, Corey, Maddie and Annie. Notes for these children will be going home next week. Our School Swimming Carnival ribbons will be presented at next Friday’s Assembly.

Until next time.

Paul McSweeney
Principal
Library News...
The Library is now open every Wednesday at lunchtime for the students to experience and enjoy the new ‘Maker Space Activity Centre’. Make sure you ask your child about this.

Creative activities include Lego Technic, Story Writing, Paper Craft, Board Games and Illustration, as well as the relaxing Library Garden for reading. It has been a great success.

Library monitors will be announced next week and will appear in our next newsletter.

Lynne Scanes

Dance Groups...
2015 Dance Group is now underway. Thank you to Jan Carroll for heading up this troupe of dancers, and thank you to all our willing and able dancers who have committed their time and energy this year with much enthusiasm.

Guitar & Percussion Groups...
A reminder that a Guitar group lesson is available on Tuesday mornings for Yrs3-6 students, and a Percussion group on Thursday mornings for K-2. Thank you to our willing instructors who take these groups.

No Hat, No Play…
Parents, at Cowan we promote sun-safe play. Therefore, our policy on the wearing of school hats is—No Hat, No Play. If a student does not have their school hat at recess or lunch, or for sport, they will sit in the shade during this time.

If students cannot find their school hat and therefore bring another type of hat, this should be accompanied by a note of explanation from their parent. This also applies to other non-uniform items, eg. sweatshirts etc. Our emphasis is on correct school uniform.

Jewellery/Uniform…
We ask our students not to wear jewellery to school, except plain studs or sleepers for those with pierced ears. During the school day our students are engaged in many activities where jewellery can either ‘get in the way’, pose a safety risk, or be irretrievably lost.

Also, a friendly reminder that our school uniform items should be worn at school. This includes school colours (green or black) in hair-ties, headbands etc. And, please, no nail polish. These are standard uniform policies across all schools.

Nude Food Reminder…
Please remember that at Cowan we promote fresh, healthy food options. So, we encourage our students to bring food which is fresh and healthy, in containers from home, rather than pre-packaged and high sugar store bought options.

Toys at School…
School is a busy place with students and activities. We ask that students do not bring any toys, or the like, to school.

Awards
Congratulations to the following students who received awards so far this year.
Bronze: Sarah Nate

Toys in class are a distraction and a temptation for play. Toys in the playground are often lost and broken. There are plenty of activities at school for students to engage in. If a child is bringing a toy for news in class, then this should be given to their class teacher on arrival.

Please bear in mind that some of our students require sensory items to help them engage in the classroom environment. These are kept with the class teacher and used as required.

School Photos…
School photos are booked for Wednesday 1st April. Envelopes will be sent home closer to the day, and information regarding photos will be conveyed in our next newsletter.

Easter Hat Parade & Assembly…
Our Hat Parade and Assembly will be held on Tuesday 31st March from 9.00am. Our categories for this year’s parade and all other relevant information will appear in a newsletter soon. We welcome all our parents, families and community members to attend this event.

Year 6 Sports Shirts…
A Year 6 sports shirt and sweatshirt will be available for our Year 6 students. The costing for these, and an order form, will go home with Year 6 students in the near future. Mr Salt will again be printing these which will keep costs to a minimum.

Consent Notes…
Thank you to our families who have returned all consent notes, emergency contact note etc. If you have not done so, please make sure you complete all notes and return to school on Monday. If you have misplaced any notes, these are available on our school website on our Notes page.

Payments & Receipts…
To streamline our receipting of parent payments, receipts will be issued on Mondays and Thursdays. If you would like to personally collect a receipt for any payments made, this can be done on Monday or Thursday morning from the school office. Otherwise, any receipts to distribute will be given to relevant students on those days.
Reminder!!!!!
Please supply a box of tissues for your child’s classroom
...if you have not already done so

Parents who personally make payments at the school office, will be issued immediately with a temporary receipt to acknowledge the payment of money, with the official receipt being issued on the following Monday or Thursday.

Scripture Classes...
This year we have Mrs Gwen Green teaching scripture in the Yr3 Scripture class, Mrs Kate Banner teaching scripture in the Yrs4-6 Scripture class, and Mrs Pauline Collins teaching scripture in the K-2 Scripture class. If your child is attending scripture they are to remain in that class for the term. Our scripture teachers purchase equipment (at their own expense) based on the numbers in their class and it is disrespectful and not possible for our students to chop and change.

Award System...
A reminder that when your child has accumulated 5 merit awards in their Award Book, they should hand their book in at the school office on or before Wednesday. Their Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum award will be presented on that Friday’s assembly.

Our award system starts afresh each year. All students have been given a new book for this year. Our award system rewards good behaviour and initiative in Respect, Responsibility and Aspire. The system for reaching Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum award are as follows:

- 5 merit awards = 1st Bronze
- Plus 5 more merit awards = 2nd Bronze
- Plus 5 more merit awards = 3rd Bronze
- 3rd Bronze = 1st Silver (ie. 15 merit awards)
- The process is repeated to achieve 2nd Silver (ie. 30 merit awards now accumulated)
- 2nd Silver = Gold
- The process is repeated to achieve another 1st Silver and 2nd Silver (ie. 30 more merit awards equaling 60 in total)
- This achieves a Platinum award for the year. Platinum recipients are rewarded at the end of the year with a special outing.

Cake Days...
Thank you to our families who supplied cakes for our first cake day which happened this week. Our next cake day is Wednesday 11th March with the Dickerson, Martin and Terry 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.

Stewart House...
Stewart House will make a collection of any used clothing on Wednesday 11th March. Used clothing bags have been sent home with our students today. If you would like additional bags these are available from the school office. Please drop your full used clothing bags at the Teachers Resource Room by Tuesday 10th March, as often the collection of bags occurs early on pick-up day.

…and information from our DEC Website...

Friendships To Boost Your Child’s Learning
If children are happy socially they tend to be more engaged in their learning. So teaching your child about the importance of making friends is as vital as learning their ABCs. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/how-friendships-boost-your-childs-learning

P&C SPOT

- Executive Committee 2015: Congratulations to our new Executive Committee for 2015
  President: Jo Young
  Vice President: Brooke Jay
  Secretary: Kelly Tunny
  Treasurer: Patsy Marshall

We would like to thank our outgoing executive members, Amanda, Denise and Suzanne for their contribution, and warmly welcome the new members of our team.

- Fundraising:
  Cowan Cookbook - Copies are still available for sale for $20. It is packed with family favourite recipes for you to enjoy!
  Engraved Pavers - Paver orders are still being taken and are due by the end of Term 1. Installation should be in Term 2.


- Dates for your Diary:
  Bush Dance - Friday 27th March from 6pm
  Election Day BBQ and Cake Stall - Saturday 28th March from 8am

- Next Meeting: This year we will be trialling a mixture of day and night-time meetings to enable more families to become involved. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 19th March at 7:00pm in the school library. We welcome and value all ideas so please come along and support your school. At the next meeting we will be discussing School Uniforms, Fundraising Activities and New Projects.

Parents and carers are warmly welcome the new members of our team, Amanda, Denise and Suzanne for their contribution, and warmly welcome the new members of our team.
Helping Your Kindy Kid Succeed At School

A great way to kick off your child's formal education is to understand the school culture and what your child is doing in the classroom. Find out more:


Speech Problems

All children learn how to talk and listen at different rates but did you know there’s a general pattern to your child’s language development? Find out more:


Education: Where the school and its community work actively together preparing their children for the challenges of the future

Staff:

Principal: Mr Paul McSweeney
Snr Admin Manager: Mrs Marie Hope
Classroom Teachers:
Miss Clare Daly
Miss Nicole Burton
Mrs Trish Kershaw
Library, Class & Visual Arts Teacher:
Learning/Support Teacher:
Technology & Music:
School Admin Officer & Teacher’s Aide:
Teacher’s Aide:
General Assistant:
Mrs Lynne Scanes
Mrs Carina McSweeney
Mr Tim Rowland
Mrs Lynette Hodder
Mrs Carole Adnum
Mr Mark Janssens

Positive Behaviour Focus...

Week 4: ASPIRE

ASPIRE: Aspire to be a SUCCESS. Always give your best EFFORT.

Week 5: RESPECT

RESPECT: Listen and follow teacher’s instructions.

Advertisements