Dear Parents,

It has been 4 weeks since our last official newsletter and so much has been happening at Cowan in that time. I hope that you all enjoyed the holiday break that now seems like just a distant memory. I also hope that you all survived the atrocious weather we experienced last week without too much damage. I know that a lot of you were without power for many days and some of you had damage around your homes. At school we were very fortunate to have only six trees fall down and none of them caused any damage to buildings or other equipment. We are in the process now of getting everything cleaned up. At the end of last term we were very lucky that the Department took out six trees as part of their maintenance of the school. These trees were deemed to be of a high risk and if they fell last week, the damage at school could have been considerable. I hope those of you who were able to take some of the felled wood enjoy using it over the coming years.

On Monday, the Cowan Dance Group headed over to Hornsby North Public School to audition for the annual Sydney North Dance Festival held at Glen Street Theatre during the last two weeks of this term. I was very proud of their efforts on the day and a big thank you to Mrs Jan Carroll, again, for her leadership in running our Dance Group. We find out next week if we were successful in making it into the Dance Festival. If successful, there will only be six weeks of practise before a very busy two weeks of performing.

On a sadder note, it was with great sorrow to hear of the passing of Julie Belcastro during the holidays. Julie was a former student of our school and was heavily involved in the community all her life. Most people know of Julie as she ran the Dance Studio with her sister Jan. On behalf of the school, my condolences to the Belcastro and Carroll families.

Our annual School Cross Country is being held on Tuesday and we are hoping that the weather fines up for it to go ahead. Notes went home with students on Wednesday and permission notes need to be returned on Monday. We are looking for parent volunteers, again, to help with assisting on the course.

As most of you know, Bujwa Bay Track will be undergoing maintenance work shortly, so there will be a lot of truck movement around the local streets. Please remind your children to be extra careful as they make their way to and from school each day whilst the maintenance work is occurring. If they start work next week, it could affect where we hold our Cross Country Carnival; decision on Monday.

The Winter PSSA competition was meant to start last Friday, however, the weather intervened. Today the grounds were closed again so hopefully we will get to play next week. Congratulations to all our students who are representing the school this season. We will be fielding Senior and Junior Girls Netball teams as well as a Junior Boys Football team.

…..continued Page 2
Just a reminder that PSSA in Term 2 is played in the
to their benefit. These tests are an important indicator which shows how
their child is going with understanding the basic skills at
their particular stage of schooling. However, it is only one
test and should not be viewed as the only indicator. All
schools, including Cowan, do continuous testing throughout
the year to help meet the needs of all their students. The
NAPLAN tests will be held on the Tuesday, Wednesday and
Thursday. If any Year 3 or Year 5 child is away on any test
day, they can do any missed test on the Friday.

We have been very fortunate to have Miss Sophie Roberts,
a former student, conducting her teacher education
practicum here for the past two weeks on K/1. Sophie will be here for one more week and then returning for the last
month of Term 3. The children love having Sophie here.

Ms Sophie Roberts is embarking on a holiday to Europe where she will be
enjoying herself whilst the rest of us will be very jealous. However, we do wish her well on her trip. For the rest of
term, 4/5/6 will be taught by Miss Emma Frost on a
Wednesday and Thursday.

As I said at the start of this report, we have definitely had lots happening to start Term 2. I hope you all enjoy the next
couple of weeks and, most importantly, I wish all the mums in our community a very happy Mother’s Day on Sunday
week and hope that you have a great day with your families.

Until next time.

Paul McSweeney,
Principal

Speech Therapy Service at CPS...
I am very pleased to advise that Cowan Public School is now able to offer the services of a certified professional
Speech Pathologist at school during school hours. This
service may be a good option for parents who would like their child to receive this type of support, with the
convenience of not having to find the extra time to travel to
Hornsby or beyond.

Johanna Diment is an experienced professional, who has worked with children in schools and in private practice. As
you would be aware, speech, language and literacy/reading
skills are the foundation of all learning so any difficulties in
these areas can affect future learning and success. Speech
therapy can address not only speech/language issues but
also the vital skills to support children’s literacy and reading
development.

Our teachers feel that there are some students who could definitely benefit from speech therapy in addition to the
support they receive at school. Letters have already been
sent home to those parents that previously indicated their
interest in this service. If you did not receive a letter or if you wish to discuss how and when you can arrange for this service for your child/ren, please call the school to get more
details.

If you have concerns about the cost of therapy, it may be worth discussing it with your GP to arrange a medical care
plan for Medicare rebates, and/or consider if you have private
cover for therapy.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child’s class
teacher or with me (on a Thursday, or leave a message for me
on other days) if you wish to discuss this or any other
concern.

Carina McSweeney
Learning and Support Teacher

Raincoats...

• Please, no umbrellas! We ask our parents to send their
children to school with raincoats for rainy days
• For safety reasons, umbrellas are not suitable for students
to use at school
• Thank you for your cooperation.

National Simultaneous Storytime...
is coming to Cowan again.
Detailed information in our next newsletter, but in the
meantime something to discuss with your child:
• The chosen book for 2015 is “The Brothers Quibble” by
Aaron Blabey
• To celebrate on Wednesday 27th May, all staff and
students will dress up as their favourite family member for
the day (4 or 2 legged)
• Students can choose to dress up as their mothers, fathers,
grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins or
themselves.
• Also, there will be a Toy Show in the Library. All
children and staff are encouraged to bring in their
favourite toy which will be on exhibition.
Berowra RSL Sub-Branch Visitors…
Our visitors, Ken Telfer and Ray Hawkins, at our ANZAC Service last Friday, wish to thank our School for the invitation to address the school community at the service. They also commended our students on their exemplary behavior and their spontaneous ‘thank you’ when receiving their commemorative medallion. They thought the service led by our School Captains and Vice Captains was very sincere and meaningful, and the students each placing a sprig of rosemary around the base of the flagpole was a gesture of remembrance not often seen these days.

Life Education Van…
Consent Notes have gone home and due, with payment, back at school on Friday 8th May. Details again:
- Wednesday 20th May
- $10.00 per student (included in Term 2 costing)
- Healthy Harold merchandise for sale on the day.

Stewart House Donation Drive…
Envelopes were sent home today. If you would like to contribute:
- Complete your name, address, telephone number and Cowan Public School
- Insert your donation of $2.00, or greater
- Return envelope to the school office by next Friday—8th May.

Cake Days…
- Next cake day is Wednesday 27th May with the Young, Maksoud and Davis (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.

Red Day Lunch Ordering…
Our Red Day Lunch Order days this term are:
- Thursday 14th May (Week 4)
- Thursday 11th June (Week 8)
- Order from Cowan General.

...and information from our DEC Website…

Facts About Tutors
Private tutoring to give kids a helping hand in their schooling is a growing business. However, it’s also an area where parents can be vulnerable to bogus offers and misleading advertising. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/facts-about-tutors

Public Speaking
Does your child suffer glossophobia? Fear of public speaking is common. Try creating opportunities for your child to present speeches to the family, without putting pressure on them to perform. Here are some tried and true tips to make your child’s next speech a success. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-tips/public-speaking-in-primary-school

Science Starters
Did humans live with dinosaurs? Does the moon disappear in the day? Kids love to know the answers to life’s mysteries but there are a few facts they often get wrong in the name of science. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/other-subjects-and-projects/science/10-scientific-facts-your-child-needs-to-know

Spellecheck
Is your child learning to spell? Struggling with the weekly spelling lists? Here are a few strategies that will help: Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/zh/homework-and-study/english/english-tips/getting-your-child-used-to-writing

Homework Planner
Kids and families run more smoothly when there’s a plan - so print out our 2015 homework and study calendar, which includes key dates and school holidays. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/2013-homework-planner

Positive Behaviour Focus…
Week 2:
- RESPECT : Show COURTESY and be POLITE to teachers, visitors and each other.
- RESPONSIBILITY : Take PRIDE in doing the right thing.

Week 3:
- RESPECT — Show COURTESY and be POLITE to teachers, visitors and each other.
- RESPONSIBILITY — Take PRIDE in doing the right thing. Having a duty of taking care of something or doing something you are expected to do. A feeling that you respect yourself and deserve to be respected by other people. A feeling of happiness when you do something good or difficult.
ABHS P&C Trivia Night is only 3 weeks away, please get in contact with us to get your group / yourself a table for the night.

ABHS P&C contact email : abhscommunityfunday@gmail.com

In the ABHS School Hall. 7.00pm to get your table ready for a 7.30pm start.

- Cost $20 per person with 8 people maximum on each table.
- Bring your own snacks and refreshments (including alcohol if you would like). Tea and coffee will be available.
- Trivia questions (of course!!) Plus a raffle and some games to play. Make sure you bring along cash to join in the games, instant win and raffle.

Direct deposit : BSB 032-084  Account 12 0216  Details Trivia (surname)(year your boy is in if applicable)

Contact Name for the Table: ____________________ Mobile: ____________________

Or Contact Name for individual bookings: ____________________ Mobile: ____________________

Number of guests at your table: __________ How are you paying: __________

NEW STALL HOLDERS WELCOME!
Taste, browse, play, shop, socialise and more - Ideal for Mother’s Day Gifts!

PRESENTED BY ARCADIA PUBLIC SCHOOL

arcadia markets

Saturday 2 May 9am - 3pm

140 Arcadia Road, Arcadia www.arcadiamarket.com.au