Star Achievers at North West PSSA Swimming Carnival

Last Monday saw the school’s best swimmers make the long trek to Armidale for this year’s Area Swimming Carnival. Conditions on the day were mild and very pleasant for competitors and spectators alike.

Outstanding performances on the day came from Darcy Clifton, Arky Gilson and Charley Isedale, all of whom qualified to swim at the State Swimming Carnival at Homebush later this term. Darcy and Charley in multiple events.

Others from our school who swam on the day in individual events included Oliver Kearney, Tara Walker, Fergus Atkinson, Harry Willoughby and Tamika McGlashan, with several setting personal bests in different events.

Additionally our relay teams preformed creditably with Junior Boys (Markus Colantonio, Charley Isedale, Fred Kearney and Jack Smith) finishing 14th, Senior Girls (Tamika McGlashan, Tessa Smith, Izzy Swan and Tara Walker) finishing 7th and Senior Boys (Fergus Atkinson, Darcy Clifton, Oliver Kearney and Harry Willoughby) finishing 5th.
Willoughby’s Weekly Words

This Thursday morning we will have many grandparents visiting the school as part of the school’s contribution to Senior Citizens Week activities. In advance I’d like to welcome all those attending and wish them all the best for the day.

The P & C will be providing morning tea. It would be most appreciated if you are able to assist either by donating something to eat or by helping with serving our visitors on the day.

On a different note to avoid disappointment please ensure payment for school photos is sent to the school in the provided envelope as soon as possible. There have been relatively few orders received at school so far. Please remember photo payment will not be accepted after the cut-off date.

Book Swap in March

This month Rotary is holding a Book Swap at their store not far from the clock tower in Dalgarno Street. The Rotary Book Store is open from Wednesday through to Saturday lunchtimes and on Sunday Market Days.

Books normally available for a small cost can be obtained by simply taking another book down and swapping it for one of the many they have there. It is an initiative being undertaken to promote literacy. If you’d like further details, contact Gordon Jewiss on 6842 1070.

P&C News

Grandparents Day is on Thursday 20th March. Donations of sandwiches, cakes and slices can be left at the canteen on Thursday morning.

Raffle tickets for the monster Easter Egg raffle have been sent home with your youngest child today. Tickets are .50c each and the raffle will be drawn on Thursday 10th April 2014. More raffle tickets are available from the Primary School Office.

Donations of Easter eggs, baskets and volunteer help are needed and appreciated. Help and donations will also be needed at the Bunny Bazaar on Easter Saturday morning in John Street.

The next P&C meeting will be held on Monday 19th May 2014 @ 6:30pm at Gecko Red Restaurant. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come along.

What’s on at CPS?

Thurs 20 March: Grandparents Day
Fri 21 March: Zone Trials - Rugby League / Boys & Girls Touch / Boys & Girls Soccer
Fri 21 March: Anti-Bullying Day
Thurs 3 April: School photos
T1, Week 10: Science Fair

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically each week, please contact the school on the email address listed below, or phone the school and provide your email address.

Canteen News

This week’s special

Hawaiian Burger - $3.00
A meat patty drizzled with BBQ sauce with lettuce and pineapple and served on a bun.

The Canteen is needing help on Wednesdays between 10:30am and 1:30pm and on Fridays between 9:00 and 10:30am. If you have the time available, please call into the canteen and let them know when you can help. Thank you!

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Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 Assembly Awards

KH: Katrin Whittall  * Her project on her pet dog, ‘Molly’.
KH: Jeff Crowthers  * A great presentation on his pet, ‘Ninja’.
KS: Jasmin Whitten  * Trying hard in reading.
KS: Britney Andrews  * Great work in reading.
1A: Sam Fleming  * Working well in Maths and improving his writing.
1A: Hannah Evans  * For know the meaning of gravity and force.
1E: Katie Richards  * Always trying her best.
1E: Kaiser Kuras-West  * Having delightful manners.
1E: Luke Richards  * Excellent creativity in his art works.
1E: Jack Foster  * Being a wonderful helper and model worker in class.
2N: Demeeka Watters  * Fantastic group work manners.
2N: Ben Phillips  * Fantastic group work manners.

Over the past weeks our there has been a number of incidents reported of bullying in our school.

Firstly what is Bullying?
Bullying is when someone a REPEATEDLY (isolated incidents are not bullying):
• Picks on you and tries to make you feel bad.
• Says or does lots of mean things to upset you.
• Makes fun of you a lot.
• Tries to stop you from joining in or make others not like you.
• Hurts you by actions such as hitting or punching.

Our school will meet each Monday at 12.30 in the hall for a short assembly relating to bullying, strategies to address bullying and our school focus. This fortnight we have focussed on Teasing.

There will be a slightly new system for reporting and recording bullying incidents. Our school will work on the idea of three strikes then something will happen. All reported bullying incidents will be recorded and after three times the child will be given one day detention and a yellow letter will be sent home to parents. If the child continues to be reported for bullying incidents, again three times and two days detention will be given and a blue letter sent home to parents. If the same child continues for another three times, the child will be referred to Mr Willoughby and a red letter will be sent home. An interview with parents, the student and Mr Willoughby will be requested. The child then stands to be prevented from representing our school at sporting events, school excursions and at the very worst, suspension. We hope this extreme will not be necessary.

We will also concentrate on the positive side of our school and lots of rewards will be issued for the correct behaviour in our classrooms and playground.

Writing Competition

Entry is NOW OPEN in the 2014 Schools Writing Competition!

Students all over Australia are invited to enter their short stories OR poems, and battle it out for the great cash prizes on offer.

There is no theme!! Entrants are encouraged to let their imaginations run wild and get their creative juices flowing to write on ANY TOPIC and in ANY STYLE. Students from ALL GRADES are welcome to enter - Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Entry is FREE and all entries must be in by Sunday 30th March 2014.

To find out more, head to www.write4fun.net

This Friday’s Sport

Sport for Stage 3 students will be held at the town pool this Friday.

Students will go to the pool between 1:40pm and 3:00pm.

Students must return their general permission notes to be able to participate.

Students will also need to bring $2.50 or Season Ticket number, a hat, sunscreen, towel and swimming costume.
Dear Parents,

We will be photographing your school on Thursday 3rd April 2014.

You will receive a Flyer/envelope for each of your children explaining the products available.

Please ensure that each child returns his/her own envelope even if payment is made in the eldest child’s envelope. Envelopes are not to be placed inside other envelopes.

Students are to bring envelopes on or preferably before Photo Day.

We have an automated system for payments by credit card. You can go online to www.advancedlife.com.au for easy to understand payment instructions. You will receive a receipt number which MUST be written on the order envelope in the space provided. You can also make payments by cash, cheque or money order.

Sibling Photos are also available for students at the school, please collect a ‘family order envelope’ from your school & return it to the office.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

We look forward to seeing all your smiling faces!

Your Team from Advanced Life Photography

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A Science Fair Idea:

**Icy Roads? What’s with the salt?**

- **Category:** Chemistry
- **Estimated Duration:** 5 - 10 minutes

**What you need:**
- 1 small bag of ice
- tap water
- 1 tsp of salt (per child)
- plastic cups

**What to do:**
- Give each child 2 cups with 3-4 ice cubes in each plastic cup
- Have them generously sprinkle salt in one of the cups of ice
- Have them watch what happens over the next 3-5 minutes to both cups
- The salt + ice one will melt faster

**What just happened?**
Salt is in a class of chemicals that dissolve in water. When salt dissolves, it lowers the freezing point of the water and causes it to go back to a liquid.

**Real World Connection:** Ice is used to salt frozen roads to make them drivable. Gravel is also used but for a different reason. Salt melts the ice, which the gravel is used to increase the frictional forces.

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**Science Fair: Display Board Permission Note**

I give permission for (son / daughter) __________________________ of class ____________ to take home one display board on which to present their science project / RecyclART / Invention.

I understand that the project has to be submitted by Thursday 27th March 2014 to Mrs Hain or Mr Lowe to be organised for display and exhibit in Week 10 of this term.

Signed: __________________________

(Parent / Guardian)

Date: __________________________

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**Library News**

Scholastic Bookclub Issue 2, 2014 orders close on Friday 21st March.

If your Bookclub doesn’t arrive or seems incomplete, please make sure you see Mrs Meyers to get it sorted out.

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**Grandparents Day**

**Thursday 20th March**

Commencing at 10:30am with the K-2 performance under the infants shelter area. Morning tea will be at 11:00am, followed by open classrooms from 11:40 until 12:45pm.

Students ... invite your grandparents or grand friends along for the morning’s activities and morning tea.
Class Focus: Mr Lowe

A student asked me this week: ‘Mr Lowe, are you a teacher or a teacher’s aide?’ To dispel some of the myths (or legends, as I like to see them), I’m going to try to answer the question ‘What does Mr Lowe actually do?’

My official role in the school is working as a Learning And Support Teacher (or LAST). This primarily is about giving extra support to students and teachers who may need it. Currently it means working with small groups of students in reading groups, taking groups for Spelling Mastery and teaching select students life skills like cooking, hygiene and respect. But I also teach a Year 5 maths groups, take 3R/H for music and manage the chess club at school. I work with the school’s Learning and Support Team to discuss student support and am guided by these discussions to be used as a school resource to support teachers when they need assistance with students with learning difficulties.

I still remember a year ago, when a parent asked whether I had been demoted and why I wasn’t on class anymore. The short answer is ‘NO’, but my teaching role differs to many other teachers in the school.

We try to provide the best education to all students in this school. Some students require different levels of support. Different isn’t necessarily less or more. Working with other professional teachers, we try to provide the best support for learning in this school. Although time, material resources and funding may sometimes be limited, we try to do the best with what we’ve got.

Just like a body has many parts working together – some visible and some not so visible, so I see myself as part of this school body, working to make this school the best it can be to support our students, staff and community.

Representative Sport Behaviour

Students are reminded that inappropriate behaviour could impact on opportunities to represent our school at sporting events. The school is not willing to run a risk of having its reputation tarnished by students behaving inappropriately while representing the school. If you are not on the correct behaviour level, ie, Level 1, your position in a representative side may be revoked.
On Friday, 21st March, all students at Coonabarabran Public School will be participating in an anti-bullying activity.

We are going to create a 'No Bully Zone' collage which will be displayed in the school foyer.

All students are asked to come out of school uniform in colours following our YOU CAN DO IT program.

Yellow: Confidence
Orange: Organisation
Red: Resilience
Purple: Persistence
Green: Getting Along

We are working together to create a school community who shows respect and courtesy to all members.

Our Creative Talent on show at the Coona Show!

Students from our school once again displayed their creative flair when they made scarecrows and decorated boots for this year's Coonabarabran Show. One group from Year 4 were delighted to pick up second prize with their 'Farmer Bob' entry!

Will Cole's 'The Old Woman Who Lived In A Shoe' entry was given the top award, and his practical application to the task was noted by creating a doorway, ladder and chimney in his unique design.

Working with one of his father's old work boots ... it had all the home comforts!

The Art Pavilion was filled with art displays by all classes from our school with this year's prize being taken out by 2N. They were closely followed in 2nd place by 1A.

Congratulations everyone! A fantastic effort and a great display of talent by our students at the Coona Show!
On Tuesday and Wednesday 13th and 14th March, our school had a visit from Ollie, a CSIRO scientist, who presents lessons about Science.

Students from all classes had lessons with Ollie who presented his science in a fun, fascinating and practical way. Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 learnt about fulcrums and levers! A difficult topic for some, but when its described by showing how to use a lever (spoon) to open a Milo tin, and how fulcrums work with seesaws, it all seemed so much easier to understand.

Stage 2 students investigated, hypothesised and experimented with Newton's 'Laws of Motion'. Students learnt about force, gravity and how machines can help us out using physical forces. There were many great experiments on display including a bed of nails that one lucky student got to sit down and relax on.

Years 5 and 6 had the opportunity to use more specialised equipment for their sessions with the CSIRO scientist. They saw blood samples through microscopes, were able to look at their own skin under a microscopic camera, learnt about the human body, did testing to identify tastes and also to match smells! And they were able to test lung capacity and heart rate. Maybe a few future careers as scientists!