Principal’s Message

Another busy fortnight where I have had the pleasure to see Kitchener students representing their school with pride and respect.

Education Week: A big thank you to all of the parents, grandparents and carers who were able to make it to the school for Education Week, spending some time in the classrooms and the book week parade. The students enjoyed having you as a part of their day and I thought the participation in the book parade was fantastic.

Zone Athletics: 28 students represented in the Zone athletics carnival last Friday. All students displayed tremendous talent and determination, representing their school with excellence. Students will find out this week if they have been successful for Regional.

Leaders Breakfast: The local council invited all school leaders to a breakfast last Wednesday as a part of Local Government Week. Every year they have a guest speaker, with adventurer John Cantor speaking this year. Our 4 school leaders enjoyed his speech immensely, coming away impressed with what he had challenged himself to achieve and how he had done it.

Zone Public Speaking: Public speaking Zone finals are being held this week, with Kitchener represented in each stage group. I was lucky enough to attend the Early Stage 1 final. The skills and confidence of students to speak in front of a large audience, mostly strangers, always astonishes me. The quality of speeches this year has been very high and Kitchener students have done a wonderful job. Well done!

Attendance: Attendance at school is vital for your child’s education, ensuring they have the best opportunity to learn and be involved in school activities. Currently 71% of the school has an attendance rate of 90% or better for the term, with 33 students currently at 100% attendance! Wow!

From the 1st July, 2015, the Department of Education and Communities became known as the Department of Education.

‘Friends of Kitchener’ Meeting—Thursday 20th August, 10:30. All welcome!
LATE ARRIVAL/EARLY DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

We realise on occasion that students may arrive late for school, or need to leave early; it is hoped that these occasions can be kept to a minimum so that the learning of the student, the class and, the routine of the school is not unduly disrupted.

In the event that your child is late or leaves early, the following procedure is in place so that the teachers and school staff are aware of the movement of students at school. This is for the protection and welfare all students.

Late Arrival

- Parent/carer to attend the office with child;
- Office staff will enter details into computer and issue 2 slips ~ one to be signed by the parent/carer and retained at the office, the other, given to parent for classroom teacher;
- Parent/carer accompanies child to classroom, giving slip to teacher.

(If for any reason you are unable to personally attend the office, please ask your child to go directly to the office)

Early Departure

- Parent/carer to attend the office;
- Office staff will enter details into computer and issue 2 slips ~ one to be signed by the parent/carer and retained at the office, the other, given to parent for classroom teacher;
- Parent/carer goes to child’s classroom, gives slip to teacher, collects their child.

(If you know beforehand that your child will arrive late or leave early, a note to the classroom teacher would be appreciated so that preparations [homework sheets etc] can be ready for your child)

If at any time you are not sure of this system, you either ring or call into the office ~ we are always happy, and ready, to help.

Each Friday Afternoon, Year 5/6 Students Help K/1 with Maths
Join the thousands of Australians who take part in Cancer Council’s Relay for Life each year.

An experience with fun activities and moving ceremonies to raise vital funds for research, prevention and support services.

Help us make a difference in the fight against cancer. Register now at relayforlife.org.au

Cessnock Relay for Life        Baddeley Park Cessnock
10am to 10pm Sat 17th October Register. Participate. Donate.
1300 656 585 Call 4923 0708 for more information

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Merriwa Central Horse Sports Day Monday 10th August ~ Our Team ~ Jessica, Taylor, Tiana & Trinity

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Reading Workshop at Kitchener Public School!

A number of parents came along to learn about how to encourage children to read, enjoy and comprehend books at home. A huge thank you to Sue Firth, Gaye Couper, Monique Osmond and Judy Fradd, for sharing how reading and early reading skills are being taught in classes and support groups at Kitchener Public School.

All participants received a book to take home and share with their child.

REMEMBER-READING ROCKS!

Come along 9.30am—10.30am Thursday 20 August (Week 6) for a Workshop on Writing and Spelling.

Reading Activities for the Car (Not recommended if children suffer from motion sickness)

Ride and Read. Bring a couple of books for your child to read while you ride. Encourage your child to read out loud to you as you drive. As he/she reads, ask him/her questions about the plot, or the story, and the characters. “Is that the same guy who helped his friend at the beginning?” Ask for his/her opinion about the story. “What did you think about the character of the uncle?” Ask him/her to compare this book to other books. “Have you read any other books by the same author?” Talk about the type of book it is. “Is this a mystery?”
Congratulations to our Book Week ~ Book Fair Raffle Winners

1st Prize ~ Max Year 3/4                                $20 Book Fair Voucher
2nd Prize ~ Claudia Year 5/6                          $10 Book Fair Voucher
3rd Prize ~ Scarlett Year 1/2 & Maggie K/1   $5 Book Fair Voucher

Each winner took great delight in being able to select more books for home.

Book Fair

A very big Thankyou to all those who supported our book fair

Our goal of $500 was well and truly exceeded with the final total of $987.50
Community News

Young Parents Playgroup ~ For Parents under 25 Years Every Friday 10am—12 Midday Cessnock Public School Grounds (Koe-Nara) Morning tea provided for the children, tea/coffee for parents.

Playworks ~ Every Monday 10am—12 Midday Cessnock Public school Grounds (Koe-Nara) Includes stories with Mr K, School Librarian. Every Thursday Cessnock East Public School 9am—11am Music & Stories with Lyn.

Let’s Play ~ Every Tuesday 10am—11.30am Koe-Nara Morning tea provided. Story & Music with Lyn.

Baby & Me ~ Every Thursday 12.30pm—2.00pm Koe Nara Just for babies under 18 months and their Mum, Dad or Grandparent.

Triple P Parenting Seminars ~ Week 1 Tuesday, 1st September 2015 & Week 2 Tuesday, 8th September 2015. 9.30am—12.00pm at 5 Hall Street, Cessnock. No child care available. The two seminars will cover the following topics: The Power of Positive Parenting—Raising Confident, Competent Children & Raising Resilient Children. This program is free. To book a place or for more info please phone Cessnock Family Support Service on 4990 4507.


LUNCH RUN HELPERS ~ see Ms Wilson in the Office

Once again, we call on the very generous nature of our Mums and Dads, Grandparents, Carers and look for volunteers who are able to assist with our Wednesday Weekly Lunch Runs!!

We have made the process as simple as possible as we realise that everyone’s time is valuable and, that when things are easy, it makes it easier for volunteers to offer their help. If you can help, please see Ms Wilson in the office.

NUMERACY AT HOME SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to the 55 parent and community members who completed a survey about numeracy, during workshops, in term 2 and Education / Book Week Celebrations!

- 43 people indicated that they would like a Numeracy at Home program.
- Seven people indicated no.
- One indicated maybe, while four did not answer this question.

Results indicate that the majority of parents support the organisation of this program at Kitchener!
Have You Seen the Carrots???

Last term, a group of students helped plant carrot and lettuce seeds, and they are all bursting through the soil at the moment. The garden is starting to come alive, and the cabbage is well and truly ready to be harvested ~ the garden group is busy thinking about cabbage recipes to share with the students. Have you ever tasted Okonomiyaki?

This term, students will be able to help plant seeds in the garden, and even take seeds home with them to look after. We will also have plenty of seeds available for use in the classroom.

Anyone and everyone is welcome to come and pitch in ~ 1pm Wednesdays.

With spring almost upon us, the gardening group is about to place a seed order. We will be buying many well-known varieties such as Tommy Toe Tomatoes, as well as some more unusual varieties such as purple carrots, giant pumpkins, very yummy cucumbers that are shaped like apples, and, popcorn!

$$ We welcome parent contributions for the cost of the seeds $$

1. Contribute $3.50 to cover the cost of one packet of seeds (pay at office); or,
2. Parents (or students) who would like to try planting a vegie garden at home, we are selling seed packs for $15. Each pack will contain 10 varieties of seeds (inc. tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots, capsicum and watermelon)
This term, Year 3/4 have been given the opportunity to participate in the University program of Careers Through Science. This program is aimed at Stage Two students and focuses on students learning skills to work scientifically. Students have been participating in a series of hands-on activities and experiments and investigations. Students have been using observation skills that scientists use in their experiments and research. So far the students have been learning about the following concepts:

- Scientific methods, predicting and fair tests
- Conductors of electricity
- The effect of light and filters
- Magnetic forces
Hunter Science Festival

Newcastle Museum  10am - 2pm, Sunday 16 August

Things that crawl, beep, smell, flash and say arrrr like a pirate are all part of the smorgasbord of science at the Hunter Science Festival at Newcastle Museum on Sunday 16 August.

The family friendly activity day includes a program of free science shows, the Trash and Treasure Pirate Show, animals from Blackbutt Reserve and a Wetlands on Wheels presentation.

Interactive stalls feature robots, fossils, electric vehicles, computers, catapult making, science experiments plus information the science of recycling, the healing properties of turmeric and medical research.

This first ever science festival in Newcastle is part of a program of events for National Science Week. The full program is available at:


On Friday 21st August, Year 6 will be running a Crazy Hair Day as part of their fundraising.

Year 6 encourages everyone to be creative and come to school with a crazy hairstyle. There will be prizes awarded for the craziest hair on the day.

For a gold coin donation, students are allowed to come to school in mufti clothes and a crazy hairstyle.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Fradd and Year 6 students