Encourage a love of learning

Zone Swimming Carnival – Congratulations to the 9 students who made selection for the Maitland Zone Swimming Carnival to be held next Tuesday 23 February at Maitland Pool. Well done to all 46 competitors at the Swimming Carnival held on Tuesday for their positive efforts and sportsmanship. Our students were very encouraging and supportive of each other and made for an enjoyable event for all.

Parent Information Afternoons – Thank you to those parents who have been able to attend the Parent Information Afternoons held over the last two weeks. Class teachers have distributed brochures which outline class routines, expectations, excursions and events and an overview of units and topics to be treated. If you haven’t received yours, please ask your child’s class teacher for a copy.

There is a lot of research that shows that a strong and open connection between home and school has significant benefits for a child’s learning.

Learn to Swim Program – We have had a terrific response to our Swimming and Water Safety program which gets underway next Monday 22 February. Students will be split into two groups for organisational purposes with the first group catching the bus at 11:30 and the second group catching the bus at 12:00.

National School Chaplaincy Program – Our school has been granted funding over the next 3 years to employ a chaplain. The aim of the program is to support students through the provision of pastoral care services and the promotion of strategies that support the emotional well-being of students and the broader school community.

We are working with a Department of Education Approved Provider to select a suitable, qualified person to fill the role. The appointed chaplain may be of any faith and is appointed under the condition that they are not to attempt to convert another person of a differing view to their faith. More information will follow as we move through the process.

Transition to High School – Principal of Rutherford Technology High School, Mr Michael Whiting, will be visiting Greta PS next Tuesday 23 February to talk to Year 5 & 6 students and parents. The meeting will take place here at Greta Public School in the Library from 2:00 - 2:45 pm and parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Regards,
Graeme Oke
School Photos
Our school photo day is scheduled for Wednesday 2nd March. All children received their photo envelope yesterday. Please return the envelope with money enclosed on the day of the photos (this envelope goes straight to the photographer not the school office). Please do not send envelope in prior to photo day. Family photo envelopes are available at the school office.

The “Tell Them From Me” student feedback survey
This term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey for students in Years 4, 5 and 6. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

The survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the non-consent form to school by Monday 29th February. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

Cupcake Stall
On Monday 22.02.16 Year 6 will be holding a cupcake stall. Prices will range from $0.20c to $1.00. This is the first of their fundraising for this year to go towards their end of year farewell. Year 6 will provide cupcakes, slices, biscuits and cookies to purchase. These will be sold at recess and again at lunch should there be any left over. We appreciate your support with this event.

Primary Sport
Due to the hot weather and our Swim School Program commencing next week primary sport will now be held in the first session on Friday mornings. Students will leave the school at 9.15am and return before recess.
CLASS AWARDS

K
Max C
Khloe S
Joshua Mc
Makenzie D

K/1
Annabella S
Amanda B
Jayda B
Jayden T

Yr 1/2
Bailey W
Leanne R
Kai M
Jazmin T

Yr 2
Samantha I
Coby S
Peyton M
Noah Mc
Billy Mc

Yr 3
Oscar M
Ariella S
Callyn E
Pyper J
Maddison R
Max B

Yr 4
Lachlan T
Sarah T
James A
Shaylea B
Jasmine B

Yr 5
Bella K
Darcey T
Dekan B
Katie-Rose H
Ashley Mc

Yr 6
Sumara H
Farisha K
Caine I
Jacob D

Citizenship Awards

K
Avah L

K/1
Benjamin Y

Yr 1/2
Meyah L

Yr 2
Kale Q

Yr 3
Logan D

Yr 4
Fazel K

Yr 5
Alan T

Yr 6
Olivia P

Dojo Awards

K
Alyssia B

K/1
Jaimee M

Yr 1/2
Joshua J

Yr 1/2
Rebecca M

Yr 2
Charlotte H

Yr 2
Sehv W

Yr 3
Drew F

Yr 3
Larah C

Yr 4
Byron C

Yr 4
Renae R

Yr 5
Skye A

Yr 5
Torsten B

Yr 6
Nicholas H

Yr 6
Leeza G
KEEPING KIDS SAFE AROUND SCHOOLS
An initiative of Cessnock City Council

Cessnock City Council is serious about keeping kids safe in and around school zones.

We all know school drop off and pickups are busy times for pedestrians and vehicles and finding a car park can be difficult.

To avoid a dangerous environment around schools, council Rangers have five simple steps to help keep kids safe at school;

- Teach your kids how to be safe around traffic;
- Observe all parking signs as they are designed to keep everyone safe;
- Familiarise yourself with traffic conditions around your school;
- Take extra care while in school zones, even when no kids are around; and
- Choose safety over convenience, even if it means parking further away.

Parking offences in school zones carry heavier fines and loss of demerit points. Council’s Compliance and Enforcement Policy is clear in that we have zero tolerance when it comes to offences within school zones.

Traffic Around Schools

Cessnock City Council rangers regularly patrol the roads around school to ensure the safety of school children is maintained and that drivers are obeying the traffic laws.

As a school community, we need to work together to make conditions safe for our children. This includes only parking where parking is allowed, not leaving your vehicle if using the ‘set down and drop’ zone, not parking in the bus zone and only using the disabled parking space with the correct permissions from Roads and Maritime Services.

We should also consider the increased risk and traffic volume when drivers return via the cul-de-sac at the southern corner. If drivers continue around the block in one direction, then risk and volume is halved, especially at the peak afternoon time.

The school will be meeting with Cessnock City Council to look into ways to make the roads safer around Greta Public School and your suggestions are welcome. In the meantime, let’s all work together for our children’s safety and follow the road rules.

SCHOOL ZONE OFFENCES
WHAT ARE YOU RISKING?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offence</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
<th>Demerit Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Parking</td>
<td>= $173</td>
<td>+ 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Stopping</td>
<td>= $311</td>
<td>+ 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus Zone</td>
<td>= $311</td>
<td>+ 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Phone Use</td>
<td>= $415</td>
<td>+ 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speeding Offences</td>
<td>= $3702</td>
<td>+ 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you stop on a footpath or nature strip</td>
<td>= $173</td>
<td>+ 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you stop across a driveway</td>
<td>= $173</td>
<td>+ 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Fines current as of February 2015. Fines and demerit points are subject to change.

Children are small, harder to see, behave unpredictably and are extremely vulnerable. They need you to take extra care when driving and parking around school zones.

Brought to you by Cessnock City Council Ranger Services & Road Safety Officer
UNIFORM SHOP
OPENING HOURS
TUESDAYS ONLY
9.00AM - 11.00AM
Order Forms are available outside of these hours.

CANTEEN ROSTER
19th Feb - Lucy, Rae
22nd Feb - Nicole, Di
23rd Feb - Lauren, Renee
24th Feb - Pat, Nicole
25th Feb - Pat, Pam
26th Feb - Lucy, Rae

Healthy Snippets

The simplest way
...to encourage healthy eating.

If you've got a fussy eater in the family, a behaviour reward chart can be a great way to get them eating and enjoying new foods and more fruit and veg.
Praise from parents or the offer of small rewards is a good motivator for many children.
A behaviour reward chart can work wonders too. Remember to decide on rewards and goals in advance and keep them realistic and motivating.

Want more great tips and strategies to overcome fussy eating? Register for a Fruit & Veg Sense workshop online: eatittobeatit.com.au
Find this chart and others online too.

For more information visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

P&C Information

Canteen will now be open on Mondays commencing next week:
MONDAY 22ND FEB

HEALTHY SNIPPETS

The simplest way
...to protect your skin.

Did you know?
Sun exposure during the first 15 years of life significantly increases your chance of getting skin cancer later in life.

Be SunSmart
Always protect your skin when UV levels are 3 and above.

Slip on clothing that covers your shoulders, arms and legs.
Slap on SPF30+ or higher broad spectrum water-resistant sunscreen.
Seek shade however you can, especially in the middle of the day.
Slide on sunglasses that meet Australian Standard (AS1067).

Community News

GRETAT PUBLIC SCHOOL
Greta Play2Learn

TIME: 9:30am -11:30am
WHERE: Greta Public School Hall
WHO: Families with children 0-6 years
Term 1 - 2016 dates:
Every Thursday

Shared Morning tea.
Meet other families.
Art & craft activities, educational toys,

BabyRoo

Free Open Day
(Sample a Gymbaroo baby class)
Wednesday 24th February
Greta Workers Sports Club 2 West St Greta
7 weeks – 7 months 9.30am
7 months up 11.00am (not walkers)

THIS IS A PAID ADVERTISEMENT.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.