



HOLMWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Term 1 Week 6 – Week Ending 8th March 2013

Western Region PSSA Swimming Carnival

Good luck to Claire, Annelise and Abbie who are heading to Dubbo tomorrow to compete in the Western Region Swimming Carnival. The girls are all competing in individual events and Abbie and Annelise are also part of the Small Schools' Senior Girls Relay.

GOOD LUCK GIRLS!

Swimming for Sport

Unfortunately due to the unseasonable cold and wet weather last week, the Staff made the decision to cancel swimming. With a forecast temperature of 30 degrees tomorrow, it should be a wonderful day at the pool! Don't forget to pack....

- **Swimmers**
- **Towel**
- **Rash shirt**
- **Sunscreen**
- **Goggles (if required)**
- **Plastic bag for wet swimmers to go in.**



Please note, NO students will be permitted to go to the pool kiosk during swimming. Swimming is part of our school sport program and ALL students will participate. As all staff will be at the pool, no students will be able to stay at school. If your child is not swimming for medical reasons, please arrange to collect them from school at 1:20pm.

A reminder to all students that the Holmwood Swimathon is only a few weeks away – all students should be busily collecting sponsorships!



Student Council Fundraiser

Thank you to all the families who supported the Student Council Fundraiser last week. A total of \$82.60 was raised and will be sent on to Westmead Children's Hospital's Bandage Bear appeal.

"Students of the Week" – Week 5

Congratulations to our Week 5 Students of the Week!

K/1 – Charlotte Collins

2/3 – Gregory Hynes-Brien

4/5/6 – Ebon Gregory



Week 5 Merit Awards went to the following students;

K/1 – Jett and Igloo

2/3 – Katelyn and Mackenzie

4/5/6 – Abbie and Brittany

Last week we also presented certificates to our District swimmers and badges to our 2013 Library and Sports Monitors – these students were selected for these positions based on their applications to Mrs Watt at the end of 2012.

Congratulations to all these students!

Cowra's 2013 "Festival of International Understanding" Window Display

Thank you to Mrs Kiely, Mrs Watt and Miss Benett who spent time last Thursday putting together Holmwood Public's Window Display entry in this year's Cowra Festival of International Understanding. We also thank Tony Ryan for allowing us to take over the large window in BROWSE AWHILE book shop. Next time you are down the main street, be sure to have a look at the wonderful artwork created by our students! There are some very cute Sri Lankan cricketers you might recognise!



Artwork done by Holmwood PS for Cowra's Festival of Understanding, Guest nation, Sri Lanka

Combined Schools Hockey Gala Day

Our school has been invited to attend a combined Cowra Schools Hockey Gala Day to be held on Friday 15th March. This will be a whole day activity involving students in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Students will be met by Mrs Lewis, Cheri and Mrs Watt at Cowra Public in the morning, and will walk over to the Cowra Hockey Fields for a 10am start. Children will mix with students from the other Cowra primary schools in fun skills-based activities throughout the day, with games to follow in the afternoon. The day will conclude at 2:30pm where students can be picked up from the Hockey fields, or walked back to Cowra Public to catch buses home.

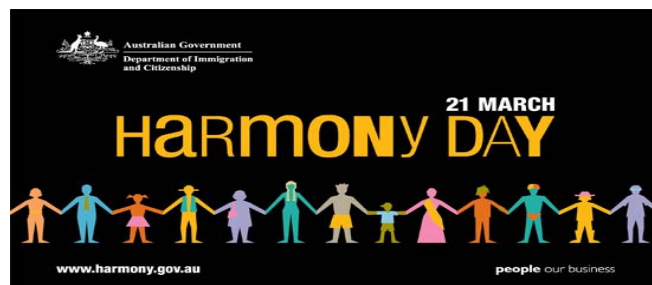
There is no cost for this excursion, however ALL students attending MUST have a mouthguard. We have a supply of these available at school for sale at \$5.00. Shin pads are also encouraged, but not essential.

This should be a wonderful day for all who attend and Mrs Watt has been preparing our children for this by focusing on hockey skills in PE over the past few weeks.

Netball Coaching Visit



Next Tuesday 12th March, coaches from Cowra Netball Club will be visiting Holmwood PS to run a 30 minute netball skills session with each class. This will be supervised by the class teachers and will involve all students K-6. The idea is for those children who have never experienced netball, to have a "taste" of this team sport, in a fun and encouraging way.



Harmony Day!

This year our school will be taking part in "Harmony Day" celebrations. Harmony Day celebrates our rich cultural diversity and this year's theme is "Many Stories – One Australia". At HPS we will be celebrating Harmony Day by...

- Coming to school dressed in **ORANGE** (the 'official' Harmony Day colour) – if you don't have orange clothing – pink, red or yellow are all OK!
- Cooking a traditional Sri Lankan feast for lunch. 2/3 will be preparing entrée, 4/5/6 will be making the main meal and K/1 will be cooking dessert!
- Sharing a meal together in celebration of Sri Lankan culture – our guest nation for Cowra's Festival of International Understanding.

To cover the food costs for Harmony Day, each child is asked to contribute \$5 for their three course lunch.

If parents would like to assist with cooking activities in any class, please let the school know. We already have Tracey and Jo lined up to help K/1 and would love some more helpers! Parent helpers are invited to stay and enjoy lunch with the staff and students.

Cowra District Soccer Team

Mrs Bronwyn Johnson from Mulyan PS is trying to get together a team of boys to play in the Primary School Boys Soccer Trials in Dubbo on Friday 5th April. This team will be a "Cowra District Soccer Team" and will comprise boys from all different Cowra schools. If any boy (primary age) is interested in being part of this team, please let Mrs Lewis know and she will pass on details to Mrs Johnson. There will be a commitment to training as well as travel to Dubbo for the trials.

ICAS Tests

The International Competitions and Assessments (ICAS) tests are run each year through the University of NSW and are available to students in Years 3-6. These are external tests which the school administers. Tests are marked independently and students are given a report and certificate detailing their achievements. ICAS tests are **OPTIONAL** and parents

are required to pay a fee if they wish their child to sit the tests. The tests and prices are listed as follows;

ICAS Subject	ICAS Sitting Date	Cost
Computer Skills	Tues 21 May	\$8.80
Science	Wed 5 June	\$8.80
Writing	Mon 17 June	\$18.70
Spelling	Tues 18 June	\$12.10
English	Wed 31 July	\$8.80
Mathematics	Tues 13 August	\$8.80

Attached to this week's Newsletter is an ICAS entry form. If you would like your child to participate, please indicate which tests they are going to sit and enclose payment for each. Please return form with payment to school by Friday 22nd March.

School Mobile Phone

The school has a new mobile phone. The number is;

0458 422 000

Please be aware this is for **emergencies only**.

Book Club



Please find attached to this week's Newsletter the latest catalogue from Scholastic Book Club. All orders are due with

payment by **Monday 18th March**.

Expression of Interest in attending a NSW Government High School – Year 7 2014.

Attached to this week's Newsletter is an Expression of Interest form for students attending a Government High School in Year 7, 2014. Could all parents of Year 6 students please complete and return this form to school. If your child is NOT attending a Government High School next year, please contact the school and let Julie know.

Best Start Letters

Kinder parents will find an envelope in their Newsletter folders today with their child's individual Best Start results. These results were collected from some basic literacy and numeracy assessments Miss Benett did with each student a few weeks ago. Please take the time to read these letters and if you have any concerns or questions, please ring the school to speak with Miss Benett.

Calendar

Term 1 Week 7	
Mon 11th March	Mrs Lewis, Mrs Kiely Interviews - (Mrs Webster 4/5/6; Mr Kiely 2/3)
Tue 12th March	Mrs Lewis –Principal's Conference – Dubbo (Mrs Nottingham 4/5/6)

	Netball Coaching Visit – K-6
Wed 13th March	Mrs Lewis –Principal's Conference – Dubbo (Mrs Watt 4/5/6)
Thurs 14th Mar	Selective High Schools Test
Fri 15th March	Combined Schools Hockey Gala Day – Cowra Hockey Fields (All 3-6 students) Swimming for Sport (K-2)
Term 1 Week 8	
Mon 18th March	Miss Benett – Best Start Training (Mrs Webster K/1) Book Club orders due
Thurs 21st March	Harmony Day Celebrations @School – come dressed in ORANGE and send in \$5 for a fabulous SRI LANKAN feast!
Fri 22nd March	HPS Annual Swimathon Scripture ICAS entry forms due
Term 1 Week 9	
Fri 29th March	GOOD FRIDAY

Kind Regards,

Jenny Lewis

Principal

Attachments

- Book Club Order Forms
- Expression of Interest Forms for Students attending a Government High School in 2014 (all Year 6 students)
- ICAS entry forms (Yr 3-6)
- Harmony Day Helpers Form
- Harmony Day Meal Deal Payment form
- Best Start Letters to Parents (Kinder students)

K/1 Class News

Week 6 has been HUGE for K/1! We have had opportunities to meet so many new people from our community. How lucky are we?

So, who did we meet this week?

Our very own Master chef – Tracey Beaumont:

I wonder if you have ever thought of making homemade berry cordial. Well, we hadn't until Igloo's mum came to show us the tricks of a very cool kitchen appliance known as a thermomix. We measured, we followed a procedure, we pressed buttons...but best of all we tantalised our senses as we tasted a variety of berries. We 'oohed' and 'aahed' at strawberries, we patted our tummies at blueberries; we were pop eyed when tasting blackberries and maybe pulled a face at raspberries! But we all licked our lips when sipping on our homemade berry cordial! AND next week we get to compare eggs from a variety of egg laying birds! SQUWARK!!



Tracey (Igloo's mum) with the clever K/1 cooks!

Wow, that sounds great! Who else did K/1 meet this week?

Our very own Bill Gates computer guru - Mrs Jillian Reidy.

Geogebra? Google Sketch-Up? Maths has never been so fascinating then when we got to create our...well traditional - no, made of lollies - no. You may be confused and wondering what we're talking about. Well Mrs Reidy, our visiting computer expert turned plane 2D shapes into 3D rotating buildings! Yes, we created a very unique K-3 house by selecting favourite 2D shapes and then adding our choice of textures and colours replicating a 3D house. Be sure to ask the students about this one!

So, what else has been happening in K/1?

OUR NEWS! This week students have been sharing stories and memories of their pets. Some students captured memories in a photo, others brought in giraffe, lion, and crocodile toys that represented animals that they would like to have as a pet! This week's **OUR NEWS!** also brought about sensitive issues that may occur in families, like the passing of a special pet or person. We discussed how these incidences may occur by nature or by accident. If you are a parent or caregiver of a child who has experienced this, now might be a time to assist with coping strategies. This may support the development of resilience, based on an experience of trauma. Type in this link to learn more about parental involvement:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/children-thrive-on-parental-involvement>

Website of the Week: Department of Education and Communities: School A-Z

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/home>

This practical parental focused website answers all of your questions relating to your child's education.

Reminder:

Please feel welcome to discuss any concerns relating to your child's learning. It is recommended that you communicate your child's educational needs as early as possible as this may prevent gaps from occurring as they progress through their schooling. You know your child best, so be sure to take time to express their requirements. Just give Julie a call in the Office to book an appointment time.

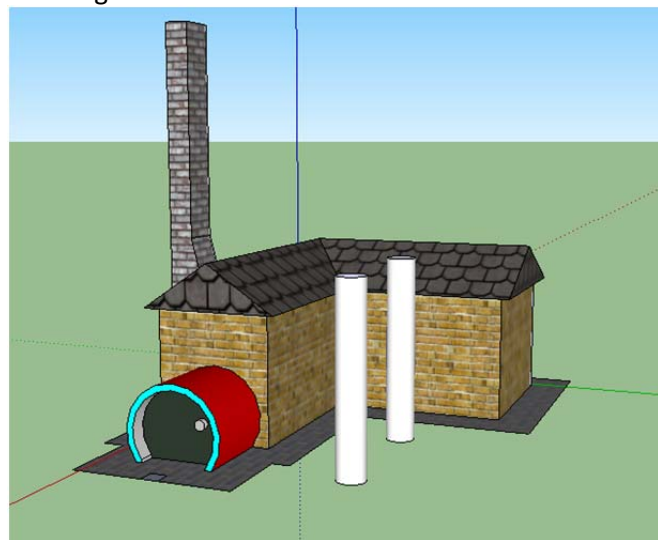
Kind Regards,
Miss Vanessa Benett
K/1 Teacher

2/3 Class News

This has been an exciting week in our classroom. We have completed our unit on Sri Lanka and have been fascinated by this diverse and interesting country. We especially thank Mr Lyndon Amos who took our display boards into Browse Awhile Book Store. We greatly appreciate Mr Tony Ryan's support of our school, as he happily allows us to display our work in his window each year.

This week we have been very fortunate to have Mrs Jillian Ready, the Connected Learning Coach, work with our class and teach us amazing smartboard skills.....in preparation for the arrival of our class smartboard that is due this term!

In our 2D and 3D shapes lessons the children learnt how to be Architects! They designed their own class house using two computer programs—Google Sketchup and Geogebra. The results were outstanding and the children were such eager designers. Please have a look at this site with your child as it links maths and design skills to produce amazing results.



The 3D House the K/1/2/3 students created with Mrs Reidy in Google Sketchup

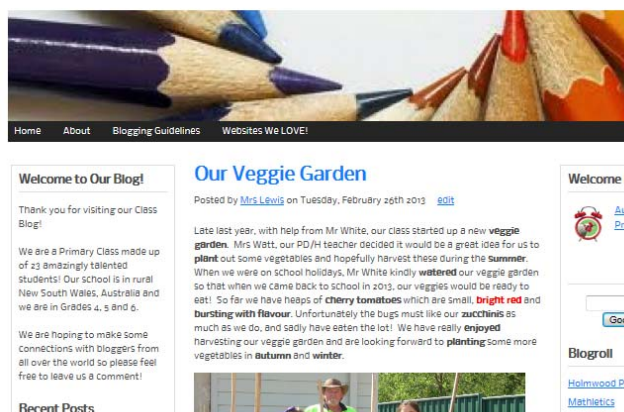
The children even travelled inside their house to create their own Grand Design House if the future. Thank you for your continued support and encouraging your child with his/ her nightly reading and spelling, as the results are evident.

Mrs Deirdre Kiely
2/3 Class Teacher

4/5/6 Class News

Congratulations to Karen (Oliver's mum) for being our first parent commenter on our Class Blog; closely followed by Lisa (Chloe's mum)! Also congratulations to Liam (Victoria's cousin) who at 3 years of age is our youngest commenter. This week our blog visits hit over 150! It is encouraging to see so many students using this as a medium for communicating with each other and also sharing with their families what they have been doing in class.

Mrs Lewis's 4/5/6 Class Blog



This week we enjoyed learning more about Photoshop with Mrs Reidy on Tuesday. We created silhouettes and inserted different words on to our images to describe the feelings and thoughts of the Aboriginal people when the British arrived in Australia. These were then put into our PowerPoint presentations we have been working on as our final assessment task for this topic. Hopefully I can upload some of these presentations onto the Blog in the very near future.



Victoria and Kaylah working on their Photoshop project.

Please note there will be NO SET homework for Years 4/5/6 next week as I will be off class for most of the week.

Have a great weekend!

Kind Regards,
Mrs Jenny Lewis
4/5/6 Class Teacher

P&C News

The re-scheduled AGM due to be held on the 11th March has been postponed due to the Staff and Laurie being involved in Interviews for the teacher's position on this day. The date for the AGM will be advised as soon as we are able to confirm a new date.

Karlene Amos
P&C Secretary

FOUND!

One large pink plastic oval plate which was brought in to school last Thursday for our Student Council canteen! If it belongs to you, please call Julie and we will send it home with the rightful owner!

We also have a variety of plastic lunch containers that no one has claimed to date, so if you are missing some please come into the office and check out what we have.