5 questions for Ms Sewell!

Avid readers of this tome are aware that Ms Sewell will be teaching the 2/3 class in their new classroom from the beginning of Term 2. But what is she really like?

**Pets?** A shih-tzu named Punky Brewster and 4 chickens named Esmeralda, Claudette, Rat-a-Tat and Boom-Boom

**Kids?** I have a three year old daughter named Olive who likes to climb trees and dance a lot.

**Travel?** I spent a couple of years in Cambridge, U.K. and travelled in Europe. I taught English in Japan for two and a half years where I met my partner Steve.

**Most interesting place visited?** I climbed Mt Fuji overnight and as do the Library Monitors! Well done to Year 3-6 students in completing the Pri-

**What are you most looking forward to at Laguna?** Getting to know my fabulous new class and working hard to help them achieve their learning goals. I hope they like to laugh as much as I do and I can’t wait to start!

What a great success the dance night was last Saturday night! Everyone really responded to the theme, the food was delicious, the band were versatile and engaging and everyone had a smile on their dial. Congratulations to Sacha and her organising team—the hall looked fantastic and I believe the night raised over $2 500 for the P&C.

**Good luck to our Zone Cross Country representatives who compete at Cessnock Racecourse tomorrow.** We are sending a committed squad of around 25 students to run the 2km and 3km courses. A high-carb meal and an early night will do wonders for the students on the Thursday morning. A note has gone home with details of the day.

A big thankyou to our Year 3-6 students who maintained excellent manners and excellent commitment to their learning last week when I was away at training and the Hunter/Central Coast Principal’s conference. The notes and feedback I received from Simone, Ms Effer and Ms Durie were glowing and the reputation of our school may have just gone up a notch. The importance of maintaining key school values regardless of the setting is paramount for our students.

**A final reminder about Tilly’s fundraiser down at the Wollombi Tavern on Market Day, Monday 21st April.** Congratulations Tilly on sticking with your fundraising campaign!

Please note that our Assembly will start at 3.00 this Friday - there’s a bit to get through!

What a enjoyable start to 2014 it has been. I would like to thank Mrs Shaunessy, Mrs Baker, Simone, Jennie, John, Jeanette, Denise as well as parents and volunteers Cordelia, Matt, Robyn and Ms Bain for their commitment to our students and our school. What a team, and we look forward to adding some more names to that list in Term 2!

I would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday!

Craig Howe
Principal

Week 10 Achievement Awards!

Dhani—working out problems in the playground!

Yinaa: A great help and very settled while Mr. Howe was absent.

Jesse: Always packing up the equipment he uses in the playground.

Giselle: Working hard to improve across all areas of her schooling.

Seth: Great improvement in reading.

A young Ms Sewell and a young Jennie Capstick at Millfield PS, circa ???
"Space," it says, "is big. Really big. You just won’t believe how vastly, hugely, mindbogglingly big it is. I mean, you think it’s a long way down the road to the chemist’s, but that’s just peanuts to space." - Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy

**Managing screen-time**
Helping kids find the right balance between activities, homework and screen time is a challenge that only gets harder as they grow older. Common Sense Media has lots of useful resources to help – from movie and game ratings to articles like this one on setting screen-time limits that are realistic enough that your children will actually follow them. Read the article here: [http://bit.ly/1pBIfmk](http://bit.ly/1pBIfmk)

**Books to boost brains**
Literacy skills often progress suddenly in leaps and bounds. The secret is to keep kids of all ages reading over the weekends and school holidays. Even 20 minutes a night can make a huge difference to their reading comprehension and general knowledge. It’s also a great way to settle their minds down before sleep (for adults too!). If your child hasn’t found a book that grabs their imagination, why not try them on a series book from the Premier’s Reading Challenge list? Here are top suggestions for all ages, including young adult: [http://bit.ly/1dLSGC0](http://bit.ly/1dLSGC0)

**Kik, Vine, Instagram – are they safe?**
It’s no contest – kids discover and understand new social media long before we adults do. If your child is thinking about creating a new social media account – or complains that “everyone else is doing it”, you can get the facts a glance from School A to Z’s technology glossary. You’ll also find information about age restrictions and things to watch out for: [http://bit.ly/188OerY](http://bit.ly/188OerY)

**Space and Democracy**
For anyone who has thought about the vastness of just our own Solar System, Space is well named, as there is an awful lot of it! Next term the senior class is studying Space as a major theme, and we will study it from many different angles - Science, Art, Maths, English. It will be a lot of fun.

During the term we have been enjoying a book written by the famous physicist and cosmologist Stephen Hawking and his daughter Lucy. It is called George and the Secret Key to the Universe, and it has been a real hit with the students. The exciting plot manages to include lots of interesting facts about planets, gravity, comets, black holes and obnoxious computers. Our Canberra trip includes a session at Questacon, where we may find out a bit more.

And speaking of the Canberra trip. Next term the senior class and year 3 are also studying Government and Democracy.

**Junior Room News**
from Mrs Shaunessy

Thankyou for an absolutely brilliant first term in the Junior Room. It has been a pleasure to get to know our new families and spend more time with our existing families. I look forward to next term being as productive and positive as the first. We had a great time going to Hunter Valley Zoo on Monday, the rain held off for most of the day. The students learnt about South American monkeys, wombats, had photos taken with koalas and touched a baby alligator. It was a special day and could not have been such a success without the support of the parents. Thankyou for driving and for your assistance at the zoo.

I will send home at least 5 readers for over the holidays on Friday. Keep up the practice if not every day at least every other day.

The children are progressing very well and it would be great to keep up the routine. Thankyou for your support.