The opening night of the Art Show draws closer! Last week Art Show Coordinator Greg Kelso sent out a job sheet for the Art Show to make sure that all jobs are covered. Greg is calling a meeting for all Art Show helpers at 3.40, Tuesday 29th July at the Library steps.

I was very proud of the engagement and behavior displayed by our students last Friday at Wollombi PS as we celebrated NAIDOC Day. There were over 560 students from 6 schools on the day, and the students enjoyed painting, cooking, games, clay sculpture, dancing and gardening activities. We sent our thanks to Wollombi PS for hosting such a great event.

Thank you also to our senior students who demonstrated great leadership directing our multi-aged groups on the day.

Next week is Education Week and to celebrate it we are holding a Parents and Grandparents Day. Our theme is Learning in the 21st Century, and we are inviting family members into our classrooms to participate in learning activities with our students, and also to share some stories about their own school experiences. The day will start with an assembly at the library, followed by classroom visits and culminating in a marimba performance and morning tea outside the library. We are looking forward to a great morning! Any contributions to morning tea would be very welcome!

See you there! Mr Howe.

Sports News!

Next Friday the Cessnock Zone Athletics Carnival is being held at Turner Park. All students participating have been advised and now is the time to get in plenty of training! Simone has been scheduling an extra athletics session or two to hone those skills!

Simone has organised a three week Aussie Rules clinic for three consecutive Fridays, Aug 8, 15, and 22. These skill based workshops are fantastic fun for all students. There will be a small cost per head, permission notes will be going home shortly.

There will be a Bike Safety and Skills Day at John For-syth's Oval on Friday 12 September. Run by former Olympian Scott Stewart, the day is great fun and a great confidence booster for young riders. Scott has been to Laguna many times before and organises enjoyable and challenging activities for all ages. Time to get those bikes up and running! Thank you Simone for organising this opportunity.
Parents, if you know in advance that your child will be away from school in advance, please let the school know. Apart from helping the teacher with classroom planning, you may also be able to apply for an exemption that does not result in your child recording an absence for the day. Please see Jeanette at the office for more details.

On the Thursday of Education Week students from Years 3-6 have been invited by Millfield PS to attend an author visit by Gus Gordon. These visits have been fascinating in the past - see the attached permission note.

Keep your child’s brain ticking over.
If your child is working on a personal project or a school assignment (or you want to make use of a chance for a little revision), don’t forget www.SchoolAtoZ.com.au has lots of information and fact sheets to help with homework.
For students polishing their spelling skills, the free Spelling Bee mobile app also allows them to record a list of their own words and then test themselves. You might even want to challenge them with a list you create. Here’s where you’ll find the free app to download: http://bit.ly/Q9ez0G

It is a busy time as our term gets into gear! Students have been working on speeches to present at the Regional Public Speaking Competition in Week 4. We can only send two students from each Stage; Chris Davey will be in on Thursday to help us select our representatives. It is very pleasing to see the number of students keen to represent the school in this competition.

This week our students set themselves a personal learning goal for the term, which was included in their Personal Learning Plan. Thank you to all the parents of Year 4, 5 and 6 students who have made time for interviews to discuss these plans. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. If you haven’t had a chance to make an appointment yet, please see Mr Howe.

Maths Topics this week. Year 4 students are studying subtraction, solving problems using a range of strategies. So too are Year 5 students, who are also learning to apply these strategies to 4 and 5 digit numbers. Year 6 students are enjoying working on angles. A quick test - can you name the types of angles as defined by these measurements:
- 50 degrees
- 115 degrees
- 275 degrees
- 180 degrees
- 90 degrees.

In anticipation of the upcoming Premier’s Spelling Bee we have been playing a few different spelling games in our classroom. In Week 5 we will be holding an in-class Spelling Bee to find two representatives each from Stage 3 and Stage 2 to represent Laguna at the Regional Competition. Practice spelling lists went home with last week’s newsletter.

It is always interesting to note the books that are popular with students. Carole Wilkinson’s Dragon Keeper series is popular, and we are beginning to read the first of the Ranger’s Apprentice series, by John Flanagan. Thank you Oliver for the recommendation. Also highly recommended, particularly by Harley, is the Deltora Quest series. Follow this link https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/booklist/home.html to find more ideas on books to fire your child’s imagination!
K-1 News
from Mrs Shaunessy

What a start to the term! The K-1 class have come back focused and ready to learn. We are doing lots of activities around our beautiful chickens. All hatched although none performed for us during the day except one late on Friday. All seemed to be a little shy and hatched overnight. If you have indicated you would like a couple of our fluffy friends they will be ready to go on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning. Don’t forget to bring an appropriate carrying item for your new additions. Next week show and tell is all about baby animals, find a picture or draw an illustration of your favourite baby animal, such as a foal, and explain how they change as they grow. Simone will have handed out this weeks homework and I will mark weeks 1 and 2 together next week. Thanks for your understanding. Keep up the home reading, the progress across all our students is outstanding. Thanks for all your support!

The Rainbow Serpent by James Spiers-Edmiston

Once upon a time there was a rainbow snake. He created mountains and rivers, thunder and lightning and animals like kangaroos and birds.

The Rainbow Serpent by Rudi Howe

The men climbed up the mountain. After a long time climbing, they finally got to the top and saw the snake sleeping like a log. The two men cut the deadly snakes back open and the two Bil-Bil brothers flew out as Rainbow Lorikeets. The Rainbow Serpent woke up and screamed in rage when he saw that he’d been cut. Rocks flew off the mountain and hit the people. Many people started to turn into animals but the snake went into the ocean and nobody ever saw him again.

Ms Sewell.

Year 2-3 News

The 2/3 class had a wonderful time at Wollombi last Friday for NAIDOC week. In class we have been reading and watching lots of Aboriginal Dreamtime stories. If you visit our room you will find our giant Rainbow Serpent that was painted by the class sliding across the back wall. Next week we are looking at Japanese culture. We have already started speaking Japanese in class and tomorrow we are looking forward to a Japanese cooking lesson with Cisca!

The Rainbow Serpent by James Spiers-Edmiston

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Ms Sewell.
Art Show Meeting!
When: 3.40, Tuesday 29th July
Where: School Library Steps
Who: All parents/helpers
This meeting will help to finalise arrangements in the lead up to this fantastic event! See you there!

Term 3 Saturday Soccer starts next week!
First training session is at 3.45 Wednesday afternoon, July 30th, at John Forsyth’s Oval. Games 9.45–11.00 commencing Saturday 2nd August. Breakfast sausage sizzle to start the season!

If you are available to help coach on Wednesdays or referee on Saturday, please contact Robyn on 4998 1839.

NAIDOC Day celebrations at Wollombi PS.