Congratulations to the 2015 Chess Champion Trevor, who edged out B.D. Toohey by half a point to take the title. Congratulations also to Ryder, Lochee and Harry who along with Ben were awarded a finalist trophy. All other competitors received a participant trophy. There is a lot of interest for the 2017 competition. Thank you Mrs Baker for all of your hard work and enthusiasm in running the competition!

Marimbas on Tour. Thank you to all Year 3-6 students who have returned notes for next Tuesday’s marimba performances at the Calvary and Masonic Aged Care Residences. Students will be transported on a chartered bus, and there are available seats for parents who wish to be a part of the day. Please let the office know if you are keen to join us!

Another great afternoon of tennis yesterday at the Wollombi Tennis Club. Another afternoon is planned for Tuesday 17th of November. Participating K-2 students will need to be picked up from school ready for a 3.00-3.45 session, while Yr 3-6 students will enjoy a 3.45-4.30 session.

Presentation Night. Planning is in full swing for the presentation night, and thanks to some hard work behind the scenes our students will be imaculately turned out in themed costumes for the night! There is a $10 contribution for each student towards the cost of t-shirts, braces and skirts. Envelope attached—thank you parents.

A reminder for year 5 students intending to take the selective school test in 2016 that applications close November 16. Applications must be made online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement. Please see me for any further information.

At a meeting of the Cessnock zone principals last Friday, a funding agreement was struck whereby all schools contribute to fund speech pathology screening for all Kindergarten students across our schools. This includes speech pathology sessions for students that require it. This continues to be an excellent program.

There will be a Speech Pathology workshop this Friday at 9.30 in the library for all interested parents. These sessions come highly recommended!

Surveys. Staff, students and parents are being asked to contribute to a survey on school culture and learning. They will be distributed during the week - your input is extremely valuable in helping us to continue to make the school the best it can be!

Have a great week! - Mr Howe
School Matters!

**LPS Bushfire Response Plan.** Please go to our website to familiarise yourself with the school's bushfire response plan. Copies are also available from the school on request.

**Art Show Think Tank**

Thank you Veronica for arranging this wonderful get together to discuss plans and ideas for next year's art show and thank you to all who attended. Next year will be the 25th anniversary of this fantastic community event and major fundraiser led by our wonderful P&C, and it is already looking to be quite spectacular. As much help as possible is needed to make this event successful and any fresh ideas are always welcomed.

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**Senior News**

Senior students are loving their writing! After constructing imaginative texts, students went on to practise and write persuasive texts and are now working hard on informative texts! In a recent homework task students were asked to put their persuasive skills to the test to write a message in a bottle—who would you rescue first?

**Liberty Project—Rainforest Animals**

Mrs Baker has sent home the rainforest project, which will be the senior class homework for the next fortnight. As ever, I look forward to seeing what our creative students can produce!

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**SOS!**

If you are reading this before the 6/11/53, my crew and I are hopefully still alive. We had embarked on our journey a year ago and became marooned on this island when a massive storm broke loose. We had no choice but to run ashore and watch our ship get smashed by the storm.

Please rescue us!

We have great rewards of gold for the person who rescues us first. It is also a great spot for a holiday! But make sure you bring plenty of food... People’s stomachs are rumbling as I write. One has already died of thirst. Come now, you could be a hero! The one everyone talks about—the Hero of the Carribean! Capt O Debus.

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Dear friend, I am stuck on a deserted island and am asking you for survival advice and your help. You see, I am becoming more and more weak and can hardly write this. I am living off saltwater and ants! You may think I am going insane, but there’s nothing else on this island but sand, trees, wombat holes, saltwater, snakes and ants. My clothes are nothing but rags and there are constrictors and venomous snakes everywhere. I am living in a wombat hole, surrounded by sand walls with a gate made out of flexible tree limbs. I have been stuck here for three months, then found this bottle that had been washed ashore. I am somewhere near the Mariana Trench, the deepest part of the ocean. There was an explosion, I was heading towards Canada. I don't know what caused the explosion, but the ship sunk and all that I remember is washing up on the beach. Send help! There will be a reward. I am running out of time. Help, please!!! First Mate Z Alexander

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Help! I am William James Thatch. I am 22 years of age and my ship, the mighty Angelica, crashed into a deserted island during a heavy storm killing all of my crew and my right hand man, Frederick. I am stuck on this island with limited resources and can’t live very long with what is left of my food and water. The island is quite nice during the day and I have bars of solid gold because we had just raided the Spanish fleet. I am offering a share of the gold to my rescuer. Please save me! Midshipman T. Supple

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Good for Kids

**Cool & Healthy Summer Snacks**

The weather is warming up so here are some healthy snacks to keep you cool this summer:

- Frozen fruit such as berries, orange quarters and fruit kebabs
- Use moulds and low fat yoghurt to make frozen yoghurt shapes
- Make your own icy poles using 99% fruit juice and fresh pieces of fruit
- Use fruit, vegetables and low fat milk or water to make a delicious smoothie and top with plenty of ice. There are heaps of different combinations to try!
Welcome to week six!

This week, we flew to India and welcomed Satish and Promila into our class to celebrate Diwali - the Indian festival of lights. They taught us all about this wonderful celebration, created beautiful rangoli and we shared tasty Indian sweets.

In maths, we have been learning about length. We cut out our hand spans and measured things in the classroom as well as our friends! Next, we'll move from informal units to using metres and centimetres.

We had a great kinder orientation last Friday. K1 are such fantastic helpers! We spent the morning dancing, singing silly songs, reading funny books (Pigasso and Mootisse and The Book with No Pictures) and made pigs. We are looking forward to this Friday where the new kinders spend the entire day with us!

A reminder that next week's Time to Talk is free choice.

Ms Fitz

Ms Sewell’s News

This week in the 2/3 room our focus reading comprehension strategy is summarising. We know that a summary is a shorted version of the text including all the main ideas and important details. We realised that we can summarise much more than the book we are reading. We can summarise movies, TV shows, ads and computer games!

Ms Sewell took this as a good opportunity to get her head around the hugely popular kids game Minecraft. Below are some summaries if you need some help too:

Minecraft by Stanley

Minecraft was created in 2007 by a guy called Notch. It is a game about evolution. Even though everything is in cubes this little game has near 1 million sellers. It was one of the most popular games in 2010. The main aim of the game is to survive with a choice of creative or survival modes. But be warned, make sure that you build shelter before nightfall or you’re gone for!! Oh and PS. The game is endless so there is no objective.

Minecraft by Kurt

You begin in a world of blocks and you only have a map. You need to gather materials to survive. You can find ores like coal, gold, iron, diamond and emeralds. Then make weapons, armour and contraptions to prank your friends. You can also tame animals like wolves, ocelots, pigs, cows, sheep and horses. Here are the things you need to tame these animals: wheat, carrots, bones & fish. Basically the aim of the game is to survive and create.

Well done Jade, our youngest chess award recipient yesterday. 28 students participated this year - excellent work!
Maya-Kai, Classroom Responsibility Award.

Zac, Classroom Responsibility Award.

Rudi, 2/3 Playground Award for Compassion, and kindness in games.

Harper, Library Award for Respect.

Annabelle, Library Award for Responsibility.

Seth, Library Award for respect.

Harper, K-1 Award for Responsibility.

Wilson, K1 Award for Respect.

Rudi, 4/5/6 Award for Responsibility in English

**Our Values—Respect, Responsibility, Courage, Honesty and Compassion! Thank you to all of our award winners for leading the way!**

**PBL = Positive Behaviour for Learning.**

**Birdland**

Decoding bird calls of the Australian bush

The Wollombi School Community Education Trust is proud to welcome violinist, composer, author and ornithologist Dr Hollis Taylor.

Dr Hollis Taylor, a research fellow at Macquarie University, is as comfortable in the universities of Europe and America, playing in symphony orchestras as she is roaming Australia creating sonic maps. Her big love in this big country is the ethereal call of the pied butcherbird and she asks a big question: Is birdsong music?

Her presentation is a mix of photos, audio and videos collected over more than 10 years of research. Meet Dr Taylor and the subject of her quest, Cracticus nigrogularis and open your mind to their wonderful world.

Saturday, November 14, 2015, 2pm – 4pm Wollombi School, Wollombi.

Find out more at www.hollistaylor.com and www.zoomusicology.com

Sponsored by the Wollombi School Community Education Trust (WSCET). wwwWSCETinc.wix.com/wscet