Congratulations to those very deserving students who made it through our in-school competition last Thursday and will represent our school in Week 5 at Nulkaba PS. From Early Stage 1 - Ryder and Harper; Stage 1 - Kyah and Zac; Stage 2 - Jaimie and Atticus and from Stage 3 - Max and Sam. There were lots of great speeches, and quite a few students were unlucky to miss out. But there is always next year! Thank you to Chris Davey for her expert adjudication and valuable feedback.

Special Education in Ethics (SEE). SEE is a program in ethical decision making, action and reflection within a secular framework. It originally arose from the need to meaningfully engage students who had opted out of Special Religious Education (SRE) and were therefore unable to be taught school curriculum while SRE was in progress. It is the responsibility of principals to provide SEE where parents request SEE for their children and authorised representatives of an approved provider are available. Not less than 30 minutes and not more than an hour per week should be allocated. Parents may choose for their children not to attend SEE classes. Please see the attached parent information sheet for more details.

We will celebrate Education Week 2015 next week with two excursions. The first will be on Tuesday as all students travel to Newcastle to see a production of Andy Griffiths’ 26 Storey Treehouse, and on Friday the school will travel to the Mt Finchley map site as an introduction to Aboriginal education. Parents are welcome, and parent transport will be required. Please ensure your permission note and money has been returned to the school office.

What a great message for our littlest students at the beginning of each day! Have a great week! Mr Howe

Premier’s Reading Challenge Congratulations to Lochee, Rio and Flynn for completing the Premier’s Reading Challenge! Stay tuned for details of Mrs Baker’s annual PRC party.

Keep Reading! Finished the PRC? Keep on reading! It is not only a crucial life skill, but also a source of life-long pleasure. Please read the column inside to get a few tips on reading at home with your child.
ART SHOW NEWS
Hi Everyone,
Art Show time again.
Attached is the 2015 job list. This is the school's major fundraiser and we need all parents to lend a hand from set up (Friday 14th August) all the way through to bump out (Monday 24th August).
Please fill in the job list or see Greg Kelso at school pick up. For any further information please see Jacqui Moffitt or call her on 4998 3180.
Many hands make light work!!
Thanks
Art Show committee.

Woolworths Earn & Learn is back and we need your help to collect the stickers from your Woolworths shopping. One sticker is earned for every $10 spent and goes towards acquiring new equipment for the school. This has been a great programme in recent years and every sticker counts. Sticker sheets can be found on the notice board in the office and there is also a collection box there and at Woolworths Cessnock. Happy shopping!!!

K-1 News, with Ms Fitz!
What a fun week we’ve had in K/1!
Everyone did a fantastic job on their speeches. Well done to Harper and Ryder who made it through to the finals at Nulkaba!
We started our HSIE topic (All about Me) so we all got to know each other a little bit better. We tied this in with our art and created fabulous handprints which we made into a flower which I have displayed on our door!
Our class dojos are coming along brilliantly – Harper, Phoenix and Georgie have already received ‘reward coupons’ for beautiful classroom behaviour. Keep it up everyone!
Congratulations to Tess Coleman on receiving a Respect award for always listening in class!
Until next time, Ms Fitz.

Reading with your child at home.
• Be confident that your child will learn to read. Give positive messages and involve them in everyday conversations and opportunities to read.
• Read aloud to your child. It helps them to learn about the language of books and will encourage them to enjoy books and reading.
• Read to your child in your home language if your first language is not English.
• Make reading enjoyable and talk about books, magazines and computer stories that you have read together.
• Try not to let television intrude on reading time. Make a special time for reading with your child, away from interruptions.
• Listen to your child read as often as you can, every day if possible, even if only for a short time.
Give books in print or electronic form as treats and presents.
**Year 4-5-6 News!**

Busy times in the senior classroom! Yesterday we welcomed Mrs Judy Clark from Cessnock Toastmasters who gave a wonderful presentation on how to improve in public speaking. She was impressed with the students’ awareness of techniques to be mindful of - Mrs Baker’s tuition in this area has been well-heeded. One great tip I was unaware of was to practise your speech in front of a mirror—does your facial expression match your words?

This week students are polishing up on their book report skills, with best efforts to be published next week in the newsletter. Students continue to extend themselves in poetry with Ms Davey and in Maths, Yr 4 are studying common and decimal fractions, Yr 5 are evaluating different subtraction strategies and Yr 6 are practising mental computation strategies for division. - **Mr H**

---

**Come and help yourself to some produce from the vege gardens! They are flourishing.**

**Year 2-3 News, with Ms Sewell!**

The 2/3 classroom is straight back into the swing of things this term. We have heard the majority of our speeches and have been incredibly impressed by the amount of organisation and preparation that has gone into them. Our students spoke confidently and clearly about topics ranging from Robots to Pokemon. It was wonderful to see the progress we have made since our first speeches in Term One this year.

Our news topic this week is farm animals and so far we have had a great laugh considering life as a goose, dog or a pony! Next week’s topic is ‘your favourite free time activity’ so I expect to hear lots about reading, writing and calculus.

In Maths this week we are learning about collecting and representing data. We have tallied up details about our class such as eye and hair colour and made a bar graph about our favourite animals. Dogs were quite literally “off the chart” and nobody favoured poor chickens!

Thanks for a great week!
**Weekly Achievement Awards!**

Tess - K-1 Library Award for Respect. Well deserved!

Stratton, 2-3 Library Award for Respect. Congratulations!

Nirikai - 4/5/6 Library Award for Respect. No surprises there!

Yinaa - 4/5/6 Classroom Award for Responsibility

Harper - 4/5/6 Playground Award for Compassion.

Flynn — 2/3 Playground Award for Honesty; playing fair in soccer!

Lucy - 2/3 Courage Award for delivering a fantastic speech.

Bela - 2/3 Courage Award for a well-prepared and well-delivered speech.

Hunter, K-1 Award for Compassion.

Clio, 4/5/6 Award for Compassion

---

**2015 Lantern Parade**

The Lantern Parade will be held on Saturday 29th August.

Sally Sullivan will be helping students make their own lanterns at school.

Book it into your diary and be part of this special event!

---

**Guitar Group!**

The guitar groups are a lot of fun, and the students are progressing in leaps and bounds. Look out for a special performance soon!