



Coonabarabran Public School

Newsletter Term 4 - Week 9

Quality, affordable education for all students

5th December 2012

An Appointment with the Prime Minister!



Years 5 and 6 students were exhausted after their Canberra excursion last week. Students arrived home on Friday afternoon after a hectic week of visits to places in our nation's capital.

The students enjoyed a visit to Parliament House and the opportunity to meet the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, the Minister for School Education, Peter Garrett, and Labor Senator for New South Wales, Matt Thistlethwaite on Tuesday.

The excursion was subsidised through the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program. Our students and school are grateful for their assistance.

Our students were fortunate to meet the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, and also see some of the inner sanctums of Parliament House whilst in Canberra last week. More photos from the excursion on page 8.

Stage 3 Make a Mark on the Nation's Capital

A Recount by Sappirah Knight and Niamh Whittall, 5/6K

On Monday last week, 51 Stage 3 students boarded the bus to Canberra.

Once in Canberra, we settled into our cabins and then headed for the CSIRO Discovery Centre where we learnt about endangered species and experimented in the Science Lab.

On Day 2 we visited the Museum of Australian Democracy inside Old Parliament House before travelling to the Royal Australian Mint where we watched robots and humans making money. Later that day we had fun learning and exploring the Australian War Memorial (despite the rain). For the night time activity, we enjoyed ourselves bowling some strikes at Ten Pin Bowling!

We arrived at Parliament House on Wednesday morning as it had been arranged for us to have a special meeting ... We met the Education Minister, Peter Garrett and Australia's Prime Minister, Julia Gillard!!! There were people there with cameras all around and our meeting with the Prime Minister ended up on the news!

Questacon was next on the schedule and Miss Kuras and Mrs Watton braved the terrifying 'Free Fall' which is a giant slide that a few of us were too scared to go on. That night, we all boarded the bus again and headed out to the Cockington Green Gardens to look at the miniature model houses.

On the second last day, we went to the National Capital Exhibition Centre and the National Capital Museum which was very interesting. We also enjoyed the view from Black Mountain Tower and had a very 'warm experience' at the National Film and Sound Archive!

On the last night, a majority of us visited the Australian Institute of Sport while a few remained at the cabins to catch up on some rest.

It was a very busy excursion with lots to see and do and we had a fabulous time visiting our Nation's Capital!

Thank you to Mrs Pincham, Mr Adam, Mrs Watton, Miss Kuras and our bus driver, Mr McWhirter, for organising and supervising the excursion.

Thank you also to our peers who behaved beautifully and represented Coonabarabran Public School so well - so well that the Prime Minister requested to meet us!

* Calm down
* Bounce back
* Be tolerant
* Control your behaviour

Resilience

This week's key to success is ...

We're on the Web!

View online at: www.coonabarab-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Breaking News!!!

Yesterday the elected Prefects made their speeches to the students in Years 3 - 6.

After the speeches, students in Years 3 - 5 voted to elect their School Captains and Vice Captains for 2013.

The election results are as follows:

Boy Captain



Matthew Staron

Girl Captain



Sappirah Knight

Boy Vice Captain



Angus Lambert

Girl Vice Captain



Hannah Deshon

Congratulations to you all!

P&C News

The P&C is conducting a **Christmas Raffle**. Prizes include a **Gingerbread House** and **iTunes Cards**.

This raffle is the last fundraiser for the year.

Raffle tickets were sent home last week.

Contact **Cyndi Smith, 0429 423 167**, if you have any questions or require more raffle tickets.

Tickets are being sold for .50¢ each.

LIBRARY NEWS



If you have any magazines that you no longer want please donate them to the school library for craft activities.

Mrs Evans

What's on at CPS?

- Thurs 6 Dec:** Year 6 Farewell Social
- Fri 7 Dec:** Year 6 Transition to High School
- Tues 11 Dec:** Early Birds program concludes
- Tues 11 Dec:** Combined K-6 Assembly - 2:20pm
- Wed 12 Dec:** Student Reports distributed
- Weeks 9 & 10:** Intensive Swimming

Canteen News

Weetbix Slice - .50¢

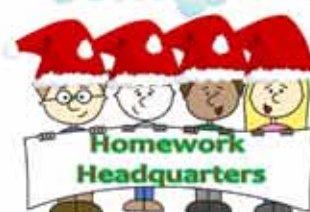
Volunteers are needed for 2013.

If you have a spare hour or two next year, please contact the canteen.

Let Mrs Coe your preferred day(s) to be rostered on and the school will be very grateful for your help.

Canteen Roster

Thurs 6 Dec	.....	T Knight
Fri 7 Dec	.....
Mon 10 Dec	.....	A Atkinson
Tues 11 Dec	.....	C Smith
Wed 12 Dec	.....
Thurs 13 Dec	.....
Fri 14 Dec	.....



Homework Headquarters has now finished for the year. It will not operate during Weeks 10 & 11.

Thank you to all of the students who made use of the 'Homework Headquarters' in 2013. It turned out to be another successful year with approximately 18 students attending each week. A HUGE thank you to the teachers who volunteered their time to assist with the program throughout the year!



Coonabarabran Public School
 Newell Hwy, PO Box 169
 COONABARABRAN NSW 2357
 Ph: 6842 1771 - Fax: 6842 2416
 email: coonabarab-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Early Stage 1 & Stage 1 Assembly Awards

KC: Alex Turner
 KC: Georgia Dawson
 KH: Caileb Neal
 KH: Grayson Durant
 1A: Chester Durant
 1A: Kiarna Chaffield
 1M: Eliza Walker
 1M: Erin Devenish
 2H: Polly Habbits
 2H: Caleb Smith
 2N: Jacob Bonello
 2N: Matthew Wood
 2N: Marcus Colantonio

- * persistence with his speech
- * becoming a more confident student
- * improved work output
- * trying hard with his sentence writing
- * enthusiastic and clever reading
- * excellent Journal writing
- * improvement in reading
- * for bringing in a cute and cuddly puppy for news
- * for wonderful organisation skills at the homework centre
- * for great working out of an answer in maths groups
- * his positive attitude and wonderful reading results
- * his new confidence with reading - Level 26
- * his positive attitude and fantastic reading results



Grandparents Day with Stage 2



On Thursday 21st November, Stage 2 hosted their Grandparents and Grand Friends as part of their HSIE unit on People, Past and Present.

We began with Years 3 and 4 interviewing the grandparents about their houses, school, holidays, games and toys when they were growing up. Following this 4M recited the poem, Mulga Bill's Bicycle, and 4S presented 'Old Mother Tongue Bung' - a short play.

We had a delicious morning tea of scones and then the students played game from the 'old days' like sack races, skipping, polishing silver and hopscotch. The hall was full of items from the past and also models and displays of students' work.

Thank you to the Grandparents and Grand Friends who joined us for a great day.



Personal Best Award

Holly Regan

has received the Personal Best Award for the following reasons ...

Holly is a very caring student and aware of other students' needs.

Holly is trying very hard to learn her words and she can write very neatly.

Holly is a talented illustrator and artist.

Holly always has lovely manners and a beaming smile.



Personal Best Award

Twylla-Lee Whitton

has received the Personal Best Award for the following reasons ...

Twylla-Lee has beautiful manners.

She is confident when talking in class and tries to answer 'tricky' questions.

Twylla-Lee is a good listener and is able to complete her work independently.

Twylla-Lee always does her best work in class and is very proud of wearing her school uniform.

Twylla-Lee is a delightful class member of KC.

Beauty AND THE GEEK

FAREWELL YEAR 6 SOCIAL

The 'Farewell Yr 6' Social will be held on Thursday the 6th December in the school hall, starting at 7pm and finishing at 9pm. The social is for 3-6 students only.



The theme for this year's final social is 'Beauty & the Geek' so come along in style and dance the night away with your best friends and say goodbye and good luck to our wonderful Yr 6 students of 2012.



A farewell dinner and short graduation ceremony for the Yr 6 students and their families will take place before the social, starting at 6pm. Invitations have already been sent home. Please see Miss Kuras if you have misplaced yours.

BANK SOME MONEY AND YOU COULD BANK YOURSELF AN iPad MINI.

Simply making a deposit through School Banking will put you in the draw to win one of twelve (12) iPad Mini's valued at \$369 each for Christmas*.

Here's how it works -

- Make a deposit into your CommBank Youthsaver account at school any time between November 19 - December 14 2012.
- Every student that makes a deposit during the competition period will go into a draw to win one (1) of twelve (12) iPad Mini's (16GB with wi-fi).
- For more information, simply contact your School Banking Specialist or the School Banking Helpdesk on 1800 674 496.

Start saving more today and you can be a winner!

Stay Connected: commbank.com.au/schoolbanking



SRC BOOK OF THE WEEK

Aquatan is a new addition to the popular Boy Vs Beast series. We have lots of this series in the school library and they would interest boys from year 2 upwards. Join Kai in his battle against the water beast!!!



I rate it:



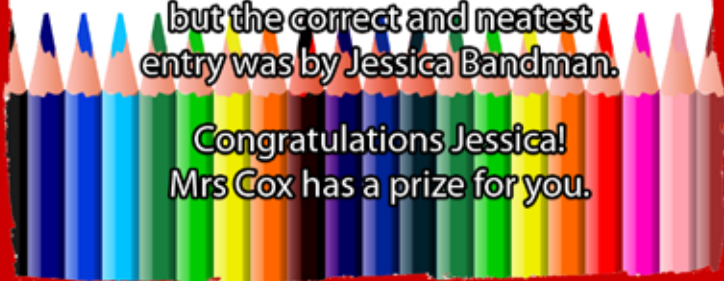
Term 4, Week 9 - Problem of the Week

Christmas Sudoku

Last week was a subtraction and colouring-in exercise.

There were many lovely entries but the correct and neatest entry was by Jessica Bandman.

Congratulations Jessica! Mrs Cox has a prize for you.



Focus on 5/6G

The school year is almost at an end, and what a busy year it has been for our class!

As well as working very hard on our reading, writing and maths we have done some really interesting things in the classroom.

Our science unit for this semester was The Great Barrier Reef. We know now where it is located and why it is important. We have learnt about coral and many of the animals and plants which inhabit the Reef. To complement our science lessons we have created a mural of the Great Barrier Reef on the back wall of our classroom. There are sharks, dolphins, manatee and many different types of fish, as well as corals and other sea creatures. We also made some clay shells and starfish, turtles and lobsters for a beach scene. Hanging in our room you can see jellyfish, octopus and some beautiful artworks which feature the reef and other sea creatures. Now that we have completed this unit we will be working on Christmas crafts.



We have continued to prepare lunch on Thursdays, and as a special treat to conclude our healthy eating and social skills program for the year, we visited The Golden Sea Dragon restaurant where we shared a very enjoyable lunch.

The students participated in CAP Clubs Day and for the last few weeks have been swimming, together with students from 3-6W, on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. This is an activity to which they all look forward.

This has been a year of progress for our students and we will farewell Penny and Trent at the end of it, as they move on to high school to continue their learning journey. We wish them well and know they will enjoy the challenges which lay ahead.

Thank you to the Mrs Houley and the many people who have helped us in our learning this year.

We wish everyone a very happy and safe Christmas and look forward to the New Year.



CAP Clubs Day is an opportunity for students at our school to participate and enjoy a variety of activities that aren't usually available.

Some students were lucky enough to spend the day at Pilliga Pottery! They were able to attend a workshop where they learnt some of the skills necessary to make an item of pottery. They had a lovely day at Pilliga Pottery with thanks to Maria and Bernhard Rickert and their team.

Some students participated in lawn bowls whilst others went swimming and some stayed at school for some sometimes messy activities! There was icing sugar everywhere when they were making Gingerbread Houses but the students all got to take home their yummy creations at the end of the day!

Mrs Duggan led a craft activity to make Christmas decorations. The students produced some Christmas trees, baubles and stars to take home in time for the festive season. It's amazing how glitter can be found in some very strange places after these types of activities ... Mrs Duggan is still finding it over a week later!

Miss Kuras turned her classroom into a Science Lab and the students there made soap. Jace Weatherall produced a delightfully scented soap to give to his mother and we hear she loves it!

Mrs Hain revisited her youth and showed her students how to make tie-dyed t-shirts. Apparently, as is the way of fashion trends, tie-dyed clothing is back!

All in all, the students had a great day! The CAP Clubs Day is subsidised by the Country Area Program which provides funding to rural and regional students so they can have opportunities that are readily available in other areas.



CAP Clubs Day



On Friday the 30th of November 2012 both Year 4 classes hopped on the buses and drove off to Gunnedah. When we arrived at Gunnedah we went to Pensioners Hill Lookout. From there you could see the whole of Gunnedah. I thought it was amazing. After we got there we had recess. When all the kids finished we had a little muck around until it was time to hop on the bus again.

We drove to the museum. At the museum we found a heap of cool and old things. I thought it was so awesome. After that we hopped on the bus again and drove to the Wildlife Park. When we arrived we had lunch and a barbecue. After the barbecue I found an eagle feather. It was so cool. After that we got to go and look at the animals. They were so cool. My favourite animal was the black cockatoo. Me and Mark found a heap of feathers.

We had to leave early because it was soooooo hot. On the way home all I could say was "I can't wait to get to the pool!"

by Oliver Kearney

4M's trip to Gunnedah

On Friday the 30th November 2012, 4M went on an excursion to Gunnedah!

When we got to school we all put our bags under the bus shelter. Then we played and had a chat in the courtyard. When the bell rang we went down to the bus shelter and got on the bus after our names were called.

First we went to Pensioners Hill to have recess. Once I had recess I looked out over the Pensioners Hill Lookout. Then we got back on the bus.

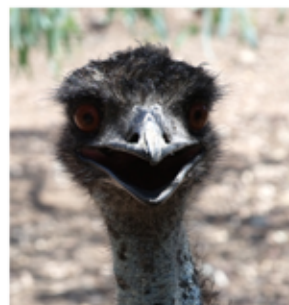
Next was the Gunnedah Rural Museum. The man who worked there hand out pamphlets to show what type of exhibits there were. When we went inside in groups we got a photo taken sitting on old bus seats. There were also some pretty gems and crystals there too. We also saw some rifles and pistols. I liked the rifles the most. Tara, Wallace, Jalannie, Izzy and Hayley were in my group. The next area we visited had tractors, old washing machines, cooking ware and other interesting items. The next exhibit had heaps of cars. Some old ones still work! After that we went to the exhibit with old ovens, a bedroom, a kitchen and horse carts. There were also heaps of old tools. After we had a look there, we went into the school house. We had a photo sitting at some desks. After that we got back on the bus.

Thirdly, we went to the Waterways Wildlife Park. We all had lunch under the awning. For lunch we got fruit, a popper and a sausage sizzle. Then we played on the equipment and after that we paired up and went around and had a look at the animals. My favourite animals were the blue-tongue lizards.

Then we got back on the bus and went home.

My favourite part of the day was the Wildlife Park and looking at the animals. I hope I can go back when it is much cooler.

by Bethany Freeman





Stage 3 Canberra Excursion

The link for Prime television news footage is:

<http://au.prime7.yahoo.com/n3/news/a/-/local/15506441/pm-gets-quizzed-by-country-kids-video/>



The Yr 6 Pool Party will be held on Monday the 17th of December from 11:30–3:00.

What to bring:

Swimmers & Towel

\$2 or Season Ticket

Party food or drinks to share

Sunscreen & hat

Mr Adam's class have been making some posters to promote the benefits of swimming recently. Here are a couple of samples of their work. Chloe Smith's poster is below left and Hannah Meier's work is below right.

Learn To Swim And Save Your Life

It cools you down on a hot day

Get fit

Have fun

Play with your friends and family

Saves your life



By Chloe Smith

Learn to Swim



*You're crazy if you don't
know how to swim!
It could save your life!*

It's fun!

It's good exercise!

*It will cool you
down on a hot day!*

By Hannah Meier.

Awesome Dad Tip 9: AFFIRM YOUR CHILD



... an excerpt from 'Fathers Who Dare Win' by Ian Grant

- * Positively label your children whenever possible so that they see themselves as a helpful, honest, reliable or loving person. The labels the people around us attach to us tend to stick!
- * However, when praising your child ask yourself, what is the underlying message behind your praise? Make sure that you are reinforcing something that your child can do something about, ie, not, 'You look nice' - but, 'I like the way you dressed yourself and brushed your hair'.
- * Understand that if you affirm (or console) your child when they come home from school with poor grades on a report, you're not saying it's okay or that you don't expect more, you're simply acknowledging your disappointment and affirming that you expect them to do better next time and know they can.
- * Only measure their improvement against themselves, not their friends or siblings, and be sure to praise and affirm their improvements.



Facebook

The use of social networking sites is prevalent in our lives. It is a relatively new form of communication and needs to be used carefully. It is recommended that children under the age of 12 shouldn't engage in this communication, however, here are some **Facebook Safety Guidelines** as suggested by **Ian Grant** from the book '**Fathers Who Dare Win**', for monitoring and protecting children on social networking sites.

1. Know the password and **have access to your child's page**.
2. Customise your child's **settings to make the profile safer**, ie, privacy, visibility, etc.
3. Emails of posts, friends, etc, should also come to the **family's home email**.
4. Parents will have an account on Facebook and **children must add and keep parents as 'friends'**.
5. Children will **not add strangers** as friends, **nor should they use the Facebook 'chat' applications** to talk to strangers.
6. Parents will **set a limit on time** that children are allowed on Facebook.
7. The **computer will be kept in a common area of the house**, such as a living room or play room, where it will always be in easy view.
8. Children should **not share personal information** (address, phone number, pictures, etc), with anyone on Facebook that they do not know well.
9. Children should **immediately tell their parents if they see anything or talk to anyone on Facebook that makes them uncomfortable**. Parents should take immediate action to block or report that material.
10. If the child breaks any of the set guidelines, his or her account should be deleted and a probation period will begin until they re-earn their parents' trust.



ZIP IT

Keep your personal stuff private and think about what you say and do online.



BLOCK IT

Block people who send nasty messages and don't open unknown links and attachments.



FLAG IT

Flag up with someone you trust if anything upsets you or if someone asks to meet you offline.

KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE Online





Christmas Scripture

Dale Martin SRE Coordinator & Pastor 

One of the special loves Scripture teachers have is their class assigned them each year. The relationships built are usually deep and special and sometimes we are rewarded years later by a person telling us that what was learnt back then has led to a remarkable turn around in life. I know that Scripture teachers only do what they do because of their love of the children and as a way of sharing their love of God with children. We also admit that it brings no small challenge at times, yet we continue to present for another year. We look forward to the privilege of working in the school in this capacity in the years to come.

On Tuesday 4th December, Scripture for the year culminated in a Christmas Assembly. First K-2 were treated with a special presentation and then after them, 3-6 enjoyed a similar presentation. Each of the assemblies were put together over a few weeks prior, and have taken a quite a bit of organisation and effort. It is great for students to see their teachers all participating and in this case, dressing up to play the part of a bible character in the Christmas birth story re-enactment. What has also been great this year has been the participation of some of the senior students taking up important parts in the play. Well done everyone, and from my perspective- and thank you for your enthusiasm.

Usually an assembly is a multi-media presentation - and this year's one was no exception, including video clips of puppets exploring aspects of Christmas as well as the drama and a short talk, songs and an interactive session teaching a bible verse. All up it was a great time, and regardless of how the Scripture teachers feel it went, the children always enjoy it and have a fun time. On behalf of the scripture teachers, I would like to extend to all the parents and school community our wishes for them to have a blessed Christmas, and safe and happy holidays.



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY. PROTECT YOUR LIFE.

Have you completed your Bush Fire Survival Plan?..

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

PREPARE You must make important decisions before the fire season starts.

ACT The higher the fire danger rating, the more dangerous the conditions.

SURVIVE Fires may threaten without warning so you need to know what you will do to survive.

PREPARE.

You must make important decisions before the fire season starts

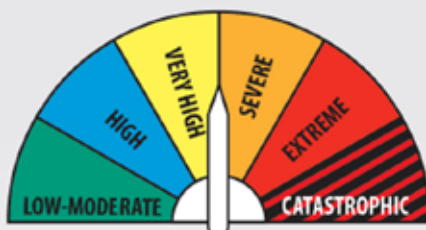
You are at risk from bush fires if you live or work near bushland, grassland, scrub, or farmland.

A fire can be terrifying, with strong winds, intense heat and flames, and thick smoke. Don't make rushed and dangerous decisions. Prepare your **Bush Fire Survival Plan**. Relocate aged, young and sick family members early from areas likely to be impacted by fires. Leaving early is the safest option.

Your well-prepared home will increase the safety of fire fighters and is more likely to survive a bush fire even if you leave early.

ACT.

The higher the fire danger rating, the more dangerous the conditions



Know the fire danger in your area and what it means. The **fire danger rating** should be your first trigger for action and could save your life. When the rating is **Catastrophic**, leaving early is the only option for your survival.

Know your triggers. Be prepared to activate your **Bush Fire Survival Plan** with little or no warning.

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

Assess your bush fire risk and find your **Bush Fire Survival Plan**, **Fire Danger Ratings**, **Bush Fire Alerts** and **Neighbourhood Safer Places** at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

REMEMBER
you may not receive an alert message during a fire.
Don't rely on a single source for emergency information, and be ready to act.

SURVIVE.

Fires may threaten without warning so you need to know what you will do to survive

Know your bush fire alerts.

Advice means a fire is nearby and you should stay up to date.

At **Watch and Act**, a bush fire is approaching and you need to put your **Bush Fire Survival Plan** into action.

An **Emergency Warning** means you may be in danger. Don't wait for direction from emergency services, as failure to act can result in death or injury.

If you plan to leave early, you should leave long before the bush fire is in your area. **Do not stay and defend** without careful planning and preparation.

Know an alternative route to a **safer location**. Find out if there is a **Neighbourhood Safer Place** in your area, but remember they should only be used as a place of last resort.

Have a back-up plan in case you can't get to a safer location.



RING "000" FOR ALL FIRE EMERGENCIES

Last week's heatwave was a reminder to us all that we need to be prepared for the Bushfire Season.

Take the time to make a plan and tell your children what to do in the event of a fire.

Practice fire drills at home so that everyone knows what to do if an emergency happens.

CPS Uniform Shop

Girls & Boys
Summer & Winter
Hats, Jumpers & Coats
Lots of bargain boxes!



Contact: Sally Turner
0422 981199

Coonabarabran Town Bus Service

Free for
Kindergarten,
Year 1 & Year 2



Available to all students
in the town limits.

Primary students have conditions applied
depending on distance travelled.

Cost \$1 per day if ineligible for free travel.

More info: 6842 2783

Drop in for Bible talk, afternoon tea
with games and craft.

Enrolment forms from the
School Chaplain

KID'S CLUB

Wednesday afternoons full
of fun and good times with
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Bus available for pick-up
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Gold coin donation



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Matthew Rouse
Physiotherapist B.App.Sc

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02 - 6842 2881



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Coonabarabran Pony Club

Showjumping
Combined Training
& One Day Event

this Saturday & Sunday,
8th & 9th December
(the last event of the year!)

Contact Rebecca Moxham
ph: 6844 1609

Coonabarabran Junior Golf

Contact: Brad Kelly
6842 2508



every Friday afternoon
3.30 - 5.00pm

Coonabarabran
Golf Club
River Road
Ph: 6842 1292