Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Fathers’ Day last Friday morning was a wonderful experience and a load of fun. Every person I spoke to was positive in their acclamations of the occasion. Some Mums even came as “Dads” who were missing and this was beautiful to see and to share.

Thanks to the Hunter Christian Church who again provided all the chefs, cooking hundreds of sausages. Thanks to our newest group of young teachers who provided the activities for the morning, but most of all, a big thanks to Mrs Maggie McNair who master-minded the whole event.

Also, thanks to many of our teachers who served on the barbecue and also with the activities. They are real gems!

This was a perfect example of how we all work together, both community and school, for the common good.

Thanks to all who made this morning the success that it was.

SCHOOL MUSICAL
Please ensure your children have their costumes at school next Tuesday, as we will be having photos taken of every class. Children wear their school uniforms to school and will be advised when to change.

Tickets for the concerts are now on sale at the school office.

SCIENCE CHALLENGE
This week we will be having close to 1,000 visitors at our school, all of whom will be taking part in a science challenge.
This is managed and staffed by the University of Newcastle and each day there will be an extra 200 students stretching their minds, working in teams, to solve puzzles and problems. This includes building projects to perform certain functions.
Our Year 6 students will be attending on Friday.

VIRTUES SEMINAR
Tonight, in our school library, an international advocate of virtues, Ms Derry Nielson will be holding a presentation from 7.00pm—8.00pm.
The hour long session will explain the importance of virtues, closely linked to our values program, and will embrace the virtues of gentleness, reverence, consideration and friendliness, to mention just a few.
In the light of the world today, with cyber bullying rife amongst teenagers, and verbal put downs prevalent, this presentation supports our beliefs that there is another way.

It is totally free and has been offered to parents in other schools in our cluster. You are welcome to bring along any friends you have who may be interested. Hope to see lots there.
Ms Derry Nielson will also be running a Character Strength Workshop, free of charge to all of our K-2 classes tomorrow morning. We are very privileged to have this opportunity and very grateful that it can happen here.

**CANCER FUNDRAISER**

This Thursday, our Student Council is running a Footy Colours Day to raise money for the Cancer foundation. Students are asked to wear their favourite footy team’s colours and bring along a gold coin or two.

Each term the Student Council chooses a cause to support, training awareness in the need for working together to build a better world. Events such as this foster community spirit, which is a great start for children to learn the importance of caring for others less fortunate.

I’ll be in red and blue, supporting both the Knights and the Jets, being a fan of both.

**ELECTION DAY**

This Saturday sees the local government elections at our school and it’s a great opportunity for us to raise some money.

We’ll be running a barbecue. Initially we will have bacon & egg sandwiches for $3.00 each and later, there will be sausage and onion sandwiches for $3 each.

If any parents can help on an hourly roster anywhere from 7.00am until around 2.00pm, please ring the office on 49434501, letting them know the time of your availability & that would be most helpful.

If any parent is willing to run a cake stall, please let me know.

**KIDS’ CORNER**

We have lots to celebrate yet again. The children at our school make my day.

- Indi Rippon, in 2M, wrote some beautiful statements on how she comforted her Nanny after her Poppy died and how she helped her recover from her sadness. She would make her a cup of tea, take her for a walk to pick some flowers, get her an ice-cream, draw a picture together and tell her that she loved her. These are very caring, genuine thoughts from a delightful little girl.

- Matt Crane & Joel Curtis from year 6 included a Year 5 child in their paddle tennis team at sport last Friday. The person they helped wasn’t chosen in any team. He was left out, and these boys rescued him straight away, without being asked by any teacher to do this. It was just these 2 boys being extremely understanding, showing deep empathy, and a maturity beyond their years. That’s what life is all about...helping others! You ought feel very proud of yourselves boys. If every student in our school took a leaf out of your book, imagine what it would be like. Thanks so much for your thoughtfulness.

- Congratulations to Oscar Carr and Maddie Leask who have been chosen to perform in the drama showcase at the Young People’s Theatre on 6th September at 5.00pm. They were outstanding contributors at the Creative Arts Camp they attended last week.

  Both Oscar and his sister, Satine, have just finished acting in a play called “Babe, The Sheep Pig” after a run of two months.

  When you add 2 months of rehearsal prior to the show, it gives you some idea of the level of commitment involved. Well done indeed and maybe, in years to come, we’ll read lots about these stars!!

- Congratulations to the following students who performed very well in the recent UNSW tests.

  **UNSW Writing Results:**
  
  High Distinction - Lara Fraser-Geddes
  Distinction - Eloise Monk, Olivia Tindall
  Credit - Lashelle Holland, Maddison Grant, Riley Patterson, Kahri Anderson, Paul Battaglia, Hannah Gregory, Lily Wilson, Jye Hollier.

  **UNSW Science Results:**
  
  Distinction - Zoe Aurisch, Jye Hollier
  Credit - Lara Fraser-Geddes, Dane Randall, Olivia Tindall, Tyran Cameron, Jasmyn Tessier.

- Congratulations to Logan Marshall in 4B, who is a very talented AFL player. He has now been included in the Hunter Academy of Sport, which is an amazing achievement for one so young. We wish you all the best for your future career Logan.

- Hugh congratulations to Cory Connolly who stood out as a wonderful leader on the Maths Marathon Day.
He constantly showed patience, care and concern as he took time to explain the activity to younger students. Thanks Cory. Your efforts were noticed by many members of staff.

**CHICKEN CARERS’ REQUEST**

We are fast approaching the end of term 3. Once again we will be looking for any families who are willing and able to look after our chickens during the holidays. Please give Heather or Loretta a call at the office if you are able to help us out.

**SIGNING CHOIR**

Mrs Wendy Rippon has started a signing choir with a group of interested children who meet every Monday at lunchtime in the music demountable.

When they are ready and prepared they will be performing in front of the rest of the school.

Thanks to Mrs Rippon for giving children such a fantastic opportunity to learn a different skill and thanks for dedicating your time which is much appreciated. The children loved yesterday's lesson.

**MATHS MARATHON REFLECTIONS**

Last Tuesday we held a Maths Marathon day during Numeracy and Literacy week. Children from K-6 were in peer support groups and together, had to work out how to solve many problems. It was such a successful day and the following comments from students highlight the fun they had with learning.

The Maths Marathon was a great day full of maths activities. There were 28 groups of mathematicians. The even groups were in the hall and the oval and odd groups were under the cola and on the netball courts. It was also a great experience for the little kids to work together with older kids as a group. 5/6C

Tyran
I want it every year at school. It was fun, because I learnt Maths. Y1 Annika
I liked the MM, because we got to play lots of fun things on the oval like the game called “Brick by Brick”. Y1 Jacinta

It was fun, because we got to do the chair thing. Y1 Ebony
It was fun and I liked the game where you threw the ball and you needed to do times tables and pluses. Y1 Akaylah

The MM was awesome, because we were learning new things. Y1 Aaron
I think the MM was great fun it helped me learn new games. Y2 Cody-Lee

Y1 Lee
I think the MM was awesome instead of doing maths in class. I think we should do it again. Y2 Bella

The maths activities and games were fun. My favourite was “Guessing for Gold” Y2 Jack

**LEADERSHIP DAY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

In the last newsletter regarding our Leadership Day, the acknowledgement of our helpers was accidentally left out.

The day would not have been as successful if we didn’t have our wonderful ladies helping in the canteen and the cooking of the BBQ. Special thanks to Chris Skeet, Kim Sharman and Kathy Pountney.

**NEWSLETTER THOUGHTS**

Lately we have noticed that there seems to be an issue with parents not getting information or the details behind our school events. If anyone can suggest a better or more expedient method of passing on information, I’d love to hear it.

The ladies in the office don’t mind the phone calls but for our last Staff Development Day, for the Book Week Parade and for the Fathers’ Day Breakfast, the number of calls was rather staggering. This alerted us to a problem.

We were wondering if you were getting our newsletters or whether they are too ‘wordy’ to read. Our newsletter is also placed on our website.
Please let me know your thoughts as it would be most helpful.

**TAP SHOES URGENTLY NEEDED FOR MUSICAL**
Miss Connolly would like to borrow 3 pairs of size 5 or 6 tap shoes for her class item. She promises to take good care of them. Thank you.

**CHAPLAIN’S MESSAGE**
At last month’s Education Week assembly, we heard some students give their winning speeches in the Public Speaking Competition.

One boy chose “laughter” as his topic, and it did, indeed, capture everyone’s attention and made us laugh. Did you know that laughter requires less facial muscle movements than a frown?

There are many sayings written about laughter, and for good reason! It’s one of the cheapest medicines around.

“Laughter is the best medicine without side effects.”
“Laughter not only adds years to your life, but adds life to your years!”
“Laughter is the best way to conceal pain, or at least, distract the mind from pain.”
“Laughter is part of the human survival kit.”
“There is nothing in this world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour.”

So let’s not be so serious all the time.
Enjoy life and share some laughter with your children, family and your friends.

Have a happy day!
Helen Harvie—School Chaplain

**HOMEWORK HELP NEWSLETTER**
You can now easily subscribe to updates from the award-winning website for parents, School A to Z. Each term you’ll receive newsletters with the latest information to help you manage your child’s homework and study, health, development and technology use. Go to: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/subscribe](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/subscribe)

**PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**
Please be mindful, as parents, of the rules and regulations about the pedestrian crossing outside our school gate in Frith Street.

Mr Davies is on that crossing every afternoon.

We have had 2 parents, one pushing a stroller, almost hit because other parents driving their cars, are stopping at the crossing either to drop off or pick up students.

Earlier this year, the Police fined a couple of people there and this caused some upset. But the rules are the rules. The last thing anyone would want is to see a child injured, or worse.

Driving very slowly and stopping well out of the crossing zone is a must.

Help us please, by following the rules.

Sincerely

Pam Richardson
Principal
4th September, 2012