I hope everyone had a relaxing and fun holiday.

We have had a wonderful start to the term with our NAIDOC celebration day that was held on Friday of last week. The success of the day goes to the group of people that made up the organising committee. Marissa Floyd, our school’s School Learning Support Officer, was the organising queen behind the day and she went beyond the call to organise, collect and set up the activities. Wayne Blake, our school’s General Assistant, was always ready and eager to collect plants, soil, paint and everything else that I asked him to do. Donna Stackman, principal of Congewai PS, for her design and creation on the day of our new bush tucker garden in the shape of a boomerang. You all have my thanks and appreciation for all the work you put in to this day.

This week is Education Week and 2014 marks the 60th anniversary of the first Education Week. This is an ideal opportunity to take stock and measure progress. The tagline for the original, 1954 Education Week was: "Lighting the way to a better world". Students who were in kindergarten in 1954 would now be 66 years old. In contrast, students who are in Kindergarten in 2014 will be finishing primary school in 2020, high school in 2026 and tertiary education in 2030! Yet, in both generations, students in our public education system Light the way to a better world. This week as part of Education Week we will be visiting a number of schools and engaging in a range of activities. These include the public speaking competition at Nulkaba PS on Tuesday, watching Mount View HS perform their musical and listening to a guest author at Millfield PS on Thursday.

An important part of Education Week is the recognition of people within our school that have had an important impact on schools. This year Marissa Floyd is the recipient of the award for Excellent service by a Non-Teaching Staff Member for her role as School Learning Support Officer to support student learning outcomes. Well done Marissa – this is well deserved. The Cessnock Community of Great Public Schools award recipients will be recognised at the Education Week reception to be held at Cessnock HS on Wednesday 30th July from 4pm.

Congratulations to Atticus for making it through to the next stage of the public speaking competition. His speech on NAIDOC Day was well delivered and contained lots of interesting information. This term sees us having an assembly on the Wednesday of the odd weeks at 2:45pm. Newsletters will go out on the Fridays of the even weeks. Please note that there will be no assembly this week due to the excursion to Mount View HS.

Last week saw Trudy Ryan, our school’s School Administration Manager, have her final day at our school. We wish Trudy all the best for her new school.

Kind regards - Michelle Murphie
Chaplain’s Chatter

We’re back at school again. However the frost over the past couple of weeks, while we have been on vacation, has hit the seedlings hard. So we had a look at the ones that were left and planted them. Hopefully they will progress as well as the ones that have been quietly growing away. The most interesting thing is that the veggies that are growing in the cut-down water tanks are growing extremely well. They have been well protected from the frosts. The only plants that are not growing are the ones that have reached their well-allotted time. Then in the Kids Matter time we looked at the lesson to be drawn from our experience in the garden.

Parents – don’t forget to come along to the weekly morning tea chat.

When: Every Wednesday in school terms Time: 9-10am
Where: The meeting room in the school office block

And remember “Kids Matter because ‘Kids Matter’” – Graham

A message from our new school cleaner

A big thankyou to everyone from Wollombi PS for making me feel welcome.

Denise
NAIDOC Day at Wollombi PS

The day started bright and early for the organising committee with the setting up on the activities and getting the barbeque ready for the 1000 sausages that needed to be cooked for lunch. At 9:30am the buses started to arrive and continued arriving until they had dropped off over 500 students from Cessnock West, Paxton, Ellalong and Congewai PS. Laguna PS students arrived by car and this made the total of students attending the day at over 550. Wow! It was great to see everyone dress in the red, black and yellow and students from our school got the day under way with an Acknowledgement of Country. During the day the students were engaged in clay work, boomerang painting, Johnny Cakes, mural creation, Aboriginal dance led by high school students, bush tucker garden and Indigenous games.

Lunchtime soon rolled around and a big thanks to Wayne and Keith (our very helpful neighbour) as they cooked the 1000 sausages for lunch. Most people got 2 sausages and some lucky students got 3 or 4. A big thanks to everyone else who helped hand out the sausages sizzles, sauce and drink - your assistance was greatly appreciated. During the lunchtime break we heard and watched a Drumbeat performance by a group of students from Cessnock and Kurri area schools. Thanks for coming and making our day even more special! After lunch we headed back to the activities until it was time for the buses to start arriving and everyone went back to their schools. Thanks to the group of helpers who stayed behind to tidy up the school. It was a terrific day for all involved!