



## Principal's Report

What a fantastic day we had last Friday at our **2016 Science Fair!** The staff and parents were absolutely amazed and inspired by the calibre of presentations and the time and thought that went into investigating scientific questions! Such interesting questions were posed by students and the research that went into finding answers to those questions was so intriguing. Thank you to all the students and families that made such great efforts to help raise our awareness of our unique local area.

The students in 5/6I and Mr Iles will travel up to **Cessnock West Public School** on Thursday 24 November to visit their pen pals! This is such a great program where students from very different school contexts get to visit each other. We are very fortunate to have such fabulous parents who are assisting with the transport to Cessnock and a special thank you must go to Ross from the **Estuary Restaurant** who is very kindly donating his time to drive students to Cessnock in the Estuary bus!

On Friday we will have a visit from the boys at **Normanhurst Boys High School** who will show off their circus skills and then spend time reading picture books they have written to our younger students. This is a fantastic opportunity for students from primary and high schools to get together and for the boys to share their skills with others.

Just a reminder that the **office operations** will not be back to normal until Mrs Aselford returns. We are hopeful that the doctor will allow her to return for part of the day next week. We have very capable staff who are filling in for Deb but it is not easy to pick up the new software programs and they are not always functioning accurately. Please bear with us.

I am aware that many people are concerned with regard to the location of the sleepers in the **playground** and the trip hazard they present. Now that the COLA is just about complete, it is time for us to look at the playground area and what we can do to make sure it is as safe and useable as possible. If you have any thoughts about playground layout and design, please contact Ingrid.

The **HSLO (Home School Liaison Officer)** visited the school last week for our regular monitoring of school attendance. Regular school attendance is imperative for students to achieve their potential. Full day attendance is also critical as it enables students to connect with peers and feel part of all that goes on at school. **As little as 10 minutes each day out of school equates to nearly half a school year by the time a student reaches year 12!!!!** Making choices to keep your child home for convenience purposes is not a justifiable reason. Students can get into bad attitudes towards going to school if it appears to be optional according to carers. And importantly, teachers prepare and plan for a full classroom of students as they consider teaching and learning experiences. It does make a difference if children are not at school when they are expected to be. Your cooperation in this issue means that your child can grow to be the best that they can be which is surely what we all want!

I cannot believe I am saying this, but only three weeks to go!!

Diana Aitken

### *Important Dates*

November 24	Interschool visit Cessnock West 5/6I
November 25	NBHS "Circus" incursion
December 7	End of Year Concert 5.30 start
December 12	Year 6 Dinner—Estuary
December 14	Presentation day 9.30 start
December 15	Milson Island Fun Day
December 16	Last day of Term 4

ACTION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY NC.  
invites you to attend our

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER, 2016  
at 7.00PM

*Action is a community-based organisation providing advocacy and support for people with disability including school students, and support for their families in the northern region of Sydney for over 38 years.*

UPDATE ON THE CLOSURE OF ADHC AND THE TRANSFER OF ADHC RESPITE HOUSES  
Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) will be closing their services by mid-2018. We have asked Minister John Ajaka to attend our AGM to speak on this transfer, including the transfer of ADHC respite houses, and safeguards that will be in place.

ADHC has informed non-government services that ADHC respite houses do not have to continue to be used for respite after transfer, and the services have expressed interest in using these respite houses for other purposes.

We will also be providing a report on the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in our region.

*AGM VENUE:*

*ST IVES COMMUNITY HALL*

*St Ives Village Green Memorial Avenue*

*St Ives*

*(The hall is located in the park behind the St Ives Plaza Shopping Centre)*

*This venue is fully accessible and refreshments will be available. Please advise us of any support you may require to attend the meeting.*

*RSVP:*

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# Science Fair 2016

