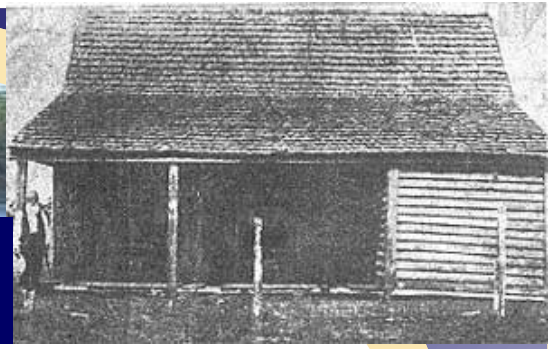


## CREEKSIDE NEWS

December 15, 2020



### Thanks to all and Enjoy the Break

As we say goodbye to the 2020 school year and hello Christmas Holidays, I'd like to thank each and every one of our staff, students and community for the way in which you have gone about things with a global pandemic hanging over our heads. It seems like only yesterday that we were welcoming not only our Kindergartens into the school to begin what was expected to be a very exciting 150th year of education at Dora Creek Public School, but also our Year 6 students; who last night had a ball at the annual Year 6 Farewell. I have had the pleasure of watching these students grow into the fantastic young individuals that they are today, all the way from Kindergarten; and also some of them who have not been with us as long, but have been very welcome additions to our school. We would like to wish them all the best as they enter high school and we trust that Dora Creek Public School will always hold a special place in their heart for a long time. Speaking of moving on, I would like to *absolutely* send our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Dilley and Mrs Kay, who are farewelling our school at the end of this year. Each one of them has brought something extremely valuable to our Dora Creek school community and have had a highly positive impact on each of our students. As mentioned at the presentation assemblies yesterday, Mrs Dilley, who is heading to Cooranbong PS next year to teach Kindergarten, has been responsible for providing a range of great opportunities for our students, not only in the classroom but also in sport, the creative arts and Aboriginal Education; and her contribution to our school will certainly be missed. We wish her all the best and most definitely hope to see her return in the future. Mrs Kay has been the first face that people usually see, or the first person that people will speak to when communicating with, or visiting, our school and she has done an absolutely extraordinary job at our school for a very long period of time. Each day that I as a principal have spent with her as my School Admin Manager has been a blessing. As she walks out the doors of beautiful Dora Creek at the end of this week for the last time, she will be farewelled with heavy hearts but also our best wishes; as she begins the next chapter of her life interstate with her husband and a new school, a long way from here. I, for one, will most certainly have her on speed dial and we as a staff surely will miss her cool head, sunny disposition and outstanding work ethic. Her destination school will be gaining one of the best!

For those of you unaware, whilst Ms Bretreger will not be leaving us, she will be finishing her time as relieving Assistant Principal at the end of this year; due to the fact that this position has recently been filled through the merit selection process. I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to her for the support she has displayed during my transition from Assistant Principal to Principal of Dora Creek and I certainly acknowledge the time, effort and dedication she has put into the position; and it is due to this that we have seen so many positive changes within our student community.

In conclusion, I wish to extend my thanks to our extremely dedicated staff and also to you, our wonderful community, for a very busy, very challenging but very rewarding 2020. As mentioned at the Presentation Assembly yesterday, I cannot thank our volunteers enough for their efforts in supporting our school and I am very appreciative of the efforts that our teaching, non-teaching and admin staff put in each and every day to deliver authentic learning and a nurturing environment for our students. To you, our families, thank you for your ongoing dedication to getting your child(ren) to school each day, ready to learn and prepared to work tirelessly with our teachers and other staff to be the best version of themselves they can possibly be. Have a safe and happy Christmas, make the most of your time with your families, and we look forward to welcoming you all back in 2021.

### Presentation Day

Monday 14th December saw our school community come together for our 2020 Presentation Assemblies, which, this year, were conducted a little bit differently than in the past; that is, split into K-2 and 3-6 assemblies, which allowed us to conduct these days under restrictions, while still providing us all with the opportunity to share this special day with our families. I, for one, certainly enjoyed the intimate nature of the ceremonies yesterday, and was pleased to witness some outstanding talent and achievements in fresh air and under open skies. I wish to congratulate all of our award winners, along with every student who attended. Each individual present, whether performing or sitting in the audience, demonstrated tremendous patience, grace and genuine support for their peers for the duration of the event. We understand that this day can bring disappointment for some of our students and acknowledge this, but it is also extremely important to recognise our achievers and, where possible, use these types of events in our lives to have a meaningful discussion with our children around channelling this disappointment to encourage further effort, or to take the opportunity to set important goals, and to take pride in their own personal development. Speaking of personal development, it was such a pleasure to witness some of the talent within our school on display during the course of the assembly. Our dancers and ukulele groups, who earlier this year may have had little, if any, experience with performing in front of people, or playing an instrument, were certainly a highlight of the day and it was fantastic to see such enthusiasm and dedication towards the creative and performing arts on display. Well done! Well done also to our newly elected Captains and Leaders for 2021, who, after a VERY closely run election process, were also announced on the 3-6 assembly. Congratulations to Maddie and Charlie, who are our new School Captains; and congratulations Poppy and Dani-Ella, who are our new School Leaders. I look forward to working with them all in 2021 and, together, I am sure that we can come up with some ideas to do some great things for our school.

## Awards and Rewards

It was a pleasure last week and this to provide students who have reached Gold and Sapphire with the opportunity to participate in their PBL reward days. These levels are the top two levels of our SPOT system and it was fantastic to see nearly 90 of our students reach Gold and nearly 50 reach Sapphire. Well done, Dora Creek, brilliant effort! We hope our students enjoyed their pizza and ice cream (Gold) and/ or the trip to the cinema to see *The War With Grandpa* (Sapphire). Today our Sapphire Certificates were presented, together with our newly designed "Jay Dee" Sapphire badges. Congratulations to all students who reached these levels. Well Done!!!



## Stage 3 Cricket Gala Day

On Thursday, December 3, our Stage Three students had the opportunity to participate in a Cricket Gala Day at Fishburn Field, Rathmines, where they competed in a gala day against a number of other schools from across Western Lake Macquarie. Our students played 4 games of modified, Big Bash style, cricket; where they had the opportunity to crack a few boundaries and take a few wickets. It was great to see the team spirit on display from our kids, even though, for some of them, cricket is not something they participate in regularly. Our students appeared to really enjoy themselves and, from all accounts had a great day. Thank you to Mrs Harris, Mr Dunlap and Miss Tod, who put the time and effort in to organise our teams for the day, and also to everyone who helped transport our students.



## School Raffle

We are pleased to advise that the raffle has been drawn and raised over \$400 for our school! Thank you all for your support, especially to Mr Wilson and his mother, along with Harrington Entertainment for providing the amazing items for our prizes. The winners are:

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1st Tyson          | 6th Alison Cawthorne     |
| 2nd Aliyana        | 7th Mrs Fatches          |
| 3rd Teneika        | 8th Izabelle             |
| 4th Steven Edwards | 9th Bronwyn Kurnia       |
| 5th Radley Family  | 10th Elena Stravogiorgis |



**Next Meeting– 6.30pm, Monday 8th February**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 16/ 12** Final School Day for 2020  
Year 6 Excursion
- 25/ 12** Merry Christmas
- 01/ 01** Happy New Year
- 29/ 01** Students in Yrs 1-6 Return  
Kinder *Best Start*
- 01/ 02** Kinder *Best Start*
- 02/ 02** Kinder Begins
- 08/ 02** P and C Meeting, Library
- 10/ 02** Swimming Carnival

### NOTES HOME

Sapphire  
Reward