

## CREEKSIDE NEWS

Tuesday February 23, 2021

### Congratulations to Our Safe, Respectful and Engaged Students

As we draw nearer to the halfway point of Term One, we as a staff would like to extend our utmost congratulations to our students, who have settled in beautifully to a new school year; particularly those in Kindergarten, who have demonstrated such a mature and enthusiastic approach to the beginning of their time at beautiful Dora Creek Public School. With this in mind, it is now time for us to ask for your cooperation in ensuring that, as per government advice related to COVID, the number of adults on the school site is minimised. **Therefore, each morning, when dropping of your child(ren) at school, we request that you please drop off at the school gate, and also refrain from entering school grounds during afternoon pick-up. As per organisation last year, we wish to advise that students in walkers lines will be brought down to the footpath near the pedestrian gate to be handed over to carers. You do not need to enter the school to meet your child(ren).**

As you are aware, the NSW Department of Education backed schools to provide a positive start to the school year for students in the early years of schooling, by permitting access to the school grounds for parents of students in years K-2 during the beginning of the school year. Whilst we are pleased to advise that many of our families are already promoting a positive, independent approach towards the beginning of the school day by saying a quick goodbye to their child(ren) before departing, **we must now formally ask parents and carers to remain off-site, unless:**

- Visiting the office to complete school business,
- Volunteering to support essential learning in classrooms with the permission of the classroom teacher, or
- You are involved in important face-to-face meetings with staff members.

In asking this, we are merely aiming to meet the expectations of the expert advice of the day, which we are bound by, and we thank you in advance for your support in following these guidelines.

### Junior Soccer Gala Day

Great news!!!! After a 2020 with very limited sporting opportunities for our kids, our year 3 and 4 students today took the chance to experience a great day of football (soccer) conducted by NNSW Football at Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility at Speers Point. Dora Creek played 4 games, where our budding Sam Kerrs and Leo Messis worked very hard and tried their absolute best all day; and, also, importantly, conducted themselves very well both on and off the field. It was great to see the team spirit on display from our kids, particularly given the dreary weather. Our students appeared to really enjoy themselves and, from all accounts had a great day. Thank you everyone who helped transport and support our students, even through the miserable conditions for most of the day.



## Swimming Carnival

On Wednesday February 10, our annual school swimming carnival was held at Morisset Pool and, despite the rain, our students had a fantastic day, did their best, and provided great support for each other. The enthusiasm both in and out of the pool was a pleasure to see and our students should be rather proud of their efforts in being very positive about each other's performances for their sporting houses. We would also like to thank our parent volunteers and Mrs Harris, who once again worked very hard to ensure that our carnival was well-prepared and that everything ran smoothly. What a pleasure it was to view parents, family and friends providing great encouragement for not just their own children, but for all of our swimmers. We are lucky to have such a supportive community. Congratulations, again, to everyone on your efforts.

After our carnival, a small number of swimmers were selected to go on to represent our school at the Westlakes zone carnival, which was held at Speers Point Pool on Tuesday February 16. On this day, our students represented our school in true Dora Creek spirit, as they challenged other students from across the Lake Macquarie West Area against some very stiff opposition; once again, our kids did their absolute best. Congratulations and well done!



# P & C News

**Next Meeting– 6.30pm, Monday 22nd March**

## Get involved in the School Banking program.

Dora Creek Public School is excited to offer the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to all students. School Banking is a fun, interactive and engaging way to help teach your child about money. Children who deposit money into their Youthsaver account through School Banking earn Dollarmites tokens, which they can save up and redeem for exciting rewards.

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives a Regular Savers Contribution of \$5 for every 10 deposits processed per student as well as an Annual Contribution which is based on the number of students who made at least one School Banking deposit in the prior year. For more information about contribution payments, visit [www.commbank.com.au/sbinfo](http://www.commbank.com.au/sbinfo).

## **Getting involved in School Banking is easy!**

All you need to get involved in the School Banking program is a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account. You can open an account for your child in one of two ways:

### **1. Online**

Visit [www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking](http://www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking) and click on the link to open a Youthsaver account.

### **2. In branch**

Visit a Commonwealth Bank branch with identification for yourself and your child, like a driver's licence and birth certificate.

If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit into the office every week on School Banking day using their Dollarmites deposit wallet. School Banking day is **WEDNESDAY**. If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2021 School Banking program parent guide from the school office or visit [www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking](http://www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking)



## Playgroup to Return Soon!

We are pleased to advise that Playgroup is a department-approved onsite activity, despite restrictions remaining in place for non-essential visitors to our school site. With this in mind, we are hoping to proceed with an informal version of playgroup that will begin in Week 6 in our school hall. By this, we mean that there will be no coordinator-scheduled, formal activities, available for families but the school will set up tea and coffee making facilities, provide some light snacks, and also make available some equipment necessary for babies and toddlers to occupy themselves.

We are aware that many of our families who attend playgroup simply meet each week, value the company, and are happy to let the children socialise and play independently; and we are therefore happy to make the hall available for this to occur. At this point, we will be looking at either Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday as the designated day of the week, between 9.30am and 10.30am. If you are intending on attending playgroup regularly, please message our contact, Mrs Ruthford, at [gabrielle.ruthford1@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:gabrielle.ruthford1@det.nsw.edu.au) and state your interest and preferred option (before Friday 26th February). We obviously cannot please everybody, so the designated day will be decided by the preferences of the majority of respondents.

## SAY CHEESE- School Photo Day Is Wednesday 31st March

**Have your child's school memories  
captured forever**

Envelopes for school photos will be **sent home with students in the coming weeks**. Some useful information is set out below:

**Please take time to read the relevant information on the MSP Photography payment envelopes and remember these helpful points from MSP:**

- Please do not seal envelopes inside each other.
- You can pay for all children in one envelope; however, **each child needs to have their own envelope on photo day**
- Once they are available, Family envelopes can be picked up from the school office **upon request**
- Please enclose correct money as no change is given
- Credit card payments are available online– you will need your personalised shoot key located on your child's envelope to place your order online.



**1st Byattunga**  
Scout Group



# GARAGE Fundraiser




**Saturday 27th Feb**  
**9am to 2pm**  
  
 Byattunga Scout Hall  
 84 Awaba St, Morisset

As well as the usual garage sale items there will also be a Sausage Sizzle on the day so come on down and check it out!!

## School Contributions

Government funds provide the basic framework for our resources. However, we also appreciate parent voluntary contributions to provide additional opportunities for our students.

Our school contributions are \$10.00 per child per term. Payment of school contributions, whilst voluntary, is greatly appreciated.




### EVERY MINUTE COUNTS....

When your child misses just...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is...
10 minutes a day	50 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 1½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ a year of school
20 minutes a day	1 hour and 40 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 2½ weeks per year	Nearly a year of school
½ hour a day	½ a day of learning a week	4 weeks a year	Nearly 1 ½ years of learning
1 hour each day	1 whole day of learning each week	8 weeks per year or nearly a term a year.	Over 2 ½ years of learning

*Your child's best learning time is at the beginning of the day...*

**Check the time your school starts. DON'T BE LATE!**



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 23/ 02** Junior Soccer Gala Day
- 25/ 02** Senior Soccer Gala Day
- 02/ 03** Regional Swimming Carnival
- 05/ 03** Clean-Up Australia Day
- 16/ 03** CBA Start Smart Banking
- 17/ 03** Athletics Carnival (TBC)
- 31/ 03** School Photo Day
- 01/ 04** Final Day of Term 1

### NOTES HOME

- Year 6 High School Enrolment
- Years 4-6 Camp
- General Permission Notes/ Permission to publish
- Student Text Books