Welcome back to all families as we begin a new and exciting year. Our 3 new classrooms have been completed and students are enjoying the improved and expansive learning areas. Our fantastic new library facilities will also be functional within a fortnight for students to begin lessons. With these wonderful new facilities and the oval available for use, 2011 promises to be a great year for Connells Point. We look forward to a productive year celebrating learning with our community.

I extend a special welcome to families new to our school, and look forward to seeing you, and all our families, at the Welcome Barbecue and Disco being organised by our P&C for Wednesday 23rd February. (see insert). This is a good chance to renew friendships and make acquaintances with the parents of your child’s classmates.

I welcome Mrs Fiona Dickson, class teacher, to our staff, and also Miss Louise McNamara who will be with us during Term 1. We also welcome an additional school counsellor, Michael Martin, who will be joining us for 1 day each week. Mrs Hewson has been seconded to Regional Office for a few weeks and will be returning on March 7th.

Class Information Evenings will be held in the coming weeks. This is a time for parents to visit the room where your child spends the learning day and to meet the class teacher, who will explain the weekly procedures and specific programs which your child will be involved in during the year. This is not an interview time; parent/teacher interviews will be scheduled for the last week of Term 1.

Kindergarten Information Night - KC, KD, KG, KM, KS will be on Wednesday 9th Feb at 6pm in the school hall. Information sessions for Year 1 – Year 6 will be during Week 4. Details of individual class times will be included in next week’s newsletter.

Our Awards and Values program will continue this year; its focus is to reinforce and nurture positive behaviours in all students. For those new to the school, one of our school values is highlighted each week in class and at assemblies, and in our newsletter so that families can reinforce the messages being given at school. Using consistent language to reinforce positive behaviour helps children develop the qualities and attitudes we most want for them.

I look forward to a fabulous year for all our children, staff and families and to delivering the very best educational experiences for our students.

Mrs Anne Whale
Relieving Principal

Value of the Week

Next week, classes will be discussing “Excellence”. In our context, we interpret this to be aiming to achieve your personal best in all aspects of school and community life.

Our focus area in this value is “achieving and maintaining high learning expectations”. An important attitude and skill for students of all ages and abilities to develop is goal setting. Aspiring to improve, in small and large ways, and planning how to achieve this, is fundamental to achieving personal best.

Helping your child to set small personal goals (getting two more words correct in this week’s spelling list; reading a passage fluently and with no mistakes; producing a page—or a paragraph if that is too big a jump—of tidy, well-formed handwriting; reciting a times table more quickly by the stop watch), to be achieved within a time frame, helps them see and measure their learning improvement, and helps them aspire to achieving their personal best.
Our procedures help us to operate safely and efficiently, and reduce the opportunities for mistakes or misunderstandings to occur. Some of the key areas where your support and cooperation make such a difference, are listed below. It is important that all visitors to our school understand these procedures, so your help in making sure that people acting on your behalf – grandparents, aunts, neighbours, friends etc – are also fully aware of the procedures, would be most appreciated. An Information Booklet, distributed to all new families, is available from the office with greater explanation of our processes and procedures. Relevant sections of the Information Booklet have also been included in the handouts distributed at our Class Information Evenings, or can be found on our website.

Please be aware that:

◊ There is no parent parking on school grounds.
◊ There is no pedestrian access for parents or children through the staff car park.
◊ Adults must not use or enter children’s toilet blocks. A toilet for adults and pre-schoolers is available on request at the office.
◊ Late arrivals must collect a note from the office before proceeding to class.
◊ Early departure notes must be obtained from the office before a child is collected from class.
◊ Safe driving and parking is required at all times in the vicinity of the school.
◊ There is no smoking at any time, or consumption of alcohol at events where children are present, on the school site.
◊ All visitors and volunteers must wear a visitor’s badge (available from the office).
◊ Students are to be collected punctually at 3.25 p.m. Please call the office if you are delayed so that your child can be informed and instructed to wait for your arrival. Children should not wait in areas outside the school, where they are unsupervised.
◊ Medication can only be given if it complies with DET policy and on completion of paperwork at the office. Apart from asthma puffers, children are not to keep any medication in their pockets or school bags.
◊ A written explanation is required for student absences. Written application is required for leave totalling 50 days (previously 15) in a 12 month period for any one student. Forms are available from the office.
◊ Correct and complete school uniform is required for all students. A note should be provided if your child is unable to wear correct uniform on a particular day.
◊ Payment of money should be directly by the student to the class teacher in a clearly labelled envelope, detailing the student’s name, class, amount enclosed and what payment is for. Money should be sent to school on Monday to Thursday only.
◊ As a safeguard for students with peanut and other allergies, children are not to share food or purchase food from others from the canteen.
◊ Please inform the office immediately of changes of address and/or telephone contact numbers. It is imperative that we can contact you quickly in the event of an emergency.
◊ Children are not to bring expensive items or toys to school. No responsibility can be taken for loss theft or breakages of students’ personal belongings.
◊ Mobile phones for students are discouraged. If essential for safe travel to and from school, they must be left at the office on arrival and collected by the student at the end of the school day.
◊ Parents may wish to consider private insurance and medical cover for students, as there is no DET insurance scheme for accidental injury.
◊ Appointments to meet with teachers to discuss any aspect of your child’s progress or development can be made through the office, or via a note to the teacher.
◊ Students are not to be approached by other parents to resolve issues concerning their children. Any concerns should be referred to teachers to address.
◊ No animals are to be brought on to school grounds.
◊ Primary students wishing to ride bikes or scooters to school must complete, and abide by, the Code of Conduct to ensure their safety and that of others.
◊ Please observe the rules of the Pick Up and Drop Off Zone in Riverview Avenue.
Payments to School

The Department of Education and Training provides the School with funds to assist families with essential costs, such as textbooks, uniforms and excursions. If you are having difficulty meeting these costs please contact the Office. Please ensure all money is enclosed in a sealed envelope (with permission note if required) with your child’s/children’s full name, class and what payment is for, clearly written on the front. This is very important to avoid money being lost. Thank you.

School Website

Our school website contains a lot of information and links which we hope you will find interesting and informative. Copies of notes distributed to students are to be found on the website, in a section entitled “Notes”, so you can download lost notes or receive them if your child is away. There is a year calendar, which we will keep updated, so that you can see ahead and adjust your planning. There are also specific folders for each grade, which will be added to during the year. Our Newsletter will also be uploaded to the website for your reference. As a result, we now only refer to children by their first names. Parents who are on rosters for the canteen and pick up zone will also have their names published on the website. Parents on rosters receive a hard copy list also for their reference; the Newsletter provides a reminder. Our website can be found at: www.connellspt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen. Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and requires awareness and vigilance from all. There are several students enrolled who suffer from this allergy and to ensure their safety at school I ask that parents refrain from including any food or products which contain nuts in their child’s lunch. Keeping our school a ‘nut free’ environment will allow peace of mind for the families involved.

Coles Vouchers

Thank you for the wonderful response to our request for Coles Vouchers. We collected 36,665 which was a mighty effort.

Sports News

Swimming Carnival

Any students in Y2, who are turning eight this year, and are competent swimmers - able to swim 50m, wishing to participate in the school swimming carnival, are asked to collect an information booklet from the office, or to download one from our website (available from 7.2.11). Completed application forms and payment are due to the office by 10 February. Yr 2 students attending the carnival need to be accompanied by a responsible adult and are required to provide their own transport to and from the pool.
District & Sydney East Region Sport Selections

Each year students are given the opportunity to trial for representative honours in their chosen sport. Georges River/Sydney East region conducts trials for teams in the following sports:

- Girls and boys cricket
- Girls and boys soccer
- Girls and boys hockey
- Girls and boys softball
- Girls and boys touch football
- Netball
- Rugby League 11yrs and 12yrs
- Rugby Union
- AFL
- Boys and girls basketball
- Boys and girls tennis
- Waterpolo

As trials are held after school, all students are to be taken to these trials by a parent/caregiver. In sports such as cricket, softball, netball and soccer individual schools are only allowed to send a specific number of students to these trials (actual number is determined by the convenor) and as a result not all students wishing to trial will be able to. If your child is talented at one of the above sports and plays on the weekends or is in a representative side and wishes to trial for a sport, please indicate below and return to Miss Benson by **Wednesday, 9 February**. Your child will then receive information regarding the trial dates when it becomes available.

Please note that these trials attract talented athletes and usually are for students in Yrs 5 and 6.

---

**Georges River District & Sydney East Region Sport Selections**

My child......................................................................................................................... of Yr ..................... is interested in trialling for the following sport/s at the selection trials for Georges River District:

........................................................................................................................................
........................................................................................................................................
........................................................................................................................................
........................................................................................................................................
........................................................................................................................................
........................................................................................................................................
........................................................................................................................................
........................................................................................................................................

(Parent/Caregiver)                                                                 Date
Welcome back Band Members!

In our Senior Band we have the following members:

From Year 6
Ella, Alexander, Amelia, Mark, Georgette, Nathan, Campbell, Gabrielle, Antony, Georgina, Clover, Baillie, Brooke, Leah, Adriana, Timothy, Mario, Harrison, James, Ronan, Matthew, Bronwyn, and Morgann.

From Year 5
Anastasia, David, Laura, Jai, Emma, Jasmin, Arthur, Joanna, Daniel, Carissa, Natalie, Lauren, Timothy, Matthew, Dayna, Victoria, Olivia, Michaela, Phoebe, Amelia, Kyle, Sara, Samantha, Iphigenia, Brandon, Lefteri, Joseph, David and Marcus.

We also welcome our budding new members of the Junior Band.
Bryana, Elisabeth, Lance, Dimitrios, John, Mia, Reece, Holly, Jessica, Katherine, Joshua, Victoria, Nicholas, James, Lara, Jasmin, Daniella, Priya, Emily, Caterina, Chelsea, Justin, Lachlan, Jordan, Vivianne, Anthony, Blake, Noah and Phoebe.

These new band members will be almost bursting with excitement as they head towards their Band Information Night on Tuesday.

**JUNIOR BAND INFORMATION NIGHT— Tuesday February 8th, 2011**
Children and their parents are asked to attend a meeting in the Performing Arts Room at 7pm on Tuesday, February 8th. At this meeting the children will be provided with their instruments (those who have their own will need to bring them along on the evening) and have an opportunity to meet with helpers who will teach them basic care and maintenance of their instruments, as well as how to put their instruments together correctly. Children will have an opportunity to have informal instruction and practice with their new instruments prior to the commencement of tutorials.

**Junior and Senior Band Rehearsals and Tutorials**
Tutorials will commence for all Junior and Senior Band members in the week commencing Monday February 14th. (Note: No Rehearsal or Tutorials 15th February due to carnival).
Senior Band rehearsals will commence with the Tuesday afternoon session on Tuesday February 8th. That session commences at 3:00 pm until 4:00 pm
Junior Band rehearsals will commence with the 3:00 pm session on Thursday February 10th, after they have attended the information night.
All band members will have been supplied with a timetable of tutorials and rehearsals on Thursday February 3rd and a copy will be made available on the website.

**BAND FEES**
Band Fee Accounts will be issued during the next week.

Mrs Green, Band Coordinator.
Road Safety

Our students are precious to us and their safety, particularly when entering and departing the school is of utmost importance to us. We are very lucky to have a wombat crossing and a pedestrian crossing supervisor at our exits to help in keeping them safe. Please reinforce with your child the correct manner for crossing the road and safe procedures for walking home. The crossing supervisor is in place to keep your children safe and no child should step off the footpath until the supervisor indicates it is safe to do so. Crossing supervisors are trained to manage the crossing so as to avoid banking up traffic whilst keeping students safe; it would be deemed courteous for adults to also follow the supervisor’s direction when on the crossing.

Students being picked up by car also need to observe safety procedures. Children should always get in and out of the car through the rear kerb side or ‘safety door’. No child should run onto the road or crossing to get into a car. Parents need to join the pick-up line or park and then come and collect their child.

Fines and demerit points for parking offences in SCHOOL ZONES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL ZONE parking offences</th>
<th>Fine</th>
<th>Demerit Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disobey ‘No Stopping’ sign</td>
<td>$253</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disobey ‘No Parking’ sign</td>
<td>$141</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Park</td>
<td>$253</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop on / near Pedestrian Crossing</td>
<td>$338</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop in Bus Zone</td>
<td>$253</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stopping on footpath / nature strip</td>
<td>$141</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop on / across driveway</td>
<td>$141</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Road Safety

P&C News

2011 P&C Annual General Meeting

Want to be involved in your Child’s school?

Want to make a difference to your school?

Want to voice an opinion on events held to raise money for your school?

Why not come along to our AGM and stand for an executive position?

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 15 February at 7pm in the Performing Arts Room.

All positions will become vacant. The positions are:

♦ President
♦ Vice President x 2
♦ Treasurer
♦ Secretary
Please note there have been many changes to the Canteen menu. If you require a new menu please pick one up from the Canteen or check the school’s website.

We are currently short on volunteers for the following days -
Tuesday—Week 1
Friday—Week 2
Tuesday—Week 3
If you can help out on any of these days please contact Sharon or Robyn on.

Thank you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Canteen Roster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theresa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pick Up Zone Roster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caps for Sale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Support your House at the swimming carnival by wearing its colour. Buy a cap for only $5.00 in your house’s colour and wear it with pride. Simply fill in the form below and return it before **Friday, 11 February**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support Your House Caps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:.................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class:...............................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Colour:....................</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| We are currently short on volunteers for the following days -
Tuesday—Week 1
Friday—Week 2
Tuesday—Week 3
If you can help out on any of these days please contact Sharon or Robyn on.

Thank you.
Main Target: 1,000,000 Collected: 252,114 To Go: 747,886
2010 Target: 250,000 Collected: 252,114 To Go: -2,114

Well done CPPS, we reached our target for 2010! In fact, we were 2,114 coins over our target. To reach our target of 250,000 coins in 2010, we had to collect 62,531 coins but we managed to collect 64,645 coins which is $3,232.25! This was a great effort. Thanks to everyone who brought in their 5 cent coins. Special thanks to Iris in 2/3K, Laura in 4S, Georgina in 5L, Emma in 4G and Katherine and Akina in KS. Congratulations to KC and 4G for bringing in the most coins for term 4. Both classes will receive a voucher for a free iceblock from the canteen.