



CASSILIS PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 6

Tuesday 4th March 2025

From the Principal's Desk

It was lovely to see so many of our families attend our Meet the Staff afternoon last Tuesday and have an opportunity hear how things will be operating in the McMaster classroom this year. It is no mean feat ensuring that quality learning takes place in a combined K-5 class – however our wonderful teachers and support staff have planned extensively to create routines and structures across all Key Learning Areas that allow for quality differentiated activities take place.



The partnership between home and school is one the biggest drivers of student success so we truly value your enthusiasm and support in joining us on the 2025 learning journey.

A special shout out to Mrs Anne-Maree Nairne and Mrs Marianne Brooker for volunteering their time to look after the students to allow the parents to have uninterrupted time with the teachers in the classroom. It truly is a team effort at our special little school!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed their feedback on our 2024 processes and provided their thoughts on future practices that are helping us develop our school's new 2025-2028 school excellence plan (SEP). The feedback on our school vision and context statement have helped us describe our community's shared values and high-level aspirations for school improvement across the next 4 years. Over the next 6 weeks using the data collected from both parents, staff and students we will be finalising our strategic directions and the high-level projects we will be undertaking to achieve our joint goals. We look forward to sharing the final document with you once it is completed.

Special thanks and congratulations to Mr Brian Cornish for his vision and planning of the Cassilis Commemorative Garden. Brian's vision has seen the school's grant submission being awarded with a \$2000 grant from the Anzac Community Grants Program. This funding will see

Stage One of the project come to life over the next few months. The vision is to create a commemorative garden at the front entrance of Cassilis Public, serving as a daily reminder to the school community and visitors, of the sacrifice and service of all our defense force personnel.

Wishing everyone a wonderful fortnight ahead of fun and learning at Cassilis!

Natalie Hurd
Acting Principal

UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS: (refer to Sentral Parents' forum)

Mar. 7 HEALTHY HAROLD 9:15am – 12 noon

Toybox 9:30am – 12 noon

Mar. 21 Toybox 9:30am – 12 noon

Mar. 28 CROSS COUNTRY

Apr. 4 (Cross Country backup date if necessary)

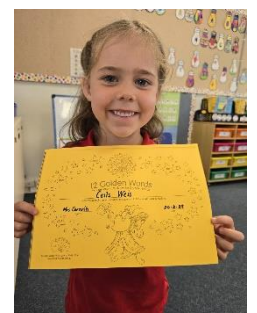
Apr. 11 Assembly, Easter Parade, last day Term 1



NEWS



New Joey, Ceils Weis, has already been awarded her certificate for knowing the **Golden Words**. Congratulations on this great achievement, Ceils.



ASSEMBLY – Mid-Term 1

Our mid-term Assembly was held on Friday 28th February in the McMaster Room, hosted by Ms Bowen.

All our students delighted family and friends with their public speaking, reciting some well-known nursery rhymes.

Cooper led the group in Welcome to Country, and students were very enthusiastic in their singing of the National Anthem and School Song.

Mrs Nairne presented Assembly Awards to two hard-working students.

Eli Cherry – for continuously striving for excellence and achievement.

Owen Cherry – for consistent effort and outstanding achievement.

Eli and Owen, you should be very proud of yourselves as we are.



Eli



Owen



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Week 4 Congratulations to **Owen Cherry** for always applying himself to any learning task, and for being a positive example of kind and respectful behaviour.

Week 5 Congratulations to **Cecilia Weis** for settling fantastically into Kindergarten, and for her enthusiasm in learning phonics.



SCHOOL SPORTS – TUESDAYS

Training for **Cross Country** is in full swing, with students improving their stamina each week.

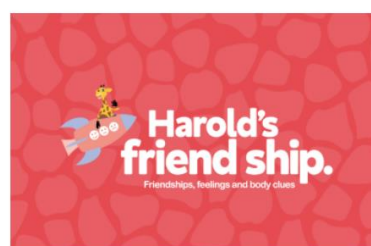
Swimming Carnival Coolah 21st February

It was wonderful to have Owen and Eli Cherry and Sonny Jeppesen take part in the annual Coonabarabran Zone Swimming Carnival at Coolah. They performed very well and enjoyed participating at this level with students from several other schools. We are very proud of you.



THIS WEEK AT SCHOOL: Friday 7th March HEALTHY HAROLD IS HERE

We're excited to hear all about Friends & Feelings, and Harold's friend ship when the Healthy Harold van comes to school on Friday.



CLASS NEWS

HOW OUR SMALL SCHOOL WORKS: McMaster Classroom Explanation

In our multi-age classroom, students from Kindergarten to Year 5 learn together in a supportive and inclusive environment. A significant portion of learning is conducted as a whole group, with careful differentiation to ensure that all students are challenged and supported at their individual levels. This structure fosters a strong sense of community, where younger students benefit from the guidance of their older peers, and older students develop leadership and mentoring skills.

Every student is encouraged to showcase their individual strengths throughout the year, whether in academic subjects, creative pursuits, in sport, or leadership opportunities. Lessons are designed to be flexible, allowing students to engage with content in ways that suit their learning styles and abilities. For literacy and numeracy, students are grouped into two learning teams:

- **The Joeys** (Early Stage 1) – Kindergarten students receive targeted instruction suited to their developmental needs.
- **The Roos** (Stage 1, 2, and 3) – Year 1 to Year 5 students work together, with learning tailored to their respective stages.

This structure ensures that all students receive appropriate instruction while still benefiting from collaboration across age groups. The classroom environment promotes independence, cooperation, and a love of learning, making it a unique and enriching experience for all.

Ms. Bowen



THIS WEEK AT SCHOOL: Tuesday 4th March

Pancake Day



P & C NEWS

The P&C were successful with a grant application to Moolarben Coal and will be purchasing a new cubby house. A great asset for our school and its visitors.

- At this stage, the new play equipment is still set to be installed this term - very exciting!
- A date has been set for the CPS 150th celebration and the P&C are working with the 150th committee to deliver a wonderful day for all our visitors.
- This month we are focusing on preparation for our upcoming cross-country carnival and allowing the Ag Plot to regenerate while we work on our plans for the area for the rest of this year.
- A date has been set for the P&C AGM- March 16th, 2pm at the Royal Cassilis Hotel. All welcome.

Shannon Davey
P & C President



SAVE THE DATE:**Cassilis Public School 150th Anniversary**

Artwork by Matt Ottley

NSW Department of Education

**2025 NSW Premier's
Reading Challenge**
Start reading now!

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

**Key dates
for students
in K-10:**
Challenge opens
Monday 24 February
Challenge closes
for student entries
Friday 22 August

**NSW PREMIER'S
READING CHALLENGE 2025**

Since 2002, the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge has been supporting students in NSW to develop a love of reading for leisure and pleasure, and providing encouragement to engage with quality literature. This year's challenge began 24th February and ends on 22nd August, 2025.

This is not a competition, but offers students the opportunity to read a wide variety of text.

We have been given a comprehensive reading list, available at school.

The requirements are as follows:

Kinder – Year 2 min. 20 from PRC book list plus 10 individual choice (total at least 30 books). These can be read by the student, or be read to them.

Year 3 – Year 5 min. 10 from PRC book list plus 10 individual choice (total at least 20 books). These can be read on their own, or they can have help choosing books.

Certificates of Recognition with the student's name on, will be issued (but not made public) to the students who have completed the challenge.

We are planning fun activities at school to incorporate the challenge, and with Mrs Nairne in the library.

Please feel free to contact school for more information, or look up the website

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

TOYBOX

7th March
21st March
4th April





EXPLORING PATTERNS



Our students have been busy exploring the fascinating world of repeating patterns in Mathematics! This week, we focused on the idea that patterns have a core that repeats over and over and over again. Through hands-on activities, discussions, and movement, students learned to identify, describe, and extend different types of repeating patterns.

Discovering the Core of Patterns

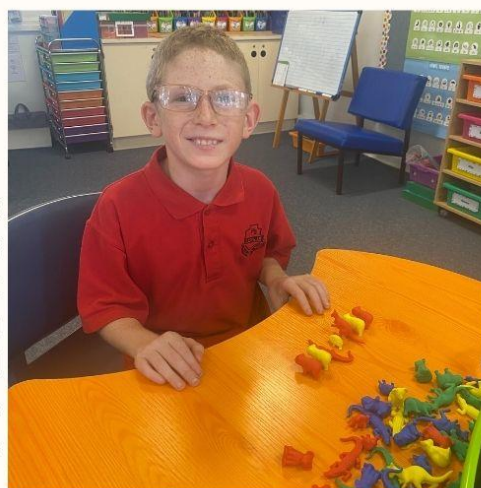
Students explored how a pattern core can be described using letters or symbols, such as AB, ABC, ABB, or ABA. They worked on:

- Identifying the core of a repeating pattern.
- Describing repeating cores using symbols.
- Creating and extending patterns with a core that repeats.
- Using their understanding to create vertical patterns.



FINDING AND CREATING REPEATING PATTERNS

Students were encouraged to look for patterns in their everyday lives and worked with various materials to create their own. At different learning stations, they experimented with patterns using stickers, coloured animals, and natural items (such as paper daisies, gumnuts, and banksia seed pods), paper clips, buttons, and colouring activities.



COMBINING MATHEMATICS WITH MOVEMENT

In an exciting cross-curricular connection, we combined our CAPA "Moving Me" Unit with Mathematics! Working in pairs, students created patterns using body percussion (clapping, clicking and stomping in a range of repeated sequences).

Students performed a range of actions and dance moves to music, reinforcing their understanding of repeating patterns in a fun and engaging way.

By the end of the lesson, students had a deeper understanding of how patterns work and could confidently describe and extend different types of repeating patterns. It was a fantastic hands-on learning experience that connected mathematics, movement, and creativity!



STUDENTS
EXPLORING
PATTERNS WITH A
RANGE OF
MATERIALS

