Last Thursday we held our first Evacuation drill for the year. The students and staff did a brilliant job. **This week we will be holding our ‘Lock-Down/Out’ drill.** As per the evacuation drill, I ask that you please talk with your children about what it is they do during a Lock-Down/Out and reassure them that they are safe and well cared for by their teachers and I. Students should know the difference between the evacuation and lock-down/out sirens and procedures as teachers have been talking with them about the new practices for 2015.

The staff and I have been busy working on our school’s three Strategic Directions for our 2015-2017 School Plan. The strategic directions have been created as a direct result from staff input and from the Parent Workshop that was held toward the end of 2014. Our three strategic directions are:

1. Enhancing the Quality of Student Learning
2. Developing Staff & Leader Learning
3. Creating a Culture of Excellence

For greater parental input, I ask that you please complete the short survey located at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TJSTYBR](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TJSTYBR). The survey is directly linked to the Strategic Directions and should only take 5-10 minutes to complete. I thank you in advance.

Bede Darcey
CEPS Cross Country Preparation

Parents are advised that as part of the schools Cross Country preparation, **ALL students are permitted to wear joggers to school each day** for the next three school weeks. Students may like to bring their joggers with them and quickly change into them before running each day (please remember that students should know how to tie their own shoelaces if they are bringing joggers to change into).

We aim to ensure the safety of all students, including the care of feet and joints.

School Vegetable Garden

This year 4/5 Purple will be tending and caring for our school vegetable garden (behind the Stage 2 classrooms). This project will support our Science and Environmental Education studies this year.

Many of you may have noticed that the gardens have been weeded and dug up ready for planting.

We have already had some donations towards the garden but would appreciate some more.

We are in need of **gardening gloves, watering cans, any gardening tools, packets of seeds and hose attachments such as sprinklers**.

If you are able to donate anything to our garden please send them to the 4/5 classroom.

All donations will be greatly and enthusiastically accepted.

Thank you

4/5 Purple

School Native Garden

This year 3/4Green & 3/4Turquoise will be taking responsibility for the care of a new native garden behind their classrooms. This project will support our Stage 2 Science and Environmental studies this year. We are currently going about removing all of the grass and weeds from the area so that we may mulch the entire spot. We are asking for **used newspapers** to lay down once all the grass has been removed. Newspapers can be left on the table out the front of the Stage 2 classrooms—thank you in advance!

3/4G & 3/4T
Clean Up Australia Day
All students (K-6) will be participating in Clean Up Australia this Friday (27.2.2015). K-2 will be cleaning in inside of the school grounds, Stage 2 will be cleaning the perimeter of the school boundary and Stage 3 will be cleaning the neighbourhood block around the school (please see note for Stage 3).

**Students are asked to please bring along a pair of gloves on Friday.**
Parents are advised that each class will be under the direct supervision of the class teacher and that students will be talked with about picking up dangerous items.
For more information, please visit http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/
We are glad to be supporting this very worthy community event at Corrimal East Primary School.

School Hats
The Uniform Shop now has in stock some school caps. The school bucket hats are due to be received this week. Students need their **school hat** each day to be able to play in the playground. **School caps are available this week from the front office** ($15 per hat); correct money is essential. If you are experiencing any difficulties paying for a school hat, please contact the office and speak with Mr Darcey.

Changes in Exemption from School Procedures
The NSWDEC guidelines for the granting of Exemption from school has changed. No longer can school Principals grant exemptions for travel during the school term. Parents do have the opportunity to apply for student leave but the student will be marked as on leave, not as exempt. This means the absences will be recorded on the NSWDEC attendance register.
These changes are consistent with the National Standards for Student Attendance Data and Attendance Register. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the office staff.

Student Banking
At CEPS our school banking day is **Tuesday**. Students place their bank book in the Student banking slot, the office processes the deposits and the bank books are returned to the students for the following week. Starter packs are available from the front office.

Shamrocks Junior Rugby
**Registration Days 2015**
Wednesday 25th February 5pm – 7pm
Wed 4th March –
last registration, first training session
BBQ and meet the coaches – from 4.30pm

*Free* Shamrock beanie for new registrations

Fees - $90 (includes shorts, socks)
Age groups - U7's to U17's

Registrations to be held at Ocean Park Woonona

Contact: Andrew 0432 944543

Know someone that wants to play soccer this season?
Fernhill JFC is still accepting registrations for boys & girls in
Under 6s, 7s, 8s, 9s, 10 girls, 11s.

Please contact Allyson on 0425267068 or
secretary@fernhilljuniors.com

Training starts early March 2015 and the season kicks off end of March
Come join us! It is great fun for everyone
Upcoming P&C Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held prior to the general P&C meeting on **Tuesday 10 March 2015**. The AGM will commence at 6.30 pm. The AGM consists of the President’s Annual Report, The Treasurer’s Annual Report and any other Annual Reports required as well as the election of all office bearers and representatives.

All Office bearer positions are declared vacant and available for election at the AGM.

The positions to be elected are:
- President
- Two Vice Presidents
- Secretary
- Treasurer

The other representative positions to be elected at the AGM are:
- Fundraising Officer
- Fundraising Sub-Committee
- Publicity Officer
- Uniform Shop Officer

Uniform Shop Sub-Committee

Please note that no more than one officer position can be held by the same person and two people from the same family can hold office bearer positions at the same time.

Only members of the P&C who were financial before the closing of the February P&C meeting are eligible to nominate and vote at the AGM.

If you have any questions about the AGM and/or would like to nominate or be nominated for a position with the P&C, please contact us using the details below. Information is also available at [www.pandc.org.au](http://www.pandc.org.au)

P&C Mufti Day Reminder

The P&C is running a mufti day on **Friday 27 March 2015**. Please remember to bring along an Easter egg as a donation to the CEPS P&C on this day.

The eggs donated will be used to make fantastic Easter hampers that will be raffled at the Easter celebration/Open day on **Thursday 2 April 2015**.

Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser

The CEPS P&C will be fundraising by hosting a BBQ at Bunnings Wollongong on **Sunday 29 March 2015**. This fundraiser was very successful in 2014.

We are looking for volunteers to help cook and serve between 9am & 4pm. We will operate a roster with 1 hour time slots allotted to volunteers. Thank you to those people who have already returned their Bunnings BBQ Volunteer Form. If you are available to volunteer, please promptly return your Bunnings BBQ Volunteer Form to the P&C slot in the office foyer.

If you would like more information or require a Volunteer Form, please contact the P&C Secretary, Carol Zecevic on 0401 093 475 or at makeupgirl_cc@yahoo.com.au.

Easter Celebrations/Open Day P&C BBQ Lunch

As part of the Easter Celebration/Open Day, on **Thursday 2 April 2015** the CEPS P&C will be providing a BBQ Lunch. Items will be pre-ordered for collection at lunchtime on the day.

Volunteers to help out with the BBQ Lunch will be greatly appreciated.

If you are able to help out on this day please fill in the attached, CEPS P&C Easter Celebration/Open Day, BBQ Lunch Volunteer form and return it to the P&C slot in the office.

Have a terrific week.

Lorelle Longbottom
P&C President
0402 183 629 / lorellel@dgblaw.com.au

Carol Zecevic
P&C Secretary/Publicity Officer
0401 093 475 / makeupgirl_cc@yahoo.com.au
### Academic Competitions

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) are independent skills-based assessments with a competition element. Commonly referred to as the UNSW tests, these tests will be held between May and August in Science, Digital Technologies, Writing, Spelling, English and Mathematics. Competitions are open to students in Years 3-6, with Year 2 students being able to participate in Science, English and Mathematics.

If you are interested in participating in these competitions please see your child’s class teacher for an application. If you have any further questions please speak to Mrs Boyd.

Applications for entries close on Monday 9th March 2015.

### Kumar Family Donation

At our last P&C meeting, those present agreed that the school and P&C association would align to support the Kumar family after the tragic accident over the holiday break.

Those families and/or community members that would like to support the Kumar family are encouraged to make a donation of whatever monetary value you wish to contribute. This money will be collected into a trust fund which will go towards the payment of educational activities and expenses for the Kumar children.

We understand that there are many families from CEPS that would like to support the Kumar family and this option is available to all.

If you kindly choose to donate to the fund, please send in your donation in an envelope marked;

**Kumar Family Fund Donation**

$ ____ (amount enclosed)

Name (if you choose to do so)

(Please place your donation in your child’s class slot.)

If you have any questions, please speak with Mr Darcey (Principal) or Mrs Longbottom (P&C President).

We thank the Corrimal East Public School community for their overwhelming support and kindness they have shown throughout the past couple of weeks. We have a wonderful school community. Well done CEPS.

### Made Fresh Canteen

Parents are reminded that the **NEW TERM 1 canteen menu** is available on the school website. Please DO NOT order from the 2014 menu. Paper copies of the menu are available from the office if required.

### Permission to Publish and/or Internet Use

Some families have not returned the Permission to Publish and/or Internet Use at school forms. Parents are advised that we are now assuming that those families agree to having their child’s photograph and/or name published and for the child/ren to use the internet at school.

### Before and/or After School Discussions

Parents are reminded that we request that they **contact the school office and make an appointment** to speak with class teachers. This allows teachers to ensure they have all relevant information on the child and/or matter to be discussed.

We aim to ensure a positive working relationship with our entire school community. Thank you!
Homework Expectations
Each teacher in our school has outlined the homework that will be set for their class in the Term 1 Class Newsletter. Homework should be something your child can complete independently. It is meant to be stress-free. Homework in Kindergarten and Year 1 should be short and simple. For more information about homework please visit:

From the above website, Thea Eyles, an early childhood expert with the NSW Department of Education and Communities, says young children in the early years of school need the time to play. "I think the most powerful message around the homework issue for parents of children who are in Kindergarten and Year 1 is that playing is learning," Thea says.

While Homework is an important connection between home and school, young children need time to socialise and time to play. This is crucial in developing the ‘whole’ child.

Reading Levels and Home Reading
The aim of Home Reading is for your child to practise the skills that they have been taught at school. The Home Reader should not be difficult for your child to read. Your child’s Home Reading level may be some levels below what they are reading in class with their teacher. When your child reads with their teacher we call this level the ‘instructional’ level. This is the level at which your child’s teacher can teach the new skills your child is ready to learn to help them to progress beyond their current level.

Home Reading should not be difficult. It should promote the skill of fluency. This is when your child can read smoothly in a conversational tone. It is also normal for your child to move back some levels at the beginning of the year. This is normally due to the long holiday break where your child has not been intensively practising their reading skills.

Reading is not a race. Just as children learn to walk at different rates they also learn to read at different rates. Learning to read takes time, patience, support and above all encouragement not comparison. Please do not compare your child to their friends. This can negatively affect your child’s self-confidence when learning to read.

Please remember to read to your child for enjoyment. Reading your child’s Home Reader should not replace the very important time of sharing a story every night. We want your child to develop a love of reading. If you have any concerns regarding Home Reading or your child’s reading development please make an appointment to discuss this with your child’s teacher.

Thank you for your support as we teach your child one of the most complex tasks – to read.

Communicating with your child’s teacher
In the past few weeks many parents have been approaching teachers, informally before and after school. Please make an appointment to meet with your child’s teacher if there is something important you need to discuss. It is not appropriate to discuss some matters in front of other parents and students. It is also important for your child’s teacher to be able to give you the time you deserve when raising concerns about your child’s welfare and/or education. When you make an appointment with your child’s teacher please inform them of the topics or issues you would like to discuss; this gives the teacher time to prepare for the meeting and to gather any necessary information to make your meeting as successful and productive as possible.

Teachers have many different responsibilities and commitments at school and ‘having a chat’ when they are expected to be at a staff meeting or to be on playground duty is not possible nor appropriate. We encourage all parents to work in partnership with the school for the best outcome for your child and your family.

Realistic Expectations
At our school we promote, demonstrate and uphold the value of respect. Respect for our colleagues, respect for our students, their families and the broader Corrimal community. Please be mindful when having discussions with staff regarding educational programs or routines that they have worked extremely hard to prepare for your child’s day. We aim to have a collaborative atmosphere at our school where teachers and families work together to achieve the best possible outcome for each and every child.

Kind regards,
K-2 Teachers
Assembly Award Recipients– Term 1, Week 4

Value Awards Recipients

Merit Awards Recipients

Wollongong HS of the Performing Arts – Year 7, 2016

Information packs and applications for the audition process for Year 6 (2015) looking to enrol in Year 7 (2016) at Wollongong HS of the Performing Arts are available at the CEPS front office. Applications close Friday 6th March, 2015.

Auditions will be held in the last three weeks of this term.

The school will be holding an Expo Evening this Thursday 26th February from 5.30pm—7pm.

Talented Sport and Development Program

On Tuesday March 10th, Illawarra Sports High School will be holding the Year 6 Trials for 2016 enrolment in the Talented Sports and Development Program.

Date – Tuesday March 10th, 2015
Time – 8.30am to 12.30pm
Who—Current Year 6 students looking to trial for entry into the Talented Sports and Development Program 2016. More information and entry forms are available at our school office.
Corrimal East Public School
2015 Easter Celebration & Open Day

Thursday 2nd April, 2015

11:30am – In the hall (Whole School Assembly)

Theme: Easter

12:40 – Open classrooms

Come and see the great work of our students

1:00 – BBQ Lunch & Play with the children

Enjoy a BBQ lunch on the lawns and have a play

Parents and Family Friends are most welcome to attend our special day.

Come along and make our last day of Term 1 an exciting and enjoyable day for everyone!

Corrimal East Public School
P&C Mufti Day
Friday 27th March, 2015

Students are encouraged to come to school on Friday 27th March in Mufti (weekend clothes).
We ask that students bring along an Easter Egg for being out of uniform. The P&C will use the eggs to make Easter Hampers that will be raffled off at the Easter celebration/Open day on Friday 2nd April.

Thanks for your support.
This term the English Concept of study across the school (K-6) is Imagery. Below is a piece of writing by Jayden Friend in 2Red. What ‘Images’ does this conjure up for you?

*Well done Jayden, this is a fantastic poem! Mr Darcey.*

---

**The Beach**

The water is cool and calm, the water is like a farm,

The water is as blue as my eye,
I can always see birds in the sky.

The sand is as hot as a frying pan, I always like drinking from a can.

I love to play in the sun because I always have fun.

The sand is as soft as a pillow, the air smells as good as a marshmallow.

The beach has birds that fly,
I love watching them in the sky.

---

/Excellent work!\
CEPS Student Welfare System—Promoting Positive Behaviour and a Harmonious School Culture

Corrimal East Primary School has four core values that underpin all school programs and interactions. These four core values are Care, Effort, Pride & Safety. The Corrimal East Primary School Student Award System aims to recognise individual student achievement throughout the school year. Every student should have the chance to reach the three major levels of achievement (Bronze, Silver & Gold) based on their efforts in the identified categories.

Below are 4 images taken from the 2015 CEPS Student Welfare Policy for your information. The revised policy will be tabled at the next P&C meeting, 10th March, 2015.

CEPS Strategies to Promote Good Discipline and Effective Learning

Corrimal East Public School employs a variety of strategies to promote positive behaviour and effective learning. These strategies combine to promote personal development, self-esteem and self-discipline. This will be achieved by:

- Being respectful, kind and friendly
- Developing and modelling fairness and respect
- building positive relationships with the school

Care

- Strive to do your best at all times
- promote and inspire a love of learning
- support and encourage discipline and learning

Effort

- in appearance, reputation and achievements of your school through the achievements of students and staff
- respect and support the efforts of students, teachers and other community members

Pride

- acting thoughtfully and carefully towards ourselves and others
- foster a safe and secure environment for all
- being aware of and reinforcing safe behaviour

Safety

CEPS Student Award System

The Corrimal East Public School Student Award system aims to recognise individual student achievement throughout the school year. Every student should have the chance to reach the three major levels of achievement (Bronze, Silver & Gold) based on their efforts in the identified categories.

The system provides a framework to foster:
- a whole school focus on values
- consistency across the school
- students to gain a clear understanding of how to advance under the system, linking their awards to efforts in school activities
- positive attitude towards school

This award system runs over a school year. All students start again at the beginning of each year.

Award Categories

Students can receive a variety of awards from teachers across six different categories.

Value Award
Every week, staff will identify a school 'value' to make a whole school focus. Teachers will discuss this value in their classrooms and present one Value Award per week at assembly.

Merit Award
Mainstream Teachers will present two awards per week and Support Teachers will present one award per week at assembly to students for efforts and academic achievements in class.

Sports Award
Every week, each teacher will aim to select at least one student who has illustrated good sportsmanship or enthusiasm in Friday sports activities and/or fitness. Class lists recording these awards will be kept by each class teacher and reviewed at the end of Term 2 and beginning of Term 4. These awards are presented in class.

Uniform Award
There will be a spot check conducted across the school once per term. On this day, class teachers will be responsible for checking and awarding a uniform award to students in full school uniform. These awards are presented in class.

Library Award
The teacher librarian will award a Library Award to students who participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge, borrow books frequently from the library or show great enthusiasm and involvement in library activities. The teacher librarian can liaise with the classroom teacher when deciding on awards. These awards are handed out during library lessons.

Homework Award
Students who complete 5 consecutive weeks of homework will receive a homework award from their class teacher. These awards are presented in class (this award does not apply in kindergarten).

Levels of Achievement

Bronze
5 awards (from any category)

Silver
10 awards (from any category)

Gold
15 awards (from any category)

Special Awards

At our school Presentation Assembly (end of Term 4), each student may be awarded a 'Special Award'. These awards, both in inclusion and/or recipient, are at the discretion of school staff and are ultimately the school Principal.

Special Awards may include:
- Leadership
- Citizenship
- Academic Excellence (DUX)
- All-Rounder
- Sporting Excellence
**CEPS P&C Fundraiser Bunnings BBQ Volunteer Form**

I/We, ________________________________ (full name/s please) am able to volunteer for CEPS P&C Bunnings Fundraiser to be held on Saturday 28th March, 2015.

My/Our best contact phone number is _____________________ and email _____________________

I/We am available for the following hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8am - 9am</td>
<td>Setup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9am - 10am</td>
<td>Cooking &amp; Serving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10am - 11am</td>
<td>Cooking &amp; Serving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11am – 12pm</td>
<td>Cooking &amp; Serving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12pm – 1pm</td>
<td>Cooking &amp; Serving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pm – 2pm</td>
<td>Cooking &amp; Serving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2pm – 3pm</td>
<td>Cooking &amp; Serving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm – 4pm</td>
<td>Cooking &amp; Serving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4pm – 5pm</td>
<td>Pack up</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

____________________________   _______________
Signed       Date

**CEPS P&C BBQ Fundraiser Volunteer Form**

*(To be held on Thursday 2nd April, 2015)*

I/We, ________________________________ (full name/s please) am able to assist with the CEPS P&C BBQ Lunch at the Easter Celebration/Open Day on Thursday 2nd April, 2015.

My/Our best contact phone number is _____________________ and email _____________________

____________________________   _______________
Signed       Date