From the Principal:
Dear Parents and Carers,
The students who went to League Tag in Cessnock yesterday had a fun day and performed well. Ms Logan-Pye commented on the excellent behaviour of the students and how proud she was of the sportsmanship shown.

One of the gifts donated to our school by last year’s departing Year 6 was a basketball backboard and ring. This was installed last week and our current students have been enjoying shooting hoops. It was very disappointing to arrive at school on Monday to find that vandals had tried to remove it, causing some damage. Luckily, our GA was able to fix it this time.

A couple of weeks ago vandals snapped off one of the taps near the toilet which gushed water all night until the cleaner arrived the next morning and organised a plumber. In the last holidays the security cameras were smashed and a hole was cut in the fence. Acts of vandalism like these cost us money and time. Please help us by reporting anyone seen in the school grounds after hours or on weekends. Ring the Cessnock Police immediately on 4991 0199 or at least let a member of staff know asap. Working together we may be able to stamp out senseless damage to our school property.

Mrs Susan Sims,
Principal.

Dance 2B Fit
The students are really enjoying these dance sessions. Thanks to the P&C for sponsoring this activity. Parents are invited to come to the school on March 19 and/or March 26 to watch the students do their dance routine.

Times are as follows:
9am to 9.45am … Yrs 1/2/3
9.45am to 10.30am … Yrs 4/5/6
10.30 to 11am … Kindergarten

Naplan
Students in Years 3 and 5 will participate in Naplan testing on May 12, 13 and 14, 2015.

Classroom teachers will cover the necessary training with all students in the time up to testing dates so all students will be familiar with testing.

Safety around our school
To ensure the safety of all students parents must not drive into or park in the school grounds to drop off or pick up students at any time. This is for all school days including Friday afternoons when assembly is held. The safety of our students is most important!!!

Parents are reminded:
**that parking at the front of the school is rear to kerb. Please park as directed only and not across parking area when dropping off or collecting children.

**at shop gate all students are to cross at pedestrian crossing at all times. Parents waiting for children are asked to cross only at crossing and not in front of shop.

Absences
*All student absences must be followed by a note when the student returns. Parents can email the school ellalong-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au or telephone the school before 9am on the morning of absence.

****Please note:
Update to School Attendance Policy - as of February 3, 2015 -
‘On this date the capacity to grant exemption for the purpose of holidays or travel outside of vacation period has been removed’. Students will now be marked absent as ‘leave’.

*Students arriving late must come to the office before going to the classroom. Parents collecting students early must come to the office before proceeding to the classroom.

P & C News
*P & C membership is $2.00 per family and payable at office or at P & C Meeting. The next P & C Meeting to be held Tuesday, April 21 at 3.30pm. All Welcome!!!!
*PLEASE REMEMBER ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST HAVE A ‘WORKING WITH CHILDREN’ CHECK completed. Please bring to office so it can be recorded. The school must sight this document each school year.

**Canteen News**
*The canteen is open each Friday for recess and lunch. If you cannot do your rostered day on the canteen please contact Rachel Chapman or Natasha Kirk.*

Friday, March 13 Frith Bowmaker and Dawn Samwell
March 16 Natasha Kirk
March 18 Kylie Clark
Friday, March 20 Scott Shakespeare, Dean Jackson and Steve Sills

**School Uniform** available at office
*Red School Shirt $30 each *Red School Hat $12 each *Girls School Dress $45 each
*Red Polo Fleece Jacket $30 each *Girls Uniform Material $15 per metre

**Student Belongings**
Please make sure all of your child/children’s clothing including jumpers, lunch boxes, etc. are clearly marked with his /her name. Lost property box in office foyer.

**Friday Assembly and Merit Awards**
At Friday assembly teachers give out Merit Awards to selected students. When you child has received 5 Merit Awards please bring them to the school office and a Principal’s Award will be presented at the following assembly. If 5 Principal Awards are received a school pen is a awarded. *Awards must be at the office* no later than Thursday morning at 10am to be included in the next day’s assembly.

**Dates for your Calendar**
Y4 3/4/5/6 Excursion March 16
School Photos March 18
Harmony Day March 19
Dance 2B Fit March 19 and 26
Mothers Day Stall Orders due March 20
State Elections Cake Stall March 28
Easter Hat Parade,
Raffle draw and
Last day Term 1 April 2

Term 2 begins for Students April 21
Anzac Day March April 25
Water Saving Show and
Special Canteen April 29 (Congewai PS to visit EPS from 1pm)
Mothers Day Stall May 8 (Yr 6 Fundraiser)
Naplan Testing Yrs 3 and 5 May 12, 13 and 14

**Assembly Awards** - Term 1 Weeks 5 and 6
PBL Award - Aari Benbow, Mykailah Wilson, Ryder Impey, Hollie Moore, Sean Chant, Tobey Harrison, Lillian Mansfield and Jordanna Ratcliffe.


Multi Lit Award - Jake Jobson.

Principal Award - Everlyn Anderson, Wiley Cameron, Isaac Mills, Logan Cullen, Seth Koop and Hollie Moore.

Pen Award - Logan Cullen.

Gold Star Award - Seth Koop, Tyler Clark, Thomas Hancock and Madison Lucas.

Succeeding in science
Encouraging your teen to ask questions and helping them find the answers is top of the list in helping them to succeed in science.

Facts about tutors
Private tutoring to give kids a helping hand in their schooling is a growing business. However, it's also an area where parents can be vulnerable to bogus offers and misleading advertising.

Public speaking
Does your child suffer glossophobia? Fear of public speaking is common. Try creating opportunities for your child to present speeches to the family, without putting pressure on them to perform. Here are some tried and true tips to make your child’s next speech a success.

Science starters
Did humans live with dinosaurs? Does the moon disappear in the day? Kids love to know the answers to life's mysteries but there are a few facts they often get wrong in the name of science.