I would like to welcome back all of our families from a well-deserved Easter break. I am sure everyone enjoyed the long weekends and chocolate surprises.

Students returned last week to 20 men in orange jumpers lopping 17 trees around the school. It was not ideal timing, however we have removed a couple of dangerous trees from areas where students could have been in danger and it has not impacted too greatly on our school. We retained many great trees, particularly the two at the back of the school which provide a fair deal of shade for the students at play times.

As a result, we now have a multitude of mulch out the front of the school. We would like to utilise this at school if possible, however we need some help to move it around. If you are able to help out with this, could you please let me know when you are available so we can organise for it to be moved ASAP.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
Thanks to everyone who ensured students were in full school uniform for our photos on Monday. The kids looked great and the photos will hopefully reflect this.

CHICKENS
Our chickens are growing quickly and have found a new home under the carport near the sandpit. Thanks to the Roughley family who organised the metal chook shed you can see in the photo. Thanks also to the Carrigan family who looked after them over the holidays and didn’t lose any!

The chooks have been roaming the school over the last couple of weeks getting used to their new surroundings and the students have really enjoyed looking after them.

We will be able to tell the roosters from the hens soon, so if you would like a rooster please let us know. We have already had one family express interest, however I am sure there will be more than one rooster among the group. If you are interested please let Maryce know next time you are in.

SMALL SCHOOLS’ CROSS COUNTRY
Our annual fun run was held last Friday. The students were amazing, some running up to 10kms! What a great effort.

Thank you to the P&C for organising the ice blocks and sponsorship cards. Sponsorships have been coming in to the office slowly. Please ensure all money is returned ASAP.

Successful students will take part in the annual Small Schools’ Cross Country tomorrow at Glossodia. Notes have been sent home already. Parents are to organise transport for their children to and from the carnival. Students will walk the course at 10am, however we ask that
students arrive well before that time to ensure they find where the school is set up and get organised before they compete. The carnival is due to finish at around 2pm.

PET TALK
Students in Kindergarten to Year 2 will have a visitor next week from Responsible Pet program who will drop in to talk to the students about how to care for your pets. This is sure to be an informative session for the students.

CIRCLE OF SECURITY
Peppercorn Family Services are offering a free parenting course at school over the next eight weeks. The course will focus on supporting parents to develop relationships with their children to help manage behaviour. The program was due to start today, however has been delayed by a week and will start next Thursday. A copy of the flyer has been included if you are interested. You can either contact Peppercorn directly, or let us know at school and we can pass on your details.

P&C WORKING BEE
The P&C are holding a working bee on Sunday 25th May at school. A separate note has been sent out about this event, however I encourage you to come along if you are able. We have a huge school site and it can be quite difficult to manage at times and we would really love your support if you can spare some time.

HAWKESBURY HELPING HANDS
You may or may not have seen in the local papers and in the Daily Telegraph that Cassidy and her Mum have been caring for the homeless and needy in the Windsor area for a couple of years now, seeing Cassidy earn a Young Citizen of the Year award in the Hawkesbury, the youngest ever recipient of this award. What an amazing achievement. You can click on the link below, or check out Facebook to read the full article.


It is great to see young people working hard for charity and giving back to the community in which they live. We can all do our part to help out those in need. In the past we have donated to a variety of charities and important events. However, we have as a school decided to support Cassidy and her Mum in a small way by offering to collect canned goods and pass them on to Cassidy and her Mum so that they can be distributed to the needy in the area. This will not be a one off event, the collection spot will be available as a permanent effort for Cattai Public School to give back to the community.

If you feel you are able to help, the collection bin will be available in the front office. Your support is greatly appreciated by those in need.

EASTER SHOW SUCCESS
During the Easter break while everyone was enjoying chocolates, or buying show bags, one of our students, Angus, was working hard, showing his animals. Angus has had some success recently at local shows in and around the area, however competing at the Royal Easter Show is quite an achievement in itself. Angus performed exceptionally on the day and finished 3rd. However, he was not too disappointed as his good friend took out first place.

Well done Angus, we are very proud of your efforts. Keep up the great work!

Matt Carter
Principal
SPORTS NEWS
You would have received a note last week about an exciting opportunity for students to attend a Socceroos event at Homebush. Not only do they get to watch an international soccer game, they get to complete a lap of honour before the match starts, walking on the actual ground that the players will be playing on.

Tomorrow is the deadline for this event. If you wish your child to attend, please send in the note and money, as we are limited to 40 students. If parents wish to attend the event, you are able to purchase tickets yourselves. The details for this were listed on the note. The deadline for this has been extended until 15th May and you will be assured of a seat with the students if you book before that date.

EAT IT TO BEAT IT – NUTRITION SNIPPET

Apps of the Week

**Evernote** is a free app that helps you remember everything, across all of the devices that you use. This means you can access it from your tablet, phone or desktop and laptop computers. It can be especially useful for students to record lessons, new ideas, take notes or complete homework, which can be accessed anywhere. Great for school and home. A must have app for students and parents alike.

**Math vs Zombies** we have featured this app before, but it really does make addition, subtraction, multiplication and Division fun for kids, as they answer questions to help save the world from being overrun by Zombies!

2/3 CLASS WORK
2/3 have been writing expositions, which are texts attempting to persuade a reader. Here are a few examples of their writing. Remember, they are only children and their may be a few errors, but overall I am sure you will all agree they have done an amazing job.

**Exposition persuasive writing**

**Cats and dogs – do cats make better pets than dogs?**

I love cats because they cuddle up with you they play with you.

Firstly, well cats don’t attack or jump on you but dogs jump on you and when dogs bark at night you can’t go to sleep.

Secondly, cats are cute dogs are big and vicious cats are fluffy dogs are not fluffy.

Thirdly, my cat is very cute and very fluffy and active.

I hope you agree with me that cats are better than dogs.

By Jemma
Expositions – Persuasive Writing

**Cats or dogs – do cats make better pets than dogs??**

I think dogs are better than cats.

The first reason is that you can cuddle dogs better than cats.

The next reason is dogs can dance with you.

The last reason is dogs protect you and bark for danger.

You should agree with me that dogs are better than cats.

**MCKENZIE**

This was written with an iPad.

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**Exposition - Persuasive Writing**

Cats and Dogs - Do cats make better pets than dogs?

I strongly believe that cats make better pets than dogs because dogs are really loud but cats aren’t.

**Firstly**, Dogs run away from you but cats don’t.

**Secondly**, some cats don’t jump up at you and if it is a big dog you could fall down and hurt something.

**Thirdly**, if there’s cheese you need and a mouse takes it cats can get it back.

Now you know what I think about cats making better pets than dogs, so please agree with me and you will see if it is right.

**By Randall**

**Kids, social media and privacy**

Regardless of your child’s age, the world may already know a lot more about them than you suspect. According to recent research:

- 92% of children under the age of 2 have a digital shadow (- it starts with proud parents posting newborn baby photos on Facebook or Instagram)
- a quarter of Australian children 8 - 12 years old use Facebook, but the minimum age for a user is 13 years.
- more than 20 per cent of tweens publish photos of themselves on Instagram
- young people 14 - 19 have an average of 453 fans, friends or followers on social media.

2014 Privacy Awareness Week, 4 - 10 May 2014, is a good time to review your family’s privacy settings and discuss online security. You’ll find lots of practical information and resources to share with your kids at www.ipc.nsw.gov.au

Printable planners for homework and study

School A to Z has printable monthly planners which include school holidays and the numbered weeks of each Term (for example Monday 19 May is the start of Week 4, in Term 2). Print one for each child to stick on the fridge or on their noticeboards. It’s a great way to teach them how scheduling their time means they’ll fit in the fun activities as well as their other commitments and responsibilities. Download May 2014 at http://bit.ly/UbmQz8

**Is your child’s backpack damaging their spine?**

A recent Australian study has shown that approximately 25% of school-aged children suffer from back and/or neck pain at any one time. It’s believed to be due to a combination of factors such as poor posture, everyday load carrying and the use of computers.

The Children’s Hospital at Westmead suggests young people should:

- not carry more than 10% of their body weight
- use a backpack with the straps over both shoulders and a waist strap
- load gear so that the heavier objects are nearer to the spine, with the lighter objects towards the front of the pack
- lift a backpack properly- bend at the knees and lift the pack with both hands

More tips at http://bit.ly/1iB4OBo
Homonyms (also known as homographs) are words that are identical in pronunciation and spelling but have different meanings. They can be nouns, adjectives or verbs. The context gives them their meaning.

Ask your child for an example, like this one:
I prefer a fine tip on my pen.
He gave me a tip for the Melbourne Cup.
Don’t tip the water on the floor.
You gave the waiter a generous tip.

More grammar tips at:

AECG MEETING – From Jen Flood
For your diaries the next AECG will be held at 5pm at Windsor Park Public School on Tuesday 20 May. All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents and caregivers are encouraged and welcome to attend.

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

CATTAL CALENDAR – TERM 2 2014

| Week 2       | 8/5  | P & C Meeting                  |
|             | 9/5  | Small Schools’ Cross Country  |

| Week 3       | 13/5 | Naplan – Years 3 & 5          |
|             | 14/5 | Naplan – Years 3 & 5 Pet Talk - 11.00am |
|             | 15/5 | Naplan – Years 3 & 5          |

| Week 4       | 22/5 | Circle of Security 10.00 – 12.00 |
|             | 23/5 | District Cross Country        |
The Circle of Security Program aims to:

- Support parents to fully recognise their innate desire to do the best they can for their infant/child.
- Give parents a roadmap to better understand their children's needs.
- Invite parents to reflect on their own experiences of being parented and how it impacts on their parenting.
- Provide a safe environment where parents can focus on their strengths and struggles as parents.

WHEN:    Thursdays over eight weeks starting 8th May 2014
TIME:     10am – 12 midday
COST:     Free
WHERE:    Cattai

TO REGISTER: Contact Veronique  Ph: 4577 9804
            Email: dropin@psinc.com.au

Childcare is available, please ask when registering. Light refreshments for parents are provided. Please pack your children snacks/lunch.
Reading with children is fun and one of the best ways to help prepare them for school. Children learn about the value and importance of reading as they watch their family reading and writing in everyday life. Whether reading a novel, sharing a story, using a recipe, making a shopping list, writing a birthday card or reading a street sign, children observe the value of reading and writing.

What you can do at home

1. Be yourself and involve your child in everyday conversations from an early age.
2. Read aloud to your child. It will help your child to learn the language of books and encourage the enjoyment of books and reading.
3. Talk about books together - make reading a shared, enjoyable activity.
4. See that there is a range of reading material for your child at home, both fiction and non-fiction.
5. Read to your child in your first language - research shows that using your first language will help your child when he or she learns to read English.
6. Try not to let television intrude on reading time - set aside some uninterrupted time to read with your child.
7. Listen to your child read every day, even if only for a short time.
8. Give books as treats and presents.
9. Discuss the meanings of stories and words.
10. Join your local library. Borrow books for yourself as well as your child.