DUNCAN AULD
Thank you to our Orange School Director, Mr Duncan Auld who met with our staff last week and was impressed with our little school. Mr Auld will be working closely with us and we look forward to his next visit later in the year.

3 WAY SWIMMING
May I congratulate all the swimmers, parents, Grandfriends and volunteers who supported our swimming squad at the 3-Way Carnival in Yeoval last Friday. The children enthusiastically participated in all events and should be proud of the way they conducted themselves throughout the day. A special thanks to Sarah Evans who supported me on the bus, Ray Lewis for timekeeping throughout the day, Kaitlyn Bryant for taking the photographs and all the community and friends who came along to cheer us down the pool. Well done to Mr Brown and the staff at St Columbas for organising such a great carnival!! We will endeavour to match their efficiency when we host the 3-Way Athletics carnival later in the year. Congratulations to our Skye Weston who was named runner-up in the Senior swimming division and to our 7 year olds, Macey Armstrong and George Morse who took to the water with gusto!

LIBRARY
Library will operate every Tuesday with Mrs Schulz and the children are encouraged to bring along a library bag. Shirley Kinnaird’s hand-made whacky library bags will be available from the office for $5.00.
9:00 -10:00: Years 4/5/6
10:00 – 11:00: Years 2/3
1:30 – 12:30: Kinder/ Year 1
Any Grandfriends/community volunteers who would like to read or share a story in our Library during lunchtimes is warmly encouraged to contact me. The children and staff would love to share the Library space with our friends in the community. Lunch begins at 1pm and finishes at 1:40. Please consider volunteering for this role as we love to have our Grandfriends busy and they are very much appreciated in our school!

READING CLUB
All children will start on Club 25 in Week 4, and read their way through the program to reach Club 200!! We had a number of Kindergarten students who achieved this goal last year and we are set to challenge the senior classes. All those children who reach Club 200 will receive a book prize along with a whacky hand-made Club 200 Library Bag! Let the challenge begin!!

CANTEEN
Many thanks to Kirsty Holman who has been managing the Canteen throughout the year to keep our children and staff well-fed and happy. The first canteen orders began on Monday and we thank all those parents who have volunteered to support the roster this term and to Kirsty for her kind generosity. The canteen is looking spotless due to her hard work and dedication to the job these past weeks.
Congratulations to our small swimming squad who gave their all in the pool yesterday. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and determination on the faces of the children. Well done Ella Gibson, Zali Armstrong, Mia-Lily Giblett, Hannah Gibson, Gracie Morse, Haare Nepe, Emily Strahan and Skye Weston and all the parents who supported the Carnival.

Results for the day are as follows:

- 8 years Girls Freestyle: Zali Armstrong (2nd)
- 11 years Girls Freestyle: Skye Weston (3rd)
- 12 years Girls Freestyle: Ella Gibson (3rd)
- 11 years Girls Breaststroke: Skye Weston (1st)
- Senior Relay: Cumnock (3rd)

Congratulations to Zali and Skye who will now compete at the Orange District Carnival on Tuesday 23rd February at the Orange Aquatic Centre.

Well done Alex Prout on a fun introduction to NRL with the two surprise Manly Sea Eagles U20’s players! The children were thrilled to meet Billy Bainbridge and Brad Parker with the support of Mitch Squire from the NRL staff. We thoroughly enjoyed your session and look forward to your next visit!

A massive 200 pancakes were mixed, poured, flipped and eaten for our first fundraising effort for 2016. Many thanks to Shirley Kinnaird, Bec and Jackson Bruce who came to help during the pancake mayhem. $200 will be sent to the small community of Yarloop in Western Australia to support them after the devastating fires in December.
SCHOOL SWIMMING
School swimming starts this week on Friday for 3/4/5/6 with Carmel Vickers, Nigel Strahan and Mrs Schulz. K/1/2 will begin in week 4 with Heidi Duffy, Mrs Hubbard and Mrs Schulz. If you are free in the afternoons please feel welcome to come to the pool to support our infants group! Don’t forget your swimmers, hats and water bottles on these days please.

BUSES
During swimming, the buses will collect students from the school and the pool on Mondays and Fridays.

CRUNCH & SIP
Thanks to Miss Midson who has initiated a fruit and vegetable deal with Woolworths every Monday. Last week we were tempted with delicious peaches and apples. What surprises will there be this week?? Thanks again Miss Midson for supporting our Crunch and Sip program and Miss Sewell for collecting the fruit on a Monday.

HOMEWORK
Homework and home readers will be sent with your child in Week 4. Please support your children with these tasks as it consolidates the work being completed in class and builds independence and confidence. We look forward to your support with these programs.

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS and WORKBOOKS
Thank you to all those parents who have paid their school contributions to the office. These funds allow us to meet the extra resources that we need to operate our school efficiently. A special thanks to those who have purchased their child’s workbooks for 2016. These books will be used starting in Week 4.
Accounts are enclosed in this newsletter. Prompt payment would be appreciated as books will not be issued until payment is received. Please contact the office if you are experiencing difficulty with payment of this account as payment plans can be put into place.

SCRIPTURE
Our sincere thanks are offered to Mr and Mrs David and Irene Pottie and Mrs Bron Flick who will continue to support our Scripture classes in 2016. We are appreciative of their supporting roles and look forward to working with them every second Friday at Cumnock Public School. Scripture classes will begin in Week 4 and continue every even week from 9 am in the morning.

WELCOME
We would like to welcome Lisa McCann to our school this year and thank her for her special garden touches that you will see in our school grounds. Lisa will support Mr Whiley with the upkeep of our grounds along with our special vegetable garden volunteer, Mr Lyle Houm. Also, a thank you to the community volunteer who drove a big green tractor into school on Sunday to remove a big box limb which was blocking our path.

ATTENDANCE
It is a legal requirement and a major responsibility of parents and carers that children attend school every day that it is open for instruction. Parents should NOT keep a child away from school for the following reasons. They are NOT considered acceptable: birthdays, shopping, minding other children, routine check-ups or care such as haircuts, minor family events, regular appointments (ie. private swimming or music lessons) which require students to leave school early.
Whilst we know that not all medical and dental appointments can be made after school, we
request that where possible, every attempt is made to arrange these visits after school hours, or during the school holidays.

After each absence, a note needs to be sent to the school within two days to explain the absence. Information on the note must clearly state the reason for the absence, giving an indication of the type of illness or justifiable reason for absence which prevented the student from being at school. Parents may like to make a telephone call to the school and explain the reason for the child’s absence rather than write a note.

If your child is away from school you will be sent an SMS reminder requesting you contact the school and let us know why your child is away. If no explanation is received via note or phone call a letter will be sent to you requesting an explanation.

If parents do not send in a justified explanatory note following the child’s absence, this absence will show up as A (unjustified leave) on their school attendance record.

Student exemptions can be sought if parents are aware of an event which may cause a period of absence, such as: hospital based treatment, family bereavement or infectious illness.

Please note: In the past exemptions were able to be given for family holidays. This is no longer an option under the new attendance policy. Exemptions need to be applied for in advance or as soon as possible into/after the series of absences.

With kind regards,

Amanda Schulz
Principal (Relieving)