It’s the last week of term already, the old saying of how time flies when you’re having fun certainly does apply at our lovely school.

We’ve quite a few events happening this week to finish off the term, starting with SongRoom on Tuesday with the children from Milbrodale, our Primary excursion to Coolmore Stud and the RFS visit for the Infants class on Wednesday, Thursday our Primary students will be attending the soccer trials for the Small School’s Team in Singleton and we finish with a bang on Friday with our school’s Cross Country Run and our Billy Cart driving. All parents and family members are invited to watch the events and performances and mums and dads are invited to “race a lap” of our cross country course. To finish off the fun, our Infants and Primary classes will be performing a dance to showcase their moves and grooves which have been finetuned during our weekly dance lessons. Notes explaining what costuming to bring for the performance were sent home with children last Friday.

We had a visit by representatives of Xstrata during the week. Xstrata gives us a grant each year which we spend on technology such as wifi, iPads and computers. Both Aislyn and Matthew from Xstrata, were very impressed by how iPads in particular enhance our student’s learning and the children were very eager to show them their skills and how the applications aid their learning. We received a plaque which is displayed in our school’s computer room. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors from our community, for their continued support. Our school is well ahead of others because of this assistance, enabling us to access programs and technologies, and expose our students to learning opportunities that other school’s can only dream of.

Our school is one of ten local schools, who have been invited to participate in the Scarecrow Competition to celebrate the opening of the Denman Community Gardens. We’d like to take this opportunity to invite our Mums and Nans into our school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon to assist our students in creating our Scarecrow. The scarecrow will be displayed with others in the gardens ready for the Grand Opening on Saturday, 11th May, 2013 at 3pm. Please just send a note along if you are coming into school to assist in the creating of our Scarecrow.

This week is also rather sad for us as we farewell Mrs Kristy Cant. Mrs Cant has done an exemplary job of educating our Infants Class and we know she will miss our school and it’s students very much. We all wish her well at her new school and hope she enjoys it just as much as she has enjoyed her time here. Mrs Carmody has also finished her part time position with us, but I’m sure she will be back on a day to day basis throughout the year.

Miss Carly Ross commences with us next term for the remainder of the year as Mr Matthew Orr unexpectedly is not able to take a position here with us due to receiving a full time position at another school. Miss Ross has been a constant presence in our school since the beginning of this year and she’s taught both classes during that time. The students and I are very glad she is able to join us on a more regular basis, and Miss Ross is looking forward to spending more time in our great school.

As mentioned last week, we have finalised our time table for next term. Please see further inside our newsletter for an overview. As mentioned previously, next term will see some changes to our teaching and learning operations. Families will be invited into a parent meeting during week 1 of next term where I (and Miss Ross) will share our learning framework with you.

I hope you have a restful and fun filled holiday break, I know I certainly intend to. ‘Til next term,

Donna Stackman
Facts about the Dairy Industry
People crave cheese more than any other food!!!
Sponsored by the Gee Partnership. Local family proudly producing quality milk.

JERRYS ROCKS!
- Respect, Organisation, Commitment, Kindness, Safety -
School & Community News Week 11 8/4/2013
**Voluntary School Contributions**
These contributions are set at $30 for one child, $40 for two children and $50 for a family of three students or more.
These fees can be paid at the school office. Voluntary Contributions go into the general school budget and allow the school to purchase items which directly support the learning of every child in the school. Items can include art and craft materials, technology and curriculum resources. Your support is appreciated.

The Woolworths Earn and Learn Program is underway again this year. Please keep in mind our school will be collecting Woolworths dockets in order to earn points which will help us gain valuable resources for our school. Keep your eye out for our school boxes situated at both the Muswellbrook and Singleton stores. We could also encourage our family and other community members to support us by placing their shopper dockets in the box marked Jerrys Plains Public School.

**VERY USEFUL WEBSITE**
Might I suggest to parents you keep this website in mind when it comes to helping your children at home.

[www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au)
It has tips, tools and resources for parents. A fantastic site for parents seeking information about how to assist their children with their school work. **Suitable for K-12.** We highly recommend this site for all parents.

**FOUND**
We have found one pair of glasses out the front of the school last week. They have a brown frame and are a magnification of +2.50. If you have lost any glasses please call into the office and see if you recognise them.

**COMMUNITY DANCE ANNOUNCEMENT**
We have been advertising the community dance in this newsletter over the last few weeks. Unfortunately it has been necessary to cancel the dance do to lack of interest. So please note there will not be any dance held on 27th April as previously advertised.

**Tavern Raffle Roster**
12th April  Simon Ponder
19th April  Tony Anderson
26th April  Rhonda Walter
News from the Infants Room

Welcome to our last week for the term and our last week together! Last week our kindergarten students started home reading, and what an exciting time it has been! They are really feeling like they are 'big kids' now! I am so proud of their efforts when it comes to learning. In maths we have been consolidating our knowledge of number. Kindergarten students have been practising counting, identifying numbers to twenty and naming the number before or after another. They will continue to need to practise these skills but are already doing so well.

Year ones and twos have been concentrating on place value - making three digit numbers and identifying the position of hundreds, tens and ones. A great way to help your child with place value is to discuss the value of a numeral within a number eg. What is the value of 3 in 537? It is 30 or 3 tens. They also played a game called place value war, which I'm sure you would love to play with them! In pairs, each person takes 2 playing cards (using only aces -9). Whoever can make the highest number wins the point. Year two students can try this with 3 cards. While place value is important because it is part of the whole number strand of the mathematics syllabus, it is also important that students have a good understanding of place values in order to work in other areas such as addition, subtraction, multiplication etc.

Finally, let me say a big thank you to all of the families who have embraced me during my time here. It has been wonderful to get to know you and your beautiful children. I feel privileged to have been part of your lives and I wish you all the best for the future. Until we meet again.....

Mrs Cant

News from the Primary Room

This week is our last week for term 1 and we will be consolidating the areas of learning from throughout the term.

In mathematics, we’ve covered measurement, length and shapes, number operations including multiplication, problem solving and word problems. We’ve used web programs such as studyladder and sumdog to enhance our learning and recall.

In literacy, we studied spelling rules, focused on punctuation, power words and adjectives, expositions and descriptive writing. We’ve read interesting books in our home reading program and in class.

We’ve communicated with another school on a regular basis, and during this week’s video conference, we will be discussing the similarities and differences between our two schools. As part of our conferences, we created a multi-media presentation to showcase our school. We used iPads and iPhones to create our presentation.

We’ve created some terrific visual art which is displayed in our classroom and we are working on more. We built a billy cart and raced it against others. We performed songs, rythms, drummed and chanted. We danced, grooved and moved. We played sport, tried out for teams and trained in preparation. We grew plants and built dioramas.

We have placed an enormous amount of learning and fun into 11 weeks. This week we’ll finish all our projects and enjoy a wonderful two weeks of holidays before starting our learning once again.