

Primary entry #60: St Patrick's PS, Cessnock

The Daily Believers

ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL CESSNOCK



SPORT STAR: Eli Levido.
— Picture by Grace Eglit

Future looks bright for Eli

By MADELENE HANSEN, MITCHELL PARKES, GRACE EGLIT and JOSHUA MEACHAM

YEAR 6 student Eli Levido has finished this year's football season on a high.

Not only did Eli's under-12s team win its grand final, but Eli was also named Player of the Year at Cessnock Rugby League's annual presentation day.

This was quite an achievement as the trophy had not been handed out since 2004 and, to qualify for contention, players had to make a State representative side.

Eli represented NSW at the Primary Schools Sports Association's rugby league carnival at Cabramatta in August.

Eli played for NSW White, which finished third at the carnival behind Queensland and NSW Blue.

Inspired by his father, Dominic, and grandfather, Barry, who both played football, Eli hopes to one day play first-grade football with the Newcastle Knights.

His football heroes are Brad Fittler and Andrew Johns, a former student of St Patrick's PS, Cessnock.

When Eli is not playing football he enjoys swimming, cricket, basketball and playing water polo.

Eli is also the boy school captain of St Patrick's.

When asked what needed to be changed in the football rule book, Eli replied: "Nothing! I like the game just the way it is."

Excitement is building

By LIBBY GODFREY, BRIANNA SCHOFIELD, GRACE WHITAKER and JOSEPHINE BLISSETT

ST Patrick's PS, Cessnock, is getting a new canteen, three new classrooms, an administration block, a practical arts room and sports storage sheds.

School principal Penny Tully said that the existing canteen and demountables were about 30 years old and in need of replacement.

"We first applied for the school to be refurbished about seven years ago," said Miss Tully.

When planning the refurbishment, Miss Tully first considered a two-storey building. She later reconsidered, to accommodate future students who might not be able to access the building readily.

Unfortunately, the building project has not always gone to plan. A burglary occurred shortly after work commenced, and flooding caused additional delays.

However, the rain was very welcome around the Cessnock area.

The school's refurbishments are being funded by contributions that have been made to the school's building levy fund and also a government grant of \$1 million.

Miss Tully said that without this funding the new buildings would not have been possible.

Miss Tully said the new buildings would improve the aesthetics of the



ALMOST DONE: The new buildings under construction at St Patrick's PS, Cessnock.

school while also providing children with much-needed learning areas.

The builders work from around 7.30am. During their lunch and recess breaks, younger children are fascinated by equipment such as cement mixers, jack hammers and acrobatic Bobcat drivers.

The children line up at the fence every day to see what is going on.

The staff and students at St Patrick's PS, Cessnock are very excited about their new buildings and look forward to being able to see what they look like inside.

It is expected that the new buildings will be in use by the

middle of this term.

Staff and students at the school would like to extend a big thank you to all the builders who have worked hard to create a beautiful, new-look school.

They would also like to thank everyone else who worked to make the refurbishment possible.



ON A ROLL: Children from stage one participating in the Essential Moves program. — Picture by Sophie Jones

Moving towards better behaviour

By SOPHIE JONES, LUCY SYLVESTER and TIANU MAJOR

ESSENTIAL Moves is a drug-free method of approaching behavioural problems, reading and learning difficulties, and focusing on movement and brain development.

The program is designed to stimulate sensory and motor skills.

Activities included in the program are: physical exercise involving jumping, hopping, rolling, crawling, dancing and other rhythmic activities.

Essential Moves helps those affected by autism, behavioural difficulties, learning difficulties, dyslexia and other conditions.

Children at St Patrick's have participated in the program for almost two years.

Lessons are conducted in the school hall, where special flooring has been laid. Each participating class undertakes 25 minutes of exercises four times a week.

In many cases, learning and behavioural difficulties are not discovered until a child's first or second year at school. At St Patrick's, all kindergarten children complete the program.



7.00% p.a. Watch your savings grow!

Earn a high 7.00% p.a. with a Newcastle Permanent Education Savings Account.* That's high interest with no account fees and free deposits. With the rising cost of education, it's the perfect way to watch your savings grow for the future.

Call today 13 19 87
www.newcastlepermanent.com.au



That's what we're here for.

Read to succeed

Editorial

By **KEELY MAIZEY, SEBASTIAN FOOTE, ABBY SHEARER** and **EVAN WILLIAMS**

MANY children consider reading to be boring or challenging, but for children at St Patrick's PS, Cessnock, reading is part of everyday life.

Not being able to read can make life very difficult and provide many challenges and frustrations. Imagine not being able to read a bus timetable or labels on foods at a supermarket. For some people this is an all-too-familiar occurrence.

During the past 10 years, literacy has become a major focus – within educational settings, through the media and through the government raising public awareness of literacy skills.

For 19 years, Sister de Porres's reading program has played a vital role in increasing literacy skills among the children at St Patrick's PS.

Sr de Porres is the remedial/resource teacher at St. Patrick's. She and her team of volunteers hear about 90 children read individually every day, helping children develop their confidence and assisting and supporting their reading skills. Parents, grandparents, carers and other interested parishioners arrive each day at 9am to hear children read.

For many children in the general public, reading is difficult or they simply don't enjoy reading.

It is important to educate the children and encourage them to improve their literacy skills as they will have a major impact later in life.

It is also important that those children who can read fluently help peers who haven't yet developed their skills. This is possible through programs such as reading buddies or group reading.

While there are many organisations that provide support for adults who have reading difficulties, it is far more beneficial to ensure that all children at school are taught to become confident and capable readers.

This is a skill that will be with them for the rest of their lives.

Some of us take for granted the fact that we can read and comprehend, but it is also important for us to be aware that not all children are so fortunate. Public awareness of literacy is vital in assisting and supporting people with reading difficulties.

With all the excellent reading materials available today there is no excuse for not enjoying reading. The variety of picture books, novels and information books available can make books very good friends.

Most people, at some stage of their lives, read a book and then watch the movie, only to admit that the book was much better than the movie. Books allow you to use your imagination.

Next time you think about watching a DVD or turning on the television, why not go on an adventure with a book?

You'll love it, because reading is cool.



HONOURED: St Patrick's 2007 school leaders.

— Picture by Benjamin Molenaar

Hard work paying off

By **RACHAEL SHUMACK, RACHEL WELLDON, COURTNEY ARCHER** and **SARAH WILSON**

NEW school buildings aren't the only things children at St Patrick's PS, Cessnock, are looking forward to.

The students are also expecting new playground equipment to be installed by the end of the year, thanks to the generosity of members of the school community.

The existing playground equipment is currently for use only by early stage one and stage one children.

The new health and fitness circuit will be placed next to the school's infant's playground and will be used by children from kindergarten to year 6.

Each class will be allocated a 10-minute period each day outside breaks and a roster will be drawn up to accommodate all children from all stages during lunch time and recess periods.

At the beginning of the year a thermometer was painted on the front administration area of the school so that all members of the community could see the fund-raising level rise towards the goal of \$23,000.

The school received donations from local businesses and children showed great initiative by selling milkshakes, badges, jewellery, hosting guessing competitions, talent quests and discos.

The circuit will help children stay fit and healthy, and help fight childhood obesity.

Life and times of our leaders

By **BENJAMIN MOLENAAR, REECE PATIENCE, MATTHEW McDOUGALL** and **JORDAN FOWLER**

EVERY year, leaders at St Patrick's PS, Cessnock are elected to a student council.

The student council for the following year is announced at the school's end-of-year mass, which is held at St Joseph's Church.

The student leaders are voted into their positions by students at the school.

The student council features a boy and a girl school captain, school councillors (numbers vary), two library councillors and eight sports captains – two from each house.

The children who are elected have various roles they must fulfil throughout the year.

One of the main responsibilities is to conduct weekly whole-school assemblies, which are held in the main quadrangle every Friday.

The students are responsible for organising, announcing and presenting weekly class awards, the principal's awards and library awards.

The leaders follow a rotational roster for the weekly assemblies.

School leaders also run the daily morning assemblies, which begin with the school prayer; present birthday certificates and raise the flags.

Being a school leader is a big responsibility, but also rewarding.

St Pat's has got talent

By **GEORDIE ALLEN, BRANDON KING, ROBERT TULIATU** and **LACHLAN SEARLE**

ST Patrick's PS, Cessnock boasts many talented students who excel in many areas.

All children are given the opportunity at weekly assemblies to stand up in front of the whole school and talk about their achievements.

Two of the school's current stars are Matthew McDougall and Demaly Kirkman.

Matthew is in year 6 and is very skilled in the sport of archery. Matthew has been

learning the sport for the past four years and was the Australian champion for his age in 2006.

Matthew has won many archery tournaments during the past year and attends tournaments all over NSW and Australia with his father.

Demaly Kirkman, a year 2 student, has a passion for dancing and performs in various Eisteddfods and concerts all year round.

Demaly has featured in *Australia's Got Talent* magazine and *TV Week*, and had a lead role in the school's *Showcase* assembly in 2006.



BIG ACHIEVERS: Archer Matthew McDougall and dancer Demaly Kirkman.



— Illustration by Sebastian Hewitt and Matthew McDougall

Opinions expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the competition sponsors.

DOMAYNE
summer DEALS

\$1993 JVC
The Perfect Experience

JVC EVERIO 60GB HIGH DEFINITION CAMCORDER

10x optical zoom, up to 7 hours of HD recording, three progressive scan CCD, Konica Minolta lens, SDHC/SD memory card slot, HDMI/iLink/USB interfaces. GZH03

BONUS MOSSIMO WATCH
VALUED AT \$179

DOMAYNE KOTARA
visit our website - www.domayne.com.au
Domayne stores are operated by independent franchisees.

18 Bradford Close
PH: 4941 3900

Proud sponsors of
Proudly supporting
HMRI

96361

Advertisement created by Lachlan Searle of St Patrick's PS, Cessnock.

NEWCASTLE PERMANENT
Here for good.