



# Footy fever at St James

By Dayarne Smith

THE students at St James' Primary School will be showing their true colours next Friday when they dress up in the theme 'footy fever'.

Teacher Kim Wilson said the students had all been encouraged to wear an item of clothing to represent the theme to support Hunter Life Education's Dress Down Drug Free day and the Fight Cancer Foundation Footy Colours Day.

"Footy Colours Day was on September 3, but because we usually have an out of uniform day on the last day of each term we thought we would combine the two and support both organisations," she said.

"Students can wear anything in footy colours and bring a gold coin donation."

Dress Down Drug Free is Hunter Life Education's annual awareness and fundraising event, held in an effort to combat the rising issue of drug and alcohol abuse.

Dress Down Drug Free has been running in the Hunter for nine years.

Hunter Life Education executive officer David Baker said events like this one were instrumental in raising awareness.

"Hunter Life Education is currently focusing on the negative impacts of binge drinking and drug abuse among young people in the Hunter," Mr Baker said.

"We are using Dress Down Drug Free to create a dialogue and encourage the local community to be aware of these issues and see how they can contribute to combating the culture of binge drinking and other harmful behaviours."

Footy Colours Day is also a national fundraiser to help young people with cancer.

All proceeds from Footy Colours Day benefit Fight Cancer Foundation programs such as the Back on Track program.

The Back on Track program assists school children with cancer.

With long absences from school, this program was developed to provide a tailored tutoring program for each child by working with the child's school, teachers, peers and medical staff to enable the student to stay connected and avoid isolation.

Every \$1040 raised provides the use of a laptop for 12 months, while every \$5000 raised for the Fight Cancer Foundation provides a tailored tutoring program for a child for one year.



Footy Colours Day: St James' Primary School students (back) Thomas Bianco, Hannah Lovegrove Paul Dengate, (front) Jeremy Smith, Matilda Jones and Alex Wilson wearing their footy colours.