

Castle Hill Public School



NEWSLETTER

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24 February 2009

From the Principal...

NEW PARENT BBQ

Thank you to the Executive of the P&C for the New Parent Barbecue last Sunday. The opportunity for new families to get to know one another was enjoyed by many. Our student leadership team from Year Six did an outstanding job organising activities for the children who attended to give the parents a chance to get to know one another better. My thanks to the dedicated staff who came along to support the P&C and the student leadership team. Miss Fernandes, Mrs Buckham, Mrs Lewis, Mrs Ambler, Miss Speth and Mrs Gibbons all gave up part of their weekend to join in the day.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for our parent information sessions. Thanks also to those who attended the High School Information Night last Tuesday.

INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS

Our first interactive whiteboards (IWB) were installed yesterday. By the end of this week, we will have the boards in ten classrooms. The remaining twelve boards will be installed by the end of March. Once we have the first boards up and working, we will invite you to come and see what they can do for your children's learning. The boards are supported by a suite of software programs and we will have to make some changes to cabling and locations of computers. This will be supported by substantial expenditure on training programs for teachers.

The boards are being installed only in permanent classrooms as they require a high level of security. Students in demountable classrooms will have access to the IWBs in the permanent classrooms and the Library. New technologies are being investigated to enable us to bring the same learning tools to the demountable classrooms as soon as it is possible.

The total cost of the program will exceed \$150,000. The IWB going into the Library has been funded by the Canteen. Half of the remaining costs will be funded by the P&C Association. Your donation to the P&C this year is supporting a most important change on your children's education.

PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Those parents who visit the school will have seen the changes to the back playground that were commenced during the school vacation. Our landscaping has been completed at a cost of \$45,000. This program was funded by the previous Commonwealth Government as part of the Improving Our Schools Program. The project will be completed by the installation of a rubber play surface with designs that encourage cooperative play, particularly for younger students. The contract for completion has been let at a cost of \$18,000. The Uniform Shop has committed to providing this wonderful playspace for students.

BEHAVIOUR

When I attended primary school anyone sent to the principal's office went with great trepidation. This was because you usually saw the Principal because of inappropriate behaviour. Students' concern was amplified by the use of corporal punishment which, by rumour at least, was frequently administered by the Principal.

Most students who come to see me at Castle Hill are actually coming with good news. They have achieved something special in the classroom or are sent to show me some good work. Going to the Principal's office is definitely less intimidating than it was many years ago. Students are still, however, asked to visit the Principal or Deputy Principal when their behaviour requires intervention. We have dispensed with corporal punishment as there was little evidence of its effectiveness in changing behaviour. At Castle Hill we use choice theory in our discussions with students and, when another person has been harmed or offended by the actions of a student, we use restorative justice strategies and principles.

You will have heard the language of choice theory at home. Your children will have spoken of right and wrong choices. Over the coming weeks in the newsletter, we will explain the basics of choice theory to assist you in understanding more of your child's experiences at school.

CHICKEN POX

We have a case of chicken pox in the school. While the disease is not life-threatening, it is uncomfortable for the child suffering the symptoms. If your child is sick and sees a doctor, you may wish to tell the doctor that there is chicken pox at the school. If your child is diagnosed with this condition and you are not sure when to send him or her back to school, feel free to call us and we can give you advice or look at the NSW Health website where they have a great deal of useful information. <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/Infectious/a-z.asp>

SCRIPTURE CLASSES

Scripture classes commence tomorrow for students whose parents have nominated a religious instruction group for them. Classes are delivered by teachers approved and appointed by local churches and religious groups. All groups offering Scripture classes are approved by the Department of Education. If your child is not in a Scripture class and you would like him/her to attend one, please contact Ms Lockrey.

TEACHER INTERVIEWS

At yesterday's staff meeting I reminded staff that they are not to conduct interviews with parents during the times they have responsibility for the supervision of students. This means that your child's teacher will ask you to make an appointment if you approach the teacher when s/he is with the class. Please do not be offended. The care of twenty or more children is full time work and it cannot be done while you are having a conversation with a parent. We would like to be able to give you our full attention when we are meeting with you. We cannot do that if we have a class in our care.

If you wish to speak with your child's teacher, please send the teacher a note or ring the office to make an appointment.

HIGH SCHOOL DAY

Our Year Six students (and some very lucky Year Five students) attended a special orientation program at Castle Hill High today. They had the opportunity to try out the high school experience. The opportunity to do this early in the year reduces anxiety in the students about their transition to high school. We are grateful to our local high school for offering them this opportunity.

BACK IN TIME

Two Year Four classes spent today going back in history to the early settlement in Parramatta. Thank you to parents who assisted in supervision of students and thank you to all the parents who dressed their children to make the experience more authentic. Our other Year Four classes will attend the same excursion on Thursday.

JAM

Thank you to the parents who returned the surveys I distributed last week. They have given a clear direction on the future of this extra-curricular opportunity for Stage Two students.

INVITATION

The organisers of the Heritage Park Convict Rebellion Celebration have issued an invitation for students of Year Five and Year Six to participate in the launch of two months of activities. They would like students to dress as convicts and participate in the launch. Details are below.

Where: Heritage Park off Heritage Park Drive.

When: Sunday March 8th - 11am

Dress: Come dressed as an untidy convict. Boys and Girls - Bring a friend.

Pants - Black - brown - grey - green not bright colours, torn or ragged.

Shirts - Sloppy fit - plain colours not bright, no stripes or checks, long sleeves, also torn and ragged.

Hats - Brown - black - grey or straw

Caps - Dark colours

The organisers can be contacted for further details at heritage1798@bigpond.com This is not a school organised activity. Further details are only available from this address.

- Mr Bryan Mullan, Principal

Student Welfare...

MINI MERITS -Term One, Week 4

Congratulations to our fabulous students who have earned seven mini merits over the last week:

Rainbow:- Lachlan (1C), Cooper (1E), Mavrick (1P), Logan (1S), Joshua (1S), Jarrod (1S), Bella (1S) 2 sets, Aneesa (1S) 3 sets, Sophie (2G), Patrick (2B), Brendan (2M), Aisha (2M), Joselyn (2P), Sharon (3H), Aitana (3C), Jasmine (3W), Djay (3W), Kelly (3/2K) 2 sets, Hamish (4M), Daanish (5P), Eloise (6F) 2 sets, Zac (6/5A) 4 sets.

Citizenship:- Alex (1E), Angela (2M), Gemma (2M), Maddi (3H), Brendon (4Y).

English:- Phoebe (1P), Daniel (1S), Adam (1S), Blair (2P), Kevin (2B), Aisha (2M), Areeb (2M), Katerina (4C), Jack (4C).

Maths:- Phoebe (1P), Areeb (2M), Jack (4C), Daanish (5P), Zac (6/5A).

Creative Arts:- Phoebe (1P), Angela (2M), Adam (3/2K), Matthew (4Y), Ella (4C).

PDHPE:- Hayley (2M), Sharon (3H), Djay (3W), Jack (4C), Daanish (5P), Zac (6/5A) 4 sets.

Science and Technology:- Cameron (4C), Matthew (4Y).

HSIE:- Sebastiaan (1E), Aisha (2M), Rachel (3/2K), Abigail (3/2K), Kevin (2B).

Congratulations!

Premier's Reading Challenge

Students will be able to log onto the Premier's Reading Challenge website and begin entering their reading logs online by the end of March. Until then students can print a paper log from the PRC website to keep track of their reading. In order to print a reading record sheet or to log on (in March) go to the following website. The current reading lists are also online.

<https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>



SRC Badge Presentation

Our newly elected SRC representatives will be presented with their badges on Monday 2nd March at the morning assembly. Parents of these students are most welcome to attend.

SRC

Our first SRC meeting 2009 was held last Thursday. At the meeting the SRC decided to have a school disco on Friday 27th March. There will be three session times as follows;

1. Kinder and Year 1 - 4.15-5.15pm
2. Year 2 and Year 3 - 5.30- 6.45pm
3. Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 - 7.00-8.30pm



Tickets (\$2.00) will go on sale from Monday 16th March. They will be sold each morning and recess outside Mrs Thompson's office. Students must purchase their tickets from school as there will be no tickets sold at the door. At the end of the disco each child will receive a packet of chips and a drink (provided by the School Community Club).

- Mrs Megan Gibbons, Deputy Principal

High School Open Days

Parents are responsible for transporting students to and from these upcoming Open Days.

Galston High School

Wednesday 4 March 2009
9.00-11.30am



Northmead High School

Tuesday 10 March 2009
Morning session 9.15 - 1pm
Evening session 7 - 9pm

From the Classroom...

KINDERGARTEN NEWS - Week 4

The stars of the week are Olivia KK, Ethan KG, Cameron KM, Cassie KL and Grace from KA.

The sound of the week is 't' for turtle and teddy .

The sight words for this week are **at, went, and, big** and **little**.

On Friday the students of CHPS will be participating in **Clean Up Australia**. Please ensure that your child brings a pair of gloves to school.

Sport will commence next week. The teachers will be sending home a note asking for helpers.

Don't forget to send in photos of the family and the house.

The children should be practising writing their names, numerals and single sounds at home.

- Kindergarten Teachers

Congratulations to the Term 1 Week 4 French Award winners

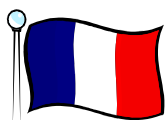
Kindergarten Monsieur Taureau Award - Trinity KA, Chris KA

Year 1 Les Jolies Fleurs Award - Aneesa 1S, Miles 1S

Year 2 Chiot Award - Abigail 3/2K, Rory 3/2K

Prize Box Recipients: Isabel 3C, Sarah 3C, Noah 3/2K.

Excellent!



- Madame Fowler

LOST PROPERTY

Please ensure your child's hat, jacket, jumper, raincoat, lunch box and drink container are labelled clearly with their name and current class. Items of clothing that cannot be identified will be sent to the Uniform Shop and offered for sale. Some items of casual clothing left after the Swimming Carnival will be kept in Room 31. If not claimed within a week they will be placed in a Charity Bin.

Lunch boxes without names that contain left-over food will be disposed of because of health issues.

- Mrs Croker and Mrs Ambler, Lost Property Officers

Parent News...

P & C NEWS

It was wonderful to see so many new parents and children at the new parent BBQ. About 40 families had games, a sausage sizzle and a trivia quiz. The children's games were organised by our Year 6 leaders and Mrs. Gibbons. They had fun with the holey parachute and egg/spoon races.

Special thanks to the Shokry, Cox, Muller, Barnett families. Also to Hugh Duncan, Anita Madden, Belinda McCombe and Jason (first timer). Thank you also to Mr. Mullan especially for promoting the good work of the P&C.

The first batch of the interactive whiteboards will be installed this week. There is great excitement amongst the school population. The P&C is funding about half of these. Our next meeting will be held at 7:30pm on 11th March, 2009.

- Paul Singh, President. 0431 109 819
chpspc.edu@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CLUB NEWS

The next School Community Club meeting will be next Tuesday 3rd March at 9.15am in the staffroom. Everyone is welcome, including babies and toddlers. Meetings usually run for approximately 1 hour. The March meeting will incorporate the AGM held over from 2008. We will also be discussing upcoming events in 2009.

Congratulations to the P&C and Year Six leaders for a fantastic New Families BBQ on Sunday - it was great to meet many of our new students and parents in such a relaxed and friendly environment.

- Belinda McCombe, President, Community Club and Committee
Ph: 9659 0856 or email: bmccombe@bigpond.net.au

CANTEEN NEWS

Canteen Roster

Thank you to all those parents who have volunteered for the Canteen this year. We may not have the roster printed in time for the beginning of March. I will try and ring everyone a week in advance and also put the names in the Newsletter.

Wednesday 25th February Vicki Payne, Julie Botelho

Thursday 26th February Kathy Ballinger, Deborah Kemp, Julie Botelho

Friday 27th February Elizabeth Berthon, Cathy Sinclair, Diane Bullingham, Linda Koutsos

Monday 2nd March Renee Swart, Sharlene Mansfield

Tuesday 3rd March Molly McCrossen, Elizabeth Gordon

Wednesday 4th March Julie Botelho, Vicki Payne, Julie Wilkins

Thursday 5th March Carolina Zurvetta, Fiona Foote, Alice White

Friday 6th March John Payne, Olivia Grant, Lynda Syme, Bayzer Wah

- Canteen Committee

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Volunteer Roster: Thursday 26th February - Rhonda Poole
Monday 2nd March - Lisa Stokan, Elizabeth Berthon

The volunteer roster for 2009 will start next month, March. A copy of the roster will be sent home to volunteers via your child.

-Trisha Booth-Uniform Shop Manager
0410466363 or trishmar@bigpond.net.au

Community News...

Positive Parenting Monday, 2nd March, 6-9 Pm.

A 3 hr seminar for parents of children aged 2-12 years. This seminar will assist parents to:

- Recognise the importance of positive communication with their children.
- Learn a model for giving children feedback.

The Challenge of Disciplining Your Children Wednesday 1st April, 6-9 Pm

A 3 hr seminar for parents of children aged 2-12 years. This seminar will assist parents to:

- Understand what discipline means
- Set clear boundaries
- Explore different discipline techniques

COST of each of the above seminars: \$15 per single adult, \$25 per couple.

SELF ESTEEM AND COMMUNICATION is a 6 session program which focuses on communication, assertiveness and self-awareness skills. It will be offered in term 2, on the following dates: TUESDAYS 19TH MAY-23RD JUNE, 10 AM-1 PM. COST: \$75

Venue: Interrelate Family Centres, 685 Old Northern Rd., Dural.

ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS: 9653 9533

Are you a grandparent raising your grandchildren?

Come and enjoy our FREE Grandparent Timeout Morning

Tuesday March 17th 10am - 12.30pm

At Learning in the Hills

92 Seven Hills Road, Baulkham Hills (opposite Jasper Road Public School)

Enjoy some time out. Laugh, relax and share with other grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. Includes lunch, lucky door prizes and giveaways. FREE childcare.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL - PHONE 9639 8620

This event is part of Seniors Week 2009 and is funded by The Hills Shire Council

PARKING NOTICE

Parking unsafely puts children's lives at risk!

Parking illegally, even for a short time, is dangerous to children at your school.

You can be fined up to **\$405 and lose up to 4 demerit points**
if you park illegally around your school.

Parking your car on the nature strip or path can result in a fine and 2 demerit points

Please obey all the parking signs around your school!

*Council's Compliance Officers will be enforcing parking restrictions
at your school!*

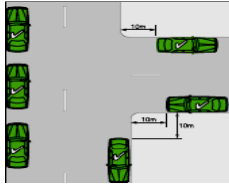


Common Parking Rules

Please find below some common parking rules and the associated penalties which are often not known or misunderstood by parents picking up children at schools. These penalties have increased as of September 1, 2008.

Many parking offences in school zones carry heavier fines and demerit points.


Council's Compliance Officers enforce all parking rules at all schools in Baulkham Hills Shire.



Intersections

You must not stop or park on a road within 10 metres of an intersection (20 metres when the intersection has traffic signals)

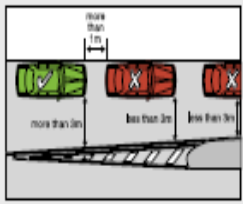
Penalty : \$189



Pedestrian Crossings

You must not stop or park on a pedestrian/children's crossing or within 20 metres before the crossing and 10 metres after the crossing unless there is a parking control sign permitting parking there.


Penalty : \$324 & 2 demerit points (school zone)



Parallel parking on road

If the road has a centre dividing line you must position your vehicle **at least 3 metres** from the dividing line to allow other vehicles to pass unless otherwise indicated by a parking sign.


Penalty : \$189



Obstructing access to footpath/driveway

You must not park on or across a driveway or other access for vehicles.

Penalty : \$135 & 2 demerit points (school zone)



Double parking

You must not stop on the road adjacent to another vehicle at any time even to drop off or pick up passengers. Double parking is dangerous. It blocks vision for other drivers, obstructs traffic flow and forces children onto the road.

Penalty: \$243 & 2 demerit points (school zone)

You cannot park on Footpaths & Nature strips

You may not stop on any footpath or nature strip for any reason. Parking on the nature strip/footpath forces pedestrians onto the road.

Penalty : \$135 & 2 demerit points (school zone)

| | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat/Sun |
|--------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Wk 5 | 23 | 24 Yr 4 Historic Homes Excur CHHS Info Night @ CHHS | 25 | 26 Yr 4 Historic Homes Excur Essere Yr 5 | 27 | 28 |
| | | | | | | 1 March |
| Wk 6 | 2 | 3 SCC meeting CHHS G&T Info Night @ CHHS 7pm | 4 | 5 Essere Yr 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | | | | | | 8 |
| Wk 7 | 9 | 10 Yr 5 Planetarium Visit | 11 P&C Meeting | 12 Essere Yr 5 | 13 | 14 |
| | | | | | | 15 |
| Wk 8 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 <i>Selective HS Test</i> | 20 Castle Hill Show Yr 2-6 | 21 |
| | | | | | | 22 |
| Wk 9 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Yr 5/6 Team Sport Challenge | 27 | 28 |
| | | | | LIFE EDUCATION | | 29 |
| Wk 10 | 30 | 31 | 1 April | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | LIFE EDUCATION | | | | | 5 |
| Wk 11 | 6 | 7 SCC meeting | 8 P&C Meeting | 9 ANZAC Service 9.30am | 10 Good Friday | 11 |
| | LIFE EDUCATION | | | | | 12 |

The Education Tax Refund – Get 50% back

Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to \$750 for primary students and \$1500 for secondary students.

This means you could receive a refund each year of up to \$375 for each primary and \$750 for each secondary school student in your care.

Are you eligible?

To be eligible you must have received Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A because your child received any of the following:

- Youth Allowance (student) aged 18
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- the Veterans' Children Education Scheme
- the Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- a scheme under s258 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004
- an Australian Postgraduate Award.

Independent students are also eligible to claim.

What can you claim?

You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- laptops, home computers and associated costs — for example, internet and paper
- educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- stationery and art supplies
- school textbooks and associated learning materials
- trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses.

- ❗ Some of the expenses you cannot claim include school fees or the cost of school uniforms, school excursions or travel to and from school, musical instruments or sporting equipment, clothing or footwear. For a more comprehensive list visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

When can you claim?

You can claim your education expenses in your 2009 tax return. If you do not have to lodge a tax return, you will be able to lodge a separate claim with the Tax Office from 1 July 2009.

- ❗ **Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.**

If your education expenses in one year are more than the claim limit for your children, you can add the excess to your education expenses for the following year.

➤ For more information:

- visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au
- phone the Tax Office on **13 28 61**.

CASTLE HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL – 2009 CASTLE HILL SHOW

Art & Craft Entries – Procedures

Over many years the students at our school have participated in the annual Castle Hill Show by entering items into the various craft sections of the show. Listed here is an abbreviated list of the sections in which children can enter items they have made. These are listed fully in the Show Society's Handbook, a copy of which can be obtained at the Show Society's office or accessed online via the website www.castlehillshow.com.au. The students in Years 2 -6 will be attending the show on Friday March 20.

There are 4 sections that Castle Hill PS will coordinate for entry to the show. Please check the handbook or online to ensure all *entry forms and participant and waiver forms* are correctly filled in.

1. Craft: - Section 5... \$ 2.00 per entry
2. Paper & Fibre Creations – Section 16...\$3.00 per entry
3. Flat Art – Section 17...\$3.00 per entry
4. Photography – Section 18...\$3.00 per entry

Online Access: 1. Go to website www.castlehillshow.com.au 2. Click on button “Castle Hill Show” 3. Click on button “Show schedule” / then go to one of the 4 sections school can enter / download and complete entry form and participants’ indemnity form. Student brings completed form and money on the dates outlined below.

Dates & procedure timeline

1. Entry Form & Money Processing at CHPS (no artwork required – just forms and money):
(LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED)

Thursday March 5 – processing of entries at CHPS. Location – School Hall (8.15 -9.15am)

Friday March 6 - processing of entries at CHPS. Location – School Hall (8.15 -9.15am)

2.Entry Delivery at CHPS (students to bring items to Ms Lockrey’s office) (artwork / items required)
(LATE DELIVERIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED)

Please ensure all entries have label completed and stuck on back of artwork/ entry. Students can get labels from Ms Lockrey

Tuesday March 10 - Exhibit delivery processing at CHPS – 8.15- 9am

Wednesday March 11 – Exhibit delivery processing at CHPS – 8.15- 9am

Friday March 13 – Delivery of **FLAT ART student exhibits** to Showground (9 – 10am)

Monday March 16 - Delivery of **CRAFT, PAPER / FIBRE & PHOTOGRAPHY student exhibits** to Showground (9-10am)

All student exhibits will be collected in a bulk collection on Monday March 23 from Showground.

**Many thanks,
Denise Lockrey
(Deputy Principal)
February 24, 2009**