

Castle Hill Public School



NEWSLETTER

Les Shore Place, Castle Hill NSW 2154

Phone: 9634 3777 Fax: 9899 6845 Email: castlehill-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Webpage: www.castlehill-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

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From the Principal...

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to Term Three. There are a number of exciting things happening this term including the Music Festival, Sport in Schools Australia, Athletics Carnival and a visit from Opera Australia. We look forward to seeing you at reading groups, P&C and School Community Club meetings and at the many opportunities you have to participate in the life of your children's school.

SWINE FLU

The swine flu is still with us and will continue to effect the operation of the school. I have attached advice from the Director-General of Education about the protect phase of the national response to this disease. Please read this important information.

STAFFING

We welcomed our new Assistant Principal, Ms Kim Dudgeon yesterday. Ms Dudgeon will be teaching 3S for the remainder of the year. Ms Dudgeon was appointed following the selection process outlined in previous newsletters. The committee that selected Ms Dudgeon interviewed a number of experienced teachers who impressed with their skills, values and attitudes. The committee members were very pleased to recommend Ms Dudgeon for appointment at Castle Hill. Ms Dudgeon comes from the position of Assistant Principal at her previous school in Western Sydney and is looking forward to bringing her skills and experience to her work at Castle Hill Public School.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Yesterday was the Term Three School Development Day. We hosted a day for staff from Castle Hill High and Samuel Gilbert PS. The focus for the day was the application of new technologies to teaching. Teachers worked with Interactive Whiteboards, Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts and Vodcasts; looking at educational applications in the classroom. It is a challenge for teachers to adopt new technologies, to determine their application to learning and to develop their own skills to ensure that students have valid opportunities for the use of these technologies to support and enhance their learning.

The School Development Day was also a wonderful opportunity for teachers of three schools which all serve the same community to get to know each other better and to further enhance the transition of students from primary to secondary schools.

LEAGUE TABLES

New legislation on the publication of NAPLAN data has led to concern that the data may result in the development of league tables. The Federal Government has stated that it will publish NAPLAN data that enables parents to compare the performance of schools serving similar populations. Principals' associations, teacher unions and many academics have expressed concern about the publication of this data.

Being able to compare schools would seem, from almost any perspective, to be of benefit to both students and parents. Having comparative data would enable parents to choose the best school for

their child. It would also give a clear message to underperforming schools that they needed to improve their performance. Why then is there opposition to publication?

NAPLAN data is collected through testing of Year Three, Five, Seven and Nine students nationally in literacy and numeracy. The literacy tests are pencil and paper tests of writing, reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar and language conventions. The numeracy tests are pencil and paper tests of number, algebra, function and pattern, space, measurement and chance and data. NAPLAN testing is one-off testing that occurs four times in a student's thirteen years of school life. In the literacy domain, it does not test oral reading, speaking skills, listening skills or critical viewing skills. It does not test the student's willingness to engage in reading or writing. It does not test the creativity of a student's work in writing or their capacity for expression in reading. NAPLAN numeracy testing does not test the speed of a student's response or the automatic nature of the response. It does not differentiate between the capacity to perform mathematical operations mentally or using structured materials, it does not test real world applications of mathematics in design and construction or estimation. It does not test the capacity to apply higher order mathematical skills to problem solving situations. In fact, NAPLAN results are really only relevant when they are put into this context by the teachers and parents who know each child.

NAPLAN does not test other Key Learning Areas. It does not test science, technology, performing arts, creative arts, geography, history, studies of society, personal development, health studies, physical education or music studies. It does not test values, engagement with attitudes to learning, it does not test the development of interpersonal relationships and it doesn't test citizenship. It doesn't test self-esteem, whether students feel safe in their school; whether they enjoy coming to school or whether they engage effectively in the learning opportunities they are offered. It doesn't test parent satisfaction with a school or assess the long-term outcomes for students from their schooling.

Publication of NAPLAN data doesn't take into account that performance varies from year to year depending upon the cohort of students. A cursory reading of the annual reports of this school will demonstrate that performance variations exist year by year despite that fact that the students have the same teachers working with the same syllabus each year.

In fact NAPLAN testing doesn't analyse those things we most value in a school. You would not choose a doctor based on the number of prescriptions she writes or a dentist based on the number of extractions he does. You would not choose a lawyer based on the number of cases she takes and you do not elect your local member based on the number of parliamentary committees he joins. Why then would you make a decision on your child's school based on such limited data?

It is not the comparison of schools that is opposed. It is the comparison of schools on such limited data. If we are to measure schools only on those things that are easily measured, schools will begin to teach only what is measured and be much less effective as a result. This and a distrust of media in search of a headline or lead item that will sell papers or increase ratings regardless of the cost to individual students are the main reasons for the opposition of principals' associations, teacher unions and many academics to the publication of league tables.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING - Human Swine Flu Information Sheet

This year it is likely many more people will come down with flu - like illnesses than in recent flu seasons because few people have immunity to the human swine flu virus.

As the number of cases of flu increases, we all need to take steps to minimise the transmission of the virus in school communities as some staff and students are at greater risk of severe illness from flu.

Staff or students who become unwell should stay away from school until they are well, to minimise the transmission of the flu.

Any student who identifies that they are unwell, or is displaying flu - like symptoms at school will be sent to a sick - bay area and their parent or carer will be called to take them home.

Please watch carefully for any signs or symptoms of flu - like illness in your child. If they are unwell please do not send them to school until their symptoms have gone.

These symptoms include fever, cough, tiredness, muscle aches, sore throat, chills or shortness of breath.

Some people are more likely to develop severe illness from both seasonal influenza and swine flu. NSW Health advises that this group includes people who:

- Are pregnant (particularly in the second and third trimester)
- Have chronic lung disease (including asthma)
- Are very obese
- Have chronic heart conditions
- Have chronic kidney disease
- Have chronic liver disease
- Have blood disorders (including sickle cell disease)
- Have neurological disorders
- Have metabolic disorders (such as diabetes)
- Have weakened or suppressed immune systems (which may be caused by cancers, medications or HIV/AIDS)
- Are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background (of any age).

If you or your child is in one of these categories, please seek urgent medical attention as soon as symptoms of flu appear because you may need anti-influenza medication and it works best if given early.

The department has policies in place to support schools this flu season. I can assure you that the department will continue to act on all advice received from NSW Health to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff and students.

Additional health information is available from the H1N1 Influenza 09 section of the NSW Health website at: <http://www.emergency.health.nsw.gov.au/swineflu/index.asp>

- Mr Bryan Mullan, Principal

Student Welfare...

MINI MERITS -Term Two, Week 11

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

Rainbow:- Aisha (KM), Ella (KM), Aadi (KK), O'Felia (KK), Rebecca (KK), Olivia (KK), Fred (1S), Cherry (2B), Cassie (2B), Yulissa (1C), Alayna (1E), Jiah (2P), Becky (2G), Adam F. (3/2K), Rupa (3C) 3 sets, Connor (3C) 2 sets, Rebecca (3H) 2 sets, Victoria (3H), Chloe (3H) 2 sets, Niki (3H), Lily Banu (3H), Alex (3H), Lachlan (3W), Cameron (4C), Marco (4Y), Brendon (4Y), Charlotte (4Y), Angus (4T), Jessie (4T), Althea (4T) 3 sets, Louisa (4T) 4 sets, Zahin (6/5A).

Citizenship:- Elisha (2P), Marco (4Y), Edward (4Y), Althea (4T), Jessica (4T), Angus (4T), Rose (6R), Bridie (6G) 2 sets.

English:- Zac (3H), Sharon (3H), Neave (3W), Woosin (4Y), Edward (4Y), Chantelle (6F).

PDHPE:- Charlotte (2B), Jeffry (2M), Ruben (3S), Zara (3/2K), Becky (3H), Angus (4T), Bill (4C), Paige (4Y), Chantelle (6F), Amy (6R), Rose (6R).

Premier's Reading Challenge

11 students were busy completing this year's challenge during the school holidays! Well Done ☺

Congratulations to Divesh KL, Daniel 3/2K, Harrison 2P, Krupali 2B, Joselyn 2P, Nathan 3C, Sanjot 4T, Paige 4Y, Shameema 6/5A, Hayden 5W and Savannah 6R for completing this year's reading challenge!

- Mrs Megan Gibbons, Deputy Principal

An environmental opportunity to save our plants in the demountable gardens!



As you would be aware via Mr Mullan's Newsletter communications and the media, the school will be having a range of building improvements occurring via the Federal Government's - 'Building the Education Revolution' initiative. At Castle Hill PS, we will be having new classrooms, a covered area and a toilet block built and this involves the relocation of many of the demountables.

We have made it a priority to 'green up' the school wherever possible and the lovely gardens currently near the demountables will have to go in the building initiative. We want to preserve as many of the plants as we can and relocate them to newly established gardens once the building process has been completed.

We would value the donation of as many garden pots 20cm in size or bigger (please no smaller than this) as this will assist in the preservation of as many plants as possible. Pre-loved pots are just fine! ☺ Classes will nurture the plants in pots for as long as necessary before replanting occurs in the fullness of time.

If families would like to donate a bag of potting mix or Seasol solution to help preserve the potting process, it would be greatly appreciated.

Children / parents can deliver the pots, potting mix, Seasol to Ms Lockrey or Mrs Gibbons any time before the end of August. Your contribution to preserving plants from the demountable gardens is appreciated!

School Development Day yesterday

As Mr Mullan has outlined, the day was a most positive experience and a wonderful opportunity to dialogue with colleagues from Castle Hill HS and Samuel Gilbert PS. The links between the three schools are building a very positive relationship, which benefits our school immensely.

Thank you to a number of parents within our school community who contributed to the day. Your support was appreciated.

- Ms Denise Lockrey, Deputy Principal

From the Classroom...

KINDERGARTEN NEWS - Week 1

Welcome back after a relaxing holiday. Tomorrow the children will commence Sports In Schools Australia. Please make sure the children wear their sports uniform and suitable footwear.

Parent helpers for sport on Wednesday are not needed this term as the children will be participating in the Sport in Schools Australia program instead.

The stars of the week are: Brendan KK, Natalie KG, Chelsea KM, Lachlan KL and Rohan from KA.

The children will be revising their sounds this week.

The sight words for this week are: **big, can, did** and **get**. The words are from the green sight words list.

- From the Kindergarten Teachers

NATIONAL TREE DAY 2009 IS COMING!

National Tree Day is next Sunday, 2nd August, for various community groups. Our school event will become a Tree Week with events occurring from Friday, 31st July, until the following Friday, 7th August. Also some aspects will continue further into August.

The Kindy classes will be involved in planting some grade trees in the Kindy Garden area on the official school's tree day, Friday, 31st July.

On Thursday 6th August Kindy G will be hosting a visiting speaker from the council giving a talk about gardening - as a follow-up to the Orange Blossom competition last year. Some guest children from other classes will also be invited to attend.

Yr1 and Yr2 will be involved in the transplanting of their demountable garden beds, with dates to be advised. The school will be bound by the building schedule. Donations of recycled garden pots and potting mix and seasoil are still being gratefully received.

Years 3-6 will have a day each during week 2, to be advised in next week's newsletter.

Activities include planting native bird and butterfly-attracting shrubs, planting cuttings of flowering plants, weeding, mulching, and planting seeds.

Donations of plants, seeds, gardening gloves etc are very welcome.

Stay tuned for more information.

Fiona Gale, Tree Day Co-ordinator

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

UNIVERSITY COMPETITION: ENGLISH

Next week the ENGLISH ICAS will be held on Tuesday 4th AUGUST. Parents of students participating are asked to be aware of the following important information. The students will be told next week of the testing locations (classroom) at Monday morning assembly. Only students who have paid will be allowed to participate.

The test will focus on

1. reading for meaning in literary texts
2. reading for meaning in factual texts
3. Textual devices
4. Syntax
5. Vocabulary

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY STUDENTS AND PARENTS:

- The students will be supervised in the courtyard from 3:00pm to 3:10pm while they have a quick snack, drink and visit the toilets.
- They will enter the testing rooms at 3:10pm.
- The test will commence at 3:20pm (allowing time for relevant identification to occur).
- The students in Years 3-6 will complete the test 4:20pm.
- All students will meet their parents in the courtyard and be picked up between 4:20pm and 4:30pm.
- Parents are not allowed to wait outside the testing rooms.
- All parents will pick up their children from the courtyard and they must not wait outside the testing areas.

- Mr George Younan, Assistant Principal and ICAS Coordinator

SPORT IN SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA HAS COME AGAIN TO CASTLE HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL!

The Sport in Schools Australia Program begins tomorrow for the 3rd year. As part of the PDHPE Curriculum all the students at Castle Hill Public School will be participating in an innovative Fitness and Sporting Program. This Program will run for 10 sessions over 10 school weeks.

ALL STUDENTS IN K-6 WILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR THEIR FULL SPORT UNIFORM EACH WEDNESDAY.

During the weekly program the students in Kindergarten to Year 6 will be participating in a range of activities.

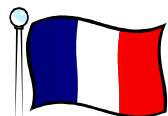
These may include:

- Physical education and fundamental skill topics such as balance, co-ordination, ball skills, throwing, catching, cognitive learning and development
- Fitness and conditioning training; including components of fitness eg: strength, power, speed, endurance, flexibility and agility
- Social skill development, including co-operative learning and team building initiatives.

Each week your children will be learning health and safety tips.

- Mr George Younan, Assistant Principal and SiSA Coordinator

Congratulations to the Term 2 Week 11 French Award winners



Kindergarten Monsieur Taureau Award - Blake KG, Ethan KG

Year 1 Les Jolies Fleurs Award - Alayna 1E, Sam 1E

Year 2 Chiot Award - Marissa 2G, Taren 2G

Prize Box Recipients: Marco 4Y, Chloe 3H, Stacey 3W, Nathan 3W Daniel 3C, Gabriella 3C, Ben 3C, Matthew 3C, Hannah 3C, Harry 3C, Aleisha 3C, Alanis 3C, Hayley 3C, Nathan 3C, Alayna 3C, Rachael 3C, Taha 3C

ANNUAL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL CANTEEN

A reminder that the Annual Athletics Carnival for Years 3 to 6 will be held on Tuesday 4th August at Alfred Whaling Reserve, Baulkham Hills. Children and parents may order lunches from the Canteen but only the following items will be available: pies, sausage rolls, sandwiches, chips and drinks (not milk). Sandwiches must be ordered before carnival day as they are made at school and taken to the ground. No sandwiches can be made at the carnival Canteen. Lunch orders for the carnival must be placed with the Canteen this week and clearly marked with the child's name and sports house. Any parent willing to help in the Canteen at the carnival will be most welcome. The more volunteers we have the less time we need you to spend in the Canteen which allows everyone to see their children and their friends compete.

PLEASE NOTE: THE CANTEEN AT SCHOOL WILL NOT BE OPEN FOR KINDERGARTEN, YEAR ONE AND YEAR TWO ON CARNIVAL DAY.

- Carol Coyle, Canteen Supervisor

ANNUAL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL AND CARNIVAL CANTEEN

A reminder that children in Years 3 to 6 need to be at school by 8:40am next Tuesday 4th August in order to leave on time for the Athletics Carnival. Unless weather conditions are extremely poor, the carnival will go ahead.

- K. Cahill, Carnival Organiser

Parent News...

P&C

Welcome back to Term 3. I hope all families had a pleasant break. The next P&C meeting will be on Wednesday 12th August at 7:30pm.

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

COMMUNITY CLUB

The next School Community Club meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th August at 9.15am in the staffroom (due to the Athletics Carnival being held on the Tuesday). If you are not able to attend our usual meeting on a Tuesday but are available on Wednesday we would love to see you. Everyone is welcome - babies and toddlers included.

This week a note will go home to all Kindergarten students about the Picture Plate Fundraising Project run by the School Community Club each year - it is a great opportunity to create a souvenir from their first year at school.

Year Six students are invited to participate in the Picture Plate Fundraiser - plates cost \$22 each, please contact me for further information if your child is interested.

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

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Volunteer Roster: Thursday 30th July - Bronwyn Barrs, Emilia Susanto

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

CANTEEN NEWS

ROSTER:

Wednesday 29 th July	Tracy Anderson, Jo Rayner, Melanie Fryer
Thursday 30 th July	Linda Ivica, Diane Flanders, Kylie Nelson
Friday 31 st July	Emilia Susanto, Vicki Payne, Julie Botelho, Toni Bray
Monday 3 rd August	Renee Swart, Sharlene Mansfield
Tuesday 4 th August	CANTEEN CLOSED - ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

-Canteen Committee

Community News...

Want to save 10% or more with free onsite tutoring service? Megahill IT Solutions is pleased to announce the launch of their new website www.megahillcorp.com.

To celebrate the launch, Megahill is giving free onsite tutoring service along with special discounts on their already lowest prices exclusively to our school community. Megahill has completed full re-development of the web site from a more wholesale, business-oriented style to a more relaxed and colourful retail style. This is aimed to accommodate all our clients and customers, either business or end users, a more pleasant shopping experience. Over time you will see the website grow as thousands of products are added to the site!

If you can't see what you want, contact Megahill and we will provide it for you at the best possible price.

Don't forget the "Cost Saving for You! Fund Raising for Your School" on-going offer to our school! When you spend money with us, we will help the school with their IT requirements. Please visit www.megahillcorp.com and enjoy!

Term 3 Overview

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat/Sun
Wk 1	27 July Staff Development Day	28 Students begin	29 SiSA	30	31	1 Aug
						2
Wk 2	3	4 3-6 Athletics Carnival ICAS English Test	5 SiSA OC placement Test SCC Meeting 9.15am	6 Aust Youth Choir auditions	7	8
						9
Wk 3	10	11	12 SiSA P&C Meeting 7.30pm	13 K-4 Anansi Stories 5-6 The Mermaid's Daughter	14	15
						16
Wk 4	17 Music Festival Workshop	18	19 SiSA ICAS Maths Test Zone Athletics	20	21 Zone Athletics	22
						23
Wk 5	24	25 3.15-4.15pm Parent interrelate talk	26 SiSA	27	28	29
						30
Wk 6	31	1 Sept SCC Meeting 9.15am Music Festival	2 SiSA	3 Golden Ridge Farm - Kinder	4	5
						6
Wk 7	7	8 K-6 Opera Australia	9 SiSA P&C Meeting 7.30pm	10	11	12
						13
Wk 8	14	15 Yr 5 Antarctic visit - in hall	16 SiSA	17	18	19
						20
Wk 9	21 Regional Athletics	22	23 SiSA	24	25	26
						27
Wk 10	28	29	30 SiSA	1 Oct	2	3
						4

SiSA = Sport in Schools Australia