

Castle Hill Public School



NEWSLETTER

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From the Principal...

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

The school's athletics carnival was held today. As this newsletter is typed before the day, I can only say that I hope it was held in fine weather. As always, I am confident that the students who benefit most from the day will be those that give everything a go. Reports of the day will be in next week's newsletter.

THE PURPOSE OF SCHOOL

Every term I remind the students at the first assembly why we come to school. If you ask your children, they will reply that we come to school to learn.

Learning is the children's work. As teachers we tailor learning to each child's developmental stage and make the opportunities for learning as attractive as possible, but it is the student's motivation and engagement that ensures learning. I focused on two points at yesterday's assembly:

The first was that we learn many things at school that are not on the syllabus. This includes the interpersonal skills we develop and the values we practise every day. Every moment is a learning opportunity, not just those in the classroom.

We learn best from our mistakes. When we make a mistake, it helps us focus our learning on the things we don't already know. Mistakes are opportunities for learning and we need to take risks with our learning so we can make mistakes and find out where to focus our attention.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY CLUB

The meeting normally held today was postponed to tomorrow, Wednesday 5 August in the school staffroom at 9.15. All are welcome to attend.

P&C ASSOCIATION

The August meeting will be held next Wednesday evening, 12 August in the school staff room. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Bradley (5P) who achieved a magnificent 10th place in the State Cross Country last Friday. This is a remarkable achievement in a taxing and challenging sport. Congratulations also to Kaylee (4T) who won the Rouse Hill photography competition on the subject of green transport. Kaylee's photo is on display in the foyer for a short time.

SIBLING ENROLMENT FORM

Included in this newsletter is a sibling enrolment advice form. If you have a child commencing Kindergarten next year the enrolment process can be simplified by completing this form. Please return it as soon as possible so we can include you on our mailing list for Kindergarten 2010 information.

LEAGUE TABLES

Last week I wrote about why principals' associations, teacher unions and academics have spoken against league tables of schools developed from NAPLAN data. The reasons I gave were just some of the arguments that have been presented against the publication of data.

One of the most difficult challenges for schools is the purpose of NAPLAN testing. Teachers value the data they receive on individual students from NAPLAN testing. It gives them an external evaluation based on the syllabus that provides detailed descriptions of what each child has achieved and not achieved in relation to the syllabus. This feeds into teachers' planning for the individual student and the class. School administrators value the data because it gives them feedback on how individual students and whole grades perform in relation to the syllabus. It provides an opportunity to target resources including professional development and human and physical resources where they are needed to support teaching and learning.

When the testing is used to compare the performance of schools a number of things can occur:

- As mentioned last week, schools may narrow the syllabus and limit the learning of students to achieve better NAPLAN results and improve their position on the league table.
- Students can be excluded. There is a provision in NAPLAN for excluding students with significant disabilities and those recently arrived in the country. Like a lot of other schools we have always chosen to keep these students in the testing process because it gives us useful data. That data will be lost if schools choose to exclude students to protect their place on league tables.
- Students can be secretly excluded. Parents can be asked to keep their children at home when testing is occurring. Again this will cost schools the most important data from the NAPLAN assessment and give powerful negative messages to parents and students.
- Schools may even enrol students selectively. At our school we endeavour to enrol students from our local area regardless of ability. Not all schools work this way. There is a non-government school not far from here that conducts entry testing for Kindergarten. There is a school in south-western Sydney that regularly appears at the top of league tables for Higher School Certificate achievement that refuses re-enrolment in Years 11 and 12 for underachieving students. If all schools start to take this approach students with disabilities and learning difficulties will be extremely disadvantaged.

Quite apart from the inequity that may arise from this system, we have to consider the messages this type of conduct gives the rest of the students. We work hard to teach our students that their society is filled by people with a range of abilities and disabilities. We teach them that they have a responsibility to their peers and their society. What message will they receive if we again start to discriminate against some people in their school? We have to demonstrate the values we teach in our daily behaviour. League tables may pressure schools to sacrifice values for reputation. At the very least, publication of NAPLAN data may corrupt the quality of the data. At worst it will misreport the effectiveness of schools and discriminate against students with learning difficulties.

SURVIVING CYBERBULLIES

With all the media surrounding cyberbullying, you might be wondering how to protect your child.

Many kids rely on technology for their social life and won't risk telling you about cyberbullying if they think you'll restrict their access to the computer or phone.

Make it clear you won't. Also reinforce the **Stop, Block, Tell** message:

Stop: Tell your child NEVER respond to the bully. Instead, they should take some time out from the conversation to calm down and talk to you

Block: Block the bully and limit communication to close friends. Keep the evidence but contact the site administrator and ask for the abusive comments to be removed - this will stop your child re-reading and re-living the abuse.

Tell: One of the most effective things you can do is report bullying to the site administrator. Also tell the school principal. Every NSW public school has an anti-bullying plan.

Keep computers and mobiles in an open area of the house and not in kids' bedrooms. Late night messages - good or bad - don't allow kids to get enough sleep to function well at school or socially. Read the full article at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/click

- Mr Bryan Mullan, Principal

Student Welfare...

MINI MERITS -Term Three, Week 1

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

Rainbow:- Finn (KM), Chelsea (KM), Armaan (KA), Jaime (KA), Jarrod (1S), Daniel (2M), Sherry (2M), Dion (2M) 2 sets, Ivan (2B), Eve (2G), Grace (4C), Cody (4C), Andrea (4Y), Emad (4T), Chelsea (5P), Jessica (5P), Lance (5C) 3 sets.

Citizenship:- Diya (2G), Lachlan (3W), Eliza (4Y), Cody (4C), Chelsea (5P), Jessica (5P).

English:- Anika (1C), Rose (3S), Lachlan (3W), Ana (4T), Cameron (4C), Cody (4C), Bill (4C), Andrea (4Y), Lance (5C), Stephen (6G).

Maths:- Cody (4C) 2 sets, William (5W), Lance (5C) 2 sets, Emily (6R).

Creative Arts:- Cody (4C) 3 sets, Emily (6R).

PDHPE:- Ivan (2B), Dion (2M) 2 sets, Cody (4C) Eliza (4Y), Andrea (4Y), Emily (6R), Stephen (6G).

Science and Technology:- Andrea (4Y).

HSIE:- Patrick (2B), Haani (2B), Justin (5P), Anton (5P), Tasha (5P), Joel (5P), Paris (5P), Yasmin (5P), Daniel (5P), Chelsea (5P), Fergus (5P), Kyal (5P), Melissa (5P), Shanice (5P), Emily (6R).

Bronze Awards

Bronze awards are given when a student achieves 10 mini merit certificates. These 10 certificates are then brought in to the Deputy Principal and a lovely Bronze Award certificate with a digital photo of the student incorporated into the certificate is awarded and each student receives a special school pen. Our Bronze certificate students awarded this week were -

Angela (2M)

Well done, we are very proud of your sustained efforts in your learning. Congratulations!

Silver Awards

Silver awards are given when a student achieves 20 mini merit certificates. These 20 certificates are then brought in to the Deputy Principal and a lovely Silver Award certificate with a digital photo of the student incorporated into the certificate is awarded along with a fantastic silver badge which they can wear proudly on their uniform daily! Each term a special Silver Award morning / afternoon tea with the Principal will be conducted as another part of the Silver Award package! Our Silver certificate students awarded this week were -

Peter (2G), Jordan (3H), Julie (6F), Hayley (2M), Tia (3W) and Heather (2G) have achieved **20** mini merit certificates. We are very proud of their commitment to learning.
Well done!

School Development Day

We would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the organisations that supported the School Development Day - July 27, 2009.

- Officeworks - Castle Hill
- EduQuip - Baulkham Hills
- Smiths
- The Coca-Cola company
- Good Guys - Castle Hill
- C2K Fitness Centre
- The Sony Company
- Kellogs Company
- Mr Eric Lin - Megahill Corporation - Kellyville
- Mrs Julie Clarke - Vogue in a Vase
- Mrs Vanessa Bell - Core Health Network

- Ms Denise Lockrey, Deputy Principal

High School Placement Year 7 2010

Last Term Year 6 students have received a letter of offer from a government high school. Included with that letter should have been an enrolment form. The enrolment form should have been completed and returned to the high school last term. If you have not returned the enrolment form to the high school please do so as soon as possible. If you have lost or misplaced the enrolment form please contact the high school to receive a replacement copy.

Seminars for Parents

Interrelate Family Centre are holding two seminars for parents regarding parenting children. Details and contact information are listed below.

Ideas for Parenting Teens - Wed 16th September 2009 6-9pm

Venue: Learn 2 - Level1, Suite 101, The Vinegar Hill Memorial Library and Community Centre, Rouse Hill Town Centre

Cost: \$15 per person, \$25 per couple

Focus: Effective communication, setting boundaries, understanding normal adolescent behaviour and negotiating with teenagers.

Enquires and Bookings: 9653 9533



The Challenge of Disciplining Your Children - Wed 18th November 2009 6-9pm

Venue: Learn 2 - Level1, Suite 101, The Vinegar Hill Memorial Library and Community Centre, Rouse Hill Town Centre

Cost: \$15 per person, \$25 per couple

Focus: constructive techniques in discipline and encouragement of children, understanding positive discipline, how to set clear boundaries.

Enquires and Bookings: 9653 9533

Additional information can also be located through the Interrelate website:

<http://www.interrelate.org.au/index.asp?pageID=115>

Premier's Reading Challenge

Congratulations to Olivia KL, Sean KG and Noah 3/2K for completing this year's reading challenge!

- Mrs Megan Gibbons, Deputy Principal

From the Classroom...

KINDERGARTEN NEWS - Week 2

Star of the Week in KL is Emilee.

The sight words for this week are: **has, him, new** and **now**. The sound for this week is 'e' as in egg.

Please return the money for the kindergarten plates as soon as possible.

This term the children will be looking at the HSIE unit **Meeting Needs**.

This unit provides opportunities for students to explore their immediate needs — food, shelter, clothing and love. The unit focuses on how these needs are met by people and resources, as well as students' responsibilities in meeting these needs.

- From the Kindergarten Teachers

YEAR 6 FAREWELL

All parents of our Year 6 students who are able to give some of their time to help with the organising of the Year 6 Farewell are invited to our first meeting. The meeting will be on Thursday 6th of August at 3:10pm in the 6F classroom.

Everyone is welcome to come and lend a hand. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would still like to take part, please send your name and contact details to Ms Fernandes. We are looking forward to making the farewell a special and memorable time for the children.

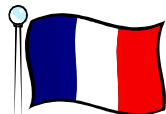
- Ms Fernandes, on behalf of the organising committee

CHPS TREE WEEK

Our Kindergarten classes enjoyed participating in Tree Day last Friday and are now keen to continue to care for our school gardens. Years 1 & 2 will participate this week on Thursday 6th August. Due to all the sporting events this week, the arrangements for Years 3 to 6 will be postponed until next week. Families interested in donating a native shrub or ground cover plants to their child's class or grade would be very much appreciated.

Kindy's involvement is not yet over, as on Thursday KG will host a Council visitor to present a gardening demonstration to the children.

- Miss Gale



Congratulations to the Term 3 Week 1 French Award winners

Kindergarten Monsieur Taureau Award - Chelsea KM, Alexander W KM

Year 1 Les Jolies Fleurs Award - Laura 1C, Aidan 1C

Year 2 Chiot Award - Hannah 2B, Thomas 2B



A new award system will be starting for Years 3 and 4 from next week.

Superbel!

Ms. Rankins

GOOD WEBSITES FOR STUDENTS

For Tables Practice and Telling the Time (amongst other topics)

<http://resources.oswego.org> Go to Maths Magic -Stop the Clock, Sum Sense, Speed Grid and Dog Bone.

www.nlvm.usu.edu Go to Number and Operations. If you click on grades 3-5 and then go down to Base 10 activities it explains it well.

www.crickweb.co.uk interactive activities.

www.emints.org Click on ethemes, scroll down to How does ethemes work. There will be an alphabetical list of topics.

www.kidcyber.com.au for research

- Dawne Furze ESL Staff

Parent News...

P&C

The Athletics Carnival was held today. I am sure I will see some of you cheering your children. Kids love the fact that their parents are involved. It sends the important message that all aspects of their schooling are important, including physical activity.

Our next P&C meeting will be on Wednesday 12th August at 7.30pm in the staffroom. All welcome.

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

COMMUNITY CLUB

The next School Community Club meeting will be held tomorrow Wednesday 5th August at 9.15am in the staffroom - due to the Athletics Carnival being held today (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.

Last week a note went home to all Kindergarten students about the Picture Plate Fundraising Project. Thank you to those parents who have already returned their money and order form - orders must be received by Friday 14th August.

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 6th August - Lisa Ruiz, Aysha Duncan
Monday 10th August - Lisa Echevarria, Natalie Tuitupou, Jackie Ng

The price for Hats is now **\$13.00**.

Dr Shoe will be available for the purchase of school shoes on **Monday 31st August, 8.30am to 9.30am**.

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

CANTEEN NEWS

ROSTER:

Wednesday 5 th August	Julie Botelho, Vicki Payne, Julie Wilkins
Thursday 6 th August	Carolina Zurueta, Fiona Foote, Alice White
Friday 7 th August	John Payne, Olivia Grant, Lynda Syme, Bayzer Wah
Monday 10 th August	Leanne Roach, Grace Lee, Soeun Kwon
Tuesday 11 th August	Belinda McCombe, Lynelle Inkster, Margaret Laing

-Canteen Committee

BOOKCLUB NEWS

Issue 5 brochures have now been distributed. To enable us to maximize the bonuses to the school, would you please have all orders in this week. Orders should be taken directly to Mrs Thompson in the office. Please ensure your child's name and class is written on all forms and the envelope. Please contact Jane Relyea on 0434 990 807 or jrelyea@optusnet.com.au with any enquiries.

Community News...

Castle Hill Softball Club Inc. is registering for **Teeball** and **Softball** NOW. Come & play with a friendly locally-based club this summer. We have vacancies for boys & girls under 10 to play Teeball and girls & boys aged 10 and over to play softball. All games are played at the same time, same location every week commencing 17th October. For more information contact **Natalie Blanning** on 0411 286 308, castlehillsoftball@yahoo.com.au

**Learn Music on Keyboard at
Castle Hill Public School**

-  45-min lesson weekly. Small group.
-  \$22 per session.
-  Music material provided.
-  Instrument not required initially.
-  Beginners & children of all levels welcome.



Call to Enrol: 9411 3122 (VIP Music)

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT FOR 2010

If you have a child starting school in 2010, please complete the following form and return it to the school office. An enrolment form will be generated which will include all current details. We will send this form home to you to change or add any information. Please return this form to the school office as soon as possible. When returning your forms, please remember to bring with you:

- Your child's original birth certificate or passport
- Your child's immunisation records (Health Department certificate, if you have it, or the blue book) if the 4 year old needles have been administered.
- Your proof of address (e.g. a current original rate notice or electricity bill)
- If both parents were born overseas, your passports (with visas) or Australian Citizenship documents.

FAMILY NAME: _____

NAME OF CHILD CURRENTLY ENROLLED: _____

CLASS IN 2009: _____ DOB: _____

NEW CHILD'S FAMILY NAME: _____

NEW CHILD'S GIVEN NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

MALE

FEMALE

Term 3 Overview

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat/Sun
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 K-2 & Yr6 Bookweek Parade 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