

Castle Hill Public School



NEWSLETTER

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18 August 2009

From the Principal...

BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Last Wednesday I was able to inform the P&C Association that the revised proposal for the BER Primary Schools for the 21st Century project was the construction of a two storey classroom block on the existing games court to the north of the assembly hall. The building will contain five classrooms, a toilet block and some storerooms. The plan has been submitted to the Department of Education and the Commonwealth Government for approval. If it is approved, construction will probably commence before the end of September.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS

We have received more enrolment applications for Kindergarten next year than we normally do at this stage. This means that it is most important to get your application in as soon as possible so we can ensure your child's enrolment. Please tell your neighbours and friends in our drawing area that they need to get the application in for their children at the earliest possible time. Application forms are available from the school office between 8.30am and 3.15pm.

P&C ASSOCIATION

Last week's P&C meeting approved the payment of \$75000 for half the cost of the Interactive Whiteboards in the permanent classrooms. The IWBs have been a wonderful innovation that has opened up new possibilities for learning in the classroom. Your support of the P&C Association through your donation has enabled students at Castle Hill to have these technologies available at a much earlier time than most other schools. The P&C Treasurer has placed a message in this newsletter about where your money goes.

The P&C will need your continuing support as we will need to air-condition the new classrooms next year and install five more IWBs.

CAR PARKING

The Castle Towers carpark adjacent to the school was recently renovated. This has gone some way to addressing some of the problems that existed previously. It has not solved the problems created by drivers who do not consider others and risk the safety of our children by parking in traffic zones, reversing without looking and being impatient. We must also remember that not everyone who uses the car park is a parent from the school.

It is not a suitable area for unaccompanied children. If you are not going to get out of your car and walk your child into the school in the morning or walk into the school to collect your child in the afternoon, please use the Kiss and Drop system in the school. It takes a little longer, but it ensures the safety of our students.

CONGRATULATIONS

Two weeks ago Lachlan C and Liam G of 6/5A travelled to Japan for an international baseball competition. Their team was the most successful ever to undertake the tour. The boys had an

opportunity to learn a great deal about the lifestyle and culture of Japan during their trip. Congratulations to both boys on their achievement.

ZONE ATHLETICS AND BALL GAMES

Best wishes to our school representatives who will be competing tomorrow and Friday at these two carnivals. Results will be published next week.

INTERRELATE INFORMATION SESSION

Ms Lockrey and Mrs Gibbons will be conducting an Interrelate information session for parents of Year Five students next Tuesday, 25 June from 3.15pm to 4.15pm in the school library. The session will cover the "Moving Into Teen Years" program that Year Five will do in Term Four. All parents are welcome to attend and parents of Year Five students are particularly encouraged to attend.

LEAGUE TABLES

I have attached a one page article from the Sunday Times (London) newspaper of 26 April to the newsletter. It was written by Dr Ken Boston, a previous Director-General of Education in NSW and the former Chief Executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in England. The article addresses the long-term outcome of the use of league tables to compare schools in England.

- Mr Bryan Mullan, Principal

Student Welfare...

MINI MERITS -Term Three, Week 3

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

Rainbow:- Chris (KA), Seth (1P), Brendan (KK), Edward (KL), Jordan (1C), Aidan (1C), Sebastiaan (1E), Alex (1E), Phoebe (1P), Holly (2B), Areeb (2M), Hayley (2M), Hannah (3C) 2 sets, Daniel (3C) 2 sets, Jayna (3H), Oliver (3H), Alessandra (3H), Victoria (3H), Darren (3H), Grace (3H) 2 sets, Achala (3W), Stacey (3W), Jared (4T) 2 sets, Rupin (4T), Patrick (4T), Steven (4T), Roger (5P), Bridie (6G), Andy (6G).

Citizenship:- Patrick (KL), Laura (1C), Eiko (2G), Rachel (3/2K), Sarah (4Y), Ivan (5W), Phoebe (6R).

English:- Isaac (KK), Ruby (KK), Harry (1C), Anjali (1C), Woosin (1E) 2 sets, Anika (1E), Krupali (2B), Eiko (2G), Kaashif (3W), Jarod (4T), Patrick (4T), Deion (5P) 2 sets, Daniel (6F), Emily (6F), Amy (6F), Eleanor (6F) 2 sets, Moomal (6F), Isabelle (6F).

Maths:- Krupali (2B), Patrick (4T), Jasmine (6/5A).

Creative Arts:- Sophie (KM), Rebecca (1S), Ben (4T).

PDHPE:- Patrick (2B), Jordan (2B), Brooke (2B), Kalpana (2B), Charlotte (2M), Hyun Ju (2P), Marcus (2P), Akiko (2P), Jiah (2P), Rachel (3/2K), Neave (3W), Hayley (4M), Steven (4T), Kaylee (4T), Patrick (4T), Deion (5P), Emily (6F), Amy (6F), Moomal (6F).

Science and Technology:- Sharon (3H), Maddi (3H), Hayley (4M).

HSIE:- Madison (3H), Hayley (4M), Ince (5P).

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 -

Haani (2B) and Rupin (4T)

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 -

Elaine (4T), Cameron (4C), Ince (5P) and Hayden (5W)

Have achieved **20** mini merit certificates and we are very proud of their commitment to learning.
Well done!

Gold Awards *** ☺ WE HAVE ANOTHER GOLD AWARD STUDENT! ☺ *******

Gold awards are given when a student achieves 40 mini merit certificates and includes a Peer Support leader's certificate in the package. These 40 certificates are then brought in to the Deputy Principal and a lovely Gold Award certificate with a digital photo of the student incorporated into the certificate is awarded along with a sensational gold badge which they can wear proudly on their uniform daily! Each term a special Gold Award lunch with the Principal & Senior executive will be conducted as another part of the Award package!

Our Gold Award recipient this week is Stephen (6F)

Congratulations on your outstanding efforts over many years Stephen! ☺



Environmental Thanks!

Thank you to all the families that have so kindly donated pre-loved pots, Seasol, soil and soil improvement products. We value your involvement in the "save the demountable plants" project! The date for plant re-location is still uncertain, as we are dependent on building logistics, but it is terrific we are prepared! Thank you. ☺

Year 5 Parent Opportunity to gain information about the Interrelate Program, scheduled for Term 4, 2009.

Year 5 parents are welcome to attend an information session on Tuesday August 25 in the library 3.15pm - 4.15pm. The session will be conducted by Ms Lockrey and Mrs Gibbons and will outline the 'Moving into the Teen Years program' that our Year 5 students participate in during Term 4. Other CHPS parents, who may be interested, are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

- Ms Denise Lockrey, Deputy Principal

Premier's Reading Challenge

☞ Don't forget - The Premier's Reading challenge finishes at the end of this month. All student Reading Logs must be finalised by 4pm Monday 31st August 2009.

Congratulations to Samuel KL, Aneesa 1S, Christopher 1P, Aisha 2M, Diya 2G, Neave 3W, Jumaana 5C, Samuel 5P, Mark 5W, William 5W, Fiona 6G, Caitlin 6G and Jessie 6R for completing this year's reading challenge!

Disco

Our next school disco will be held on Friday 11th September. The three session times are as follows:

Kinder & Yr 1	4.15pm - 5.15pm
Yr 2 & Yr 3	5.30pm - 6.45pm
Yr 4, Yr 5 & Yr 6	7.00pm - 8.30pm

Tickets will be on sale from Monday 31st August. All tickets cost \$2.00 and will be on sale before school and at recess outside the front office window.

SRC

There is no SRC meeting this week.

- Mrs Megan Gibbons, Deputy Principal

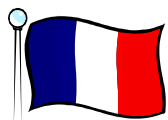
From the Classroom...

KINDERGARTEN NEWS - Week 4

The sight words for this week are **see**, **she**, **two** and **who**. The sound for this week is 'j' as in jelly. A green card containing all the green words will be sent home. Please revise the words with your child.

A note about the Book Parade K-2 and Year 6 (Tuesday 25th August starting at 9:30am) was sent home recently. If you are planning to join us, please fill out the tear-off slip at the end of this Newsletter, so that seating arrangements can be made.

- From the Kindergarten Teachers



Congratulations to the Term 3 Week 3 French Award winners

Kindergarten Monsieur Taureau Award - Natalie KG, Nathann KG

Year 1 Les Jolies Fleurs Award - Gloria 1E, Max 1E

Year 2 Chiot Award - Heather 2G, Jayden 2G



The French Stage 2 Stars for this week are Gabriella and Guiseppe from 3C who have earned 10 minutes reward time for their class!

Superbe!

Ms. Rankins

THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS)

UNIVERSITY COMPETITION: MATHS

Tomorrow the ICAS MATHS will be held after school. Parents of students participating are asked to be aware of the following important information.

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 between 3:10pm and 3:15pm.
- The test will commence at 3:25pm (allowing time for relevant identification to occur).
- The students in Years 3-6 will complete the test at 4:25pm.
- All students will meet their parents in the courtyard and be picked up between 4:30pm and 4:40pm.
- Parents are not allowed to wait outside the testing rooms.
- Students will need a sharp lead pencil and eraser.

- Mr George Younan, Assistant Principal and ICAS Coordinator

Parent News...

P&C

A Note from your P&C Treasurer.

Thank you very much to all of the parents that have paid their voluntary contribution this year especially in light of tightening family purse strings. The goal of the voluntary contribution is to enrich the education that all students at Castle Hill Public School receive. The P&C, in consultation with parents and the School Executive, deliberate on how your funds would be most effectively spent to meet the goals of enriching education for your children. I thought that you might all like to know where your voluntary contribution is being spent.

At last weeks meeting a cheque was drawn for \$74600 that represented 50% of the cost of the interactive white boards that all of the children at Castle Hill Public School are using in their everyday learning and development. These funds have been accumulated over the past 2 - 3 years for the purpose of a major asset purchase such as this. This purchase is representative of why we collect the voluntary contribution from parents at the beginning or throughout the school year . Again thank you very much for your past and continuing support of the voluntary contribution - your children are indeed reaping the benefits.

Other operating costs such as air-conditioning maintenance, children's activities, insurance etc account for approximately \$8000 per year. We also maintain the OOSH building that we own. Please come along to P&C if you have any questions about the distribution of funds or contact me by phone or email me on the P&C email address.

Our next P&C meeting will be on 9 September 2009 at 7:30pm in the Staff Room. Please come and at the very least enjoy supper and a cup of tea and maybe learn a little bit more of how CHPS P&C operates.

Regards,

Allyson Cox (Treasurer) 0417 031 117

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

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Volunteer Roster : Thursday 20th August - Emilia Susanto, Supriya Vankadara
 Monday 24th August - Elizabeth Gordon, Sue Obhrai

Volunteers Needed - **4th Monday** of the month & **any Thursday**.

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

Grey trousers, size 10, are now in stock.

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

Don't forget to order Sushi on Monday or Tuesday for Wednesday.

ROSTER:

Wednesday 19 th August	Vicki Payne, Julie Botelho, Sheree Townsend
Thursday 20 th August	Wendy Newman, Rachel Simpson, Jackie Vandermeer
Friday 21 st August	Anita Cassidy, Katherine Mullen, Dale Ilinsky, Anneke Milton
Monday 24 th August	Robyn Woolsey, Irene Ngu, Lin Hou
Tuesday 25 th August	Karen Griffin, Soeun Kwon, Sarah Lee

-Canteen Committee

HILLS PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL - CONCERT TICKETS ON SALE!!

Concert B - Tuesday 1st September, 2009 at 7:00pm at the Hills Centre

\$15.50 (A Reserve) or \$13.00 (B Reserve), No concession or children's prices.

Tickets are required for all children over 2 years of age.

Tickets will be available through the following methods:

- Over the Counter - Office hours 9:00am - 12:30pm Saturday & 9:00am - 5:00pm Monday - Friday
- Over the Phone on 9899 3433 - Office hours 9:00am to 12:30pm Saturday & 9:00am - 5:00pm Monday - Friday
- Over the Internet at www.hillscentre.com.au 24 hours a day, 7 days a week until 2 hours prior to each show.

Available from Saturday 15th August, 2009 from 9:00am

Contact the Hills Centre on 9899 3433 for phone bookings or The Hills Centre, Carrington Road, Castle Hill Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturday 9am - 12 noon

A surcharge of \$2.75 per ticket applies to telephone bookings.

Please note there is no bulk school bookings accepted.

Community News...



Hills Barbarians Cricket Club WANT YOU TO PLAY CRICKET THIS SEASON.

Players aged from 5-8yrs for in2CRICKET on Friday nights and 9 to 15yrs for Juniors for Saturday morning competition. If you would like further information please contact Jenny Bateup 0418 851 771 or visit our website www.hillsbarbarians.org.au

Rouse Hill Seminars For Parents 2009. Ideas for Parenting Teens

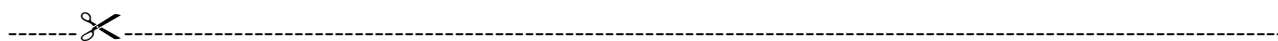
A 3 hr seminar which focuses on how to effectively communicate with and set boundaries for your teenager. This seminar will assist parents to:

- Understand normal adolescent behaviour.
- Explore skills for communicating and negotiating with teenagers.
- **WEDNESDAY, 16th September, 2009: 6-9 PM**
- **Closing date for enrolments and payment - Tues 8 September 2009**
- **COST of the seminar: \$15 per person, \$25 per couple.**
- **(Tea and coffee available)**
- **Venue: Learn2 - Level 1, Suite 101, The Vinegar Hill Memorial Library and Community Centre, Rouse Hill Town Centre 2155**
- **ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS: 9653 9533**

Term 3 Overview

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat/Sun
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



BOOK WEEK PARADE (Please return to your child's teacher)

I will be attending the Book Week Parade on Tuesday 25th August at 9:30am.

Number of people attending _____

Child's name: _____ Class: _____

Comment

The Sunday Times April 26, 2009

Our early start on making children unfit for work

KEN BOSTON

Why is it that so many young people, after attending school for more than 10 years, are found to be so poorly equipped for employment? These youngsters are not necessarily the underperformers and school dropouts – many of them have good GCSE results and come from schools at or near the top of the league tables.

Yet employers find that, despite their formal qualifications, many young people are unable to communicate simply and well; they cannot work in teams; they lack initiative, enterprise and the capacity to foresee and resolve problems; they cannot plan a schedule or manage themselves; and they lack a thirst for continued learning and personal growth. They are deficient in the soft skills that form an essential component of each individual's human capital, some of them to the extent that they are in fact unemployable.

This situation is not a figment of employers' imaginations. It is real and it is a crisis. The response of governments and education authorities has been the adoption of remedial strategies: the introduction of programmes for secondary school students in areas variously described as personal learning and thinking skills, life skills or employability skills. There is undoubtedly a place for remedial strategies to support the adult workforce. The Skills for Life Strategy, established by the government to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of 1m adults, is producing excellent results among adults who have not had the opportunities available to young people today and it is to be applauded. But should we really need remedial strategies in the soft skills for 15 and 16-year-olds, after they have spent two-thirds of their lives in continuous education?

It was not always thus. I would hazard that few of the readers of this article aged over 30 have ever taken a course in personal learning and thinking skills, yet most are probably either successfully employed or possess the skills required for employment if they choose to use them.

Employability skills are the product of a well rounded education. Teamwork can be taught and learnt only over a decade of activities such as playing sport weekly, or singing in a choir, or playing in a band or orchestra. Initiative, enterprise, self-management and a thirst for learning are created by building, from the early primary years, respect for individual creativity and real achievement, through recognition and reward. Competitiveness, and striving for individual success, is at the heart of teaching and learning in initiative, planning, personal organisation, problem-solving and enterprise. None of these educational outcomes is achieved or enhanced by national testing or league tables: they are the result of enlightened school leadership and effective classroom teaching across the full range of the national curriculum.

The present problem is not the result of inadequacies in the primary curriculum. The curriculum needs to be reviewed, and this is being done by Sir Jim Rose, but there is not much wrong with it and much to say in its favour. The real problem is that teachers and schools aren't able to get on with teaching it.

That is because the government's approach to the key stage tests has sucked the oxygen from the classrooms of primary schools. It is not the tests themselves so much as the high stakes attached to them, the archaic method of delivery and marking and the multitude of invalid uses to which the results are put. In all but those schools principled enough to resist the pressure upon them, the primary school curriculum has become a dry husk. The teaching programme focuses on what is to be tested and on practising for the tests, because the future of the school (not that of your son or daughter) is dependent upon the result.

Rather than being drilled for weeks or months on previous test papers and practice tests, the life chances of your child would be better enhanced by learning how to use mathematics to solve a real problem, rather than simply how to perform a clever manipulation; by learning to play chess and the violin; by being put in competitive situations in which sometimes they win and sometimes they lose, but always on the basis of relative performance; by spending a week away from home on a school camping expedition (there is a great deal of initiative, enterprise, self-management, self-confidence, teamwork and communication required and learnt by a group of nine-year-olds putting up a tent after dark); and by reading, for example, David Copperfield, even though it is never going to be tested.

The creation, growth, maturation and possession of the skills required to succeed in employment in adult life depend on good teaching of a broad and enriched curriculum at primary school. We cannot compensate for an impoverished primary education by giving its recipients a dose of employability salts at age 15. The necessary enrichment at primary level is impossible so long as the key stage tests continue in their current form and with such high-stake consequences. You fatten a steer by providing a full and nutritious diet, not by weighing it repeatedly.

Ken Boston is former chief executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

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