April 9, 2014

Friday will bring with it the end of a very busy term for all students, staff and parents. Congratulations to all our ‘new’ parents, who, like Kindergarten can celebrate their first 50 days of ‘big school’.

Monday’s Kindergarten celebration was a feast of movement and smiles – my thanks to the Kindergarten and Year 6 teams for putting on such a memorable event.

On Friday, we have a much more solemn whole school event as we pay respect to the legend of ANZAC. The whole school has been practicing for the annual ANZAC ceremony to which many dignitaries have been invited. A special thank you to Mrs Gibbons for organising the proceedings, and to the school Prefecture and wreath bearers who will officiate.

The school captains and senior choir led by Mrs Keast will take a morning out of their Easter break to represent the school at the special ANZAC service at Wrights Road Kellyville on Sunday April 13. All members of the community are welcome to the service, which is run by Castle Hill RSL.

I take this opportunity to publicly thank my staff – both teaching and administration for their hard work supporting your children this term and wish them all a deservedly relaxing break. To our students and families - stay safe and enjoy the Easter holiday break. School resumes for all students on Tuesday April 29.

AFL Champs
Congratulations to Finn [5W] and Jett [6H] who both were successful in gaining a place in the second round of trials for the Sydney West AFL team. The boys trialled at Blacktown International Sports Park on Monday this week. Jett was selected to represent Sydney West at the NSWPSSA State Championships that will take place at Macquarie University from Tuesday May 20 to Thursday May 22.

Football Champ
Congratulations to Matthew (6D) on being selected in the Sydney West Football train-on squad to be in line for selection as part of the final squad. Good luck Matthew for the big day this Friday.

Rugby Star
Nic [5E] was selected to represent Castle Hill in the 11s and the opens Rugby carnivals held over the last 2 weeks in Parramatta and Blacktown. Spurred on by his proud parents at both events, his 11s team came 3rd overall whilst his opens team finished a close second. Congratulations Nic – I know the Bulldogs will be watching you in the future!!

Steve Connelly - Principal
What’s in your child’s bag today?

Notes: Year 4 – OC Class 2015
Years 3 to 6 – Cross Country Permission Note

Leaflets: Years 1 to 6 – Worthwhile Drama Academy
Years K to 6 – Send a Basket

OPPORTUNITY CLASS PLACEMENT FOR YEAR 5 2015
Parents seeking opportunity class placement for Year 5 entry in 2015 are required to submit an application by May 16, 2014. Year 4 students are bringing home an expression of interest form today. Parents need to consider carefully if their child is suited to an Opportunity Class (OC) placement.

Parents of students currently enrolled in a NSW public school with access to the internet, a printer and their own email address (not the student’s) should apply for opportunity class placement online by going to this internet website: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement.

Online applications open on Monday April 28, 2014. All other applicants must complete an official printed application form. Late applications will not be accepted after the closing date of May 16, 2014.

Paper application packages will be available in schools from April 28, 2014.

Application forms whether submitted online or lodged with the school should be received by the Castle Hill Public School (Mrs Gibbons) by Friday May 16, 2014.

2014 STUDENT LEADERS
This week our captains and vice-captains will appear in The Hills News. Click on the link below to see the article online.


- Mrs Megan Gibbons, Deputy Principal

Kindergarten News
Apologies for the incorrect information for Stars of the week in the last Newsletter.

Stars of the week for last week were Tim in KSapphire, Sarah in KMoonstone, Tom in KKornite, Olivia in KGarnet, Evan in KAmber and Raymond in KPlatinum.

Stars of the week for this week are Pranati in KSapphire, Jovan in KMoonstone, Dorothy in KKornite, Jacob in KGarnet, Kiana P in KAmber and Jacob in KPlatinum.

Please return your child’s red note folder each Thursday. Home readers for next term will be changed every day. Please record and sign the home reader card every night. It is a great idea to continue reading every day through the school holidays - you may even like to visit the local library.

Single sounds for this week are: q and z. All single sounds will be revised at the start of term 2.

Sight words for the rest of the term in class are: all, are, as, at, but, for, had, have, his, he, her, one, not, on, so, they, we, said, you, with. These are known as the red sight words. Together with the 12 golden words they make up, on average, one third of all reading.

We ask that students wear a raincoat to school when it is raining to stay dry. Please do not bring umbrellas to school as students may be hurt by the sharp spokes.

All students participated in celebrating their first 50 days of school on Monday afternoon. They had a great time showing you what they have learnt so far. Thank you for coming along and supporting your child/ren.
The Easter Bunny will be visiting the Kindergarten classes on Friday. We have peanut-free chocolate for children who have allergies, if you do not want your child to receive chocolate, please let your child’s teacher know in writing tomorrow and an alternative arrangement will be made. Please keep it a surprise for your child.

On Wednesday May 7, we will be having a K-2 parent information meeting on maths in the Library from 3.15-4.15 pm. Please complete the form that has been sent home if you would like to attend, and return to Mrs Smith. Child minding is available for all school age children in room 2 (KMoonstone) and 3 (KKornite). Children under school-age will require outside care.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. We look forward to seeing you all next term for another term of learning together. Your child is to wear their Winter uniform for terms two and three.

- From the Kindergarten teachers: Mrs Smith - KSapphire, Miss McDowell - KMoonstone, Mrs Keast - KKornite, Mrs Georgiades - KGarnet, Mrs Alibrandi - KAmber and Mrs Pearce KPlatinum.

PSSA Sport Venues - April 11, 2014 - Leaving School 9.10am and returning at 11am.
AFL - Kellyville Park – Memorial Ave
Soccer – Greenup Park
Netball – Kellyville Netball Courts
Newcombe Ball – At school

Relay for Life - Thank you
Last Thursday, Castle Hill Public School was a sea of purple, as the children supported Purple Mufti Day. Thank you to all the parents and students for their valuable contributions to the Relay for Life, which helps to fund research into finding a cure for cancer.

Our Relay for Life team needs you!
Please join us on Saturday May 3 at Wrights Road Reserve, Kellyville, for a wonderful community event. Register online at www.hillsrelayforlife.com.au and click to join the CHPS team. We look forward to seeing you walking around the oval during the day.
Thank you to those parents and students who have already registered. Your Relay for Life shirts have arrived and can be collected from Mrs Keast’s classroom (room 3).

- Mrs Melanie Keast and Mr Bryce Holland, Team captains.

Chinese Club update
Thanks to Lisa, the Vice President of the P&C who presented the playground project in such great detail. We had positive responses and some suggestions. Thanks to the parents who have been so supportive to our school community and put our children’s learning environment first. Next term, we are planning to run a few informative seminars when the venue and the speakers are confirmed. Our regular meeting date and time in term two are: May 9 & 23 and June 6 & 20 at 9am in the Funhouse. Please come to have a cuppa and to share helpful information.

If you would like more information, Chinese Club has set up a social platform. It is a hotspot for CHPS parents sharing and discussing schools as well as local community’s information and activities. Please join our WeChat group in Chinese: CHPS 中文組. Simply scan the QR code with your WeChat account, and you are in.
MINI MERIT AWARDS
Due to the Celebration Assembly on Monday our weekly assembly was not held. The Mini Merit awards for Weeks 10 and 11 will be published in Week 2 of next term.

Bronze Awards

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hannah (3P)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Silver Awards

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christina (6M)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Denise Lockrey, Deputy Principal

P & C News
Our next meeting is scheduled for tonight. At this meeting we will be voting on the playground proposal.

If you would like to be part of the workgroup and contribute to our on-going discussions and planning via our online collaboration tool (Basecamp), please send an email to Lisa Stokan at stokan@bigpond.com with a request to be added to the discussion group.


- Liga Hegner (President) 0400 887 785

School Community Club (SCC) News
May 8: K-2 cross country
Can you help to hand out ice blocks to our runners on May 8 between 9.30am and 11.30am.
If so, please contact mandpbetts@yahoo.com.au

Peer Support Lunch is on this Thursday!
Thank you to Simone Peddler for coordinating the Peer Support Lunch and for the lovely volunteers who are going along to help hand out pizza to our Years 5 and 6 students.

Annual General Meeting - meet your new executive members!
It is with pleasure I introduce the new executive for 2014:
President – Rebecca O’Shea
Vice President – Melissa Betts, Simone Peddler
Treasurer – Brooke Matthews
Secretary – Priya Duggal

Expressions of interest for the role of President:
I would like to invite any interested parents/carers to work with me over the course of the next 12 months to transition in to the role of President. A lot of the work of President is to coordinate and delegate, and for the most part involves sending emails and chairing a monthly meeting. With a great team on board, and volunteers coordinating the majority of events, the role is made easy for anyone wishing to step in to this role. If you would like to come on board as a co-president with the intention of nominating for this role in 2015, please contact me via email rebeccaoshea@iinet.net.au.

Next Meeting: 9.15am Tuesday May 6 in the staffroom.

- Rebecca O’Shea, President: 0400 479 639; rebeccaoshea@iinet.net.au

May 8-9: Mother’s Day stalls
We need parents to help on our Mother’s Day stalls from 8.30-2pm each day. We are selling a variety of good quality items at cost price, with items from 50c to $3.00. If you have an hour or more to spare please contact me via email rebeccaoshea@iinet.net.au to be put on our volunteer roster.
Thank you to Julia Hanson Clinnick for organising this activity. I am sure the kids will love bringing something home for mum, nan, or grandma.
Uniform Shop News

Volunteer Roster: Thursday April 10 - Wenxia Li, Maggie Perez, Elizabeth Villena

Term Three

Pupil Free Day (8.30-10.30am) Monday April 28 - HELP NEEDED
Thursday May 1 - Tzu Chi Ko, Lynelle Inkster, Paulyn Tan

Winter uniform must be worn in Terms Two and Three.

This year you are able to order online through Flexischools. Please go to www.flexischools.com.au where you can place your orders, which will be delivered to the classroom. Parents are advised that Flexischool orders will be signed for by the child. Loss of orders will be the responsibility of child and their parents.

Help Needed!
If you could spare an hour to help in the uniform shop on the pupil free day Monday April 28, please contact me on 0438 809 993. Thank you

- Simone Pedler, Uniform Shop Manager
Ph: 0438 809 993 or simone.pedler@det.nsw.edu.au

Canteen News

On Thursday April 10 we will have Easter Treats available. Prices will range from 10cents to 50 cents. A new Canteen price list has been published on the School’s website. These prices take effect from the beginning of Term 2.

Canteen Roster
Thursday April 10       Danielle Fox, Vanessa Jackson
Friday April 11         Annette Hyland, Bronwyn Barrs, Lyn Stoddart
Term 2
Tuesday April 29        Leanne Periera, Lynelle Inkster
Wednesday April 30      Karen Cunningham, Tanja Hoerzer
Thursday May 1           Pilar Betanzos, Marzia Rahmati, Bhavisha Solanki

- Carol Coyle
How emptying the dishwasher can build independence

You can learn a lot about a family by knowing who clears their dishwasher. Who empties yours?
The choice of who empties the dishwasher in your family tells a great deal about your parenting philosophy.
If you or your partner usually does it, then I humbly suggest that you may be working too hard. You’re letting your kids off the hook.
On the other hand, if one or all of your kids (over the age of three) have this job then congratulations. You’re travelling down the road toward redundancy, and your children are heading toward independence. Many parents would love their kids to do this task but pragmatism (“It’s easier to do it myself”), lack of faith (“They’re sure to break something!”) and unwillingness to let go (“It’s my job after all”) get in the way.

Why the dishwasher?

Good question. Here are seven good reasons:

These days almost every house has one, and it’s a job that just has to be done!

It’s fiddly and tedious, and it needs to be done right, which is a great lesson for kids to learn.

Kids learn that everything has a place in the kitchen, which is a great lesson for those who are organizationally challenged. Knowing their way around the kitchen is also an important first step toward children making their own snacks and preparing meals – a worthy aim!

It’s emptied every morning/day, second morning/day so kids learn about routine.
As it needs to be emptied whether they feel like it or not, kids learn about grit (the ability to stick at a task even though it’s boring) and self-control (through delaying gratification) – two important character strengths that contribute to kids’ success.

If they don’t do it then who will? It teaches kids that others rely on them, as well as the other way around. Believe me, I see many young people who’ve never learned this lesson at home!

Kids are hard-wired to help but they need the opportunity to do their bit at home. The dishwasher is the perfect opportunity that never goes away!

There are plenty of other reasons for putting the dishwasher on the kids’ chores list, but that should be enough to get you thinking.

Okay, but does it have to be the dishwasher?

Smart parents put principles into practice to suit their circumstances.

So, if you buy into the notion that kids should routinely help at home without being paid, and that your aim is to make yourself redundant – but getting them to empty the dishwasher just doesn’t cut it in your world – find a similarly regular, laborious task that they can do that will also benefit others.

No dishwasher? You have an advantage

Of course, families without a dishwasher have a great communication mechanism at their disposal. That is, one person washing (a parent) and the other drying (a child/teenager) provides a fabulous shoulder-to-shoulder parenting opportunity. As many parents have discovered, when a child or young person’s hands are busy their tongue suddenly loosens up and the chat happens naturally.

Gradually, then suddenly
If getting kids to help is an uphill battle then I suggest you don’t let up. Keep expecting them to help. Keep working on a chores roster and keep at your kids to do the right thing. One day it will all click and helping out will become habitual, hardwired into their brains so that helping out becomes neurological as well as psychological.

That’s why ‘gradually, then suddenly’ is a really useful parenting mantra. The Australian cricket team’s recent success can be attributed to this approach. They’d been gradually improving by doing all the right things throughout 2013 without success and then suddenly it all clicked in the Australian summer. But that’s another story...

COMMUNITY NEWS

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by volunteering to host one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2014 for their 3, 5, or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Spain and Colombia will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money, and comprehensive insurance cover, all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. You choose the nationality, the gender, the duration and the interests of the student that you feel is the best match for your family. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

Enjoy time these school holidays at Castle Mall

with a FREE LOOM BAND WORKSHOP

Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 April from 10am to 2pm

Upper level of the Mall just along from Trade Secret

Free undercover parking

Castle Mall
SHOPPING CENTRE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Term 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hols</strong> Apr 14</td>
<td><strong>April</strong> 1 May 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hols</strong> Apr 21</td>
<td><strong>April</strong> 2 May 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TERM 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>May 5</strong> K-6 Assembly - 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>May 12</strong> K-6 Assembly - 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>May 19</strong> Zone Cross-Country Carnival @ Balcombe Heights K-6 Assembly - 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>May 26</strong> Zone Cross-Country Carnival back-up date K-6 Assembly - 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 2</td>
<td>Book Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No K-6 Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yr 2 Virtual Excursions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stewart House clothing collection starts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 3</td>
<td>SCC meeting 9.15am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yr 2 &amp; K Virtual Excursions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Book Fair Yr 4 Longneck Lagoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 4</td>
<td>Book Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kindergarten Virtual Excursions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yr 4 Longneck Lagoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 5</td>
<td>WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yr 6 Virtual Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yr 5 Planetarium incursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 6</td>
<td>PSSA 11.30am - Peer Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 9</td>
<td>Queen's b'day holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 10</td>
<td>R&amp;C meeting 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 11</td>
<td>School photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 12</td>
<td>PSSA 11.30am - Peer Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 16</td>
<td>Kindergarten vision checks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stewart House clothing collection ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>K-6 Assembly 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 17</td>
<td>Kindergarten vision checks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 18</td>
<td>Kindergarten vision checks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yr 6 gift to the school event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 19</td>
<td>Parent-teacher interview online booking system closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 20</td>
<td>PSSA Semester 1 student reports home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.30am - Peer Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 23</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>K-6 Assembly 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 24</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews New enrolment tour - Kindergarten 2015 focus 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Silver afternoon tea - 2.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 25</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews Gold lunch - 12.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 26</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 27</td>
<td>PSSA 11.30am - Peer Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Last day of Term 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hols**

**Hols**