



Education  
Public Schools



# Charlestown Public School

Newsletter Term 1 Week 4 – Wednesday 17 February 2016

A proud partner of the Whitebridge Community of Schools

Dear Parents

## NEW SYSTEMS

This year the Department of Education is implementing a new finance and administration system to be used by all Principals and school office staff. The new system will be very different to what has previously been used, and as such our office staff and I will be undergoing new training with a number of days out of the school. The training is quite extensive and there are a number of tasks that need to be completed in school before the new system goes "live". Whilst it will be a good thing to have this new system up and running, the training will have an impact on how our office staff will be able to respond to requests from both staff and parents. You will also see some new faces (relieving) in the office when staff are at training, particularly at the end of Term 1 and throughout Term 2. I mention this for two reasons: firstly to keep you informed and secondly to ask that you regularly check the newsletter or the Skoolbag app before ringing the office with an inquiry. We have fantastic office staff who are friendly and love to assist parents whenever they can, but both they and I will appreciate those times when you are able to find the answer to a question yourself. The office will be open for dropping off notes and or money from 9am-11am. Please have the correct money to also make it easier too. A preferred option would be to give your child the notes and money in a clearly labelled sealed envelope, to hand in to their class teacher. The teacher will then record this in their money folder and send to the office.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

	TERM 1 2016
19.2.16	Updated Student Emergency Contact details form due back
19.2.16	New! POP (Parents Online Payment) 'go live'
22.2.16	Y3-6 Zone Swimming
24.2.16	Y3-6 Zone Swimming
24.2.16	Selected Y6 Young Leaders Day note and payment due
28.2.16	P&C Bunning Belmont BBQ (parent helpers needed)
29.2.16	Student Executive - Young Leaders Day, Homebush
9.3.16	K-6 Lorin Nicholson motivational speaker
15.3.16	K-6 Free Watershow
21.3.16	Harmony Day
22.3.16	Y3-6 Free Coding Game Roadshow
24.3.16	Easter Hat Parade
25.3.16	Public Holiday – Good Friday
28.3.16	Public Holiday – Easter Monday
30.3.16	Y3-6 T-Ball Gala Day
5.4.16	Coding for kids (and parents too) cost involved
8.4.16	Last day of school for Term 1

## PARENT/TEACHER NIGHT

It was wonderful to see so many parents attending this evening and didn't the children enjoy the disco! It is important that each class teacher shared specific information about the class, goals for the year, grade expectations and homework with parents. This ensures that both home and school are working together in the best interests of the children. Thank you for your time and thank you to the teachers for their time as well.

### POP! (Parent Online Payment)

It will shortly be possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac.

Our school's 'go live' date will be 19 February 2016.

Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page will be accessed from the front page of the schools website by selecting **\$ Make a payment**

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities (these include dance and ukulele). There is also a category called Other which will be for items not covered in the previous headings, Other can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

When you access the **\$ Make a payment** you must enter:

- the students name, and
- date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. There is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number these are not used at our school, please leave blank.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school.

You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child's account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL

Nominations are once again being called to be a member of the School Council. The council meets once a term to discuss current issues, give guidance and provide support as a stronghold to the school. Nomination forms are at the office.

### SCHOOL ACCOUNTS

Charlestown PS has sent home invoices and we thank the parents who have paid their accounts. As a school, we make every effort to keep costs to a minimum but do need every family to pay their share. All students have access to pencils, pens, rulers, craft materials and work books to ensure a smooth start to the year. Your prompt attention to the payment of the invoice is appreciated.

### FRUIT BREAK – CRUNCH 'N SIP

**Would all parents please supply their child/children with a small piece of fruit which is peeled, chopped or cut up in a container ready to eat each day.**

Fruit break occurs every day in our classrooms in the morning session. It is a quick bite to eat to help recharge the batteries during our morning session.

As fruit break is only a short amount of time (5 mins), there is no time to peel oranges or cut up apples. Grapes, strawberries and bananas make great healthy items for fruit break. Please also include a cold bottle of water in your child's lunch box especially during hot days.

### YOU CAN DO IT!

For the remainder of this term the students and teachers are focussing on the "You Can Do It" foundation of being **Organised**. Examples of being organised include bringing your homework and home readers on Friday, keeping your desk neat and school bag and bedroom area at home tidy, planning enough time to do homework and projects and setting goals to help you achieve and be successful. Try to help your child be organised but don't do it for them.

## STUDENT WELLBEING

As a result of last year's parent surveys, Mrs Gill and I have put together some information about our school's student wellbeing policy, and changes that have occurred late last year to the Department of Education's Student Wellbeing Policy. A community forum will be held on Thursday 3 March at 9:30 in the music room to discuss the changes and how we manage student wellbeing, the planning room and Kidsmatter. We hope to see you there.

Enjoy the week

Jayne Thompson  
Principal

## PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS



Congratulations Charlie & Jackson



Congratulations Zone Swimming Team



Certificate of Appreciation from  
Camp Gallipoli

## 1G NEWS

1G has made a great start to the year. All of our class routines are now established and we make the most of every minute of the day.

1G are enthusiastically participating in the morning fitness program. Our co-ordination in aerobics is starting to improve as we develop the ability to move in time to the music.

Literacy groups are working well in the first session of the morning and students are making progress towards grade appropriate skills. We are developing our reading, comprehension, phonics, phonemic awareness, writing and fine motor skills as we rotate from group to group.

The Soundwaves spelling program has commenced. This program runs daily and develops skills in recognising phonemes and graphemes. We are using an online version of this program and we are all enjoying the interactive components. Each week we also have a grammar focus. The students are working hard to learn their spelling and punctuation rules so that they can apply this knowledge in their writing.

We are using lots of technology in our learning. We use our Interactive Whiteboards and classroom computers to learn new skills and concepts every day. We are also using iPads several times per week to develop our spelling, writing, comprehension and maths skills. We go to the computer lab on a Wednesday afternoon and this term we are learning to log on and use Microsoft Word.

Data was our first topic for Maths this year. We collected a lot of data on our class and made a range of picture graphs.

This term of focus in Art is on portraits. In the second week of term we used an internet program called Befunky to change the look of our photos and they look great! Great start to the year 1G!



## CANTEEN NEWS AND ROSTER

Thur	18.2.16	Alison Lee, Jan Battle
Fri	19.2.16	<b>No orders—counter service at lunch only</b> Tanya Black, Karyn Style
Mon	22.2.16	<b>CLOSED</b>
Tue	23.2.16	<b>CLOSED</b>
Wed	24.2.16	Kim McAlister, Elaine Ten-Bohmer

## CLOTHING POOL HOURS

Wednesdays	2:45 pm – 3:15 pm
Fridays	9:00 am – 9:30 am

## P&C NEWS

### Bunnings Belmont BBQ – SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY

We will be hosting the BBQ stand selling sausage sandwiches and soft drinks from 9 til 4pm.

We require parents for the following shifts: 8.30 - 11, 11 - 1.30 and 1.30 – 4pm. At this stage we only have 1 parent volunteer ... if you are able to assist please leave your details at the office. All funds raised go towards improvements and/or resources for the school.

### Mobile Phones

In partnership with Sony and CANTEEN (Kids Cancer Charity) we collect old mobile phones. Once we have collected 150 phones we are able to convert them into Sony products. In 2013 we received a Sony Camera. If you have any old mobile phones lying around, can you please place them in the box in the office foyer.

### Canteen

All volunteers need to be financial members of the Charlestown Public School P & C Association. The membership fee is \$2 per year. By being a member it ensures that you are covered under the 'Personal Accident Insurance' part of our policy and allows you to participate at P & C meetings. Please ensure that the next time you are on canteen you pay your \$2 membership fee and include it in the daily takings and make a note on the daily sheet as we are required to account for this money separately.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Coastal Valleys Region Girl Guides invite you to Come and Try Guides!



GIRL GUIDES  
AUSTRALIA  
NSW & ACT

At your local Girl Guide District  
**16 Mulbinga Street,  
Charlestown**

**For girls aged 7-10 and 10-14 years**  
Guides enjoy a challenging and fun program of indoor and outdoor activities: games, leadership, life skills, craft, badges, cooking, camping, canoeing & community events

### For information on your FREE visit and available units

Please contact Charlestown District Manager, Julie on 0414 423 417

Or Region Membership Advisor  
[helenEG2@live.com.au](mailto:helenEG2@live.com.au)

Or visit our website [www.girlguides-nswact.org.au](http://www.girlguides-nswact.org.au) to find out more about Guides


Nutrition Snippet

## The simplest way

...to save time packing lunches.

We know parents are eager to pack healthy, nutritious lunches.

But doing it five times a week, and getting the kids keen on healthy options such as fruit and vegetables, can feel like a chore.

Plan ahead to get organised and save time:

- Make sandwiches at the beginning of the week and freeze, then add fresh salad on the day.
- Cook extra at dinner and use leftovers for lunches - baked veg, stir fry, pasta and rice work well.
- Chop up sticks of carrot, capsicum, celery or cucumber and store in a container in the fridge until ready to use.

Let the kids help prepare and select, saving you time and getting them interested.



For more information visit  
[www.eatittobeatit.com.au](http://www.eatittobeatit.com.au)  
or join us at [facebook.com/eatittobeatit](https://facebook.com/eatittobeatit)

