



Education
Public Schools



Charlestown Public School

Newsletter Term 1 Week 5 – Wednesday 24 February 2016

A proud partner of the Whitebridge Community of Schools

Dear Parents

Great teaching just doesn't happen. Teachers need to be developed and supported to create inspired learning. There is no one single effective method or strategy, teachers need to be proficient in many teaching practises and more importantly to be able to assess the impact of these on children's learning. To become proficient, teachers need sustained professional development and this will be one of our focuses for the next three years of our school plan.

What does that mean for you? It means that your son's or daughter's teacher may need to have some time off class for professional learning. If that happens, rest assured that every attempt will be made to ensure your child's learning will not be disrupted. Where possible a close working relationship will exist between your child's teacher and the casual on the class.

ORGANISATION-"You Can Do It"

As mentioned last week the students are focussing on being organised. Organisation is revealed when young people keep track of when their assignments are due, schedule their time effectively, make sure they understand the teacher's instructions before they begin work, set goals for how well they want to do in specific areas of their schoolwork and in other endeavours. Organisation also means having all materials needed to do schoolwork, being tidy in your work habits and having a system for storing previously learned material. As an adult at home, do you have a planner or calendar so you know when notes and payments are due?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

	TERM 1 2016
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 @ CPS WHS info evening for parents of prospective students for Y7 in 2017 – 7pm @ WHS Library
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

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

One of our strategic directions is to develop skills necessary to be 21st century learners: that is not only to be curious self-directed learners, but to also have the skills to be creative users of technology. Mrs Gill is constantly training the staff and further developing their skills in this area. Miss Muir is in her second year of training in L3: Language, Literacy and Learning and changes are already taking place in the KM classroom to improve the children's reading, spelling and writing skills.

During this term staff are being trained in a student well-being program called "Kidsmatter" More information will follow during the term.

Also the staff will be trained in managing challenging behaviour in students, a twenty hour online and face to face course aimed at improving relationships and student engagement in the classroom. This will occur after school and take the place of the last Staff Development Day of 2016.

I was pleased to hear about the great surveys being offered by the Department of Education in their "Tell Them From Me" initiatives. The survey aims to improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW wide survey is on student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practises. More information about the survey is available at:

<http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and teachers will not be able to identify your child's answers in the survey. It is an online survey taking 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered between 4 March and 2 April at school. A note was sent home last week seeking permission for your child to participate (Yr4-6). There are also FAQs sheets to assist you on the above website. Staff and teachers surveys will be conducted during Term 3.

PLAYGROUND

This year there have been a few changes to where the students sit and eat their recess and lunch. At lunchtime the students sit under the COLA near the hall until they have eaten their lunch. During this time it is expected that they will show appropriate manners whilst eating and when finished put their rubbish in the bin before going to the canteen. This allows teachers with their duty of care to observe which students regularly forget their lunch or who choose not to eat lunch. During recess the students sit on the silver seats if they are eating, otherwise they are playing on the playground. Please ensure your child has a healthy food lunchbox as well as a water bottle each day.

P&C

Thank you to the many ladies who came to the P&C meeting last week. Congratulations to our new office bearers: Sue Clark President, Natalie Johnson and Deb Levin Vice Presidents, Alison Lee Secretary and Kylee Lowe Treasurer. Also to the many other ladies who put their hand up to look after the canteen (Nancy), clothing pool (Natalie), student banking (Alison) etc. Your help at our school is invaluable to us and we greatly appreciate it. Last year the P&C contributed a staggering \$13,000 towards the education of your children. Don't forget to support their fundraising efforts this term: Bunnings BBQ and Easter Raffle. The funds raised all go towards providing a better education for your child.

SCHOOL LEADERS

I hope you saw the wonderful pictures of our school leaders in yesterday's Newcastle Morning Herald. Many thanks to the P&C for their contribution.



School leaders

CHAPLAIN

At the end of last year we successfully applied for the funding to have a chaplain appointed to our school. This week we welcome Miss Jodi who will work each Monday and Thursday with the students. School chaplains support the emotional wellbeing of students by providing programs, pastoral care and strategies to assist the class teacher and parents.

HOME READING

Last week we resumed our Home Reading awards at Friday's assembly. Don't forget to encourage your child to read for 4 nights throughout the week and write their book (or chapter from a novel for Primary students) onto the reading card, (returning it on Friday). Then their name will go into the draw for a canteen voucher of \$2. There will be 5 of these drawn each week. All you need to do is to read at home with mum, dad or another family member and bring your reading card in each Friday. The more you read, the better you read!

CO-CURRICULAR HAPPENINGS

Many schools say that they "educate the needs of the whole child" but how many can say that:

*Dance groups are taught by a qualified dance teacher

*Ukulele groups are taught by a specialist music teacher

*All students Yrs 3-6 participate in the school choir

*We have been a member of Starstruck every year for the past 23 years.

*Signing choir is taught by specialist teachers

*Swimming lessons are conducted each year

Not to mention the huge range of sporting opportunities offered to the children in the form of netball, soccer, T Ball, basketball, weekly sport and gymnastics.

ZONE SWIMMING and Basketball Trials

Congratulations to all our zone swimmers. As a result of Monday's half day carnival Michellie came first in the Under 10yrs IM race and 2nd in the Under 10 yrs 50m butterfly. Good luck to everyone swimming today.

A wonderful effort for Eti who has been selected in the Eastlakes Zone Basketball team to trial at the Hunter Regional trials in March.

ATTENDANCE

It is important that children arrive at school in time to commence the day's activities. Students are expected to be punctual out of respect for other members of the class. All parents/caregivers must ensure that their children arrive at school on time.

Classes start at **9.30 am** so all children should be at school **before** this time. It can be very disruptive if your child continually arrives late for class. Parents bringing children to school after the commencement of the teaching program are asked to go via the Office and fill in a Late Pass, which is then handed to the classroom teacher. This will ensure that your child is not marked absent.

If an occasion occurs when you need to take your child early, it is required that you notify the child's teacher in writing and sign the child out at the Office before collecting your child. If a person other than a parent is calling for the child, the school must be notified in writing prior to collection. If an emergency arises, a telephone call from the parent to the school prior to collection of the child will be acceptable.

Following any absence (sick, appointments etc), please send a note to the class teacher with dates and reasons for any student absence within 5 days.

Some interesting facts regarding absences and lateness to school – Did you know...

- If your child is regularly late they miss huge amounts of learning time, regular lateness has the same impact as absenteeism.
- Missing one day a week from school from Kindergarten to Year 10 means missing two years and one term of schooling.
- There is direct correlation between attendance and achievement.
- Frequent absences make it difficult for teachers who have to continually re-teach information skills.
- Being 15 minutes late to school twice a week equals to missing 5 hours a term and 20 hours a year of missed schooling.
- Patterns of attendance/absence are set up in the early years of schooling.
- Being absent five days a term from Kindergarten to Year 10 adds up to more than one year of missing schooling.
- Poor attendance makes it difficult for students to form positive relationships with their peers.

PRINCIPALS AWARDS



Congratulations Jackson



Congratulations Rylan

Have a wonderful week.

Jayne Thompson
Principal

LORIN NICHOLSON PERFORMANCE

“Lorin’s award-winning curriculum based performance has a proven track record of changing attitudes and outcomes both in and out of the classroom.”

The school and the P&C are subsidising this performance so students can attend for free. Parents and grandparents are also welcome to come along.

Wednesday 9 March 2016 at 9:40am in the hall. Also see flyer attached to newsletter.

POP! (Parent Online Payment)

It is now 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 was 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.

CANTEEN NEWS AND ROSTER

Thur	25.2.16	Julie Hope, Loraine Fletcher
Fri	26.2.16	No orders—counter service at lunch only Lyn Lee, Magata Seu
Mon	29.2.16	CLOSED
Tue	1.3.16	CLOSED
Wed	2.3.16	Nancy Toavanua, Betí Sacmaroski, Lee Maddison

CLOTHING POOL HOURS

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

P&C NEWS

P & C Annual General Meeting

Thank you to those parents who attended the AGM last Wednesday. At the meeting we elected new committee members to a number of positions and also discussed the plans for 2016 (both fundraising events and spending priorities). P & C meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 9.30 am in the connected classroom. It is an opportunity to be involved in what is happening at your child's school!

Bunnings Belmont BBQ – SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY

If you are in Belmont on Sunday, please drop in, say hello and enjoy a sausage sandwich and drink with us! This is a major fundraiser for the school. Special thanks to those parents and teachers that have volunteered to prepare and serve on Sunday.

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?

Newcastle Permanent Building Society Introducer Program

In 2014, we joined this fundraising program through the NPBS. When someone applies for a new NPBS home or business loan, all they need to do is tell the NPBS staff member that they were referred by CPS P&C and provided their application is eligible, the P&C will receive \$600 once the loan has been approved. Please tell your friends, families, work colleagues—basically anyone you know can participate.

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.

CANTEEN ORDERS

Lunch and recess orders are available on Wednesday and Thursdays ONLY.

Please ensure that you follow the following steps when placing a lunch or recess order.

1. Please put orders on separate bags and specify recess **or** lunch.
2. Write child's full name, class & order, fold & place in order box before 9.30 am.
3. Change will be taped down in bottom corner of the bag.
4. Please remind your child to remove it before throwing the bag out.

CANTEEN - RECESS

Given the change in break times, we have had to make some changes to the items that will be available at Recess. The Big M & F and Big M & M combos will be the only products available to be ordered at Recess. Snacks and drinks will be available to be purchased at Recess. Ice Cream and Ice blocks will not be available for sale at Recess.

On Fridays, counter service only is available at Lunch time.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Atuka Netball will be having a Come & Try Netball afternoon.

If you are interested in trying Netball or just want to join a team, please come down to Lakeside Netball Courts, Belmont on Friday 26th February between 5-6.30pm. Please wear comfortable shoes and bring a bottle of water. All ages are welcome.

For more information please contact Toni on 49 471414 or 0407466704



AFTER SCHOOL

So fun it won't feel like learning!!



Term 1 - Mission To Space

Students look at modern day space exploration, and learn about the development of the space program over 6 weeks in a safe and nurturing environment.



New Motorised Build Each week
Creative free play time
socialise with like minded kids
loads of fun with lego

Book your spot online at:
Bricks4kidzAustralia.com.au/nsw-lakemacquarie/

New Lambton and Charlestown
Tues / Wed from 1 March
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Cost \$90 (6 week program)

OR Call Brad Levey
on 0499 006 056

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Do less, not more, for your kids

By Michael Grose

With school-aged children we can find ourselves making lunches, getting kids out of bed and cleaning out schoolbags rather than giving these basic tasks of living over to them.

The basic task of parenting, whether you have a two year old or a twenty-two year old, is to work yourself out of a job at the first possible chance.

REDUNDANCY should be the aim of the game! We never become redundant in a relationship sense – the emotional connection between our children and us is never severed.

In a practical, physical way we need to make children less, rather than more, reliant on us.

Developing independence is really about stepping back to allow children in. Doing less rather than more!

We develop greater independence in our kids one job at a time.

Recently I gave my 22 year old son a job that I had been doing for a while. He lives in North America and I had taken on the job of being the connector between him and one of his sisters, who lives in the UK. It had been my job to pass messages on between the two via telephone and emails. I would update each of them about how the other sibling was going.

Frustrated being the go-between I made sure he had contact details and let him know that it was his job, not my job, to connect with his sister.

We easily take on children's responsibilities

It is easy as parents to take on the jobs and responsibilities that really should belong to our children. With toddlers it is so easy to dress, feed and clean up after them rather than give these jobs over to them.

With school-aged children we can find ourselves making lunches, getting kids out of bed and cleaning out schoolbags rather than giving these basic tasks of living over to them.

And as I discovered, it is easy to still do the basics of life for adult-aged children.

TIP NO. 1 for developing independence:

Be clear about who owns jobs or tasks in your family and never take on a child's job, or part of a task, unless there is extenuating circumstances such as illness.

A mother I met recently is very clear on who does what in her home. It is her job to wash the clothes of her early teenage children but it is their job to place them in the washing basket. She doesn't check bedrooms as it is not her job to place kids' clothes in the washing basket.

Okay, I can hear your thought processes. Sounds good but what happens if kids don't give a toss and they don't mind being dirty.

Good point. In this case, this mum has a son who is, to say the least, fairly slack in the area of hygiene. But she didn't become overly fussed about that.

She certainly didn't get fussed when he played a game of football in the wet, muddy jumper that lay in his sports bag for a week. And she happily showed him how to work the washing machine when he wanted his favourite shirt (that he forgot to put in the washing basket) to be washed for a special night out.

TIP NO. 2 for developing independence:

Never be more worried about a child's job than they are, otherwise it becomes your job, not theirs.

This mum remained very clear that it was her job to wash the clothes but not to place them in the washing basket. She would remind kids about washing night, but never nag them to put clothes in the basket. She knows that as soon as she keeps reminding them, it becomes HER job rather than her children's job to put the washing in the clothes basket.

The school holidays provide a good opportunity to reflect on the whole notion of job-sharing. It's also a good time for kids to increase their job load when they are not burdened with schoolwork and extra- curricular activities.

Here's my challenge for you: Think of a job that you regularly do for your child that he or she can do for him or herself. Then step back and enable your child to do that for themselves on a full-time basis. Do less not more for your kids.

If you do that, then you can congratulate yourself as you have moved one step more toward REDUNDANCY.

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STUDENTS, STAFF, PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND:

Australia's preeminent youth motivational speaker, Lorin Nicholson, has received outstanding feedback in over 1400 schools, and performed for more than a million students throughout Australia and the globe.

We are looking forward to Lorin sharing his simple but powerful messages of **perseverance, resilience, respect, inclusion and leadership** that will greatly inspire every student to succeed in all areas of school and personal life.

Charlestown Public School

Wednesday 9th March 2016

9:40 am

Many have been quoted as saying that this is, without doubt, the most motivational and potentially life changing presentation they have ever witnessed.

"You could hear a pin drop in our hall. Your show gave them more to contemplate in one hour than I could ever give them in my classroom."

Lorin's incredible guitar playing, coupled with his amazing life achievements growing up blind, will not only captivate and entertain, but will inspire each individual to take on a more positive attitude towards those around them.

We hope they will find strength within, to never give up on achieving our dreams.

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