

# Charlestown Public School

Newsletter Term 1 Week 2– Wednesday 3 February 2021

A proud partner of the Whitebridge Community of Schools

Dear Parents and Carers,

A hearty welcome back to school to the Charlestown community and I trust you had a wonderful break. A very special welcome goes to the new Year 1-Year 6 students and their families who have joined Charlestown Public School and to our new Kindergarten students and their families. We look forward to your child's enthusiasm, their open eyes and open minds. This is the beginning of your child's formal education and another step in their learning.

At the time of writing this newsletter we have 192 students which equals eight classes.

We are all very excited about 2021 and look forward to working with all members of the school community.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

23/02/21	P & C AGM 7pm Library
18-19 /2/21	Zone Swimming

This week I visited the students in their new classes and found them to be settled and happy learning in their new environment. A lot of work has gone into ensuring that your child's learning needs are at the centre of our school's teaching and learning. Teachers are busy reassessing students to ensure each child is placed at the correct level in reading and maths. When COVID-19 restrictions ease we would love you to show your support for our teachers and your child by becoming involved in reading groups, canteen, fundraising events and the P & C.

It would be most fortunate if I could assure you that you will never have a problem over the seven years your child attends this school. We all know this is not the case, since we are all human. Sometimes communications break down and misunderstandings occur. However I can assure all of you that all complaints will be dealt with sensitively and effectively. I cannot recall a problem which could not be rectified and give a guarantee that all concerns will be addressed and solutions found which caters for the student's best interest while keeping within the Department of Education's policy guidelines.

Please ensure that either myself or the class teacher knows about problems when they are small, nothing is more frustrating than trying to resolve a list of problems dating back over several months or years. Should the class teacher be unable to resolve your problem I ask you to speak to me as a matter of urgency. It is always worthwhile remembering that the thing

which unites us, and that is the quest for an effective, all round education for your child, is potentially the most powerful thing we have, so we need to work towards getting our heads together so the best possible result can be obtained for your child.



### CPS Staff for 2021

A special welcome is extended to Mr Brian Gaffney, our new Assistant Principal. Mr Gaffney comes to us from Thornton Public School and gained his position through merit selection at the end of last year. Mrs Etherington and Mrs Thomson have returned part time from maternity leave. Warm congratulations to Mrs Drysdale and her family as she has announced she is expecting a baby in July. She will also be working three days a week in her Learning and Support (LAST) role. Mrs Cooper will once again be teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) and she will be joined by Mrs Tobin.

KT - Mrs Taylor  
K/1D - Miss Darcy  
1S - Miss Sawyer  
1/2D - Mr Dominick  
2/3C - Mrs Cromarty and Mrs Kondov  
3G - Mr Gaffney (Assistant Principal)  
4/5P - Mrs Prasad  
5/6H - Miss Hale  
LAST - Mrs Gill (Assistant Principal), Mrs Drysdale and Mrs Thomson  
Library and RFF - Mrs Saville and Mrs Etherington  
ESL - Mrs Cooper and Mrs Tobin  
Hearing Unit - Mrs Lynch (Assistant Principal) and Miss Southon  
Office Staff - Mrs Bartsch and Mrs Lowe  
SLSO's - Miss Douglass, Mrs Christie and Mr Barlow  
Chaplain - Miss Jodi

### Welcome to our 2021 School Leaders

Last year at Presentation Day our new school leaders were inducted. Congratulations to our new Captains: Caitlin and Brodie, Prefects: Rianna and Sarah and House Captains: Olivia (Hunter) and Tiniwhetu (Macquarie). I know you will give these students your support as they begin their leadership journey.



### Sporting Vouchers

To increase participation of school-enrolled children in sport and physical activity vouchers to help cover the cost of registration and membership fees have been provided by the NSW government. Two \$100 vouchers are available per child in 2021 with the second voucher available from 1 July to 31 December 2021. Please follow the link below for more information.

<https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/sectordevelopment/activekids>

### Charlestown Public School Programs

The Staff at our school work very hard to cater for the interests and talents of all students. Therefore, there are a number of programs which are conducted to educate, provide experience as well as catering for the special interests of students.

These are:

**Performance Groups** – every Monday 2:15 to 2:45pm. The children experience music (choir), dance, percussion, ukulele and drama. We have employed a music teacher, Mrs Walsh, to assist us in our musical pursuits.

**Choir** – Miss Hale and Miss Darcy are co-ordinating this program.

**Dance Groups** – Miss Darcy has many years involving dance and is co-ordinating this program. The children rehearse every Friday at lunchtime.



### **Star Struck and Hunter Dance Festival –**

Mrs Taylor and Miss Darcy are leading this program. The audition video is due very soon and will be rehearsing at lunchtimes.

**Craft Group**-Miss Jodi, our School Chaplain co-ordinates craft groups each Thursday at lunchtime.

**Coding Group**-Mrs Prasad and Mr Dominick are co-ordinating this group for students in Yrs 3-6 each Wednesday.

**Mindfulness Group**-Miss Sawyer organises Mindfulness activities each Monday for students in Kinder to Yr 2. It's a lot of fun and provides strategies for students to cope with anxiety and stress.

**Growgetters Group**-our Kinder to Yr 2 gardeners have been busy before the holidays and there are some crops that need to be harvested. If your child has a green thumb please encourage them to join the Growgetters club each Tuesday.

Also during the week there is:

**Library** – each Wednesday & Thursday. Students to bring a library bag. The Library is open each Wednesday and Thursday for games and collaborative learning.

**Canteen** –Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – the canteen follows the Healthy School Canteen Initiative only providing approved healthy foods. Please join the canteen roster. Your child loves seeing you!!

**Crunch'n Sip** – to promote a healthy lifestyle, every day in all classes at 10:30am. Please send a piece of fruit with your child.

**Scripture** – every Thursday from 12:30-1pm.

**Assembly** –every Friday. When COVID-19 restrictions are lifted parents are most welcome.

### **Whitebridge High School (WHS) success stories:**

Did you know that many of the students who received academic excellence awards in years 7 -12 at WHS came from our very own Charlestown Public School? Our past students also achieved school, zone and regional sporting awards and Gold awards. Some of our ex students gained ATARs of 90 or more in the HSC last year. We congratulate them on their wonderful, academic and sporting achievements.

### **P&C News**

The P&C Annual General Meeting will be held in the school Library on Tuesday 23 February at 7pm. Due to COVID-19 guidelines you will be required to QR code sign in. We welcome new members and everyone is encouraged to nominate for the P&C positions.

### **Swimming Carnival**

Last Friday some students in the primary classes attended the School Swimming Carnival. It was a fabulous day with all students having lots of fun.

Congratulations to the students who competed in the carnival and to everyone for giving their best throughout the day. Thanks to the teachers' fantastic organisational abilities and the support of you wonderful parents the carnival went off without a hitch.

As this was a competitor's carnival only, our learn to swim lessons will be held mid March for our weaker swimmers. Swimming is a lifelong skill and provides lots of enjoyment. Congratulations to the winning house: Macquarie!!!!

Special congratulations to the following students who will be representing our school at zone: Preston, Brodie, Tini, Olivia, Matthew M, Jasper, Matthew P, Callum, Dexter, Rianna, Caitlin, Maisie and Koda. We wish them all the best at the zone carnival.



### **Updates regarding Attunga Park**

All students in Yrs 1-6 have the opportunity to play at the park during lunchtime each day. They need to wear their school hat, bring a drink bottle with them and remain at the park, wherever possible, for the 25

minutes playing time. At this stage the flying fox is out of bounds for the students playing at the park during school time, and only one child is permitted on the trampoline, rope swing and climbing wall at any one time. Kinder students are able to play at the park during lunchtime at the start of Term 3. If you have any concerns re your child playing at the park, please contact me.

### **Parent Teacher Orientation Meetings**

Please add to your calendar the parent teacher information sessions which have been arranged for the week beginning Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> February. Starting at 3:15pm parents will be able to meet each other and their child's teacher. This meeting will give you the opportunity to also meet your child's teacher and be informed about class routines and upcoming events. Meetings will conclude at 4pm, giving a 45 minute time slot. The meeting is not meant to deal with specific issues relating to your child. If you need to see your child's teacher please phone to make a mutually suitable meeting time. The class information sessions for:

- KT, K/1D and 5/6H will be held between 3:15pm and 4pm on Monday 15 February in each classroom.
- 1S, 1/2D and 4/5P will be held between 3:15pm and 4pm on Tuesday 16 February, with 4/5P held in the Library. 1S and 1/2D meetings will be held in their classrooms.
- 3G and 2/3C will be held between 3:15pm and 4pm on Wednesday 17 February, with 3G held in the Library and 2/3C in their classroom.

All children whose parents are attending meetings will be supervised by teachers in the playground for the duration of the meeting. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings and to working with you for the betterment of your child.

### **Before School:**

If your child arrives at school just before the 9am bell, they are to go to the Primary COLA, remain seated and wait for the teacher on duty to take them around to the K-6 area to play. The children will leave

their bags in the allocated areas when going to the playground.

### **Afternoon Pickup**

Parents of Kinder students and their siblings are asked to be at the back gate for afternoon pickup at 3pm. The "Kiss and Ride" is in operation, but it is important that the following recommendations are adhered to for the "Kiss and Ride" to work effectively:

- Please don't leave your car, (morning or afternoon). You may stand within 3m of your car to show your child you are there.
- Your car may only be parked in the "Kiss and Ride" for 2 minutes.
- Your child will come to your car, take their own bag off and get themselves into the car. Please practice your child doing up their seatbelt on their own.

Remember the "Kiss and Ride" should be smooth flowing, please don't overtake other cars using the "Kiss and Ride", be patient!!! Parents are asked to please pick up their Yrs 1-6 children promptly at 3:15pm from the back gate. Children will be brought to the office if no-one is there to pick them up. Teachers are rostered on bus duty each afternoon at the Smith St gate, and wait with them until they are collected. I will be on back gate pick up also.



### **Notes Home Today**

The following notes are being sent home today with students; Y3-6 Creative and Practical Arts, K-2 Growgetters, Y5-6 Sports PSSA Zone, Y3-6 coding club. It is important all of the notes are returned ASAP.

Your assistance with this is appreciated.



## Newsletter Information

The school newsletter is one of the main sources of communication with you and it is important you read it either on the website, school app or in hard copy each week (obtained from the office). To keep informed of what is happening at your child's school please read the newsletter each Wednesday when it comes out.

Enjoy your week and thank you for making our school a special place filled with kindness and integrity.

Jayne Thompson  
Principal



## P&C NEWS

### P&C 2021

We welcome all new & existing families to join the P&C to support our school community.

Our AGM (and first of our monthly meetings) will be held in the **school library on 23 February 2021 from 7pm.**

There are some exciting new positions being added to boost the P&C this year or you may just want to volunteer.

Come along to meet other parents to find out how you can get involved, what we do and what we have planned for 2021 (Canteen, Clothing Pool, Events and Fundraising).

**Every little bit** of support helps makes our school community better.

### Canteen will reopen next week

The canteen will reopen on Wednesday 10 February. At this stage, we will be open for 3 out of every 4 weeks but are still looking

for more volunteers so we can open every week. If you, or a family member are available, please email us at

[charlestownpublicschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au](mailto:charlestownpublicschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au)

## Clothing Pool

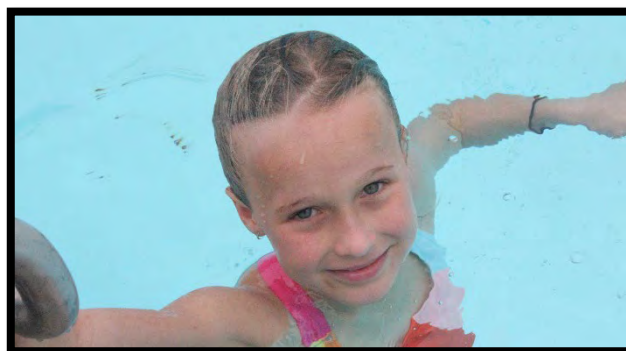
We have temporarily run out of stock of the size 8 polo shirts and there was a delay in our boys socks size 2-8. Both of these items are expected to arrive next week, along with more stock of the girls jazz pants.

Looking forward to seeing you in person soon and have a great first full week.

## CLOTHING POOL

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Online Orders Only</b>
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## Photos







## Community News



It's almost that time of year ... time to play ⚾

Come join us at our **FREE Come & Try Days**. Ask questions and have a go. Boys and girls

**Ages 5 - 15years**

**Multiple days / times available.**

**BELMONT**  
BASEBALL CLUB

**COME AND TRY THIS FEBRUARY!**

**FRIDAY 5TH & 12TH**  
6PM - 730PM

**SUNDAY 7TH & 14TH**  
9AM - 1030AM

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
BELMONTBASEBALL.COM.AU