



Charlestown Public School

Newsletter Term 1 Week 4– Wednesday 17 February 2021

A proud partner of the Whitebridge Community of Schools

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to see so many parents attend our Parent/ Teacher Information Night. I know the meetings were a little different to last year, they were a good way to meet your child’s teacher and other parents in the class. It is important that each class teacher shared specific information about the class, goals for the year, Class Dojo usage, grade expectations, home reading and homework with parents. This ensures that both home and school are working together in the best interests of the children

Thank you for giving up your time to meet us! If you were unable to attend the meetings, the information sheet will be sent home. If you have specific issues relating to your child and need to see your child’s teacher, please phone the school to make a mutual time.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
17/02/21	Parent Teacher Meeting 3G and 2/3C at 3:15pm
23/02/21	P& C AGM 7pm Library
18-19 /2/21	Zone Swimming
24/02/21	Kinder Photos
8- 19/3/21	Yr 3-6 Swim School
25/03/21	Young Leaders Day
26/03/21	Harmony Day

School Vision

2021 is the first year of our new school plan. Our vision is:

“To be widely recognised as a high achieving school with exemplary well-being practices.”

Purpose

“To promote life long learning through high expectations in an environment that ensures every child and family is known, valued and cared for.”

Our staff work tirelessly to provide a differentiated curriculum for all students in their class. Our new school plan can be viewed on the school website in the coming weeks.



COVID Learning Support

From the Honorary Sarah Mitchell, Minister for Education:

“Last year was indeed a difficult and unsettling time for many of our students and their families.

Our students and teachers rose above the challenges in a disrupted year that included seven weeks of remote learning due to COVID-19, and in some areas, that came on top of bushfires and floods.

The NSW government and department have recognised this with the announcement of a \$337 million program

aimed at ensuring that schools can identify students who would benefit the most from intensive support. This will be tailored to their requirements to ensure that students' educational outcomes continue to improve in 2021.

The 2021 External link COVID intensive learning support program will provide small group tuition for students who need it most across NSW primary, secondary and specialist schools.

All public schools across the state will benefit with an allocation to employ additional teachers and educators to support student learning.

Very shortly we will start planning for the implementation of small group tuition program in our school. The groups might be conducted during schools hours, after school or remotely and, maybe, a combination of all three. Although we will be focusing on literacy and numeracy, we are considering a number of subject areas.

We will keep you updated. In the meantime the [department's website](#) has more information on this program."

At CPS, we have been fortunate to gain an extra teacher for three days per week for all of 2021. At the moment students are being assessed, with the program ready to start next week. All parents with students in the program will be contacted next week, to organise a meeting and also finalise a Personalised Learning Plan.



Professional Learning

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 child's teacher may need to have some time off class for professional learning. If that occurs, 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. With COVID restrictions occurring a lot of our professional learning is via Zoom.

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. **Gates are now being closed at 9.25am so teachers can get to class on 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 bring their child to the Office. Your child will be given a late note, 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 contact the office to sign your child out. The office staff will collect your child from their classroom. If a person other than a parent is calling for your 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.

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.

In 2020 our school attendance was 93%. Please work with us to ensure our school's attendance target is above 95%. I know we can do it!!

Home Reading

Home Reading serves many wonderful purposes: It provides a bonding time between parent and child and shows the child how important their parent values reading. Parents play a huge influence on their children and seeing parents read and value reading, sets up a great example for the child to read. It is amazing the effect that only 10 minutes of reading per day at home will have on students in Primary school. If you add it up over the year it equates to 32 hours of solid reading!

In the coming weeks home reading cards and books from the class home reading

boxes will be given to all students to begin the process of Home Reading. There is also a weekly award presented at Assembly called the home reading raffle. If your child reads for 4 nights throughout the week and writes their book (or chapter from a novel for Primary students) onto the reading card, (returning it on Friday) their name will go into the draw for a canteen voucher of \$2.50. 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!

Communication

Our school has many ways of communicating with parents: Class Dojo, Newsletter (each Wednesday), Skoolbag App (Download from the APP store) and also Facebook. The Skoolbag app is the main means of communication with parents/carers: newsletters, events etc. it should also be used to report absences via the Eform. The Facebook group is for sharing information and activities regarding school.

The P&C AGM is also being held on Tuesday, 23 February at 7pm in the Library. We would love to have some new faces on board and hope to see you there.



Mindfulness

This year the school has adopted the Smiling Minds "Mindfulness" program for students in Yrs 1-6. Last year all staff were trained in delivering the program to their class. We have combined our Mindfulness lessons with the social emotional skills program "You Can Do It." Mindfulness aims to assist our students in dealing with the

pressure, stress, challenges of daily life and enables us to create a sense of calm. The following link gives a comprehensive overview of mindfulness with some meditation strategies to help you and your family. Why not try a session or two with your children and see the results?

<https://www.smilingmind.com.au/>

Similarly, you can download the Smiling Minds App on your phone and go from there!

Congratulations Sports Stars!

During the past few weeks many of our senior students have participated in Eastlakes Zone sports trials for Tennis, Cricket and Basket Ball, with Soccer, Rugby League and Netball still to come.

Congratulations to Caitlin McAlister who has been chosen to attend the Regional Tennis Trials at the end of next week. We wish her all the best with her Hunter selection.

This Thursday and Friday is Eastlakes Zone swimming carnival at Charlestown Pool. Congratulations to our small team of 12 swimmers!

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

Jayne Thompson
Principal

Principal Award

Congratulations Dexter on receiving a Principal's Award. This is the culmination of at least 2 years hard work.

Well Done!!



K/1D News

Congratulations Kindergarten and Year 1 on a fantastic start to your learning journey for 2021. What an exciting and busy start we have had over the past 3 weeks.

This term, Kindergarten students will be introduced to the alphabet and start to identify that every letter makes its own special sound. Students will learn a sound and action to support with learning the sounds through the Jolly Phonics program. Year 1 students will be embarking on the SoundWaves spelling program and exploring how to construct a recount when writing. All K/1D students have started Home Reading 'Blue Folder' for Kindergarten and 'Purple Folder' for Year 1. Books can be changed daily. Year 1 will have new spelling and math homework weekly to consolidate the learning within the classroom.

We have also started "100 days of school". Each day K/1D explores a new number and examines the many ways we can represent that number i.e., numeral, word, tally, tens frame and place value. Once students have reached 100, we celebrate the amazing milestone by having a '100 days of school' celebration.

li makes an 'iii' sound Inky the mouse says 'iii'





Crunch and Sip

Don't forget to pack a piece of fruit and a bottle of water for your child to enjoy during our morning routine of crunch and sip. We encourage healthy food choices for your child's lunch box where possible. If you would like ideas for healthy options please speak to your classroom teacher.



Label

Please ensure all of your child's belongings have their full name on them as it makes it easier to reunite students with their things if misplaced.

P&C NEWS

P&C AGM

Our AGM is on next Tuesday at 7pm in the school library. Everyone is welcome to attend. To become a P&C member, you'll just need to record your name in the register at the meeting and pay \$2. This year, we've created some new positions to help us become the most effective P&C we can be. We're looking for an Events Co-ordinator, a Promotions Manager, a Grant Application Writer and a Clothing Pool Co-ordinator. (see below for further information). Please contact us at

charlestownpublicschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au

if you would like some more information on the P&C or any of the positions.

Canteen

We're still looking for a couple of volunteers to do canteen once a month, so please ask around your family members and see if someone is available. Please let us know at

charlestownpublicschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au

if you are available and our friendly canteen co-ordinator, Laura will be in touch with you.

HELP WANTED!

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

Be honest..... you are the person in your friend group who organises all your get togethers. You love to organise a good party and know how to allocate tasks so all the preparation is done and everyone can have a good time. The P&C has the perfect role for you to put your party planning to good use, helping raise valuable funds for the school. The Events Co-ordinator role will be tasked with ordering event supplies, organising volunteers and identifying an Event Leader, all with the support of the P&C Executive. If this sounds like you, please email charlestownpublicschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au for more information.

HELP WANTED!

PROMOTIONS MANAGER

Are you creative? Got the gift of the gab? You may already have some skills in a graphic design program like Canva, or it may be something you've always wanted to learn. We're looking for someone to be the Promotions Manager for the P&C. You will be responsible for communicating all the fabulous things the P&C does for the children and the school community. You'll help us develop new and interesting ways of getting our messages across, all with the support of the P&C executive. If this sounds of interest to you, email charlestownpublicschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au for more information.



HELP WANTED!

CLOTHING POOL CO-ORDINATOR

Is the Home Edit your favourite show? Are you organised and love fashion? We've got the job for you. Our Clothing Pool Co-ordinator will be someone who can keep our stock of uniforms organised and spend time forecasting our demand throughout the year. You'll work with the President of the P&C to place orders for uniforms, tick them off and store them when they arrive and track our inventory. You'll also pack online orders once a week. For more info, please email charlestownpublicschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au



HELP WANTED!

GRANT APPLICATION WRITER

If you're a details person who is really good at persuasive writing and researching, we need you. We're looking for someone who can identify available grants, liaise with the school and P&C about future needs and then communicate that in a compelling grant application. All with the support of the P&C Executive. For more info, please email charlestownpublicschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au



Community News



Atuka Netball Club



Atuka Netball Club Registration Dates

Atuka Netball Courts, South Street Windale

Saturday 6th February 2021 3 pm to 6 pm

Friday 12th March 2021 4 pm to 6 pm

For more information contact Rachael on 0401600827

or

atuka@live.com.au or find us on Facebook.

85th
ANNIVERSARY



Australian
Air League

NSW Group

JOIN NOW

NSW GROUP
IS NOW ENROLLING



Since 1934 the Australian Air League has been teaching young boys and girls nationwide all about aviation, while helping them develop important life skills like leadership, discipline, self confidence and teamwork. When you join the league you will make new friends and take part in fun and exciting activities, on the ground and in the air.

Each week you will attend your local squadron where you will learn valuable skills and take part in fun and interesting activities and classes. Some of our classes include Meteorology, Navigation, Photography and Community Service. Squadrons also attend training camps, sport and recreational days, flying experiences and ceremonial drill.

We welcome boys and girls the age of 8 years old from all different cultures and backgrounds. Parents and families are welcome to support or even join their local squadron as a volunteer. All adult members and volunteers are Working with Children Checked.

The Australian Air League is running both a fun and educational programme that is making fine citizens out of our young Australians.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE AUSTRALIAN AIR
LEAGUE AND YOUR CLOSEST SQUADRON
PLEASE CONTACT



www.airleague.com.au Email: info@airleague.com.au
Free Call: 1800 502 175





**COME AND TRY
BASEBALL WITH
PHOENIX
CHARLESTOWN**

The Phoenix Charlestown Baseball Club invites boys and girls aged 5 - 15 to come and try baseball.

WHEN: Sunday - 21 & 28 February
TIME: 9.30am - 11am
WHERE: Windsor Oval Carbeen St, Gateshead
COST: Free

Free sausage sizzle for all participants, including current players.

For more information contact:
 Sean - 0422 254 734
 Email: phoenixcharlestown@gmail.com
 Facebook: @phoenixcharlestownbaseball



2021 Junior Registration fees are \$150

Phoenix is registered with the Active Kids Rebate Program.



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
 REGISTRATION VIA RUGBY XPLORER APP

Fortius Quo Fidelius

BOYS XV's

**WEE WANDERERS
BOYS & GIRLS
AGES 4-10**

UNDER 7s - UNDER 18s
 U7s \$170
 U8s-18s \$295

REGO INCLUDES:
 SHIRT, SHORTS, SOCKS

INFORMATION
 www.facebook.com/WJRFC
 www.wanderersrugby.com.au/




GO4FUN[®]
HEALTHY ACTIVE HAPPY KIDS



GO4FUN.COM.AU | 1800 780 900

Face to Face Programs are Back in Term 2 2021!
THE PLACE
CHARLESTOWN SQUARE
MONDAYS 4PM-6PM

Free healthy lifestyle program for children aged 7-13years
 Call to register 1800 780 900



swop it
 everyday in the lunchbox

Stress-free fussy eating ideas

Fussy eating is common, but that still doesn't make it easy.

Does your child dislike foods because of their colour, texture or the way they are prepared?

Don't despair, SWAP IT will help with ideas on how to pack an everyday lunchbox for your fussy eater.



Try the 3:1 lunchbox rule everyday:

- Three items your child likes
- One new everyday item

For more ideas on fussy eating visit
<http://www.goodforkids.nsw.gov.au/primary-schools/swap-it/tips/tips-for-fussy-eaters/>



Good for kids
 good for life





positive partnerships

Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

NSW PARENT/CARER ONLINE WORKSHOP



Join us for an online workshop where you will have the opportunity to listen, share and learn with parents and carers who support young people on the autism spectrum, from across New South Wales.

This online workshop is for parents, full-time carers and grandparents. Join other families to learn more about autism and ways to strengthen the home-school partnership.

During the online workshops, we will cover three topics:

- diversity of autism
- understanding behaviour
- working together with your child's school

Location:

 New South Wales
via zoom online

Date:

Tuesday 9th March 2021

Time

Wed 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM (AEDT)



For more information and to register, visit www.positivepartnerships.com.au or contact Laura Owens lauraowens@autismspectrum.org.au