



CHESO NEWS



CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL
KENWARD AVENUE
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Term 4 Issue 2

Principal's Report

Last week I had the great fortune to attend the launch of the Optus 100 Faces exhibition of magnificent artworks and accompanying stories. Students from the high school and IEC were accompanied by their teachers, **Ms Goodwin** and **Ms Gabb** and their Optus mentors. **Mrs Casey** spoke on behalf of the school and **Ms Liou**, the IEC head teacher also thanked Optus for their contribution to this wonderful program. The audience consisted of parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and other Optus mentors and members of staff. A highlight was the thank you speeches made by the two students from Cheso, **Chelsea Carney** and **Amina Mossavi**, as they were very impressive. The booklet of stories and artworks will be treasured by all the participants.

The graduation ceremony for another mentoring partnership with Optus and our IEC students, the INTERACT IEC Mentoring Program, was held on 16th November. Yet again, I was extremely impressed and proud of our IEC students. All the speeches were extremely well prepared and sincerely presented. We have many, talented public speakers attending the Chester Hill IEC and

they are a credit to their teachers. I would particularly like to thank **Mr Furey** for coordinating this program.

The How to Study sessions for Year 11 and Year 10 students have been positively received and we plan to continue to focus on developing positive study skills for all students. Unfortunately, the password in our last newsletter for the ELES STUDY SKILLS HANDBOOK was incorrect. Please make a note of the correct user name and password. To access the handbook, go to:

www.studyskillshandbook.com.au

user name: chhsonly

password: 143results

These login details are for the use of students, parents and teachers at OUR SCHOOL only.

Some of our teachers have left us or will not be returning next year:

**MS CHERYL CUMINES,
ESL COORDINATOR**

After more than 30 years of service to public education, **Ms Cheryl Cumines** will be retiring in the January holidays. **Ms Cumines'** dedication to the education of ESL students has been exceptional and I would

like to acknowledge her contribution to improving learning outcomes for students from a language background other than English. Please say farewell to **Ms Cumines** in the next few weeks and be sure to read about her outstanding career in the next newsletter.

***MS JOY SOUTHWELL,
MATHEMATICS TEACHER***

At the end of Term 3, **Ms Joy Southwell** went on Long Service Leave and will retire in January after an illustrious career in teaching. During the early years, **Ms Southwell** took leave from teaching for three years to be a missionary in the Fly River area of Papua New Guinea. On her return she was appointed to Narooma High School.

Ms Southwell has been a valued member of the Chester Hill High School Staff since 1985. During these 25 years, **Ms Southwell** has been an outstanding Mathematics teacher, with her students achieving wonderful results each year. She was a Year Adviser from 1990 until 1995 and the inaugural Secretary of the School Council from 1993 until 1999. For several years, she performed the role of the Senior School Co-ordinator, liaising with the Board of Studies for students from Years 10, 11 and 12. She also coordinated Scripture classes and was involved in many other activities to assist in the education of our students.

On behalf of the Chester Hill High School Community I would like to thank **Ms Southwell** for her outstanding contribution and dedication to her teaching career. Whilst we will miss her very much, we wish her a very happy, healthy and well deserved retirement.

***MRS DAWN WILLIAMS,
SCHOOL COUNSELLOR***

After many years of service as a teacher and

then as a school counsellor, **Mrs Williams** is taking long service leave next year prior to her retirement.

Mrs Williams has been the School Counsellor at Cheso since the year 2000. She has been a most valuable member of the School Welfare Team and has counselled and supported many students and members of staff over the years. Her dedication and empathy have been greatly appreciated by the school community along with her professionalism.

Thank you **Mrs Williams** for your support of public education in general and Chester Hill High School in particular. We wish you a very relaxing and healthy retirement.

***MRS CAROL BERZINS,
CAREERS ADVISER***

At the end of Term 2, 2009 our Careers Adviser, **Mrs Carol Berzins** took Long Service Leave. She recently advised us that she has decided to retire in January 2011.

On behalf of the Chester Hill High School Community I would like to thank **Mrs Berzins** for her outstanding contribution and dedication to students at Chester Hill High School and our best wishes go with her on her retirement.

***MRS MELANIE CLARKE,
PDHPE TEACHER***

Mrs Melanie Clarke is currently on maternity leave and recently advised me that she will not be returning to Cheso.

Some of the roles **Mrs Clarke** has undertaken at Cheso are: Year Adviser, Dance Coordinator (including the dance performances for the Cheso 40 year celebration), knock-out sport coach and the organisation of casual teachers. **Mrs Clarke**

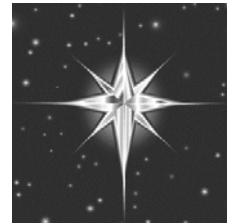
also initiated and organised the After School Gymnastics program.

Mrs Clarke has been a valued member of the PDHPE faculty for 11 years and we thank her sincerely for the exceptional contribution she has made to the school.

Mr Perry Rosewall will be relieving as the Principal during the last three weeks of term 4, **Ms Julia Cremin** will continue to relieve as Deputy Principal for Year 10, **Mr Mark Milne** will be relieving as Deputy Principal for Years 9 and 11 and **Ms Katherine Stewart** will be relieving as the Head Teacher Administration.

As I am on Long Service Leave from week 8, I would like to thank the entire school community for another wonderful year at Cheso and wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

Mrs Narelle McNab
Relieving Principal



REMINDER – SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE HALL

YEAR	EVENT	DAY	DATE	TIME
7 and 8	Presentation Day	Friday	3/12	10.45am for 11am
10	Final Assembly, Presentation of School Certificates and Scholastic Awards	Friday	10/12	9.45am for 10am
9	Presentation Day	Friday	10/12	1.15pm for 1.30pm
12	HSC Congratulations Morning Tea	Thursday	16/12	10.30am
11, 2010 and HSC 2010 AND SPECIAL AWARDS	Senior Presentation Day	Wednesday	16/2/2011	11am for 11.15am

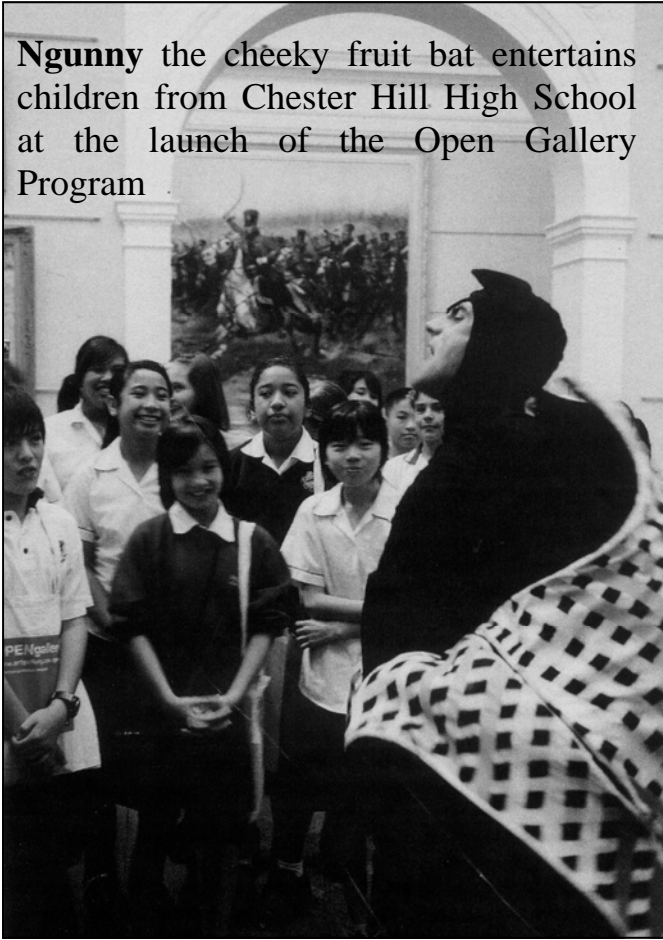
RETURN TO SCHOOL 2011

Years 7, 11 and 12
All Years

31 January 2011
1 February 2011

OPTUS OPEN GALLERY

Ngunny the cheeky fruit bat entertains children from Chester Hill High School at the launch of the Open Gallery Program

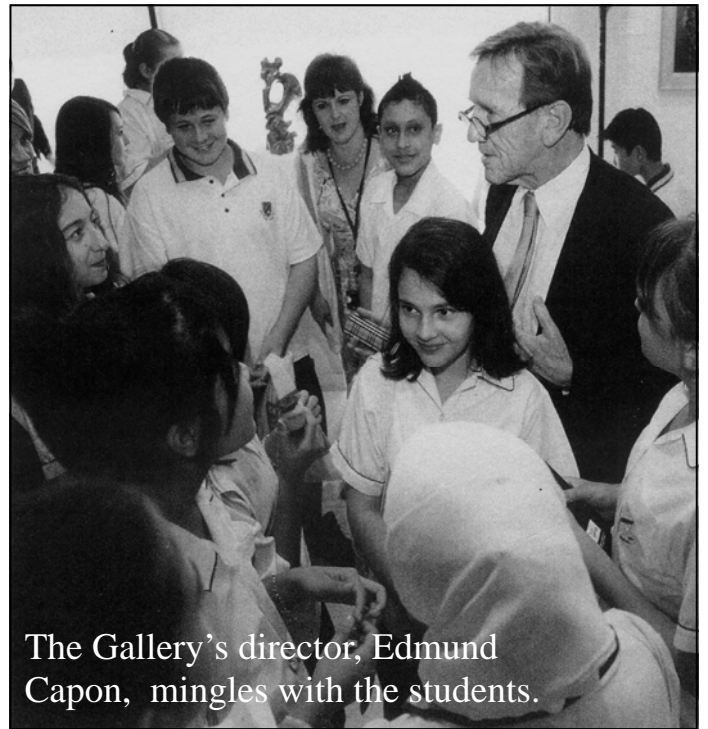


Every year over 100,000 school children come to the Gallery for what, to some of them, is a life altering experience. Their eyes are opened to a world of art, culture and history that many of them have never seen before. From European masters to Aboriginal contemporaries, they are taken through the Gallery and given the opportunity to absorb and learn about a new world. However, for several years now the Gallery has been trying to find a way to bring schools that cannot fit a full day at the Gallery, and all it entails, into their budget. Earlier this year this goal was achieved when the AGNSW launched a new educational program called Open Gallery. With the generous support of Optus, the Open Gallery program will bring 30 schools a year to spend an entire day at the Gallery free of charge. And what a day it is.

When the 60 year seven students arrive at the Gallery just as the front doors open they are

met by **Louise Halpin**, coordinator of the Open Gallery program, who brings them to the Centenary Auditorium. They are cheerful and despite a few small giggles, very well behaved as **Halpin** introduces herself and the teacher-lecturers who will be guiding the students through the building. After **Halpin** tells the students a little about the Gallery's history and purpose and the day ahead, she asks the children to show their hands if they have been to the Gallery before and only two young girls raise their hands; less than a dozen have ever been to any art gallery.

Despite this they are enthusiastic about their surrounds and one of them tells **Halpin** that "For me, art is the way I express myself." another young girl notes that "As I walked up the building's steps I felt I was in a creatively energetic environment."



The Gallery's director, Edmund Capon, mingles with the students.

Photos by **Diana Panuccio**

However, it is when the students are split into three groups and taken on a tour of the old courts that the youthful cheek of the year sevens emerges. As the teacher-lecturer shows them the portrait *Cosimo I de' Medici in armour* (c.1545) the girls attribute the subject high stature due to his "girlie hands"

and the fact that “he’s got attitude, like he bosses people around”. And later, when **Ngunny** the cheeky fruit bat storms through the grand court breaking any tension left, the students turn to giggling and then all out laughter, as he leads them through the Gallery on a very entertaining tour.

From lectures to tours, the hyperactive comedy of **Ngunny** to the time to draw on their own, with sketch pads and drawing pencils the students get to keep, it is a busy day. And a day that is sure to make an impact on many of the 2,000 students who will visit the Gallery each year under this program. Possibly an impact that will last a lifetime as the year seven students make their way through high school, elect their subjects and perhaps for a few, begin to forge a career in the arts. Or become regular gallery visitors.

Michael Tasker

'yes'
OPTUS

Peer Support

On Thursday the 18th and Friday the 19th of November, 91 Year 10 students participated in Peer Support Training at Chester Hill High School. Peer Support is a highly valued program within the school with students being trained in leadership and mentoring to help assist the transition of Year 6 students into high school. The day was successful with all students demonstrating great enthusiasm and commitment to the training. I would like to thank **Mr D’souza** for all his hand work in developing the program over a number of years and to the following staff who worked extremely hard to ensure the day was a success: **Mr Kerr, Ms Stewart, Ms Gurr, Mr Ewen** and **Mr Fields**.

Miss Criola

Enrichment Program

During Term 4 the Student Engagement Team has been running a Student Enrichment Program. This program was developed to promote the school slogan of ‘I am a safe respectful learner who belongs at Cheso’ as well as emphasising the importance of goal setting and maintaining a healthy active lifestyle. The program focused on working with 30 male Year 10 students and the AFL organisation. The program has been extremely successful with all students demonstrating a great deal of commitment and enthusiasm for the program. We plan to continue this program into 2011.

Miss Criola

Parent Meetings

Since Term 3 the school has been running Parent Meetings every fortnight on Thursday mornings. These meetings have been aimed at Year 9 and 10 parents and a number of parents have attended these meetings. I would like say thank you to all the parents who have supported these meetings, to **Alfred Sankoh** from District Office who has presented at all the meetings and to **Ms Fenton** and **Mr Fields** for helping with the organisation and running of the meetings. We plan to continue these meetings in 2011.

Miss Criola

Community and Family Studies Homeless Drive

A big thank you to all of the families who generously donated personal care items to our Homeless Appeal. A lot of clothes and some perishable food items were also brought in. The collection was received with much thanks and appreciation. A special mention to the **Coughlan, Quinnell** and **Tran** families for their contributions, to the staff of Chester Hill High School and especially the students

of Community and Family Studies for their generosity and caring.

From Careers

What a wonderful and hectic time it has been and will continue to be right to the end of term. There is so much going on with a **Careers and School To Work focus**. Every one of the activities described in this issue is part of the **School To Work** initiative that aims to provide all our students with an opportunity to be better informed and better prepared for the pathway they will take in their transition from school to work.

A large number of **Year 9** students participated in the **UTS** information workshops at the **School of Engineering and Information Technology**. The aim of the workshops was to educate potential engineering and computer undergraduates about the courses available and to demonstrate the laboratory setup in this faculty. It was also an opportunity for students to really start thinking about **which career? Which course? Which university?** **Year 11 Bridging** work experience is in Week 9. I have been overwhelmed with admiration for these fine young people. Negotiating and applying for a job or work experience is daunting for most, but to be able to complete this task in another language is amazing. All the students have been able to satisfy the competency of **'completing a transaction by telephone'** to a very high standard. I certainly hope that they enjoy their work experience.

At this point I would like to **acknowledge the support of each host employer**.

Nine students from **Year 10 Commerce** will be participating in a 'Students in Finance and Economics' three day seminar from the **7th-9th December**. This will be conducted at the **University of Sydney**.

Outstanding **Year 11 IT students** have been offered the opportunity to participate in a **10 day workshop 'InsighT'**, which is the collaboration between **The Smith Family** and **TATA** – one of the largest **IT consultancies** in the **world**. A maximum of 20 students from 5 schools in this educational region have been invited to participate. This is an exceptional opportunity and requires considerable commitment from the students as it means giving up some of their school holidays. The benefits that will be gained for their futures are immeasurable.

There are so many good things happening in Careers as you can see. At any time, students who need help with resumes, career choices and subject decisions are encouraged to come and see me. Next year will be filled with opportunities to learn about and develop employability skills, explore careers, apprenticeships, universities, TAFE courses and so much more.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Cheso community for their support and assistance throughout this year. I hope that you all enjoy a restful holiday break. I am looking forward to 2011 being an interesting, exciting and fulfilling year.

Mrs Helen Corcoran (Rel Careers Adviser)

Chester Hill Optical



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KAREN MILLGATE BA J.P.
OPTICAL DISPENSER



STRENGTH IN UNITY, EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

