



CHESO NEWS

CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL
KENWARD AVENUE
CHESTER HILL 2162

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SEPTEMBER 2009

Term 3 Issue 2

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Building an Education Revolution (BER): the school has a federal government grant to improve the facilities at the school as part of the BER:National School Pride program. We are self-managing these funds to maximize the amount of work we can have done. Our three main projects are:

- Electronic security gates at Miller Road and Kenward Avenue.
- The installation of electronic interactive whiteboards in 10 classrooms.
- Painting and new floor coverings for a variety of teaching and learning spaces.

We are also getting a new digital classroom for the teaching of languages other than English from another BER project.

Decision Time: about 85% of Year 8 and Year 10 families attended meetings at the school on Monday evening on 24 August to find out about subjects for Year 9 and Year 11 for 2010. It was great to see how we at Chesos work so well to assist our students make good choices for their future. We are in the process of developing a school timetable based on the information from student subject selection sheets.

Music and Drama Evening: on Thursday 27 August our Year 12 HSC students performed their HSC items to a selected audience of invited guests. It was a really wonderful evening for students, teachers, families and friends. It gave students a chance to perform and have a practice run for their HSC practical examinations. **Ms. Arnold's** Year 11 Music students also performed to gain extra experience. The standard was excellent and the audience very appreciative. It was great to see so many families and friends of Chesos in attendance and so many staff. My thanks to all staff involved but a special thanks to **Mr. Nguyen** and **Ms. Forbes** for all their hard work and dedication to their HSC classes again this year.

Ramadan Awareness Presentation: on Tuesday 1 September members of the Islamic Council presented a very informative session on the nature of Ramadan and its importance to the Muslim faith. One of the main messages was that students observing Ramadan should not make a fuss while fasting but should try to live an especially good life, through good deeds and good behaviour. My thanks to the Islamic Council, for their support of our school community in this initiative.

The HSC: some of our students are “doing their HSC” right now! The major works are complete and the practical components of courses are in progress. Year 12 HSC Trial Examinations have given students feedback and they are working towards maximizing their marks and making plans for life beyond school. As I write this the HSC Cheso Class of 2009 has only a few weeks before the formal written HSC papers begin on Tuesday 20 October! My sincere best wishes to all members of Year 12 for the coming exams and beyond.

Raising the School Leaving Age: as you may be aware the law is changing regarding the legal age to leave school. Please refer to an information sheet in this newsletter. We will be holding meetings with Year 10 and their families with further information next term.

Digital Education Revolution: as part of this federal program all Year 9 students will receive a laptop computer next term. We will hold an Information Evening for parents and caregivers when the computers will be given out. Please refer to the Information Sheet in this newsletter for details.

NAPLAN: results have been posted home to families of Year 7 and 9 students. We will be using these results to better target support to students and we hope you too will continue to encourage your children in specific areas as shown by the results and in reading regularly at home.

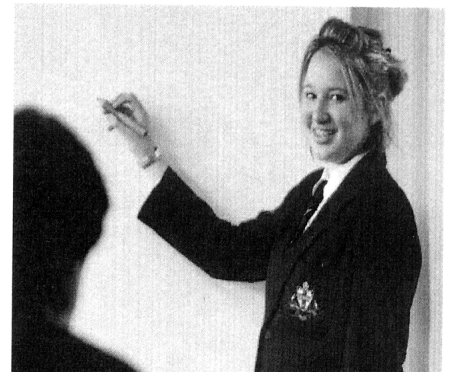
Gillawarna Festival: for the first time Chester Hill High School has been involved in this festival. Our students were outstanding and played, along with our partner schools, to packed houses at Bankstown Town Hall in Week 8. Congratulations to all students and families involved and to **M. Nguyen** for all his expertise and hard work coordinating our school team.

Staffing: I would like to farewell **Ms. Edwards** our Visual Arts Head Teacher who will be retiring at the end of Term 3. She has worked at Cheso for many years and has led a wonderful faculty with consistently wonderful student results. Thank you for all your hard work and commitment to our school community, we will really miss you and wish you all the best for your retirement. Congratulations to **Mrs. Manion** on her appointment as Visual Arts Head Teacher and to **Ms. Scarce** on her appointment (finally) as a permanent member of the PDHPE faculty.

Mrs Christine Casey

New School Leaving Age

Information for parents and secondary school students



As of January 2010, New South Wales will have a new school leaving age, meaning students will complete Year 10 and then have a number of options in which to participate until at least age 17.

From 1943 until 2009 it has been compulsory for students in NSW to attend school until the age of 15. In line with other states, NSW has now passed legislation to change the years of compulsory schooling.

There is a great deal of Australian and international evidence which demonstrates a high correlation between students' level of education and their prospects in life.

The research shows that early school leavers are two and a half times more likely to be unemployed, earn lower wages and have poorer quality of life outcomes.

The purpose of the new legislation, therefore, is to ensure that all young people have the best possible chances in life.

Under the new arrangements, once students have completed Year 10 there are a number of options from which to choose.

You can stay at school and continue into Year 11. You can choose to do an apprenticeship or a traineeship. You can study vocational courses at TAFE. You can do a course in higher education. You can do other approved education or training. You can be in employment, as long as it is full-time, paid work. You can also do a combination of a number of these.

If you are in Year 10 or below you need to start thinking about the best pathway for you.

Discuss your options with your parents, principal, careers adviser, year adviser or teachers.

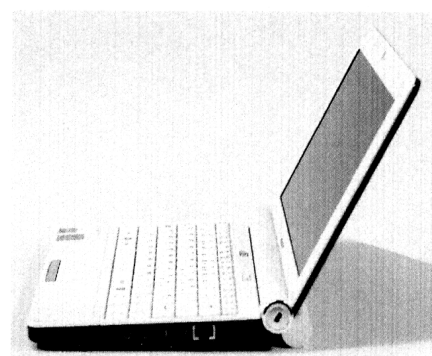
What's New?

1. From 2010, all NSW students must complete Year 10.
2. After Year 10 and until the age of 17 students must be:
 - a. in school, or registered for home schooling OR
 - b. in approved education or training OR
 - c. in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours/week) OR
 - d. in a combination of these
3. This applies to students who complete Year 10 in 2009 and to all subsequent years.

More information
www.schools.nsw.edu.au

Information for parents of students in Year 9

Laptops for learning



All Year 9 students in NSW government schools will receive a Lenovo laptop starting from August 2009. This has been funded by the National Secondary School's Computer Fund component of the Federal Government's Digital Education Revolution.

All laptops will come with Microsoft and Adobe software, giving NSW students and teachers access to the largest and most comprehensive roll out of software in any education system worldwide. The Department of Education and Training is also investing in wireless networking and technical support for all secondary schools as well as professional learning for teachers.

Benefits

Laptops allow students to learn anytime, anywhere. The laptop weighs just over 1kg and fits easily into a school backpack.

Studies show the benefits of providing laptops to each student are:

- increased student motivation, engagement, interest,
- improved student organisation and improved self-directed learning,

- increased academic achievements and better work habits,
- improved communication and information skills.

Requirements

- Parents/carers and students will be required to sign a Laptop User Charter prior to issue of the laptop.
- To increase security, students will be asked to keep their laptops out of sight when travelling to and from school.
- The laptop can be used for school work at home – with or without internet access.
- Students will be able to access the Internet at home if there is Internet service at home. The Department's Internet filtering will work at home so students will not have access to inappropriate content.

- Students must charge their laptop overnight to ensure it is ready for each school day.
- Year 9 students may keep the laptop if they complete Year 12. Students who leave school or move out of the government school system must return their laptops.

Further information

Your school will provide information regarding requirements, ownership, damage or loss of laptops, laptop care and acceptable computer and internet use when the laptops are provided. The school can also provide advice on the best academic use of the laptop, safe internet use, copyright, plagiarism and ergonomics.

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NSW Department of Education & Training



Music/Drama Night '09

This year **Mr Nguyen's** student **Kezia Rorimpandey** opened the evening performing on piano two contrasting pieces - a Mazurka, delicately played, followed by a Chacone - fast and stormy. The music was stirring and **Kezia** looked stunning in her red dress. The first Drama performance was from **Alex Thacker** who shone as Stephanie from the **Nick Enright** play "Daylight Saving". **Alex** threw herself into the role of the neurotic overwrought character and her enthusiasm was infectious. An excellent effort.

Alan Nguyen did a lovely guitar duet with **Mr Nguyen**, it was funky and sophisticated at the same time. The teacher and his pupil sharing such a smooth rapport making it a happy performance to watch. Then **Katherine Booth** charmed us with her piano solo, a Glasgow Theme. **Alan Nguyen** then accompanied **Alexandra Zelada** who sang "Love Song" so gently. The many rehearsals paid off!

Next was **Jessica Ward** as Elizabeth talking to her imaginary friend Fred. She wrote the part herself using the film Drop Dead Fred as her inspiration - she was very convincing and comfortable on stage. **Sophia Son** followed with two lovely piano pieces a haunting melody called "Paris in Winter" and "Love Me". Faultlessly executed, giving the audience a beautifully relaxing interlude. **Sophia's** playing was quite exquisite, poised and delicate.

A Year 11 ensemble performed dressed very smartly in suits and ties, **Nar Ner Phan**, **Ronny Hun** and **Jerome Maisema** gave us "Mandy". Thanks to **Ms Arnold** for her hard work with these students.

After the interval was the group performance

"Sweet 'n' Sour" created and performed by **Alex Thacker**, **Jessica Ward** and **Georgia Laidlaw**. **Billie Jean (Georgia)** was in purgatory where she was judged on her vices and virtues on earth. It was funny, the girls were a highlight. Thanks to **Mr Barnes** who provided the "Benny Hill" theme, "Heart Beat", "Thriller" extract, etc. The audience enjoyed them very much - well done to all.

Mr Nguyen accompanied **Alexandra Zelada** next with his easy and upbeat playing perfectly harmonizing with **Alex's** singing. The following performance was from **Alison Ten Bohmer** who presented a harrowing and powerful soliloquy from Radiance by **Louis Nowra**. **Kezia** then enchanted us with two more pieces. **Alexandra Zelada** then gave us **Wendy Harmer's** portrayal of the anorexic dilemma with Mary Jane. It was very powerful.

As the evenings programme drew to a close **Alan Nguyen** played two beautiful guitar solos, the "Romeo and Juliet" theme and "Spanish Romance" - faultlessly delivered. Music really does 'soothe the savage beast'. **Sophie Son** fittingly finished with "Secret" on the piano, making the challenging piece seem simple, the mark of a gifted performer. Her fingers danced across the keys entrancing us all.

Thanks to **Mr Nguyen** for his inspiration and this years bevy of talented, courageous performers for all the time and effort they put into preparing for their performances. Thanks also to everyone who supported us during the process and on the evening.

Ms H. Forbes
English/Drama



“Cranked”

A play made by a Canadian acting company, Green Thumb Theatre, performed for all of Year 9 on Friday 21st August at the Sydney Opera House.

The play only had one actor, who was wearing a hoodie, cap and jeans. He played Stan, a rapper who has been at the top, signed with a record label and made lots of money until he got addicted to Crystal Meth. He metaphorically said he was dead because of the meth. His life went on a downward spiral, addiction, robbery and car stealing until finally a car accident. After he recovered he went to rehabilitation where he was poorly behaved. All these things were memories he was thinking of before a big performance as Definition (rapper name). He performed very well and the story ends happily. **Carl Cameron**, the actor, was very good. His performance was captivating, exciting and kept you on the edge of your seat. This play was a very good way to express the terrible life of a Crystal Meth addict. This was the third last performance in Australia of “Cranked”. It was a must see performance that anyone and everyone would enjoy.

Matthew Bailey and Widad Nahhas

100 Faces 100 Stories

During August, the 100 Faces team of students and staff met the Optus mentors at the IEC for our final session. Assisted by their mentor, students finalized and edited their stories on the computer. They also spent time working on their artworks which are now in the very final stages of completion. The mentors expressed how pleased they were with the progress the students had made. What also impressed them was how the artwork and the story merge in “telling” a story and how well the students communicate

their ideas. Students, teachers and mentors have gleaned so much from this program in terms of the program itself as well as the collaboration with our partner in learning - OPTUS.

I have particularly enjoyed working side by side with our IEC. We had a beautiful morning tea - thank you **Mrs Liau, Mrs Gabb and Mrs Van Luong**. I ate too many curry puffs!



We are now looking forward to our last intensive workshop at school and in Term 4, the showcasing of student work at the Graduation Ceremony at the Optus Campus.

Mrs D. Goodwin

Art

Career Choice Day



Some selected student comments:

Madison Laidlaw

On the 20th of August 22 Yr 10 students went on an excursion to a Career Choice Day. On this day we visited Optus Campus at Macquarie Park and the Commonwealth Bank at Homebush. In the morning everyone got their name marked off by **Mr McLean** and received a Careers Day Bag which included a survey and pen. After we received our bag we boarded the mini-bus and started our trip towards Macquarie Park. Once we arrived at Optus we had our names



marked off and received an Optus visitors room with another school. We were split up

pass. Our host showed us up to the conference room with another school. We were split up and shown around the campus. We got to see the Communications Network, training centre and much more. One of the coolest things is the Yes welcome wall. We took a whole lot of photos and saw a whole lot of cool things. After our tour we had lunch. It was delicious. Yumm! After lunch we were off to the Commonwealth Bank at Homebush. At Homebush we saw Bass Hill High and another school there as well. We received visitor tags and we went to the conference room. There we were told about what happens at the Commonwealth and how they help other companies. After that a lady from human resources talked to us about



interviews and we did a personality test. Then we did an interview exercise & I was paired with **Leyla Yilmaz** and **Stephanie Ambrose**. After that we went down to the lobby and we received goody bags. Overall this experience was very stimulating and I highly recommend this. My favourite part was the lunch and visiting Optus. The furniture there is so cool and the environment is calm.

Duyen Phan

Career Choice Day included an excursion to the Optus Macquarie campus and Commonwealth Bank at Olympic Park. At Optus, CHHS was split into two groups. We were introduced to staff members who later took us on a tour of the campus. Amazingly, the Optus campus was built like a university. We were introduced to many of the workers and rooms. Later on we had lunch, including a wrap, fruit, popper and chocolate. After this we left to go to the Commonwealth Bank. There we learnt what CBA was really about. We all did a personality quiz and were later



categorised into our groups. We also learnt the correct way to be an interviewee. After that we were ready to leave and we all received a showbag. Finally we all went on the bus, ready to take us back to school. This experience was a useful insight into Australia's leading businesses.



Natalie Ambrose

One Thursday 19 fellow Year 10 students and I, as part of a career choice day, attended tours and lectures at an Optus campus and the Commonwealth Bank at Homebush. I personally enjoyed the Optus Campus. It was huge, bright and well designed. Not to mention the awesome benefits we learnt the employees of Optus receive. There are so many opportunities at big, well known corporations. Who knew that the Commonwealth Bank even employs doctors? It was a great day had by all.

Stephanie Ambrose

On the Careers Choice Day excursion on the 20th August we learnt many things about the Optus and Commonwealth Bank corporations. We visited Optus first and we found out many new things about the companies and their facilities. They have a wide range of jobs that you would not expect in a telecommunications company. The buildings were very new and technologically advanced with many computers and TV screens. The building was very bright and



colourful and not at all what any of us expected. When we went to the Commonwealth Bank's building we learnt a lot about the banking industry and that a bank is not just what happens in branches, but also trading shares. We also found out the bank even has doctors to help the company, and not just people who are interested in money and banking which was very unexpected.



100 Faces photo album



100 Faces photo album



40 Hour Famine

World Vision is a charity that helps decrease poverty. This charity helps those who are less fortunate to access clean water, shelter, food and education. On the 21st-23rd August, 40 students from Cheso completed the 40 hour famine which was a great effort. I completed the famine because I believe that even a little help can make a difference. Our school has raised over \$1,000 with more money still to be returned. This was a great achievement. I would like to thank everyone that has supported the 40 hour famine and gave to the children that do not have what us “ordinary” kids have.

Kelvin Dong - SRC

Music Report

The Music Department has been very busy this term. We, **Mr Nguyen** and **Ms Arnold** organized a concert for elective Music students in Year 10. This concert was a great success and students enjoyed performing for their peers.

We also had an HSC Music/Drama evening. Year 12 HSC Music students and a few Year 11 Music students performed solo and group pieces for an audience of their families and close friends. The evening was a huge success.

Students in Year 8 have enjoyed learning the guitar this term, and some Year 7 students are currently working on performances for their next year assembly.

The choir, run by Mr Nguyen, has been rehearsing for the Gillawarna festival which is on the 19th of September. They have been working very hard on approximately twelve songs and will be performing at Bankstown Town Hall.

Ms Arnold has organized for students who

are focusing on singing to have the option of attending a vocal workshop once a week this term. Twenty students from Years 9 to 12 have joined the group which is run by experienced tutors from the Conservatorium of Music. Students have learnt how to improve their vocal skills and will be performing with another school at the Conservatorium of Music in week 10.

We have also been very fortunate to have a student teacher from the Conservatorium of Music this term. Mr Htoo has brought his own skills to the Music Department and has taught many classes from Year 7 to Year 11.

Congratulations to all students who have been involved in concerts, performances and workshops this term.

Miss R. Arnold
Music

Parent Tips

New laptop rollout

The Digital Education Revolution (DER) in NSW is a program to provide wirelessly-enabled laptops to all Years 9 to 12 students in NSW public schools by 2012. For all the information about this exciting initiative, including a vodcast that explains the features of this Australian-first program, go to: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/dernsw

School leaving age

From next year all NSW students by law, must remain at school until the end of year 10 and must be in fulltime paid employment, education and training, or a combination of the two until the age of 17. This brings NSW into line with all other Australian states and territories. More information is available at: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leavingschool/schoolleavage/index.php

School zone road safety

A reminder to parents that from 1 July 2009 the government has increased fines and loss of demerit points for all driving offences occurring in school zones. We are committed to providing a safe environment for all our students and visitors, so please observe the 40km/h speed limit during school hours and stop in designated drop off areas only.

A Thank you letter

My life is painted with the lessons I learned from people I encountered. In the impressionability of my youth, even though I did not understand it or really want it, I found myself taking on your ideas - *becoming* you. Maybe I didn't wear the same 5'oclock shadow or the occasional tight skirt in summer, but as they say, "you cannot teach a man anything, only help him find it within himself". You've seen me grow into a mature adult, acted like parents to me. There's no way I'm going to leave you without showing my gratitude.

Anyway.

Trust me, I needed to sleep in class. Please don't get me wrong. You aren't boring. I could darn well sleep three days straight if given the chance. That's what teenagers do.

Remember how desperately I scrounged marks off you after the test? "Just another half-mark!". I don't know about you, but I was so proud of myself when I managed to scrape that half-mark over a fail.

The pointless arguments. You will always win, indomitable, and I was always wrong. I knew that. But being recalcitrant made me feel better, like a renegade against authority. The idiocy of youth. Sorry for being so ignorant.

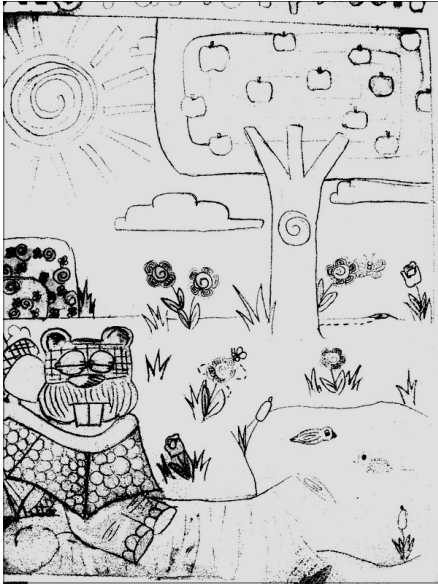
The deadlines - they were a worthy foe. Always lenient and honourable - and they always caught us on the flank, tearing our hair out until 2:00AM the night before the due date. I never got over that procrastination.

These six years simply flew by so fast, I couldn't appreciate just how much you did for me until the end. So here I am, honest and shameless. This comes from the heart.

Thanks teachers. You guys are awesome.

~Anonymous Student, year 12 of '09

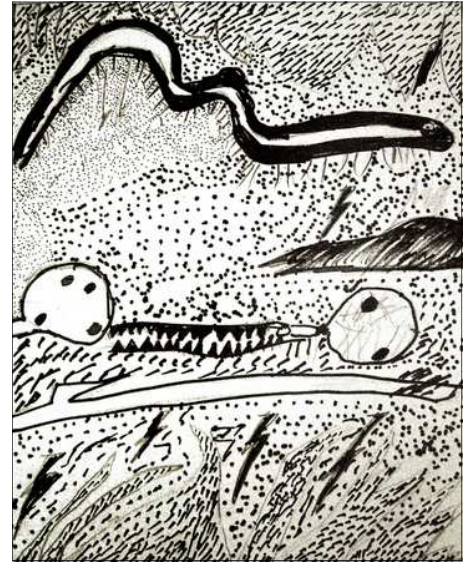
Student Artwork Year 8 Theme: Metamorphosis



Ivana Martinovic



Akshay Prasad



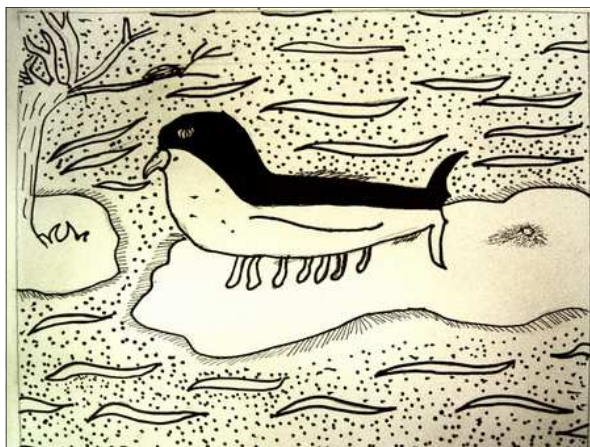
Hussain Ebrahimi



Aladdin Zreika



Alexander Kaw



Amen Almagossi



Ayse Yilmaz

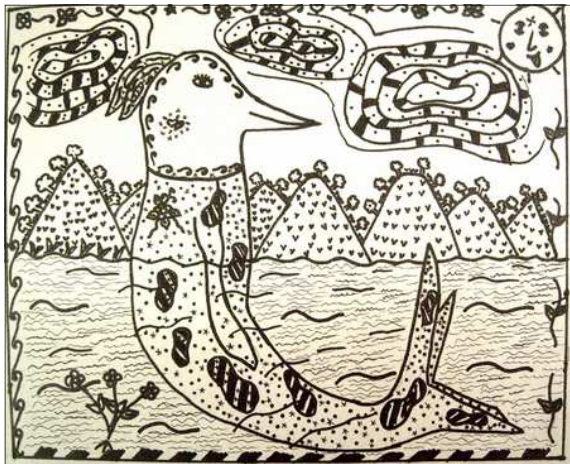
Student Artwork
Year 8
Theme: Metamorphosis



Cindy Tran



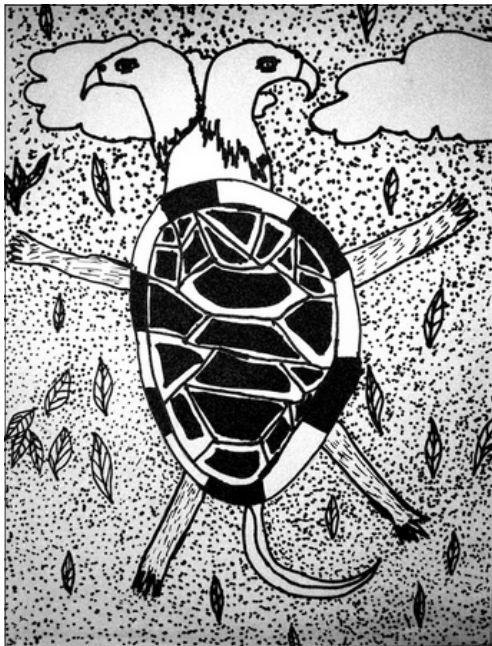
Caitlyn Thi Mong Vy Vo



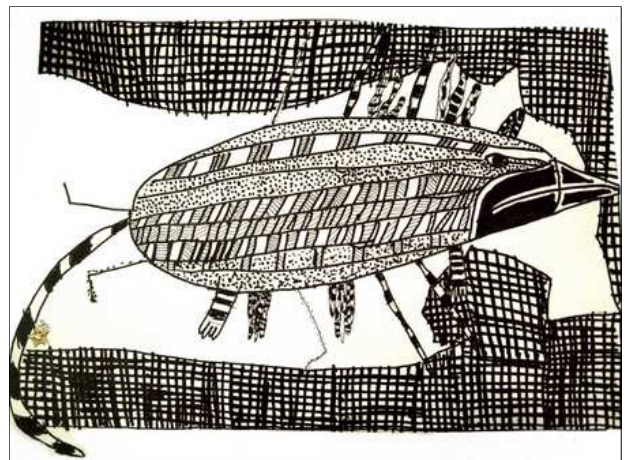
Ka Mwe Hser Doo



Judith Po Mya



Yousha Abbas



Thoo Lei KPaw Phan

CANTEEN NEWS

At the end of term 3 we say good bye and thank you to our current Canteen operator “Cantina”. They have provided the school, over the last 5 years, with good food, good service and great support. We wish them well for the future.

At the start of term 4 we welcome our new Canteen operator “Made Fresh”. Please find below their canteen menu and pricing. We will look forward to working with them in the future.

Chester Hill Optical



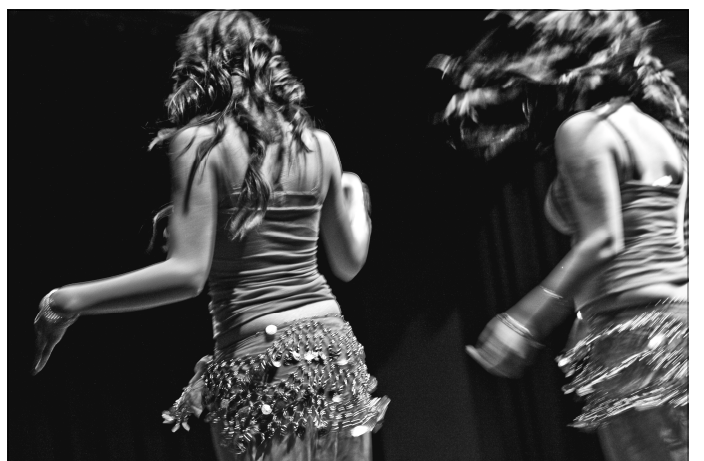
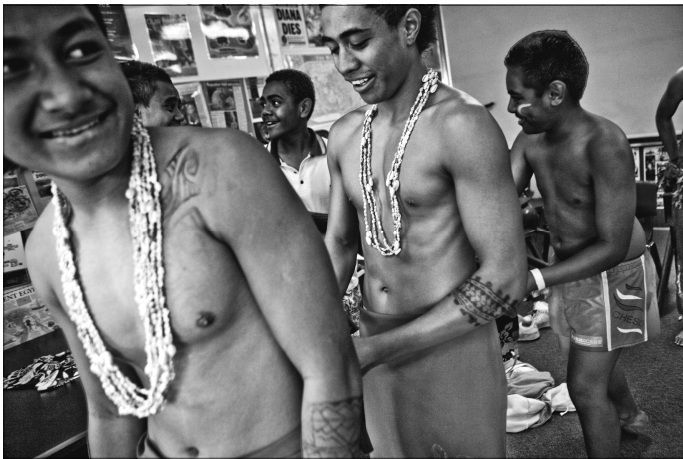
EYE TESTING ARRANGED
BULK BILLING AVAILABLE



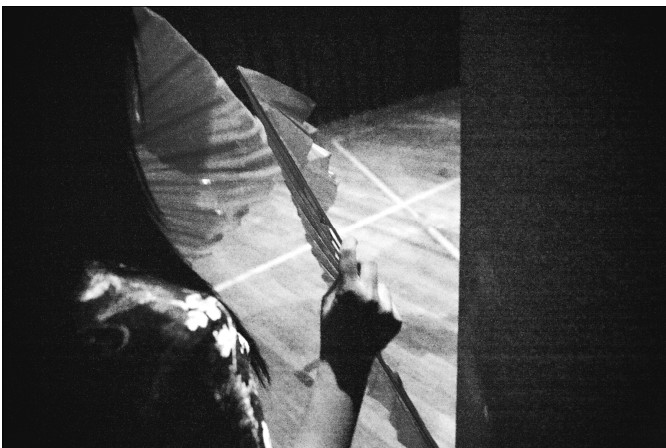
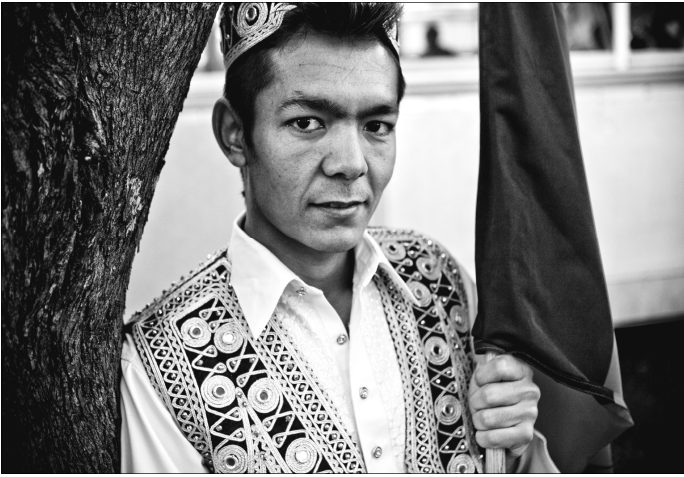
Ph: (02) 9644 4420
7 Mariner Centre, Waldron Rd, Chester Hill. (Opposite. Hotel)
KAREN MILLGATE BA J.P.
OPTICAL DISPENSER

STRENGTH IN UNITY, EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

All these beautiful photos from our International Flag Day were taken by
George Voulgaropoulos



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STRENGTH IN UNITY, EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

TERM 4 IMPORTANT DATES AND ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) please be advised of the following dates for Term 4 2009:

Term 4 Begins: Monday 19th October 2009

HSC Exams Commence: Tuesday 20th October 2009

HSC Exams Conclude: Friday 13th November 2009

Yr 11 Clearance Day: Friday 30th October 2009

Yr 11 Sign-In to Year 12: Monday 2nd November 2009

Yr 12 Sign-Out Day's: Surnames A-K Monday 16th November 2009
Surnames L-Z Tuesday 17th November 2009

Yr 10 School Certificate Exams: Monday 9th November to Friday 13th November

Yr 10 All My Own Work: Monday 23rd November to Friday 27th November

Yr 10 Clearance Day: Week 7-Monday 30th November to Friday 4th December (in class)

For students in **Yr 10**, changes to the school leaving age brought about by the Education Amendment Act 2009 will have an impact on the date on which they may leave school.

Last day for Yr 10 Students: Friday 11th December - NSW Board of Studies will issue School Certificates. Formal Assembly - periods 1 and 2 in the school hall.

Last day for Years 7, 8, 9 and 11: Wednesday 16th December 2009

School Development Day's: 17th and 18th December 2009 (Teachers Only)

Uniform Shop



**20% off all
CHESTER Hill HS Uniform
from
Monday 21st September
to
Friday 2nd October 2009**

When: every Monday * 8.00am - 12.00pm and Friday * 12.00pm - 4.00pm
Where: in the School Hall (NO ORDERS or LAY-BYS given)

