



CHESO NEWS

CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL
KENWARD AVENUE
CHESTER HILL 2162

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MARCH 2010

Term 1 Issue 2

P&C Principal's Report

This has been a busy and challenging term for us here at Cheso. Thank you to all of our school community for supporting us to provide a safe, respectful, learning environment for our students where we can all feel a sense of belonging.

Highlights for me since our last newsletter include:

On the Wednesday of Week 5 we had our Year Meetings. This involves each Year spending some time together with their Year Advisor and other key members of staff to focus on topics that are specifically for them. For example Year 12 might focus on HSC issues, Year 7 and 9 on NAPLAN and so on. We try to also use these assemblies to celebrate student success and also have some student performances. These assemblies happen each term in Week 5 and are run by members of the Student Representative Council (SRC) members of each year group.

On Monday 22 February we had our Vietnamese Parents meeting with in excess of 30 people attending. This meeting was held a week later than usual due to a clash with Vietnamese New Year. The main topic

were our 2009 HSC and School Certificate results and other highlights of the previous year.

On Wednesday 3 March we held our usual informal "Meet the Teachers" event after school in the hall. It was an opportunity to put a name to a face or two and to discuss any issues parents or teachers might have. It was great to see so many parents and staff and this meeting. On display at the meeting was the artwork from our "100 Faces, 100 Stories" project last year. Everyone was so impressed by the work of our Year 9 and IEC "100 Faces" team.

On Thursday 4 March we held our Pacific Community Parents meeting our numbers are on the rise and we look forward to more families joining us next term.

On Tuesday 9 March and Wednesday 10 March we had the Annual General Meetings of our P&C and our School Council.

On Monday 15 March our Arabic Parents group was well attended and Mrs Corish our P&C President spoke about the role of the P&C and welcomed familiar parents back to

our school year of 2010 and welcomed some new parents of Year 7 students.

On Tuesday we welcomed a large number of Year 6 students, teachers and parents from our partner primary schools for our annual Year 6 Open Day. All were welcomed, given a tour of the school and sampled some high school lessons. This was followed by an evening session for interested parents and children who were unable to attend in the daytime.

National Partnerships: we have already employed 4 new teachers to assist us to run our National Partnerships projects this year:

Ms. Fenton: to work on the Refugee Transition Program and Year 110 students who need assistance in meeting School Certificate requirements

Mr. Field: to assist Year 11 students with their transition to the senior school, TAFE or work.

Ms. Apostle: to assist students in Years 7-9 with their literacy needs

Mr. Elakkoumi: to assist the learning needs of our ESL students

We are looking to interview for some executive positions this week to complete our National Partnerships Team.

NEWS FLASH.....Ms. Mateus has been appointed as a third deputy principal to assist in the running of our National Partnerships programs and **Ms. Criola** has been appointed as a head teacher to run certain National Partnerships programs.

Wishing all our readers a happy and safe holiday break.

Christine Casey



Attendance News

Chester Hill High School recognises **Attendance** as being important to educational success.

Lateness – school begins at 8.45am.

Lateness to school disrupts the teaching and learning process.

Absences – must be justified within 7 days of the absence. This can be achieved by replying to SMS, phoning the school on 96441099, or supplying a parental note to the roll call teacher.

Leave- if you wish to take extended leave, applications must be made to Mr Milne HT Administration, at least 2 weeks prior.

Attendance Blitz

On Monday 15th March an **Attendance Blitz** was carried out with the Home School Liaison Officer- HSLO (Dept of Education) within the school.

All students who were late were spoken to and names recorded (**84** students).

Students with ongoing attendance issues were interviewed and letters of concern were mailed home.

MS Messaging

The success of the SMS Communication System depends on parents notifying any changes to contact details.

Updating Parent Mobile Phone Numbers

As part of the process of implementing the SMS messaging system, the school is



seeking your assistance. We already have an extensive list of parent's mobile numbers; however we would like to make sure our records are fully up-to-date.

Please contact the school on 96441099, if you have changed your mobile number recently.

Thank you for your assistance and co-operation. We look forward to making this exciting transition, and to improving our communication with you. We encourage our parents to promote regular Attendance and communicate with the school when any issues arise.

Mr M. Milne

Head Teacher Administration

IEC NEWS

The IEC celebrated multiculturalism and racial harmony on Friday, the 19th of March at the *Chester Hill IEC Talent/Food Day* in conjunction with Harmony Day.

The student leaders have managed to recruit performers, models and volunteers to make this day a success. All the performers have been sacrificing their lunchtime to perfect their items.

Although this event started out as a fundraising event, the ultimate aim is to have some fun and promote harmony amongst the students. Students will have the opportunity to celebrate and share their food, culture, fashion, songs, music and dance.

All students in the IEC will take part in a *Family Planning Session* once a semester. This session is conducted by the Family Planning Services. Unfortunately, we have not been able to offer PDHPE as part of our curriculum this term. Therefore, this session will be very valuable to the students.

Students have the opportunity to deliver a speech every Friday at the assembly and this has been a huge success and an opportunity to practise *Public Speaking*. The speakers are setting very high standards for the rest of the school.

The camp for exiting students will be on the 29th and the 30th of March this term. Twenty students, accompanied by Mr Criniti, will be going to the Stanwell Top Recreation Centre.

On the 26th of March, Optus will be offering their services in setting up the IEC website as part of the *Optus Partnership* program. We will also start the Interact Program next term, in partnership with Optus, where 12 of our students will go to Optus at Macquarie Park for six sessions. They will be working on communications, work awareness and mentoring with an external commercial organisation.

We currently have 170 students and will be starting the new term with 14 classes.

Mr R. Van Der Weide

Brief Stories and Parent Tips

Earth Hour-8:30 Saturday, 27 March 2010

Aiming to reach more than one billion people in 1000 cities around the world, Earth Hour is asking communities, businesses and governments to switch off the lights for one hour at 8.30 pm on Saturday 27 March. We are getting involved at school on Friday 26 March, find out what you can do at home by visiting www.earthhour.org.au

Daylight savings ends on Sunday 4 April

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour at 2am on Sunday 4 April.

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CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL

Strength in Unity, Excellence in Education



Email: chesterhil-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: chhs.info

Kenward Ave
CHESTER HILL 2162
Telephone: 9644 1099
Facsimile: 9743 7174

For the information of families seeking enrolment in Year 7 at Chester Hill High School

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Chester Hill High School is a very popular local school and our enrolment procedures at the school follow the NSW Education Department Enrolment Policy.

Local students are determined by the Department's boundaries. Families seeking local area enrolment for their child will fill out an Expression of Interest Form (EOI) and this will be forwarded to the high school. Later in the year we will contact these families and ask for an "Application to Enrol" form to be filled in and sent back to us with **3 pieces of documentary evidence** to show that **the family and the student** live within our boundaries. If students are not living with their family, custody verification or other formal documentation will be required to establish "local" status. Examples of appropriate evidence include: rates notices, rental agreements, Centrelink letters, electricity/gas bills, letters from government agencies and banks. Once these forms have been processed satisfactorily students will be offered a place at Chester Hill High School as a local enrolment.

Non-local students who do not live within our local boundaries, may apply for "Non-local secondary school placement" in line with the Department's policy, by completing Section C of the Expression of Interest Form (EOI). A placement panel at the high school, including a parent from the school, will consider all non-local applications. Factors which will guide the panel's decision will include:

Living close to the school

Brothers or sisters already enrolled at the school

Disability or medical-related reasons

Safety and supervision of the student before and after school

Availability of subjects or combinations of subjects

Special interests and abilities

Compassionate circumstances

The structure and organisation of the school

These are in line with the department's policy and are not in any specific order of importance. **There are no guarantees regarding non-local enrolment** but families who wish to apply should consider the above factors in the "Reasons" box in Section C of the EOI. Families are encouraged to add additional information for the enrolment panel to consider to support a non-local placement eg NAPLAN results, school reports, students leadership roles held.

There will only be non-local places if these are not required by local students. If there are non-local places the panel will meet and families will be informed of the outcome of their application.

Yours Sincerely

Christine Casey BA, M Ed.

Principal

23/2/10

Peer Mediation Training

Towards the end of last year on 2nd December and 8th December 2009 a group of selected year 9 and 10 students participated in Peer Mediation training program. The program ran over 2 days and involved many activities all of which were aimed at enhancing and highlighting skills that will help these students become Peer Mediators for our school over the next 2 years. Students developed problem solving, listening and questioning skills as well as obtaining practice in real life situations where mediation was necessary. After the two day training the group participated in role play activities that allowed them to show case their newly developed mediation skills. Overall a good time was had by all.

The new peer mediations are enthusiastically awaiting the opportunity to utilise their new skills. Students who need help to resolve conflicts can obtain help from these fellow students through Peer Mediation.

The Peer Mediation team would like to thank the outgoing members of the group for their valuable contribution to the school community. Their wonderful leadership was inspirational to the new trainees.

On behalf of the school we thank these students who participated in the training program for giving up their time and taking on this valuable leadership role.

Ms Panizzolo and Ms Melville
Peer Mediation Co-ordinators



Avoiding cyberbullying

Researchers at Griffith University (Qld) found kids who do extracurricular activities (such as sport or voluntary work) tend to be safer online, encounter less cyberbullying, and are more resilient to harassment if it occurs.

For more information, see the newest edition of Click magazine:

www.schools.nsw.edu.au/click

Time to get organised!

Are school notes taking up too much space on your fridge?

Do you need some help to get organised?

How about one place to store all school related information?

Help is here! You can now download for free a do-it-yourself school organiser - all you need to add is your own folder.

go to <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/schooldays/index.php> and start getting organised with your child's paper work.

YouTube

Did you know that NSW Public Schools has its own channel on YouTube? You can view it on

www.youtube.com/user/NSWPublicSchools

There are some great videos about a range of different topics including dealing with head lice, cyber-safety and explaining the MySchools website. Take a look for yourself!

Video games go live - what parents need to know

Games consoles like Xbox, Playstation 3 and Wii now let your child access the internet to connect with players from around the world. Whether they're communicating live, via text, speaking to each other through headsets or linking up through webcams, it means gaming now has a social networking element. It means that as a parent, there's a lot more

research you need to do before you can plug and play. Read this month's *Click* (www.schools.nsw.edu.au/click) to find out about the new gaming environments, and how parent controls can make it a nicer, safer virtual-world to be in.

Art Excursion

After rollcall, at nine o'clock, and after a stern lecture on behaviour, Year 10 Art students were rushed onto two separate buses as we departed from school to the Sydney Fish Markets. When we were a block away, people were already saying that they could smell the fish, but when we actually arrived, it was all anyone could talk about. There was a foul stench that clung to the markets and people that were walking around, pushing carts in bright clothes and covered in tattoos. They looked stern and on a mission, and they steered their fish into the markets and the many restaurants on the fringe of the markets. As we were told our boundaries, we split off from the main group into our areas and began taking photos and drawing. We became used to the smell soon enough. There were live crabs with their claws banded, fish named after woodwind instruments, lobsters and sea bugs and all sorts of fish covered in ice - and we took photos of it all. We were then instructed to go sit down and begin to draw, so somehow between taking photos, talking, and socialising with friends, nearly being hit by Ute's going 5km/h and eating fish, we all produced five sketches based on our day.

The day was fun overall and we all enjoyed the Sydney Fish Markets.

Alexis Mezin

Photos on page 14

**Year 11 Legal Studies Excursion to the NSW Supreme Court and
the Police and Justice Museum**



On Thursday 11 March, 19 students from Year 11 Legal Studies went on an excursion to see our court system in action. In the morning, they got a chance to observe a live criminal court case in the *NSW Supreme Court*, during which a clinical psychologist was giving expert testimony on behalf of the defendant, and was then cross-examined by the state prosecutor. During the afternoon, the students visited the *Police and Justice Museum*, and got an opportunity to learn about the problems and issues associated with our less than perfect legal history, especially with regards to Women

and Aboriginal Australians. The students also got a chance to experience a mock trial. Special mention should be given to the following students who took an active part in the mock trial.

Cianah Alfaro (Court Clerk)

Vivian Assad (Court Officer)

Salah Sbeit (Sergeant Prosecutor)

Natalie Ambrose (Defence Lawyer)

Leasha Michaelson (Defendant)

Overall, the students were very well-behaved, and were a real credit to the school.



United Nations Youth Association (NSW) State Conference 2010



During the weekend of Friday 12 March to Sunday 14 March, five students from Chester Hill High School participated in the UNYA (NSW) State Conference 2010 held at Collaroy Conference Centre and Macquarie University. These five students participated in talks, discussions and several rounds of vigorous debates as representatives of different countries. They were

Andrea Huang (Yr 10) (Kenya) (UNEP)

Sayed Rahmatullah Husseinizada (Yr 11) (Tajikistan) (UNDP)

Sayed Husseinizada (Yr 12) (Pakistan) (DISEC)

Helen Le (India) (ECOSOC)

Katie Phan (Vietnam) (ECOSOC)

During the conference, the delegates learnt a lot about how the United Nations operates, as well as the problems and issues that arise. They participated in a heated though diplomatic discussion with **Judith Fergin** (*United States Consul-General*) about the current foreign policies of the Obama administration, and they also got to enjoy talks by **Dr Keith Suter** (*member of the Australian Foreign Minister's National Consultative Committee on International Security Issues*) on human rights in Australia and the world.

During the committee rounds, the students debated a wide range of resolutions from counter-terrorism to climate change. Our students performed well, and earned the praise of the conference facilitator. Aside from the committee rounds of debates, our students also took part in a General Assembly debate during Sunday afternoon at Macquarie University on a mock resolution on the Arab-Israeli conflict, based on a fictional scenario. Overall, the student delegates had a lot of fun learning and making new friends from across NSW.

A. Kwok

GATS Program Coordinator



Sayed Rahmatullah Husseinizada (Yr 11) (Tajikistan) (UNDP), **Eliza Forysth** (UNYA State Conference Coordinator), **Sayed Husseinizada** (Yr 12) (Pakistan) (DISEC), **Katie Phan** (Vietnam) (ECOSOC), **Andrea Huang** (Yr 10) (Kenya) (UNEP), **Helen Le** (India) (ECOSOC)

CAREERS NEWS

The term has flown past with **Year 10** students in particular experiencing Careers lessons being delivered by **Mrs Fenton** and myself and also beginning to organise their **Work Experience**.

I have been very impressed with the enthusiasm so many Year 10 students have demonstrated in their search for, and discussions about, their first **Work Experience**. I would also like to commend **Ismail Hamide** of 10B for exercising initiative by collecting the names of students who need to complete a white card before they go to their work experience. Well done Ismail.

'On Tuesday the 9th of February I had my first day at TAFE undertaking my TVET course in Radio. I went to the Petersham College where my radio broadcasting course will be running. When we got into class we had a run through of what to expect throughout the year and we were told that we were going to have an assignment where we would have to interview a celebrity which excited me. We also get to do one hour of recording on air for most lessons, as it is a practical course. We also learnt how some of the radio and multimedia software used in radio works in compiling a playlist. In my class there were only six other students which made it easier remembering people's names. We went into the radio studio and got to go on air via the internet radio from the radio studio that the college provides for the students. My course runs at 1.30pm and goes until 5.30pm. On the first day we watched a movie relating to our topic and as expected we received homework. I really enjoy the experience and look forward to going back each week!'

Sherena Sebaruth

Work Experience is from 7th – 11th June. Students need to have organized their experience by the end of **Week 1 Term 2** and **have their paperwork returned to me**. Parents, the yellow booklet is the Student Placement Record. It is a very important document and needs to be completed in parts by you, your child, the host employer and by the school. It **MUST** be returned to me when completed.

As promised in the last Cheso Newsletter I have pleasure in presenting reports from **Sherena Sebaruth of Yr 11** who is studying **Radio Broadcasting** at Petersham TAFE as a **TVET subject** and from **Chloe Aston Yr 11** who, along with **Anthony Nguyen Yr 12**, represented the school so well at the **InSight TATA IT** holiday program.

INSIGHT 2010 by **Chloe Aston**

During the summer holidays Anthony Nguyen and I took part in a program called InSight. For two weeks, myself and about 11 boys, were taught how to create a website, along with professional skills to prepare us for the real world. I expected there to be more girls, but the program had run for 2 previous years and I was the **first girl**, ever, so the boys were taught a thing or two about dressing nicely as well. On the third day of the program we got treated to Laser Tag in Darling Harbour where Pauly from Fat Pizza happened to be playing in the same game.



According to him, I'm a lazy laser tag player.

We were introduced to John Ridge, Executive Director of the Australian Computer Society Foundation, who gave us a presentation about skills needed to do very well in an interview when applying for a job. His talk was very memorable and I will put his knowledge to good use in the future.

When we weren't being spoken to about personal development and skills needed for the work force, we had tutorials. We got split into groups of 3 and had 2 weeks to create a website good enough to be presented. They taught us how to use Microsoft Frontpage, Visual Basic and Flash. The website was for a mock video store, where we used Frontpage and Flash, and the Visual Basic was for creating an inventory system to manage mock employee details, etc. On the second last day we had to dress up as if we were going to work. All the boys were in suits and ties,



very professional. It would have been a funny sight seeing them in city hunter afterwards, all in suits. We had to present our websites to people from The Smith Family and TCS. They were all very pleased with what we had achieved.

In the July school holidays there will be a follow up 2 day course where we will finalise our websites and have them looking like

bought ones.

Wonderful reports, I'm sure you will agree.

The next newsletter will contain a report written by our **TVET Media Journalism** students.

Finally, some dates to keep in mind: **23rd April** RSA Course; **30th April** The National Careers and Employment Expo, **4th June** the SMH HSC and Careers Expo and **1st July** CareerSearch. These are aimed at Yr10, 11 and 12 students.

Mrs Helen Corcoran

Lord and Lady Somers Camp January 2010

During the school holidays **Robert** and I journeyed to Melbourne to experience a camp that we will remember for the rest of our lives. Lord and Lady Somers camps are not regular camps. They are run each year, one week for boys, one for girls, and we were lucky enough to be picked to go. While **Robert** packed his bags and went to Melbourne I sat at home for a week anxiously awaiting his return and all the information he'd give me about camp. However, when he arrived back he refused to tell me anything. Initially furious I boarded the plane to Melbourne. However, when I arrived I understood. These camps are made that much better by the mystery and intrigue surrounding them. While we were there **Robert** and I were forced out of our comfort zones, and although we initially wanted to resist it, we embraced the events that occurred to us over the weeks. The camp was about helping us reach our full potential, and even though some things were shocking and confronting we both saw sides of ourselves we'd never seen before.

Between the 6am morning runs, war cries, amazing guest speakers, sleep deprivation, crazy activities, a battle of colours, sickness and eventful dinners, **Robert** and I made amazing memories, met wonderful people and voyaged inside ourselves, pushing our boundaries and finding new strength. **Robert** and I both highly recommend this camp. We've made friends for life, gained new confidence and outlooks and can't wait to volunteer as staff next year.

Shelby Heness and Robert Bahous

Valentines Day

Love is in the air! On the 12th of February, 2010, Cheso celebrated Valentines Day by selling roses, balloons and bears and raising around \$600 for the school. The SRC will be donating some money to the Fred Hollows Foundation. Valentines Day was very successful and we thank everyone for their support.



We hope next year will be an even bigger success.

SRC

Clean Up Cheso Day

On Monday 8th of March all of the Year 7's and the environment committee picked up rubbish around the school for our annual Clean Up Cheso Day.



First **Ms Mateus** explained to us the point of the day. Then each class was placed

in different areas like the senior shelter, the basketball area, to pick up rubbish around the school. The Year 7's were very eager to pick up rubbish. The dirtiest place with the largest amount of rubbish collected was from the garden between the quad and the girls basketball court. We collected 10 big bags filled with rubbish which is a lot.

Corey Minett and Susan Nguyen





*“Cheso Hero: Ex student”***Gallant driver saves woman from drowning**

by **Miawling Lam**

A 26-YEAR-OLD woman had a lucky escape in Cabramatta yesterday after her car careened off the road into a deep water-filled ditch.

The woman was driving along John St around 1.30pm when a 19-year-old male in another vehicle drove through a stop sign on Coventry St and crashed into her black BMW X5, which spun across the road and into a water-filled excavation on a lot which used to house an old petrol station.

Completely submerged and trapped in her seat, the woman was rescued by passer-by **Andrew Duong** who was driving behind her.

“I was driving behind them and I saw the crash and pulled them out,” he said.

The woman thanked **Mr Duong** for saving her life. “He is a very brave gentleman,” she said. “I couldn’t get out. Thank you very much.”

A police spokesman confirmed the incident.

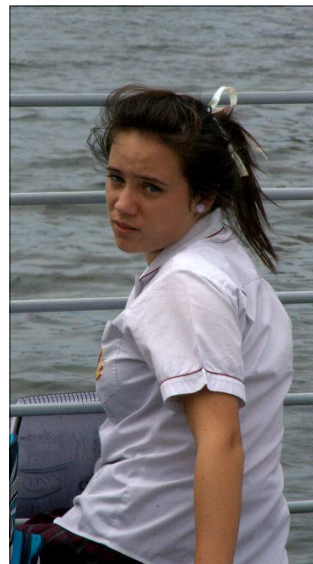
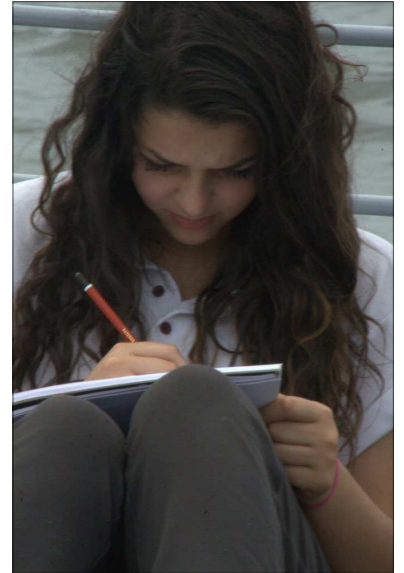
“The two of them collided at the intersection,” he said. “She has, as a result, left the carriageway and her car has gone into this pool of water.”

He said no one was injured in the crash, but said the male driver would be slapped with a fine of \$253 and lose three demerit points




Water hazard: the BMW was shunted into a water-filled ditch when it was hit by a 19-year-old who ran a stop sign

Sydney Fish Markets Photos



**go wild these holidays:
Vision Valley holiday
camps are on!**




Adventure day camps
Horse riding camps
Residential camps

Swirl down the waterslide, climb a rock face, fly through the valley, ride a horse along a rugged trail, or try to stay dry in a canoe.

Our camps are packed full of fun and adventure, and are designed to promote confidence and give every individual the chance to grow.


Camps are for kids aged eight and up, and are on this April school holidays.

Don't miss out! book your place now by calling (02) 9656 2600 or go to our website for more details www.visionvalley.org.au



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7 Mariner Centre, Waldron Rd, Chester Hill. (Opposite. Hotel)

KAREN MILLGATE BA J.P.
OPTICAL DISPENSER

