



CHESO NEWS

CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL
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MAY 2010

Term 2 Issue 1

Principal's Report

We ended Term 1 with a highly successful and well attended School Cross Country Carnival held at Pioneer Park in beautiful Autumn weather. I hope all our readers enjoyed a restful break over the holidays.

Our joint Staff Development Day on 19 April was an interesting change for teachers. We met with the staff of Sefton and Birrong Girls high schools to discuss how we can best meet the learning needs of our students. We met in cross school and faculty groups to discuss "Exceptional Outcomes" achieved by schools and had the opportunity to listen to **Professor Steve Dinham** in the final session. He spoke about what the research is telling us about effective teaching and learning and strategies that really work to improve student learning outcomes.

This initiative is part of our **National Partnerships** program. This program runs for 4 years: 2010-2013 and brings considerable funding to the school. In a previous Chesos News I listed the extra teaching staff we are employing with these funds.

Our 4 projects over the four years are:

- 1. To develop, implement and evaluate a school-wide Reading Plan to improve overall literacy outcomes as measured by NAPLAN, School Certificate and Higher School Certificate**
- 2. To develop, implement and evaluate strategies and programs to enhance student engagement in Stages 5 and 6**
- 3. To further develop, implement and evaluate ESL pedagogy across all KLAs**
- 4. To further address the needs of Gifted and Talented students**

Please see our school website for further details in our School Plan. And a fuller report from **Ms Mateus** our National partnerships deputy principal who is leading and managing our National Partnerships projects.

Other activities at the time of writing so far this term include our first **High Resolves** session involving our Year 10 student leaders, our **Italian Gelato and Canoli Day** and of course our **Year 11 Half Yearly Examinations**.

Staffing: congratulations to **Ms Langmack** who will be relieving Head Teacher: Administration for the rest of this year. A fond farewell to **Ms Vermiglio** who has been transferred to Queanbeyan High School ,from Week 5 onwards. She has been a highly effective and popular teacher here at Ches0 for 11 years and we all wish her well for the future.

Christine Casey

Parent fact sheet

No knives at school

NSW Department of Education and Training

March 2010



There's no good reason to bring a knife to school.

NSW now has the toughest knife laws in Australia. As a parent, you need to be aware of these laws, as you can also be charged if you allow your child to carry a knife.

No knives allowed at school under any circumstances.

- If a student has a knife at school the principal may call the police.
- The student may be expelled or suspended immediately. Possessing a knife includes your child simply having one in their bag or locker. Having a knife for self-protection is also illegal. If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing or safety, contact the principal.
- Tough penalties apply for kids convicted of knife offences, including jail sentences of up to 25 years if someone is injured with a knife during an assault.

What kind of knives are prohibited?

School policy is designed to keep all students safe, and so no type of knife is allowed at school. That means no butter knives or fruit knives in lunchboxes, or knife tools for craft purposes.

- Flick knives, ballistic knives, sheath knives, push daggers, trench knives, butterfly knives, star knives are all prohibited.
- Your child cannot bring to school any item that can be used as a weapon (such as a chisel).
- In lessons requiring the use of knives, for example cooking or trades, your child's teacher will supply and supervise the use of the tools.
- There are some senior subjects, such as hospitality, where kids may be required to have their own knives. Your child's school will advise you about these courses and the procedures for carrying knives legally to and from school and TAFE.

The law makes parents responsible

You need to make certain your child is aware of the school's rules and the State laws about knives.

If you allow your child to carry or possess a knife at school or in a public place, you can be charged.

- The police can search any child they suspect of having a knife. They can confiscate any dangerous object they might find during the search.
- Your child must comply with such a police search, or they may be arrested and charged.
- It is also illegal for anyone to sell a knife to anyone who is less than 16 years old.

Every child has the right to feel safe and secure at school. There is no good reason for them to ever have a knife at school.

If you want to talk about kids and knives at school, please contact the principal.

NSW GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION
AND TRAINING



Debating Day

Year 7 Debating Day took place on the Friday 30th April. All Year 7 classes have been working hard in preparation for the day with each class having a team competing on the day. As usual the senior mentors and adjudicators: **Stephanie Ambrose, Alexandra Nunez, Jenny Huynh, Michelle Le, Nadine Selman, Layla Saadat, Tamara Perry and Matthew Bailey** were extremely enthusiastic in guiding the Year 7s. All debates were well prepared with all students speaking well. The winners of Round A were 7D: **Tawana Crus-Taing, Kristina Tato and Lorena Martinovic**. The winners of Round B were 7F: **Alexandra Komvoc, April Taulaga, Kristine Tran and Aimee Truong**. The runners up were 7C: **Julie Huynh, Joan Blanas, Gardenia Liutai and Ben Ly** and 7B: **Tanesha Hancock, Saba Zreika, Narmin Mala and Thabit Aljmaily**. A big thank you to all Year 7s for a wonderful day, senior debaters, Year 7 English teachers and teachers who supervised on the day and a special thank you to **Ms Kivilcim**.

Miss L. Criola

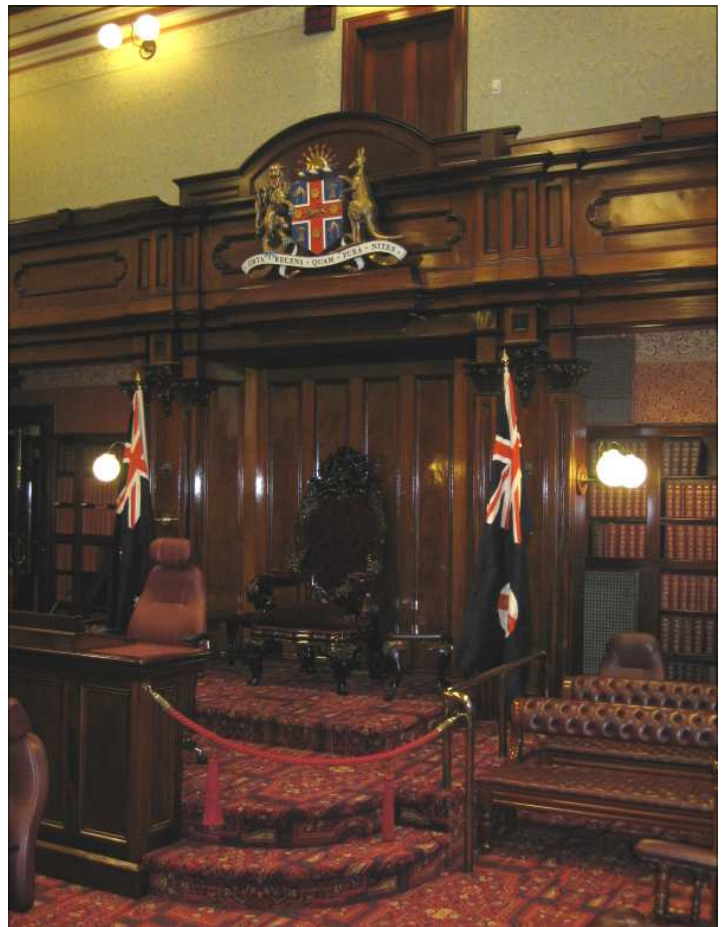
Commerce Excursion

On Friday, 30th of April, Year 9 and 10 Commerce students travelled to the city to learn about the NSW State Parliament and court system.

In the morning, a guided tour of the NSW State Parliament was arranged and we were shown the House of Representatives and the Senate. In the House of Representatives, students had the opportunity to do a role play and students were given the roles of the Speaker and various parliamentary members including our premier, **Ms Kristina Keneally**. The role play was interesting as students were able to behave like politicians. It was also surprising to find out the extent to

which some politicians go to to shame their opponents so their party can win the next election.

The most fascinating thing in the Senate was a special chair intricately carved out Australian cedar wood and it looked like a throne. We were later told that only the **Queen of England** or her royal representatives would be allowed to sit in it. It looked very extravagant and the students found it intriguing.



After lunch at Martin Place, some students visited the Supreme Court whilst others visited the district or local courts in the Downing Centre. We were split up into smaller groups and were allowed to witness criminal trials or bail hearings. We also discovered some court room etiquette, for example all court attendees must respectfully bow at the judge after entering or before leaving the court room, and must be

absolutely silent during the proceedings. My group watched a convicted drug addict being trailed, and she was sentenced to an 18-month good behaviour bond. Another group witnessed a murder trial, in which the defendant was found guilty and sentenced to 45 years in a high security prison. We all found it very interesting, and wanted to stay longer. As a result of our lagging, we ended up missing our train.

All in all, it was a very gratifying experience that contributed significantly to our learning.

Lillian Cherry, Year 10 Commerce



STRENGTH IN UNITY, EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

The Year 7 Visual Arts Excursion to the Art Gallery of NSW

Sixty students from Year 7 were chosen to attend the Open Gallery Program Launch on Friday 23rd April, 2010. Chester Hill High School was the only school invited to attend this prestigious event. The Program is being co-ordinated by **Louise Halpin** from the Art Gallery of NSW.



The official guests in attendance at the Opening included the Director of the Art Gallery of NSW, **Mr Edmund Capon**, the Minister for the Arts, **Virginia Judge**, and Optus representative, **Ms J. Kohlman** who spoke positively of Cheso's other links with Optus through the 100 Faces Program etc.



Optus funded the entire even including: the bus trip to the Gallery, morning tea and lunch. The students were given an "Open Gallery" souvenir bag containing coloured

pencils sketchbooks and other items.

Chester Hill High School is grateful to the Gallery and Optus for allowing us to be part of this truly special even. It was a wonderful day for our students.

We have been invited to take "the remainder" of Year 7 on a repeat day and this will occur later in the year.

Ms Irene Manion

Student Recounts of the day:

First of all we had to go to the Year 7 area near Miller Road so the teachers could mark the roll. Then we started to board the bus. The excursion was funded by Optus, a big thank you to them. On the bus ride we went past lots of places such as Channel 10 Studios, over the ANZAC bridge and we saw the Harbour Bridge. The bus ride was fun although a few people were "bus sick". Finally we were there, but the bus went straight past it. Everyone was yelling. But the teachers explained that the bus had to turn around so we could get out on the right side of the road. Then we entered the NSW Art Gallery. Straight away there were art sculptures of famous people's heads. After that we went into the foyer where the guides took us to the official opening of "Open Gallery". There were 3 speakers then something funny happened. We heard "hoot hoot hoot", a guy dressed up as a Fruit Bat came running in. He was really funny and spoke



weirdly as well. He took us and told us the rules. When he finished he took us to the Aboriginal part of the gallery. That was the only part of the gallery where you couldn't take pictures. Because of the beliefs and the meaning behind the paintings. After he had shown us through the Aboriginal Section he then said good-bye and he went off. After that we separated into 3 groups. The group leaders from the Gallery showed us around almost the whole Gallery and explained what the background was on many of the art works. Then we went back to the front of the Gallery to get our lunch. It was delicious!

Then we went back inside and went and had a look at a few more art works. Then we had a go at drawing a piece of art from a section our leaders took us to. That was fun some of our drawings were good, some not so good. Then we had to say our good-byes and thank you because we had to go back on the bus to come home. The bus ride home seemed shorter. I don't know why but it did. We arrived back at school and everyone was happy because the day went well and the teachers were very happy with our behaviour.

Brenden Williamson

.....When we got there we had to place our gags in this big cart and then went to the sitting area (a small lecture theatre). When our lecturer had finished talking, we went in our small groups with an education officer to lead us through the Gallery to see some paintings. We did activities at each artwork such as sketching, discussing, etc.

We then went to the opening speeches. While they were talking, there was this giant fruit bat coming out of nowhere and he started screaming. That bat was so funny.....After that we had to go outside the gallery where there was a park right in front



of the gallery and we had some lunch and a break.

The trip was really cool and fun. I hope I could go again.

Diana Alzeidy 7G



more photos on page 8



Dear Parent,

Your child's class is now using Mathletics— Australia's most used educational website. Mathletics is the next generation in learning, as it helps students enjoy Maths and achieve great results.

About Mathletics:

Mathletics is a web-based learning program which integrates home and school learning via the internet. Mathletics covers all years of schooling and is currently used in over 1800 Australian schools. Over 100,000 students access Mathletics every day. Your child has 24 hour access to Mathletics by using a unique user name and password. We recommend that you spend time looking at the program so that you can gain the greatest understanding of how Mathletics will benefit your child.

Benefits of Mathletics:

- **Live Mathletics** – students compete live against students from around the world in mental arithmetic
- **Full K - 12 curriculum coverage** – revise for exams, cover gaps in learning, extend bright students
- **Support Centre** – step by step animated support for every concept maths concept
- **24/7 access** – learn anytime, anywhere
- **Parent reports** – comprehensive reports for parents every 7 days by email

To view Mathletics:

Visit www.mathletics.com.au

Ensure pop-ups are enabled

Select sign-in and enter your child's details

My Details (Student to complete):

Username.....

Password.....

Please send any feedback about Mathletics to your child's teacher.

All students at Chester Hill High School, Yrs 7-12 have access to the “free” Mathsonline Interactive Course. They all have their Logins and Passwords. Both Mathletics and Mathsonline are being used to supplement their learning in Maths. These resources are excellent tools for revision as well as making Maths more fun.

REMINDER TO ALL STUDENTS:

The library is open after school on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. This is for students: • who need a quiet place to study, read, or do homework • who need to use a computer to do school work • who need to work on group assignments



STRENGTH IN UNITY, EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

CAREERS NEWS

This is a very busy term for everyone.

This is the term when **Year 10** is going to **WORK EXPERIENCE** and the majority of students have made an excellent beginning to this experience.

Parents / carers it is essential that if your child **HAS NOT** handed in their work experience **YELLOW BOOK** that you encourage them to do so as soon as possible. Preparing students for work experience is a lengthy process from the moment your child begins asking potential **host employers**, to the checking of paperwork to ensure that **your child is safe**, to the moment your child goes to their host place of employment. Work experience is important for your child. It may show them the career path that they would like to follow or it may show them that certain jobs look wonderful until you have to do them. Both of these conclusions are valuable discoveries for your child to make.

If there are difficulties finding a host employer, send your child to see me. It would be very unfortunate if your child misses out on this opportunity and must spend the work experience week at school.

Work Experience is in Week 8, 7th to 11th June.

In other news, the **RSA** certificate course was very successfully completed by 32 senior students who are now awaiting their certificates. Congratulations to these participants.

A number of Yr10, 11 and 12 students also attended **The National Careers and Employment Expo** on the **30th April**. This careers expo was held at Darling Harbour. This was the first of a number of careers

expos to be presented in Term 2. The next is the **Pathways to Employment for Refugees and Migrants** on **Tuesday 11th May** at **Cabravale Leisure Centre**.

Fifteen Yr 10 students experienced U @ **UTS** on **Wednesday 5th May**. They involved themselves in a number of activities offered by various faculties at UTS. The two students who nominated Law as their first interest area engaged in a vigorous **mock trial** in the case of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'.

Numerous students in Yrs 10, 11 and 12 have successfully emailed their expressions of interest for **TAFE Tasters** being held at **Petersham TAFE** and **The Design Centre at Enmore**. This was in response to **group emails** sent to them.

All **Yr 10, 11 and 12** are encouraged to regularly check their **DET email accounts** for information that will be emailed to them. Students are also encouraged to check **CareerCentral** emails when they receive them. If CareerCentral cannot be accessed please see me to register.

Once again, it is important to insist that your **Yr 10 child** see the Careers Adviser with their yellow **Student Placement Record** for **WORK EXPERIENCE** and if they are struggling to let me know so that it can be rectified.

Mrs Corcoran (Rel Careers Adviser)

NRL Excursion

For the first time at Cheso Years 7, 8, 9 and 11 refugee students and their parents were given an opportunity to go and watch an NRL game live at Homebush Stadium on the 23rd of April.

On the 23rd of April **Mr Elakkoumi, Ms Akkoumi and Ms Abdulhadi** took us to ANZ Stadium to watch the game between the Broncos and the Bulldogs. We had a good time and had a lot of fun as it was our first time watching a live NRL game. We want to thank the teachers and **Mrs Casey** for giving us the opportunity to go and watch the game. We also want to thank the Bulldogs for giving us free tickets and looking after us at the game.

Bolo Htoo



High Resolves

On the second day back of term 2, a group of 31 Year 10 students were selected to participate in a program called High Resolves. High Resolves is an initiative to teach students about certain aspects of life and develop skills based on leadership. Chester Hill high School was chosen to be a pilot school in our area to trial the program. Observers from the Department of Education came along to observe the day.

The program runs for two terms and is aimed to cultivate students to become better leaders in the community and to be active global citizens. It opened peoples' eyes about global issues and raised awareness about racism and discrimination. It also helped us understand things about different cultural groups. We did a lot of activities based around these issues and found them all very interesting and beneficial.

The first high resolves session proved to be a very worthwhile, enjoyable and beneficial experience for everyone who attended. This program will be very successful for us and our school this year.

This article was contributed by several Year 10 students participating in High Resolves.

Pictures of the Hunger Banquet Activity



The High Group



The Middle Group

SRC Report

Bandaged Bear Day

On the 26th and 27th March the SRC held a Bandaged Bear Day fundraiser. We sold merchandise including bears, hacky sacks, notepads and pens. Altogether we raised \$415 for the Westmead Children's Hospital. Thankyou to everyone who supported this great cause.

Hot Cross Buns

On the 31st March the SRC held an Easter fundraiser to help support Havea Tuputala of Year 11 who is representing NSW in a national netball competition. We sold a variety of Hot Cross Buns with mocca and chocolate being the clear favourites. Altogether we raised \$150. lets hope next year is an even bigger success! Goodluck to **Havea!**


Jessie, Chantelle, Peter and Charlie (Yr 8 SRC)

IEC News

Term 2 has taken off with strong enrolments with a current total of 168 students and 14 classes.

Sixteen student leaders (approximately 10% of the student population), have been elected by the teachers for this term. All these students have shown initiative and commitment by their conduct and attitude, upholding the CHESO values of safety, respect, learning and belonging. They will be attending leadership training sessions weekly at lunchtime and will be actively involved in the term's key activities such as OPTUS Gardening Day, Flag Day food preparation and the end-of-term presentation with DVD production for exiting students. In addition, many of them will be school photographers and peer tutors helping out with the lunchtime homework program.

Chester Hill Optical



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KAREN MILLGATE BA J.P.
OPTICAL DISPENSER



