



CHESSO NEWS

CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL
KENWARD AVENUE
CHESTER HILL 2162

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JUNE 2010

Term 2 Issue 2

Principal's Report

The second half of Term 2 is proving to be as busy as the first half! We completed our Year 11 Half Yearly examinations and the National NAPLAN tests in Week 4 and held Year Meetings for all years on the Wednesday of Week 5 with a focus on our Positive Behaviour for Learning Program. At each assembly there was a presentation about our school values:

- Safety
- Respect
- Learning

Belonging

and the importance in daily life of the "Circle of Respect".

This circle is about the need for us all to be part of the Respect Circle:

Give it!

Get it!

The only person who can start the Circle of Respect is YOU!

We are currently very busy preparing for our 2010 Flag Day. Hundreds of students and staff are working before and after school to bring you our best Flag Day ever! There will be three performances as usual to allow all students at the high school and IEC to attend.

On Thursday 24 June there will be 2 sessions for Years 7-8 and 9-10. On Friday we will have our final session with invited guests and our seniors Years 11 and 12. Watch out for details of performance times.

On 7 May we had over 60 Optus employees on site working on the IEC grounds. They worked as a team with the students and staff to create some beautiful gardens and a spectacular mural. They seemed to really enjoy themselves here and it was great to see such teamwork in action! We look forward to welcoming many of these employees as our guests at Flag Day.

Other activities so far this term included:

- Year 11 and 12 Parent Teacher evening
 - The official Opening of our refurbished Science Laboratories
 - The Launch of this year's 100 Faces Mentoring Program with Optus
- The Year 7 Camp.

Reminder: our Parent Teacher Evening for Year 7-11 will be held in the final week of term on Wednesday 30 June. Reports will be available for parents to pick up and teachers will be available to discuss student progress. Please attend and bring your child with you.

It is important for students to be part of the discussion about their report and to hear what teachers have to say. Interpreters will be available on the night to assist families.

Finally I will be on special leave for 11 school days, at the end of Term 2 and the start of Term 3. I will be visiting family in the UK. **Mrs. McNab** will be relieving principal while I am away. Wishing you all a happy and safe winter holiday.

Christine Casey

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS PROJECTS

Our National Partnerships Funded Projects are well under way.

We have begun various projects assisting students with literacy development and enhancing student engagement through additional support and individual learning plans.

The National Partnerships Program focus is on these four projects:

- 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.**

So far this term we have started focusing on our first two projects – Literacy and Engagement.

- 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

- Implementation of MULITLIT Program

Withdrawal of individual students to participate in one-on-one intensive reading program which targets basic sounds and sight words.

- Target Yr9 students and implement ILPs to focus on improving reading (Individualised Learning Plans).

Students were identified using NAPLAN Results and were chosen based on their achievement in Reading.

Assist with assessments, work/study timetable and focus on reading skills.

- Target Yr8 students and implement (Individualised Learning Plans) ILPs to focus on improving reading

Students were identified using NAPLAN Results and were chosen based on their achievement in Reading.

Focus on reading skills using previous NAPLAN reading tasks and SMART Data.

- Established external partnerships with UWS to develop reading strategies to be used across the school.

2. To develop, implement and evaluate strategies and programs to enhance student engagement in Stages 5 and 6.

- Yr11 Student Engagement**
Teacher to assist with “At risk” student engagement/transition -
Personalised Learning Programs and

Interviews of Yr 11 Students.

- **Yr 10 and 10B Engagement and Pathways**

Student interviews and in class career lessons and pathways information.

- **ILPs for Refugee Students and additional Support for Students through withdrawal**

Refugee Student Engagement and assistance above and beyond RTP (Refugee Transition Program) from DET

Individual support in class and through withdrawal of students as a group working on literacy skills

Cultural experiences such as excursions organised specifically for Refugee students.

- **Yr10 SRP Student Engagement Interviews**

Interviews with “At Risk” students regarding meeting SC requirements.

- **ILPs for ATSI Students – Additional Support for Students through withdrawal**

Personalised Learning Plans – discussed and presented to parents via interviews

Individual assistance with class work and assessment.

Excursions and experiences relating to Indigenous Australians and their cultural heritage.

Celebration of Reconciliation Week and Preparations across faculties to mark NAIDOC week.

We are continuing with our existing work and programs in these areas:

3. To further develop, implement and evaluate ESL pedagogy across all KLAs

Assistance in ESL via in class support across KLAs.

Resource development with ESL focus.

ESL Pedagogy training.

4. To further address the needs of Gifted and Talented Students.

Tournament of Minds

Mini United Nations

Arabic Youth Quiz

University of NSW Competitions

Language competitions.

These two projects will be further developed in the next semester under the National Partnerships Program.

Year 10 High Resolves Update

The Year 10 High Resolves Team consisting of 31 students had their second full day workshop in week 7. The focus areas for the day were **conflict resolution** and **collective action**. The group enjoyed another packed day of activities and developed the consultation skills necessary for successful conflict resolution.

In the afternoon, the group played the **CO2 Game**. Each student took the role of an ambassador in a series of annual international meetings on climate change and negotiated with the other ambassadors over fifteen rounds, where each round represented a year. In each round, each country indicated the number of units by which it would reduce its carbon emissions.

Each ambassador's score was improved as other nations reduced their emissions however, sometimes there was a cost associated with that country's own emission reductions.

The students watched video clips from the

real climate conference in Bali in 2007 to understand some of the potential dynamics of international negotiations.

An outline of the High Resolves Initiative has been included in this Newsletter for your information.

Mrs N. McNab
Deputy Principal
High Resolves Coordinator

Morning Tea Invitation

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We would like to invite you to a morning tea at Chester Hill High School on Thursday, the 22nd of July, 2010 from 9:30am to 11:30am in the School Hall.

As you maybe aware, the new school leaving age has risen to 17 years of age. This means that all students must complete the Year 10 School Certificate. They now have four options:

- *Stay at school until they are 17 years old.*
- *Go to TAFE to gain further training.*
- *Be in full time paid employment (an average of 25 hours per week).*
- *A combination of these.*

To help support the students at Chester Hill High School, we believe that it is important for both the school and parents to work together to ensure students are engaged within the classroom and are taking advantage of all educational opportunities provided for them.

As part of our Student Engagement Program, we are starting up a new initiative where we invite parents to the school one day a week for an hour, to discuss ways in which we can help support students and ensure they are

successful in receiving their School Certificate.

The program will be run by staff members from the High School and District Office. There will be interpreters available to run sessions to help all parents. Other schools who have run similar programs have reported an increased rate of student engagement.

We would like to commence this program next term. Starting on Thursday July 29 from 9:30am to 12:00pm.

Please return the bottom portion to the school by: Friday 25th June 2010.

L. Criola
HEAD TEACHER STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Attendance News

Chester Hill High school recognises **Attendance** as an 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.

In week 4 this term, a week long **Lateness Blitz** was carried out with the Home School Liaison Officer- HSLO (Dept of Education Officer) within the school.

Teachers are working hard to stamp out lateness however a small number of students are persistently late each week. SMS's are sent to parents for every third lateness and we

encourage parents to support the school in reducing lateness.

The **new SMS Communication system** has been working extremely well and we thank those who have been using the SMS to notify absences.

Parents who receive an SMS and believe their son or daughter is present are asked to respond to the SMS and staff will verify attendance and ring you back.

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.

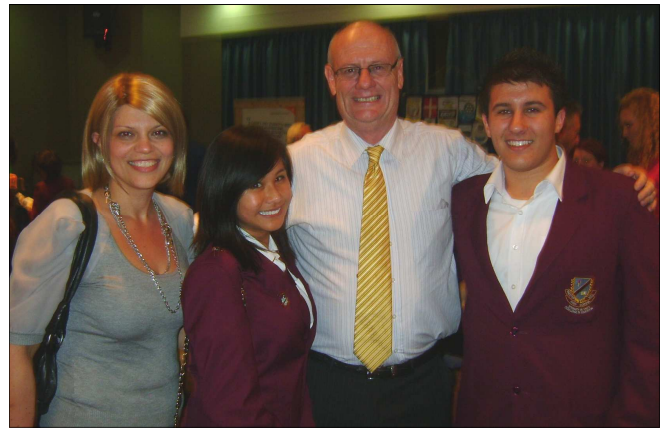
The success of the SMS Communication System depends on parents notifying any changes to contact details.

Mr M. Milne

Head Teacher Administration

World Vision Conference

On Monday 10th May, **Robert Bakous, Ms Mateus** and I attended a World Vision Conference for High School students at Cabramatta Rotary Club, to discuss the benefits of supporting the organisation.



There, we were joined by guests and students and teachers from other schools in our region, to have dinner and we were fortunate enough to be addressed by **Rev Tim Costello** the CEO of World Vision Australia. His motivating speech prompted us to make the most of our leadership skills and to assist and encourage others to do the same for the benefit of a greater cause.

There was an opportunity to meet, network and share ideas with students from other schools, both public and private. Afterwards, we were able to meet **Tim Costello**, who happens to be the brother of **Peter Costello**, and have our picture taken, proving our five seconds of fame!

Overall it was a great night and hopefully some of you will have the chance to attend one of their meetings next year.

By **Christina Nguyen** and **Robert Bakous**

Reconciliation Week

On Friday 28th May I spoke on a school assembly about reconciliation week, which started on the 27th May until the 3rd June.

I spoke about the meaning of reconciliation week and what it means for all



Australians. I also spoke about the stolen generations and the apology from **Mr Rudd**. Reconciliation week is about seeing it through and we need to continue remembering the rights of Indigenous Australians.

Kyle Cain 7E

other photos on pages 8 and 9

highresolves

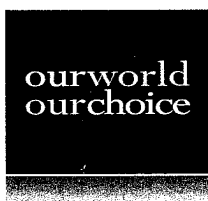
INITIATIVE



"There is no doubt that this program has a life changing effect on students...it takes them from being helpless observers of the world's problems to being leaders who have a conviction that they can bring about change."

School Principal

What is the High Resolves Initiative?



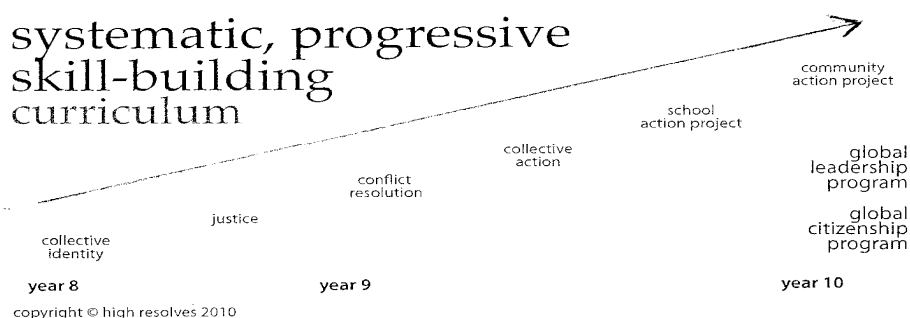
The High Resolves Initiative is a **fun, interactive and inspirational experience** in which high school students learn **new skills, stretch their minds and meet other people** who are passionate about **making a difference** to the world and **having their voice heard**.

The High Resolves motto **our world, our choice** sums up our philosophy that our choices and actions make a difference in the world.

High Resolves has designed a **systematic and progressive** approach towards building **citizenship and leadership** skills through two core programs:

- **Global Citizenship Program** (delivered to all students in Year 8)
This program provides a range of activities to motivate students to be active global citizens and to build skills for communicating across culture and making fair decisions.
- **Global Leadership Program** (a two year program across Years 9 and 10 for students who have applied and been selected)
This program builds leadership and project management skills that are applied and reinforced through hands-on projects in their school and wider community.

systematic, progressive
skill-building
curriculum



Who runs the High Resolves Initiative?

High Resolves is a not-for-profit, non-religious organisation that has developed this educational program based on world-class research and material from multiple reputable educational sources. Some of the activities were developed by one of the co-founders of High Resolves at the Harvard School of Mediation and Public Policy.

Professionally trained facilitators from High Resolves run the program, in the school, during school time. All of our Program Managers are experienced teachers and High Resolves has a strong emphasis on keeping up to date with the latest educational theory and practice.

High Resolves has partnerships with the University of Sydney, University of NSW and University of Melbourne, and is supported by National Australia Bank, Brambles, the Deloitte Foundation and Alchemy Growth Partners.

Why participate?

If we are to have a better future, we need to invest in young people by giving them the opportunity to build leadership skills and mindsets to enable them to be **active participants in our global society** and to **solve the many global issues** we face.

No matter what profession or occupation a student chooses, they will benefit from having the skills that High Resolves develops such as **conflict resolution** and **collaboration**, and the ability to **lead others to work together** towards a common goal.

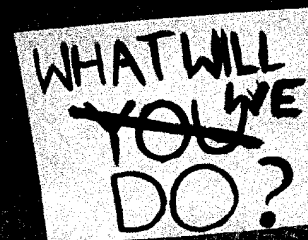
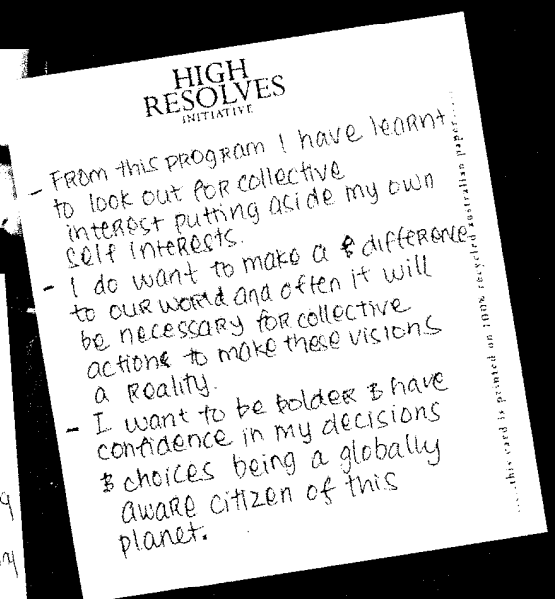
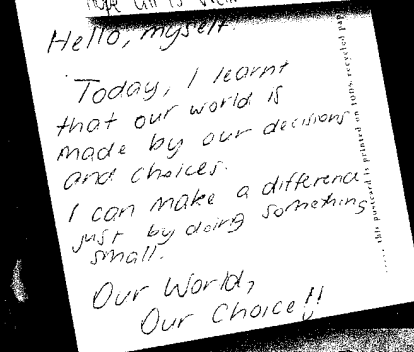
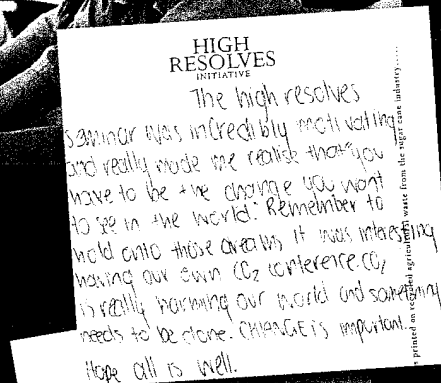
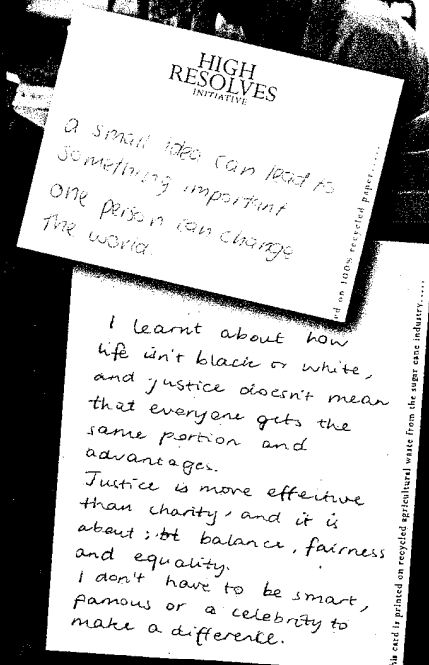
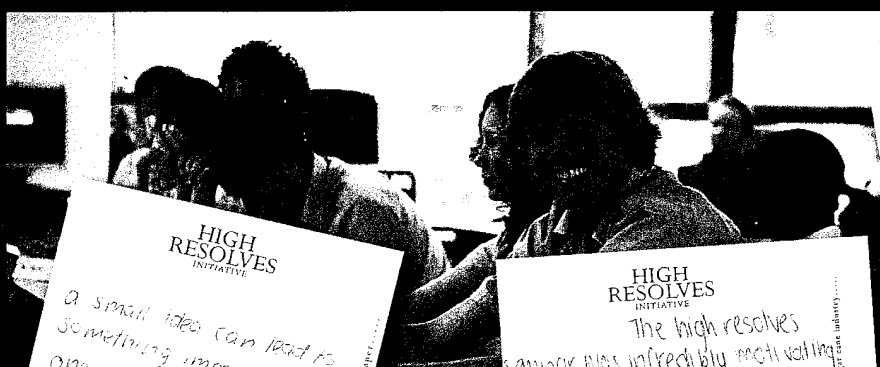
Some students have started High Resolves feeling that they couldn't really see themselves as a leader. Others have wanted to be a leader, but never really knew what that would feel like. After participating in the High Resolves program, **most have developed a much deeper, more personal understanding of what citizenship means to them.** Almost all have walked away with a much greater sense of **their place in the world** and have begun a **journey to discover what their unique contribution** to their communities and society will be.

highresolves
INITIATIVE



for more information go to
www.highresolves.org

At the end of each module in the program, students write a postcard to themselves to capture key personal learnings from the day. These are sent back to them a few months later as a reminder of what they had learnt. Below are some examples of postcards written by students.





Kyle Cain 7E
Reconciliation Week

SRC REPORT

Year 9 Leadership Conference

On the 19th May we went to Strathfield Education Office. We were there with other schools in the Strathfield and Fairfield areas. We were paired up with a primary school, with our's being Fairfield West Public school. We did activities involving "Equity and Learning" and worked on our leadership skills. We learnt a great deal on the day.

Susan Nguyen and Corey Minett

Bankstown Youth Forum

On Thursday the 3rd of June, 120 Bankstown youths voiced their ideas on what can be done to improve the city's future by attending a Youth Summit at Bankstown Town Hall. The forum was organised by Bankstown Council as part of the community consultation process on the new Bankstown Community Plan. Our school sent 9 SRC students from years 9-12 to attend.

The day began with an introduction from the Mayor of Bankstown; **Tania Mihailuk**, who explained the purpose of the days activities. Schools were placed into groups to discuss issues of concern in the Bankstown area. We also discussed ideas and perspectives on

matters affecting us and created strategies to reduce inequalities and social issues in the area.

After a serving of cupcakes and juice, students were then able to discuss individual issues affecting them. This gave all the students the opportunity to form conversations about particular issues, and how they felt socially, physically and mentally about these issues. There were over 15 issues listed including issues regarding recreational and physical activities, online technology and education. The big concern, however, was the environment. On this issue, students discussed how to protect the

environment for future generations and we concluded that the best thing that could be done was to teach the older generations more about recycling.

After lunch, all of the students expressed their own individual goals in a way that would improve the lifestyle of the people in the Bankstown area. This concluded the days event and students had the opportunity to hang their name tags under the window of hope, which represented the student's initiatives towards Bankstown's hope of becoming a better place.

Overall it was a great experience and all students who attended the Youth Forum had a great time.

Damian Kotevski, Wael Omar, Naazil Khan, Chritsine Ma, Elie Antoun, Khalil Gharibeh, Yavin Kumar, Jason Pham and Susan Nguyen



NEWS 25/5/2010
theexpress.com.au

CHESTER HILL High School students had a close brush with art last week.

The school was the first one to take part in the Art Gallery of NSW's new program introduced this month to encourage high school students to engage in the visual arts.

The Open Gallery program gives Year 7 students from disadvantaged schools the opportunity to see artworks displayed in the gallery free of charge.

The program also provides transport to and from the school plus lunch without charge.

Chester Hill High School principal Christine Casey said the gallery visit broadened students' horizons.

"It was a chance for our younger students to see the best of the country's artwork.

"The activities were highly engaging for the age level of our students and allowed them to access complex works at their own level. Students and teachers really enjoyed the day.

"There is no better way to engage with art than seeing the original works in real life.

"The gallery staff was most impressed by our students and this program continues the longstanding relationship between Chester Hill High School and the Art Gallery of NSW."

- By work experience student **DIANA NGUYEN**



Kyle Cain 7E
Reconciliation Week

IEC News

Time certainly flies at the IEC. The last eight weeks have been transforming in many ways. Gardens dug and regrown, murals drawn and mounted, students increased in numbers and diversity, teachers multiplied and trained in ESL scales (benchmarks for assessments and reporting as part of National Partnership Projects), common grade tests in English and Mathematics completed, AFL fun and at least five qualifiers to the region's cross country event. Still to come, our first ever Oratory Contest, World Refugee Day Celebrations, CHESO Flag Day, AFL Gala Day and End-of-term Presentation.

Below is an excerpt from the "Yes" Optus Newsletter circulated to all Optus Staff at Macquarie Park, dated 19th May, 2010.

Teamwork helps transform school playground

A group of 57 Optus mentors have joined staff and students at Optus partner school Chester Hill High (or 'Cheso' as it is affectionately known) Intensive English Centre, to transform the tired playground and gardens. Together the team designed and painted wall murals - works of art that students and teachers will be proud of for many years to come!

Cheso's Intensive English Centre provides tuition, orientation, settlement and welfare programs to 200 students from immigrant and refugee backgrounds to prepare them for high school and participating in Australian society. It's a unique blend with many of the students having experienced more by the age of 12 than we would ever wish to experience. Through our association with the school, Optus mentors gain an insight into the inspirational drive these students share – reflected in enthusiastic and empowered

teamwork between Optus, students and the school's staff.



In the words of Melanie Burns, Optus Community Engagement Manager, the "Yes" article created many 'hall-way' conversations on Chester Hill IEC which is fabulous.

In Week 8, we had five enthusiastic, bright and self-motivated high school CHESO students, two of whom are ex-IEC students, on Work Experience. They helped with team teaching and peer mentoring in classrooms. We also had Oscar Cavagnola, an ex-CHESO graduate (class of 2006), currently in his final year of a Combined Arts and Education degree at UNSW, doing classroom observations for ten days. Some of you will remember him fondly as the Year 12 Chilean flagbearer wearing cowboy boots with spurs! One of the best rewards any teacher could receive is to see ex-students returning and blooming with potential and confidence.

I would like to take this opportunity to farewell our Term 2, 2010 student leavers. May you always find joy and success in every future endeavour you undertake and do return to visit CHESO.

Mee Lin Liao

Head Teacher (IEC)

Sport a Month

Come and try **GYMNASTICS** FREE of charge throughout the month of **JULY 2010** and find out more information about gymnastics in your local area.



Bankstown City Council has teamed up with Bankstown City and Greenacre YMCA's to offer residents aged between 18months - 12 years old the opportunity to 'Come and Try Gymnastics' in the month of July 2010, completely FREE of charge.

Everyone who registers and takes part in a 'Come and Try Gymnastics' session throughout the month of July will receive a FREE **Active Bankstown Gift**.

So what are you waiting for? Come join in the fun!

For more information about 'Sport A Month', please visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or call Council on **9707 9641**.

PLEASE JOIN US

FOR THE

14th ANNUAL
MULTICULTURAL
FLAG CEREMONY



WHEN: **Thursday 24 June 2010**
1st Performance 9.45am
2nd Performance 12.45am

Friday 25 June 2010
11am for 11.15am


WHERE: **CHHS HALL** (Miller Road side)

PLEASE NOTE

- **PARENTS & CARERS:**
Due to limited seating, you are requested to attend **ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY**
- **SIBLINGS YEARS K TO 6:**
As these are designated school days, you are **NOT PERMITTED** to attend these performances.

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.
To develop, implement and evaluate strategies and programs to enhance student engagement in Stages 5 and 6.
To further develop, implement and evaluate ESL pedagogy across all KLAs.
To further address the needs of Gifted and Talented Students.

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

