



CHESSO NEWS

CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL
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Term 1 Issue 2

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It has been my pleasure to attend a number of community events over the past five weeks or so. I have been to two School Council and two P&C meetings. I have also attended the Vietnamese, Arabic, Aboriginal and Pacifica parent group meetings as well as the Parent Engagement meetings run by **Ms. Criola**. I have met parents at the High Achievers and Leadership assemblies and the Year 6 Open night. All these forums have strongly indicated that personal communication is critical to our school partnership. High schooling is a very complicated process and needs constant explanation. I would like to thank those parents who have taken the time to attend these events. If any parent has any concerns or issues please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Narelle McNab's Retirement

This term we have farewelled our long-serving Deputy, **Narelle McNab** who has taken her well-deserved retirement. **Narelle** has served Chester Hill with distinction as a dynamic music teacher, HT Administration and as DP. In her latter role she had responsibility for running the whole school curriculum, Teacher Professional Learning

and the Priority Schools program. All of these roles were, of course, in addition to her caring welfare role. That all of her roles were carried out to such a high standard is testimony to her thorough skill and professionalism. Well done, **Narelle**. It is due to stalwarts like **Narelle** that Chester Hill enjoys the fine community reputation it does today. P.S. **Narelle** will still be around in another capacity, acting as our support officer for National Partnerships.

School Council

Two of our teachers have stepped down from their roles on our School Council. **Graeme Brown and Janelle Harding** have both completed six years as members of the Council. In that time they have served the school very well and both have made significant efforts on behalf of our school in maintaining strong community links. Our school has benefited from their generous giving of time. Thank you to you both for your hard-working contributions.

Student Review Panel

At CHHS there is a Student Review Panel (SRP) that closely monitors student progress in Years 10, 11 & 12) in terms of satisfactory completion of NSW Board of Studies (BOS)

assessment tasks. Students and parents are kept informed of lack of progress through BOS warning letters. These notifications are an extremely important channel of communication which must be taken seriously by students and their families. If they are ignored, then that student's HSC could be in jeopardy. The SRP provides advice and support to help students keep on track. The SRP exists to help all students to meet their academic obligations.

The NSW DET 2010 International Student of the Year

The NSW DET 2010 *International Student of the Year* ceremony was held in late February at DET headquarters in Bridge St. Our top HSC achiever, **Thuy Vy, Vivian Quang** came a very praiseworthy second with an ATAR of 99.65. The international student who won the DET scholarship did so with an ATAR of 99.90. If she was among the previous year's candidates, **Vivian** would have won comfortably. **Vivian** will be studying Pharmacy at Sydney University in 2011.

My School 2: Website

The Federal government's revamped website, My School2 opened recently. The site has undergone significant change from the one launched in January, 2010. This site contains important information about Chester Hill HS in terms of its NAPLAN results, its school finances and how we compare to other 'similar' schools across Australia. The NAPLAN comparisons are based on the Index of Community Socio-Economic Advantage (ICSEA). This measure tries to take into account the impact of economic advantage some schools have over others. An ICSEA above 1000 points means the school is relatively economically advantaged in terms of other schools. Chester Hill's ICSEA is 938 points which means it is relatively disadvantaged in terms of socio-economic

status. In the school finances section all of the Cheso staff salaries are included in the income section. This could give the impression that CHHS has more disposable income than it actually has. I urge each family to visit this website to see how CHHS is represented. It is easy - 'Google' *Myschool* and type in '*Chester Hill HS* and then follow the prompts.

'100 Faces' Launch

On Wednesday, 16th March, the Australian Business Council Network's (ABCN) 2011 project, "100 Faces" was launched in the CHHS library. This wonderful community event has involved the Optus telecommunication company staff for the past four years working as mentors with our students. The selected students are encouraged to write their life story as well as representing their stories through a visual arts medium. As many of our '100 Faces' students have lived or experienced events that most of us could not even imagine, this curriculum opportunity becomes very special indeed. I would like to thank our resident 'tiger' woman, **Mee Lin Liao**, HT IEC and our artistically blessed VA teacher, **Donna Goodwin** for their continued leadership in this project. The school also deeply appreciates the help and support provided by Optus who remain genuine partners in our learning programs.

Inter-Intensive English Centre (IEC) Public Speaking Competition

The first ever inter-IEC Public Speaking competition was held on the 22nd March and proved to be a great success. The eight IECs sent their student representatives to take part in what we hope will be the first of many such competitions. The competition standard was very high and the participants probably surprised the many guests with their clear articulation and confidence. Most of these students could not speak any English when

they arrived at their IEC. ABCN kindly donated the major prizes for the winners of the competition.

New reporting system

At the end of Term 1, Yr 12 reports will be generated using the new ESR reporting system. In terms of actual format, the new reporting system is similar to the older one. However the new system should be more technically reliable and all the Head Teachers have had a chance to review the syllabus outcomes being assessed. Yr. 12 will receive their reports in the first half of Term 2.

Carnivals

I have had the pleasure this term of watching both our Swimming and Athletics carnivals and I have been impressed by both the organisation and their on-site operations. Parents can be assured that all the activities are thoroughly safe and well supervised. The CHHS staff work hard at these carnivals to ensure that there are high levels of student participation and even some very competitive staff participation. Congratulations to the PD/H/PE staff for their high levels of expertise in these events.

Brian Miller

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE

Our National Partnerships Programs are now well under way. We held our inaugural **AFL Enrichment Program Award Presentation** evening on Wednesday 16th March. This evening was very well attended by both parents and students. Its focus was to acknowledge the achievements of our first group of student participants in the program as well as to welcome new parents and students to the 2011 program. Two of our participants, **Yavin Kumar and Omar Muhadine** of Year 11 presented a speech on their experiences in the program last year and they will continue to be part of the program

but in a leadership role this year. On behalf of the school I would like to thank the AFL Organisation for their continued support of the program. Thank you also to our Student Engagement Team led by **Ms Criola** who are doing an excellent job at keeping our students focused on their goals and engaged at school. Our Aboriginal Mural work is continuing thanks to the efforts of **Helen Apostle** and the renowned Aboriginal artist **Janice Bruny**. We are planning to do the unveiling of the mural by holding an Aboriginal Ceremony during Reconciliation week, 27th May to 3rd June. We hope that parents will be able to attend this event, we will notify you of details via SMS closer to the day.

Our teachers are continuing their training in ICT skills development, with many participating in Interactive Whiteboard workshops, Moodle Workshops and individual training and development. As part of our National Partnerships focus we will ensure that every staff member in the school has the opportunity to be trained in TELL (Teaching English Language Learners). This course assists staff with teaching students of a Language Background other than English – LBOTE. This will not only assist those students but all students in the class will benefit from the varied teaching strategies.

Our aim at Cheso is to continue providing our students with the best possible learning experiences so they can achieve and reach their full potential.

Christina Mateus

DP National Partnerships



Careers News

I would like to introduce myself as the new Careers Adviser. I look forward to starting Careers lessons in

week 6A with year 10. I will take this opportunity to invite students who have questions about future study or work to come and see me at lunch or recess.

There has been an excellent response to volunteer work with the Bring It On Festival run by Fairfield City Council. For more information please see www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au. **OZJAK** is an on-line service that students at Chester Hill can access. On this site you can find the most recent information relating to all Australian courses and careers, featuring:

- Comprehensive information on all accredited tertiary courses in Australia;
- Complete listings of university, TAFE and registered training organization profiles;
- Thorough descriptions of all jobs, related duties, working conditions and training requirements;
- Up-to-date industry information, statistics and career planning advice;
- Comprehensive worksheets assisting end-users to navigate and research their interests; and
- The ability to access all the above information through a number of search functions and categories.

username is **CHHS**
password is **ozjak10**

Mrs Patrizi
Careers Adviser



TRANSITION ADVISER

The Transition Adviser is a teacher who works with the Careers Adviser, as a member of the school Career and Transition Team. The purpose of the Transition Adviser is to support students with particular needs plan for their transition from school.

The position of Transition Adviser is new to Chester Hill High School. At the moment the

focus is primarily on those Year 11 students who are experiencing challenges making the transition or change from Year 10 into the senior school. A number of Year 12 students will also be assisted as they transition from Year 12 into either the workforce or further study.

The Transition Adviser aims to promote engagement and retention of targeted students and develop effective communication between the school, employers and the local community.

SRC REPORT **VALENTINES DAY**

Love was in the air on the 14th February when Cheso celebrated Valentines Day. The SRC sold roses, bears and balloons. We raised over \$250 for the school. Thanks to everyone who supported the SRC in this event.

CLEAN UP CHESO DAY

For the 21st annual Clean up Australia Day, year 7 and the SRC environment committee devoted their period 5 lesson on Monday 7th March so they could collect rubbish around the school and make Cheso a more beautiful place. They traded their pens and books for gloves and plastic bags, with teachers joining in on the fun too. It was a great effort by all. Thanks to all the students and teachers who participated in the clean up.

WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

On the 11th March, the SRC participated in "Crazy Hair Day" to support the leukaemia foundation. It was the first time the school has supported this cause and the day was met with enthusiasm from all staff and students. For a gold coin donation students were able to colour their hair and before long the school grounds looked like a rainbow of colours! A few very special people were brave enough to SHAVE THEIR HAIR on the day! A big thankyou to **Mr Rosewell, Mr Chetty,**

Claire Ten Bohmer, Thy Tran, Brodie Nunez and Nam Nguyen who all collected money in the lead up to the event and at recess on Friday sat in the hairdresser's chair and had their hair shaved off to the cheers of the students! Thanks must also go to the teachers and students who gave up their time to help colour hair at recess and lunch. More than \$2000 was collected which was an awesome effort!

Miss Whittle



IEC News

We are busily approaching the end of Term 1 with three student mentoring programs being launched from mid-Week 8.

Ten students will join the high school in the **100 FACES OPTUS** mentoring program which has a literacy focus. Students are being prepared during Welfare lessons regarding settling-in issues and writing personal journeys. It adopts a creative approach to writing autobiographies with scaffold support and art.

The **communication and music/video programs** will help support refugee students through role-plays, fun group activities and music/video production with trained consultants from Anglicare and St. Anthony's Family Care.

In Week 7, students sat for the **English Common Tests** in the school hall under external examinations conditions which for many would be very different to the systems they have been used to.

On 7th March, **Hassan Raza, Catia da Vinha** together with two high school students, **Alexis Mezin** and **Yavin Kumar** were invited as audience participants to the **SBS Insight** program on '*Three Women*'. The presenters were highly successful, inspirational women befitting the commemoration of SBS celebration of the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day. All four students looked so smart in school colours and conducted themselves in exemplary manners.

The highlight of Term 1 would have to be the highly competitive and invigorating Intra- and Inter-IEC **Oratory Contests** to be held consecutively on the 18th and 22nd March. The in-school event has **L. Jones** (HT

Teaching & Learning), **F. Chmali** (ESL Coordinator) and **H. Corcoran** (Transition Advisor) on the judging panel. The external contest is sponsored by **ABCN** (Australian Business and Community Network) who has generously offered \$200, \$100 and \$50 prize vouchers for three best speakers, a champion trophy and 2 hours of speech and presentation coaching. The event will be attended by a MPU (Multicultural Programs Unit) officer, a SWS education officer, an ESL consultant, an ABCN representative, OPTUS INTERACT mentors, 8 IEC head teachers, accompanying teachers, student supporters, parents and our very own Principal, **Mr. B. Miller** who is a well respected academic in the literacy field.

On top of all the above hustle and bustle of a fleeting Term 1, we have the on-going demolition of two 1978 demountables, making way for a brand new library cum technology learning centre. So much to reminisce about yet so much to look forward to!

Till you hear from us in the next issue, A HAPPY and SAFE Easter holidays to all!

Mee Lin Liau

(IEC Head Teacher)

Sign up for Regular Youth Information!

Bankstown City Council coordinates a youth database to inform interested students and parents about upcoming events and programs for youth. If you would like more information about what's going on in Bankstown for young people, call Council's Youth Development Officer on **9707 9605** or email your contact details to **justine.foo@bankstown.nsw.gov.au** to receive regular updates.