



CHESON NEWS

CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL
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Term 1 Issue 2

Principal's Report

Promotional tour of Vietnam

I have recently had the opportunity and privilege to promote CHHS on the international stage. I have just returned from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on a DEC-sponsored tour to recruit for the International Student program in Government schools. Currently, we have 32 international students here at CHHS. The brief tour was an eye-opener for me in some ways.

Firstly, the international Student ‘industry’ is much bigger than I suspected. I attended an Education exhibition on Saturday, 17th March where there were 72 exhibitors, all from Australia and from all educational sectors, filling a very large auditorium. Over 1500 people showed up seeking information about overseas educational opportunities. There is a separate exhibition for each of the USA, Canada, Britain (and other countries) and this shows the extent to which International education is globalised. Our educational industry is worth billions of dollars to the Australian economy annually and ironically, our high dollar is negatively affecting our competitiveness.

Secondly, Education and especially the development of English, is a national priority in Vietnam. As a country of 80 million people, the competition for educational places is fierce. Parents there make great sacrifices to educate their children. One parent I spoke to had sent her daughter to study in the USA. Due to visa requirements to stay in the country (if you leave you can't come back), this daughter stayed on there to complete her undergraduate degree and is now completing her Master’s degree. The mother had not seen her daughter for seven years. When I asked her how she could possibly do this, she replied the sacrifice was necessary for the family “to prosper.” Another curious thing happened at the exhibition. During the day quite a number of young (primary school age) students visited the DEC booth inquiring about studying overseas. It was later explained to me that this was a common occurrence at these sessions where parents bring their children along to practice their English. These examples demonstrate how much emphasis is placed on education there.

Yr.7 Assessments on the CHHS Website

This year we have started to place Yr. 7 assessment tasks on our school website. This is a major undertaking by the staff of CHHS

and is meant to help promote communication between home and school. To access these assessments, parents can log on to the CHHS website, go to the navigation bar and click ‘Assessment Hub’ and follow the links to the various subjects. I would like to thank all staff for this initiative and would welcome feedback from parents about how useful or practical they think this access provides.

School Council and the Parents and Citizens

At the last couple of meetings of both bodies, there has been agreement that the functions (and representatives) of both parent / community bodies have started to replicate and that both meetings are starting to repeat each other. In discussions at both meetings about their future roles, there has been general agreement that the two groups should merge to form one representative body. The next meeting of both the School Council and the P&C will be a joint meeting to be held on **Tuesday, 8th May at 5:30** in the school library. The meeting will discuss the role, composition and constitution of the new body. As the Principal, I believe that the parent ‘voice’ is not heard often enough and this meeting will provide an opportunity to have your say. I urge as many parents to attend as possible.

NAPLAN trials

In Week 9 of Term One, all students in years 7 and 9 will undertake trial NAPLAN tests in order to prepare them for the actual NAPLAN tests in May. The results of these trials will be recorded in the half-yearly report. One of the criticisms of attempting something like a NAPLAN trial is that we are teaching to the test and lessening the time to teach the syllabuses. This is true to a small extent but NAPLAN is really about developing our students’ literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum and therefore it is fundamental to their

educational success. NAPLAN provides accurate information about what a student can and cannot do in terms of their literacy / numeracy skill set. This information is then disseminated to teachers who can provide learning experiences, in the context of their curriculum that will help these students develop these skills. We have put much effort into ensuring that every teacher has the necessary support to make NAPLAN improve learning outcomes.

Brian Miller

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE

National Partnerships continues to fund a variety of programs in our school. The fundamental aim of the initiative is to improve students’ literacy and numeracy skills and overall achievement as well as continue to build strong links with our parents and community. Through classroom interventions and teacher professional learning we continue to build staff capacity in addressing our students’ needs.

Once again this year, we have new initiatives to transform student learning experiences. We have a new Head Teacher Teaching and Learning, “Welcome to Cheso” **Ms Yasmin Bhamjee**. She will be overseeing all of these initiatives in our school. **Mr Michael Barnes** is now our School Communication Officer, responsible for our website, school promotion and general communication. **Doctor Diane Whitton** is our Academic Partner who will be assisting us with our High Achievers Class. This class will provide students with contemporary and innovative curriculum that will extend and support student development. We are also have the expertise of **Ms Lesley Pickering** and **Ms Helen McMahon** who will be supporting our Head Teachers and conducting research on the TELL course initiatives.

This year, we have developed a Year 7 Assessment booklet and provided online access to Assessment tasks to both parents and students. This will encourage parents to become partners in their children's learning experiences. Over the next two years, we will create assessment booklets and online assessment for the other academic years.

We have purchased the latest "Apple" hardware and software to facilitate the "film project" initiative, led by **Ms Bellamy**, for our Gifted and Talented students. This project provides students and staff with the opportunity to learn production and post-production techniques while studying/teaching the curriculum. Our High Achievers class have made a great start to the year with five scholarship recipients from our local Primary Schools and other students selected after a rigorous testing process. They have already begun working on their major task for the Red Cross, which is the development of a film project with their mentors from UWS.

The Maths, Science, English and History faculties have been allocated additional time to develop teaching programs in response to the National Curriculum, due to start in 2013.

We are also extending the integration process between the IEC and the high school. Currently we have five high school teachers who work across both sites to help prepare both students and teachers for the transition to high school. Students are able to use facilities at the high school as well as being taught specific high school curriculum, such as, Visual Arts, Industrial Arts, Food Technology and Drama.

This year we are establishing a new NAPLAN preparation process. We are conducting student workshops to assist our higher band students as well as our middle to lower band students to improve in reading

and numeracy skills. Students in Years 7 and 9 will be working with **Mr Beerden** and **Ms Bebris**, **Ms Bhamjee** and **Ms Sharma** at increasing their knowledge and capacity in order to achieve their true potential. We will be conducting trial NAPLAN exams for both year groups which will be corporately marked at school following EMSAD guidelines. Results will be available in students' Half Yearly reports.

We will continue with our extensive Professional Learning across the school. Staff are currently participating in TELL (Teaching English Language Learners), Refugees in My Classroom, Moodle, Middle Band and ESL workshops and individual SMART2 data training. All staff are also completing the Team Leadership for School Improvement (TSLI) P/L program during our staff development days and through group sessions led by Head Teachers during Faculty Meetings.

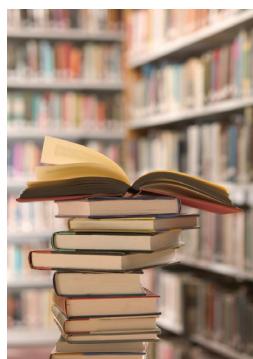
We are continuing our initiatives in engaging all students in their learning experiences by continuing with our Enrichment Program, under **Ms Watts (Criola)** leadership. We have increased the number of students in our Refugee Transition Program led by **Mr Criniti** and **Ms Fenton**. We have extended the role of our Aboriginal Education Teacher, **Ms Apostle**, so that she can assist our wider Aboriginal community by going to our feeder Primary Schools and providing any assistance they need to implement their Aboriginal programs. Our Aboriginal students now have a room that they have called Dalarangi room, which in Darug it means: Ours, belonging to us.

And, of course, there is the daily extraordinary teaching and learning experiences that are constantly happening in our classrooms, thanks to the great resources,

such as IWB (Interactive White Boards), and the hard work and innovation of our teachers. Our aim at Cheso is to continue providing our students with a rich and varied educational environment so they can reach their full potential.

Christina Mateus
DP National Partnerships

Library News



Students in Years 7-9 have been asked to enter the Premier's Reading Challenge and earn a NSW government Certificate of Achievement. What a great way of being rewarded for reading (something most of us do anyway!) and at the same time improve student literacy levels.

Reader of the Week is a new initiative introduced this year to encourage students to read. This is open to all students. Once they read a book they are asked to fill out a form telling the Librarian about the book. Every reasonable entry will be rewarded with a Certificate and one student each week will receive a \$25.00 book voucher.

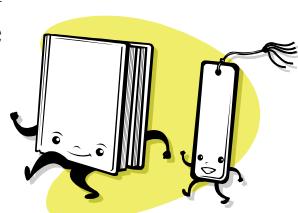


The first two winners of the \$25.00 book vouchers are **Zena Mousa** and **Brendan Ta** of Year 7.

I encourage all students to enter.

Forms for both competitions are available in the school Library.

Eileen Gabriel
Teacher Librarian



Chartered Accountants Cadetship Evening

If you're looking to study a business or commerce degree while gaining practical paid work experience then a cadetship is the perfect opportunity for you! The Chartered Accountants Cadetship Evening offers year 12 students the chance to meet and network with a wide range of employers and hear about what to expect as a cadet, the many opportunities in a business career, and how to be successful in the recruitment process.

- ◆ **When:** Wednesday, **23 May 2012** from 4.30pm
- ◆ **Where:** Sydney Convention Centre, Bayside Foyer, Level 1
- ◆ **Who:** Year 12 students
- ◆ **Dress:** Smart Casual
- ◆ **Cost:** Free
- ◆ **Register:** www.charteredaccountants.com.au/students

Chartered Accountants Meet the Business Leader Event

Thinking about pursuing a career in business or commerce? Come along to our Meet the Business Leader event for your chance to meet with young professionals from a wide range of industries and in various roles, and gain an insight into their real life experiences. At this event you will have your career questions answered!

- ◆ **When:** Wednesday, **22 August 2012** from 4.30pm
- ◆ **Where:** The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia Level 1, 33 Erskine Street Sydney
- ◆ **Who:** Year 10 & 11 students
- ◆ **Dress:** Smart Casual
- ◆ **Cost:** Free
- ◆ **Register:** www.charteredaccountants.com.au/students

Peer Mediation Training 2011 for 2012-2013

Recently on the 23rd November and 2nd December a group of selected Year 10 students participated in the 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 newly trained Peer Mediators 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 the Peer Mediation process.

To access this program students, can see their Year Advisers, **Mrs Fields** or one of the Peer Mediation Co-ordinators who will be happy to assist.

The Peer Mediation team would like to thank the outgoing members of the group of 2010-2011 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



CHHS Annual Athletics Carnival

On Thursday, 22nd March, 2012 we will be holding the Athletics Carnival at The Crest Athletics track, Bass Hill.

For students who wish to catch the bus it will leave from Miller Rd at 8:30am. Bus fare will be \$4.00.

Canteen facilities will be available.

Time: 8:45am - 2:30pm with return to school 3:15pm

Travel: make your own way **or** travel by bus

Cost: \$2.00 entry and \$4.00 if catching the bus

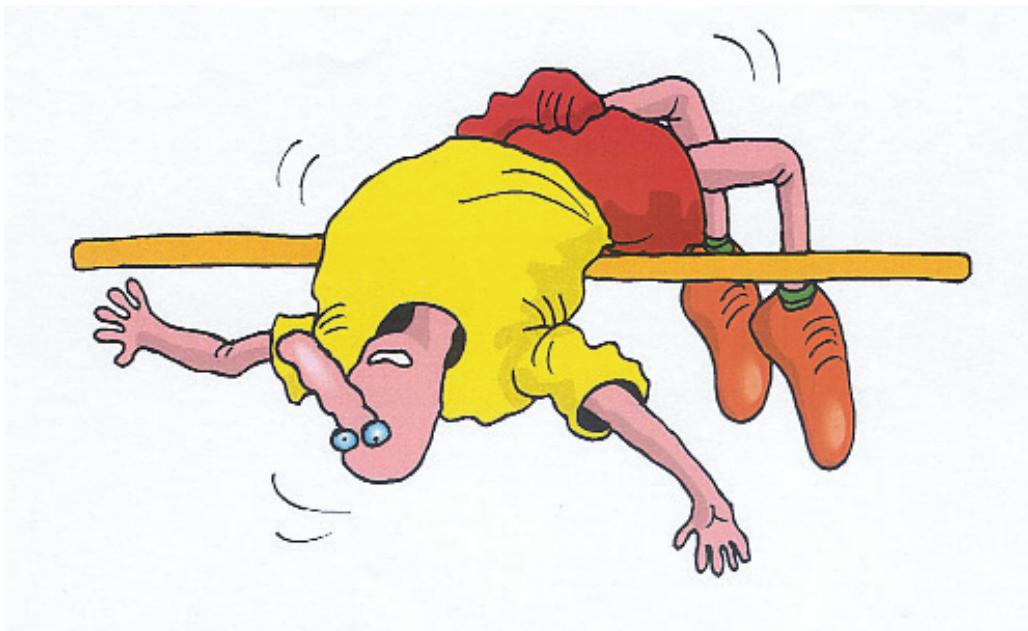
Bring: water, hat, sunscreen, etc.

Important: bring any medical requirements, adequate hydration and food, warm clothing

NO canvas or slip on shoes are to be worn

NO footballs or ball games will be allowed

Have a fun day!



DAYLIGHT SPORTSWEAR

Parents and Students

Due to a large number of dishonoured cheques, Daylight Sportswear Pty. Ltd. will not accept cheques for uniform payments. Cheque accounts are still accessible through EFTPOS facility. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Thankyou



HARRY POTTER EXCURSION

On Monday the 13th March I had the opportunity, along with the rest of my English class 10E1, to visit the Harry Potter Exhibition which took place at the Sydney Powerhouse Museum. **Ms Abdulhadi** organized the trip as we are studying Harry Potter for our film study topic this term and **Mr Cavagnola** accompanied us on our trip. It was amazing seeing all the props of all eight Harry Potter movies. The costumes from the very first movie to the very last movie, the detail that went into each painting, wand, book and character is intriguing and I didn't expect it to be so detailed.

They also had the Quidditch Pitch rings and had Quaffles which we could throw into the rings; we also got to pull out 'mandrakes' from pots. We sat in Hagrid's chair, it could fit three of us at once, it was HUGE. The shop was expensive, but most of us bought 'Berty Bots Every Flavoured Beans' we tried some outside of the museum, they had flavours such as vomit, watermelon, dirt and soap, everyone's reactions were hilarious to watch!

We stopped off for some McDonalds and KFC on the way back to the train, while walking through the tunnel to get to catch our train home, we realized our train would arrive in two minutes, we all started running, dodging people walking in the opposite direction we were travelling in. Everyone was out of breath from laughing so hard, the train arrived just as we stepped onto the platform.

Overall, it was an amazing day and a wonderful experience it gave us a different perspective into how movies are made and the detail that goes into every prop and costume.

Chantelle Matar 10E1





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