



CHESSO NEWS

**CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL
KENWARD AVENUE
CHESTER HILL 2162**

**TELEPHONE: 9644 1099
FACSIMILE: 9743 7174
FEBRUARY 2013**

www.chesterhil-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Term 1 Issue 1

Principal's Report

Welcome back, everybody. We are set for another challenging but enjoyable year. In many ways, 2013 will be a transitional process. 2013 sees the end of our National Partnerships funding (Federal Government) and the introduction of a different method of funding schools from the State government called the Resource Allocation Model (RAM). As the year progresses, we will find out more about this RAM model and will keep you informed.

Staffing Matters

In terms of transition, 2012 saw the retirement of four long standing CHHS Head Teachers who had given over 100 years of fine service to this school. Mr George Wright, Mr Graeme Brown, Mr Jon Ryan and Ms Ann Coonan either retired or have moved to another school.

We have appointed Dr. Emily Christian as our new Head Teacher, History. Dr. Christian comes to us from Cambridge Park HS and she replaces one of the CHHS legends, Mr Graeme Brown. Dr. Christian is only the third HT History in the 'history' of CHHS. I would like to thank Mr Lucas Brown and Ms Eileen Gabriel for the sterling service as

relieving HT History.

Ms Jackie Blue is our new Head Teacher, Mathematics. Ms Blue comes to us from Ashcroft HS. She replaces another long term Head Teacher, Mr George Wright who retired last year. Again, I would like to thank Mr D'Souza for relieving in this position.

The Head Teacher PD/H/PE position is currently being advertised. I expect an appointment by the end of this term. In Home economics, Ms Hayley Vella has replaced Ms Ann Coonan who was also a long-standing HT at CHHS. In English, Ms Bernadette Gurr has been transferred to Heathcote HS.

HSC results

The 2012 HSC results were mostly very pleasing. We had 129 HSC candidates and there were 24 students who had elected to do a non-ATAR HSC. As of the 15th February this year 62% of ATAR students had been offered places at University for 2013. This, in any terms, is an outstanding result and parallels our HSC achievements in 2011. Chester Hill HS has a fine academic tradition and the 2012 HSC results are clear evidence of how well our students achieve.

Our best performed individual students were Katie Kieu Phan, Andrea Huang, Mimi Trinh, Phoung Tran, Linh Huyen Trinh, Shaw Tran, Phoung Dong Tran, Vincent Ngo, Hoang

Nam Nguyen, Cindy Tran, Michael Phan, Anthony Quang Phan and Deric Au who all had ATARS in the 90s and 80s.

One of our current Yr.12 students, Balagajan Amirthasivan finished first in the state in Tamil Continuers. Balagajan had studied at the Saturday School of Community Languages. This is a wonderful effort and testimony to the fine students these Saturday Schools produce.

I would particularly like to mention the Biology, Chemistry, Business Studies, Economics, Engineering Studies, ESL English, Japanese, Music, PD/H/PE, Society and Culture and Visual Arts subjects who all did well in comparison to the State average for those subjects. Of special note, was the performance of Visual Arts where over 90% of their students received their highest HSC marks in that subject.

On a less happy note there were four CHHS students who were not awarded an HSC in 2012. These students either did not show up for an exam or they did not make a serious attempt at an examination paper. Over the past couple of years, the NSW Board of Studies has taken a much stricter line with students over their responses to HSC examination papers. Often an HSC exam will contain multiple choice questions, short answer questions and extended response questions. Sometimes candidates only attempt the multiple choice questions and disregard the others. The Board of Studies policy is that unless a candidate attempts all sections of an exam paper, then that student will be deemed to have made a 'non-serious attempt'. The consequences of a 'non-serious' attempt are usually a 'Withheld' (W) grade. A 'W' grade means that students do not get the units for that grade. Some of our students were awarded a 'W' grade and because they were only doing 10 units of study, the 'W' grade meant they were not awarded an HSC because they only had achieved 8 units.

The outcome of these four disappointing

results is that the two years of study have been a waste of time for both the students and their teachers. We are going to take steps to try to ensure that this does not happen in the future. One of the main strategies to avoid this problem is to have wide subject choice for students who are considering a non-ATAR pathway. We ensure that the advice students and parents receive is always in the best interests of our students. It is a fact that some students would be far better off on a non-ATAR pathway. Later in the year we will be holding parent interviews for every Yr.10 student over the HSC subject choices. Achieving a good and useful HSC, starts with making informed choices in Yr.10.

New Mobile Phone Policy

In this edition of Cheso News there is the new mobile phone policy. It has been developed through consultation with students, parents, community groups, staff and the school executive. We believe it is a reasonable response to a very complex issue. Please read the policy carefully. It has been issued to all students and the policy applies from this date.

Community Forum

Twice a term, our CHHS Community Forum meets to discuss issues pertinent to the school. The Forum is open to any parent and will give great insight into the operations of the school. The Forum is NOT a fund-raising body but instead gives advice on policy such as the mobile phone policy and assessment policy. It is a way that your views about issues affecting our schools can be heard. Parental involvement is very important to the governance of the school. Please come to these meetings if you can. The next meeting is in the school library on Tuesday, 12th March commencing at 4:30pm and usually concluding by 6:00pm. Please enter by the Miller Rd gate and walk across the quadrangle to D block and up to the library.

Trade Training Centre

We have been given permission by the Region to apply for federal government funding to develop modern vocational education resources such as an industrial kitchen and an outdoor construction training facility. We will be working on our application throughout the next few weeks. If successful, we will be able to increase our Stage 6 curriculum offerings to include Hospitality. We have been working hard to provide genuine choice for our students electing a non-ATAR pathway for their HSC. The Trade Training facility will add substantially to our ability.

Student wordsmiths

I'd like to draw parents' attention to a smart phone app. While this sounds like a 'plug' for this product, I believe that it would be useful for our students. The Macquarie Senior Student Dictionary app for iPhone is a valuable resource for high school students. It's filled with up-to-date definitions, cross-reference linking and a handy note-taking function (\$16.99).

Find out more at <http://tiny.cc/jejqsww>



National Partnerships Update 2013

The National Partnerships Program has been providing additional funding to our school for the last three years and this year will be our final year. As a result, we will be looking at innovative and creative ways of ensuring that we sustain the programs and initiatives we have implemented over the last three years. This year is very much a year of transition and of evaluation and analysis, so we can ensure that our students continue to achieve their best in literacy and numeracy outcomes. In 2013, we will continue working on our focus areas under National Partnerships, as outlined in our School Plan; **Improving literacy and numeracy, Improving**

Pedagogy for ESL Learners, Student Engagement, Extending our gifted and talented students.

We will continue with our programs focusing on reading, using our specific reading strategies, and enhancing writing skills for our students preparing for NAPLAN. Our teachers continue training and development in ICT, TELL (Teaching English Language Learners) and Teaching Refugees in my classroom.

The student Engagement Team will continue with the Year 10 Student Enrichment Program and assisting students in their transition to the workforce, tertiary education or TAFE. We continue supporting our Aboriginal and Refugee students across the school, in literacy, numeracy, engagement and cultural experiences.

The HAC (High Achievers' Class) will continue for Year 8 students in 2013 and the new Year 7 students have already been tested and placed in the HAC, which is the 7V class. These classes will continue with their differentiated curriculum and rich tasks. Our homework centre operates everyday except Mondays. Wednesday afternoons, Ms Apostle runs a homework centre for the Aboriginal students, on Tuesday afternoons there is assistance for students with ESL needs. Students also have the opportunity to stay after school or come before school to get assistance with their homework.

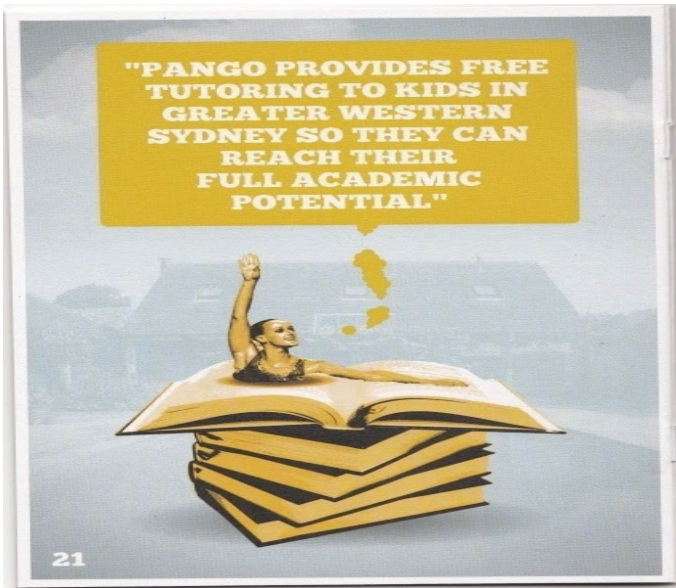
We will provide workshops to parents to assist them in supporting their children with the demands of school, the RoSA (replacement of School Certificate) and the HSC.

Our aim is to continue to provide our students with quality teaching experiences that will enhance their learning.

Thank you to all – parents, staff and students, for your continued support, hard work and enthusiasm.

Christina Mateus

Deputy Principal National Partnerships



SO WHAT'S PANGO?

INTRODUCTION

Pango was conceived nearly two years ago when the University of Western Sydney (UWS) became aware that a significant number of school leavers applying for university missed out on their preferred course by less than 10 ATAR points. We created Pango to help bridge this gap by developing a single source online destination for academic support.

Pango is a learning community which will engage and assist students through a variety of proprietary tools and content sources, all designed to assist students who are keen to learn and improve. We are delighted that your school has chosen to take part in this exciting initiative.

As part of our commitment to western Sydney High School students, we would like to build a strong relationship between the University, teachers and schools to provide ongoing new and relevant academic content so that a larger percentage of students will gain the ATAR necessary to attend university. We look forward to your participation and ongoing feedback.

Regards,

The Pango Team.

Pango is a free, online social-learning platform developed by the University of Western Sydney (UWS) primarily focused at Greater Western Sydney high school students who are keen to excel in their studies. Content is relevant to course curriculums from Years 9 to 11.

Visit your Careers Adviser, Ms Patrizi, for more information.

OPEN DAY FOR YEAR 6 STUDENTS

When: Tuesday, 5th March 2013

Time: 12.20pm to 2.20pm

Where: School Hall, Miller Road Entrance

The students will have the opportunity to:-

- * visit the classrooms and observe displays of students' work
- * see the major facilities and resources of the school
- * experience some mini lessons (bring a pencil)

Parents are welcome to attend.

Our congratulations go out to Saraa Moussa of Year 12.

Saraa entered the NSW Premiers Kokoda Anzac Art Award and came away with 1st prize in the Year 11 and 12 category.

Saraa's prize included \$600, an Anzac Medal, a trip to the Kokoda Trail in New Guinea.

But wait, there's more. Saraa also will meet the Premier of N.S.W. and N.S.W. Governor.

Well Done, Saraa.



REMINDER

Year 7 Assessment Booklet Presentation by the Principal - Mr B Miller

Event: Year 7 Parents Meet the Teachers

When: Wednesday, 27th February, 2013

Time: 4.00pm - 5.30pm

Where: SCHOOL HALL
Miller Rd

(Interpreters will be available)

Chester Hill Optical





Ph: (02) 9644 4420

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

KAREN MILLGATE BA J.P.

OPTICAL DISPENSER

EYE TESTING ARRANGED

BULK BILLING AVAILABLE

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

School/Office Hours:-

- **Roll Call commences at 8.50am. Please make sure your child is at school by 8.45am each day.** If your child is late to school - please send them with a note to hand in at the office when they arrive.
- School Office hours are 8.30am to 3.30pm.

If your child is sick:-

- Remember - do not send your child to school in the morning if they are feeling too sick to be in class all day. The clinic cannot give treatment for illnesses that should be treated at home or by a doctor. The clinic can only offer First Aid.
- **IMPORTANT** - We need up-to-date contact numbers for you at home and at work in case your child needs to be taken to a doctor or hospital by ambulance.
- When your child has been absent from school - they **MUST** bring a note, and for 3 or more days a Doctor's Certificate explaining this absence.
- If your child needs to take medication during the day, your child may bring it to the Front Office in the morning before school, with a note from you.

Mobile Phones:-

- **STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO USE THEIR MOBILE PHONES DURING SCHOOL HOURS TO CALL OR TEXT HOME.**
- They must come down to the Office if they wish to call home.
- **PLEASE DO NOT PHONE OR TEXT** your child during school hours. If you need to contact your child urgently, please call the Office on 9644 1099.



Student Diaries:-

- Your child has been issued with a Diary to record their homework and assignments. This diary can be used as a form of communication between you and your child's teachers. Years 7 and 8 Diaries are checked each week in Roll Call. The Diary also has useful information about Chester Hill High School as well as it can be used as a resource by your child when completing their work.

School Costs:-

- Invoices for school costs will be sent out shortly. The school has tried to keep costs to a minimum to assist families. These funds are all used by your child in the various subjects they choose. All families should have received the Federal Government's School Kids Bonus in January this year and a further payment will be distributed later this year. We encourage you to use this money to cover your child's expenses at Chester Hill High School this year.

Attendance News

Students Late to school

All students who are late to school, for any reason must report to D-Block and swipe in at the office. Unless students bring a note stating the reason for their lateness, it is recorded as an **“Unjustified”** partial absence. After every third late an automatic SMS will be sent to parents expressing the schools concern. Persistent offenders may be given afternoon detentions and/or placed on an Attendance Card. Loss of school privileges may also apply.

Students should return a note, containing an explanation for lateness bearing a parent’s signature.

It is unacceptable for a student to be averaging 2 or 3 unexplained late arrivals a week.

Students Leaving Early

A student must have a valid reason before he or she will be permitted to leave school early. Medical and other appointments should be avoided during school time (including sport time). A written request for early departure is required.

A student who wishes to leave before the end of the school day must bring a note to the Head Teacher Administration before school commences for that day. The student will only be issued with a “Leaving Early” pass if they submit a note from parents, signed, dated and with a contact number.

Student Absences

A student who is absent from school should bring a note from his or her parent or caregiver to the roll call teacher or Head Teacher Administration **on the day of return to school**. This note should be dated and indicate the reason for the absence as well as the dates of the days absent. In cases where a student is likely to be absent for three days or more, parents are asked to notify the school and leave the relevant information with one of the staff in reception.

All absences will be summarised (including partial absences) and presented as part of each semester’s Student Progress Report.

Letters will be posted home when students have neglected to submit notes for parents to explain absences or when a student’s pattern of attendance is causing concern.

Head Teacher Administration
Mr M Milne

As safe, respectful learners who belong at Cheso all students are expected to:

- change into correct Sport/PE uniform for Physical Education and Sport. Footwear is to be suitable for active and safe participation. Occupational Health and Safety regulations require students to wear **lace up sport shoes** that provide adequate support and grip. **Canvas and slip-on shoes are not safe** and therefore unsuitable for sport. **DO NOT WEAR THESE SHOES TO SCHOOL.**
- apply adequate sun protection (Cheso hat and 30+ SPF Sunscreen)
- follow the School Uniform Code and **not** wear excessive jewelry. All jewelry should be removed whilst participating in sport activities.
- follow safe work practices at **ALL** times when undertaking workshop activities.

This includes:-

- wearing leather lace-up shoes as per the School Uniform Code.
- wearing an approved cotton or non flammable apron in all workshops.
- wearing eye protection when using machinery or equipment as directed by the teacher.



CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL

School Mobile Phone Policy

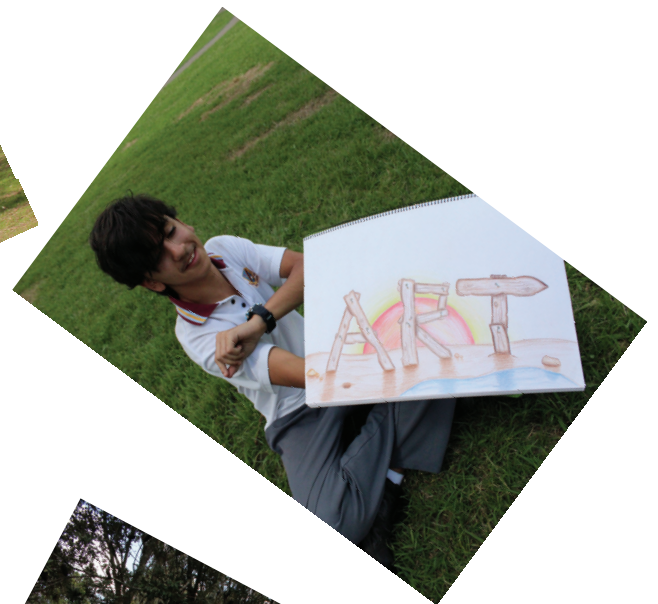


In the past a number of schools have banned students from bringing mobile phones to school. In Term 1 - 2005 the Department of Education stated that mobile phones could be valuable security devices for students when travelling to and from school. They also recognised, however, many negative features of having mobiles at school itself. Mobile phones are easy targets for thieves; and the school accepts no responsibility for lost or damaged phones. They can be a source of bullying by other students; and using mobiles during school time diverts students' attention from their studies. The Department called on schools to establish mobile phone registers which allowed students to bring mobile phones to school on the condition that they registered them with the school and abided by the rules schools developed in association with them.

Students are encouraged **NOT** to bring mobile phones/Ipods to school. The school takes **NO RESPONSIBILITY** for lost or stolen phones/Ipods. Students who do bring Phones/Ipods to school must follow the School and DEC Mobile Phone Policy as outlined below:-

- Mobile phones must be silent – set to Flight Mode/ switched off and placed in the student's bag or pocket during school hours.
- For sport/excursions it must be on silent and can be a form of entertainment (music only) while traveling to sport/excursions, **with the teacher's permission.**
- Mobile phones **must be registered** (form available at Front Office), but students do not have to renew them every year **unless the phone number changes.**
- Students are issued with a red card upon registering their phone which allows them to collect the phone if it is confiscated **the first time.** This card **DOES NOT** entitle the student to use the phone in class/playground.
- **Failure to comply with the policy will result in the following actions by staff:**
- When the student has the phone out in class the teacher will issue a **FIRST WARNING**, saying something to the effect "Put it away! This is your first warning".
- If the student uses the phone again in class, the phone is taken by the teacher and only given back at the end of the period.
- If the student is a **repeat offender** and has done this in previous lessons the **teacher will hand the phone to the Deputy Principal** and parents are contacted at the end of the day to collect phone.
- Every time a phone is confiscated and brought to the Deputy the student's name will be recorded on SENTRAL.
- Complete refusal to hand over mobile phone leads to an incident report to the Head Teacher.
- If a student is seen using the mobile phone in the playground the same protocols and consequences apply.
- Mobile phones **are not to be used for any photography/recording and filming in class** unless instructed/approved by the teacher.

Year 9 art excursion to Mt Annan



Year 10 Art excursion to the Fish Markets





Chester Hill High School

Upcoming Events - Term 1 - 2013



Week	Day	Date	Event
5A	Monday	25.2.13	* SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL - Birrong Pool
	Wednesday	27.2.13	* YEAR 7 PARENT/TEACHER AFTERNOON (4.00pm - 5.30pm)
			* High Achievers' Class (7V & 8V) Parent Meeting (3.30pm - 4.00pm)
	Thursday	28.2.13	* LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY (9.15am - 10.30am)
	Friday	1.3.13	* School Photographs
6B	Tuesday	5.3.13	* PACIFIC COMMUNITY PARENT MEETING (10.00am - 12.00pm)
			* YEAR 6 OPEN DAY
	Wednesday	6.3.13	* ABORIGINAL P&F MEETING (3.15pm - 4.15pm)
			* Year 12 Group Photograph and Absentees
	Thursday	7.3.13	* Year 7 and 9 Literacy & Numeracy Naplan Trial
	Friday	8.3.13	* Year 7 and 9 Literacy & Numeracy Naplan Trial
7A	Tuesday	12.3.13	* COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING (4.30pm)
8B	Monday	18.3.13	* ARABIC PARENT MEETING (6.00pm – 7.30pm)
	Thursday	21.3.13	* ATHLETICS CARNIVAL - at The Crest Bankstown