



# CHESSO NEWS

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

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**JUNE 2014**

<http://www.chesterhillhighschool.com/>

## **Term 2**

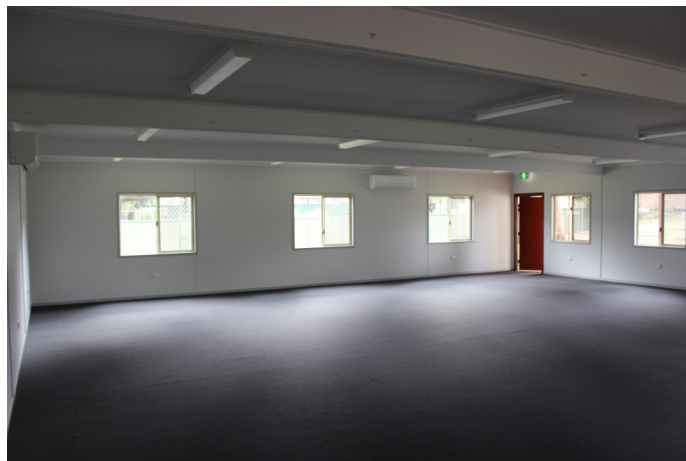
### **Principal's Report**

#### **New School Buildings**

At the time of writing, a number of new school facilities are up and running.



1. We have acquired a large (12m x 12m) performance space on the grass area near Miller Rd. This investment cost \$140,000 and is designed to be a multi-functioned learning space. However, its main use will be to house both the Dance and Drama subjects. Previously these subjects had to use classrooms where they had to move the class furniture and put it back again. The new building will also be furnished with mirrors



and drama 'blocks' that are capable of creating a stage. This adds considerably to our capacity to offer these subjects by providing a dedicated space for our talented students.

2. The second building is an 'Art shed' that the Visual Arts Faculty will be using for art



making and exhibitions. In 2013 we lost two demountable classrooms, including the art



demountable. This placed pressure on the existing art spaces and as Visual Arts is such a popular subject at CHHS we needed to have extra space for our Art classes.

3. The other project is an undercover learning area next to the school hall. The area had been neglected for some time and had recently been partially landscaped. Artificial turf has been laid and an awning built. This area provides for rehearsal space or an outdoor learning area.



I would like to thank **Mr Rosewall** for his efficient and thorough management of all these projects.

## Other projects

In the next few months we will also start building security fencing around the school hall, laying new paths, increasing the covered walkway to the IEC and erecting a new electronic school sign on Miller Rd. We will also undertake some other projects as our money allows. Part of this money will go to energy saving and sustainability projects such as electricity cut-off switches and water tanks.

## Optus Gardening Day

On Friday the 16th May, 42 workers from Optus volunteered their services to Chester Hill HS for the day. This has been part of an on-going and very fruitful partnership



between Optus and the school. The gardening day tradition was established around five years back between the company and the Intensive English Centre. However, this was the first time that Optus had worked mainly on the high school campus. Pleasingly, around 60 students also volunteered to take



part in the day. The IEC staff provided water, morning tea and a beautiful multi-cultural lunch for everybody.



In addition, **Craig Taunton**, who works on the performing arts in the IEC, staged a concert for all the workers. This was a fantastic team effort from the IEC and demonstrates commitment to our school as a whole. In preparation for the actual

gardening, a number of complex stages had to be completed before the volunteers arrived. Firstly old, weedy gardens had to be cleared. During this process we removed about 40 trees and any over-hanging branches across pathways. We then had a landscape architect come in and design seven new garden beds with Australian native plants. Then came the building of the garden borders for these new garden beds. On the day itself, we moved 100 tonnes of soil and planted over 300 native plants. Due to the volunteers' efforts many of the gardens have now been either restored to full glory or new ones created. This day accelerated the development of the gardens

across the school by about two years. A big thank you to Optus, our wonderful IEC staff, our students, our GA, **Peter Irons** and our gardener, **John Preston**.

### Bush Tucker Garden

As part of the garden renovations, we converted the garden in the front of 'D' block into a bush tucker garden. This was made possible through a \$3000 grant we received from the NSW Dept. of Environment. As part of the planning process, we had a botanist who specialised in native food plants, **Frances Bodkin** from the University of Newcastle gave us advice on its location and we had **Brendon Moore**, an aboriginal horticulturalist from the Royal Botanic Garden, come and give our Aboriginal students demonstrations on plant propagation techniques.



I would like to thank **Helen Apostle** for the application and the successful grant.

### Enhanced website functions

Please visit our website:

**<http://www.chesterhillhighschool.com>**

for current information regarding any aspect of the school. We have recently added some

new functions to the site including a Google translation service and direct link buttons to important sites (such as the DEC student portal). The school website should be the first contact point between the community and the school. Every effort is being made to place all relevant information on the site. We would like feedback from the community. Already, the Cheso FaceBook social media capacity has over 900 'friends'. If you are reading this in print copy, compare it to the electronic version on the website where all the pictures are full size and in colour.

## Reports

Our school reports are currently being compiled with Yr.12 reports having already been distributed. The reports are accurate reflections of how our students are achieving against the syllabus outcomes. Much care and attention is given to the reports and parents and students need to read them carefully to find out where the student is achieving and where improvements need to be made. This should be part of the process of engaging with our teachers in an education partnership. I urge all parents to attend the Yrs. 7-11 Parent teacher night on **Monday the 27th July** to discuss your child's progress. This is an important event. Translators are available on the night.

## Community of Schools

At the next School Development Day, first day of Term 3, Chester Hill HS and our Primary Partner schools, Chester Hill North, Chester Hill, Villawood North and Old Guildford will meet together to help

promote our common interests. The focus of the day will be to examine the new educational arrangements and work out ways how we can help each other. This is a great opportunity to ensure there is genuine continuity for your child's transition from Primary to High School. Any parents who wish to attend the sessions are welcome to come on the day. Remember, the first day of Terms 1, 2 and 3 are pupil free days.

## Flag Day



Remember that **Thursday and Friday 19th and 20th of June** are the dates for our Flag Day festival. Tickets are needed for the Friday event as seats are at a premium.



Mr B. Miller

In gardening mode.

# Food For Flag Day

Dear Parent,

The Multicultural Flag Day Ceremony will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 9.45 and 12.45 and Friday 20<sup>st</sup> June at 11.15am. You are welcome to attend ANY ONE of these ceremonies. The final ceremony will be a ticketed event and you will need a ticket to enter the Hall.

This letter is to let you know about the catering for the **last Flag Day Ceremony on Friday**. In the past, many parents have been kind enough to donate food for the Multicultural lunch which follows the last ceremony at about 1pm. We would like to thank all those parents and encourage them to do the same again this year. **Any parent kind enough to donate food will be entitled to a free ticket for the last ceremony. However, to redeem the ticket, they must contact the CLO and make those arrangements *before* the day or fill out and return the form below to the office.**

If the weather is good, we will set up tables outside the Hall under the “sail” on the IEC side. There will be four tables set up for our parent groups. They will be marked, “Arabic”, “Karen”, “Asian” and “Pacific Community”. Each of these tables will have a Community Liaison Officer looking after the table and taking the food that people donate. Other parents can give their donations to the IEC Staff who will be kindly overseeing all the catering.

If you would like to donate some food, please make sure it’s “finger food”, (something that people can just pick up easily and don’t need to use knives or forks to eat). If you need to have your serving plate or container returned, make sure your name is on it and it’s clearly marked.

Thank you in anticipation of your kind donation for the day. If you have any questions, please call Mrs Fields or Doris Abouslabi (Arabic CLO), Mr Mai (Vietnamese CLO) Anthony Taw (Karen CLO) or Siunipa Fifita (Pacific Community CLO).

Thank you so much for your kind generosity,

Mrs Linda Fields  
(Flag Day Co-Ordinator)

I would like to donate food for the Flag Day Ceremony on 20<sup>st</sup> June.

Name :

.....

Name of your child:

.....

I would like to bring .....

I’ll be handing my donation to (circle one)

Doris Abouslabi (Arabic)

Mr Mai (Vietnamese)

Siunipa Fifita (Pacific Community)

Anthony Taw (Karen)

IEC Staff Member (all other donations)

I would like to redeem my free ticket Yes/No  
(Circle one)

## Year 8 Artclub Project.

In November last year the Art faculty was approached by ceramic artist Selma Fida, who had managed to obtain a grant for a permanent ceramic mural to be designed, constructed and erected at Chester Hill Community Gardens. She wanted to work with a group of Year 8 students in the creation of this mural.



At the end of last year the Art staff nominated any Year 7 students who were talented in Art and who might be interested in being involved in this project. At the start of this year, the students (now in Year 8) were then further narrowed in number on the basis of those who could stay back after school for up to two

afternoons for a short period of three weeks to create the mural with Ms Fida.

In the end 9 students became a core group of enthusiastic, hardworking designers and makers and their enthusiasm carried the project and made for fun afternoons of busy, enjoyable activity. They put in the extra time needed to complete the project and at its unveiling took place last Monday 26th June at the Chester Hill Community Gardens. Principal Mr Brian Miller unveiled the beautiful ceramic mural and Local State Member Ms Tania Mihailik spoke to the gathered students, families and members of the community garden.



The theme of the plaque was all about recycling in the garden.

The Year 8 Students involved were: Rania Chalak, Bob Tran, An Van Hoang, Maysa Lozi, Jared Sherwin, Sheena Trieu, Lydia

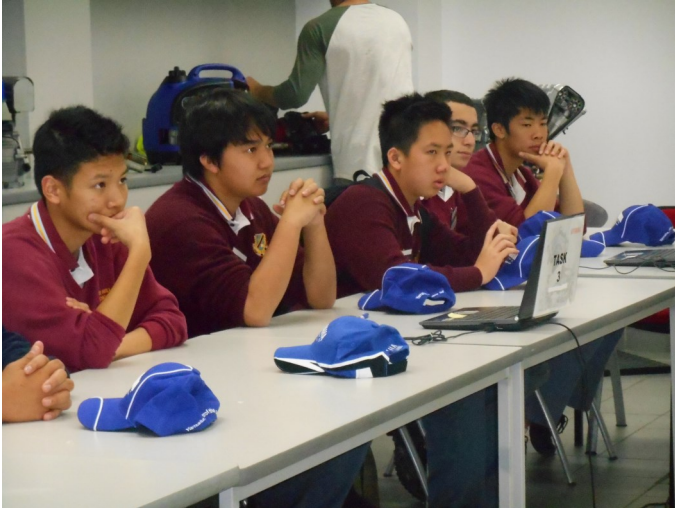
Lai and Jina Le.

Mrs Manion.



## Yamaha Skills Grand Prix

Congratulations to our 5 fabulous year 10 students, Adam Alsalti, Bill Vo, Eric Tran, Johnny Nguyen and Andrew Nguyen, who



participated in the recent Yamaha Skills Grand Prix at Wetherill Park.

The boys, who are set to be the super mechanics of tomorrow, participated in a range of computer-based and hands-on challenges against students from a number of nearby schools.

A hearty well done goes out to **Andrew Nguyen** who was chosen to proceed to the final.



Congratulations Charlie.

So proud of you.

I'm a virtual grandmother now.

Ms mateus.

# (MAKE YOUR MARK)

*Your life & further education*



## Parents and Community Information Day

Parents and community representatives are warmly invited to the Parent and Community Information Day on Thursday 31 July from 10:00am to 1:30pm.

Find out more about higher education and your child's future.

Representatives from Bridges to Higher Education will provide valuable information about the benefits of higher education for the whole community and the pathways into higher education, including:

- Subjects and courses offered
- Financial support and HECs
- Pathways to University entry
- Student support

Date: **Thursday 31 July 2014**

Time: **10:00am to 1:30pm**  
(morning tea and lunch will be provided)

Location: **The MacLaurin Hall, Camperdown Campus  
University of Sydney**

RSVP: **By Friday 25 July 2014 with FINAL numbers  
compass.administration@sydney.edu.au or 8627 8515**

For further information about Bridges to Higher Education, visit: [bridges.nsw.edu.au](http://bridges.nsw.edu.au)



Bridges to Higher Education is a partnership of the University of Technology, Sydney, Macquarie University, University of Western Sydney, University of Sydney and the Australian Catholic University which aims to boost the participation of communities underrepresented in higher education. This program is funded by the Commonwealth Government's Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program.

**EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE MAKEYOURMARK.EDU.AU**

## Year 11 Photography Excursion

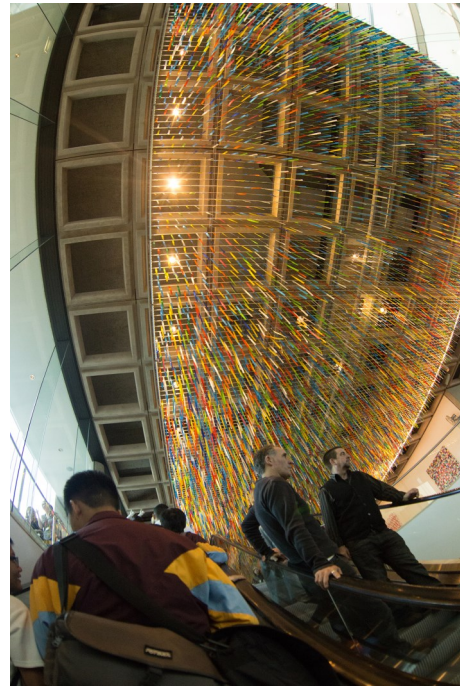


A marathon day was organised for all of the Year 11 Photography students last week. It started with all the students meeting on the day before and receiving their digital and film cameras, film, batteries, tripods which all had to be distributed and checked to ensure that every group of students was armed for the marathon day in the city.

We all started the day by meeting at Chester Hill train station only to discover that the trains were severely delayed. Eventually we arrived at St James station and proceeded to



the Archibald Fountain in Hyde Park for our first photographic session. A photo competition for the day was announced and



then students started using fast and slow shutter speeds to capture the water drops in the fountain.

We then proceeded, via a quick peak outside and inside St Mary's Cathedral, to the Art Gallery of NSW, where an

excellent exhibition of black and white photographs by the iconic Australian photographer Max Dupain was on display.

From there we proceeded to the Royal Botanic Gardens for another photographic



session and morning tea. Students tried out landscape shots, close up botanic shots, and bird shots and landscape views across the harbour.

Next stop was the Opera house where students explored close up architectural shots or views of the Bridge and Quay.

At Circular Quay students had a late lunch and found chalk artists drawing giant

canvases on the footpath and could see lots of sculptures that would come to life this evening when VIVID started.

We trekked our already tired feet up to the lookout park at Observatory Hill and sat there watching the sunset across our panorama of the harbour bridge and upper Parramatta river. Here again slow and fast shutter speeds were explored, and the heavy tripods that we'd been lugging all day were now put to use.



Next session was in the Rocks Tunnel where light painting with torches was discovered. Cameras were placed on tripods and students gesticulated wildly and made light patterns that were recorded onto the camera sensor with a very slow shutter speed. This experimentation was continued further by some students for the rest of the evening.

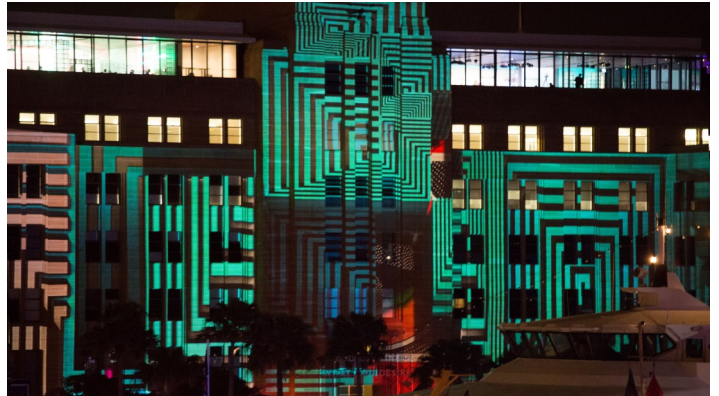
The exciting finale for the evening was of course VIVID. Our students were camped on the grass in front of the MCA as at 6pm on the dot, in the darkness, the amazing light



show started. Where to look? In front to the Opera house or behind at the wall of the MCA that was throbbing and pulsating to the music. It was a spectacular finale to a wonderful, though very long day.

We were all on the train at 7pm, tired and glad to be off our feet. Some of us dozed as we made our weary way home after a long, memory filled day.

Ms Manion and Ms Fenton



Student comments:

Andrew: We made our way to towards the Sydney Opera house. The view of the harbour was breathtaking and eye catching. The view from the Rock's observatory was unique.

Trinh: It was a beautiful day and we were able to have a fantastic journey through the city. We were so lucky with the weather.

Kelly, Veronica and Alice: At the Archibald fountain in Hyde Park, the light passed through the water and it seemed like the sculpture was rimmed by the light.

...Finally the main spotlight of the day was VIVID and it was truly breathtaking.

Miriam and Lilian: The afternoon was the most exciting part of the day, and most enjoyable when we watched the VIVID lights. Overall, VIVID was epic!

Thao: This excursion provided us with the opportunity to develop our photography skills.

Emily and Rim: It was an amazing excursion and we enjoyed the day, even if we weren't allowed to go shopping.!!

## Year 10, Formal Interview Day, 2014

Most students were nervous before the mock interview, but we learnt a lot from the experience. Dressing up for the day was fun, it was interesting to see all my peers dressed up in business attire.

The day provided a variety of information such as UTS talking about university life, and how to prepare for the challenges of university and different pathways into university.

Mrs Benton gave lots of tips on job interview skills and portfolios. Nikki Heald from SWC also presented on Interview Preparation Skills. Mr McLean presented on Subject Selection and year 11 and 12. Mrs Ferrett from TAFE gave us information on TVET courses for years 11 and 12.

We thank our two guest speakers Christian Marcheggiani and Det. Mikati from the Police Dept. who both presented on citizenship, shared their personal journey and were very popular with the students.

Ghenwa Mokdad, Yr 10





# Chester Hill High School

## Calendar of Events - Term 3 - 2014



1A	Monday	14.7.14	* <b>School Development Day</b>
2B	Monday	21.7.14	* <b>PARENT/TEACHER NIGHT Years 7-11 3.00pm - 7.00pm - Hall</b>
	Friday	25.7.14	* <b>High Achievers' Morning Tea - Years 11 &amp; 12 (11.15am)</b>
3A	Monday	28.7.14	* <b>Year 12 – TRIAL HSC Examinations (all week)</b>
	Tuesday	29.7.14	* <b>Regional Athletics - Campbelltown Athletics Centre</b>
	Wednesday	30.7.14	* <b>Regional Athletics - Campbelltown Athletics Centre</b>
	Friday	1.8.14	* <b>High Achievers' Morning Tea (Yr 7/8 - 9.45am) (Yr 9/10 - 12.00pm)</b>
4B	Monday	4.8.14	* <b>Year 12 – Trial HSC Examinations continue to 8/8</b>
			* <b>VIETNAMESE PARENT MEETING - (6.30pm – 8.00pm)</b>
	Wednesday	6.8.14	* <b>Newsletter Distributed</b>
	Friday	8.8.14	* <b>Year 9 Mathematics Excursion</b>
5A	Monday	11.8.14	* <b>DECISION TIME (Yrs 8, 10, 11 Bridging Subject Selection) (Year 8 - 4.00pm-5.00pm) (Year 10 &amp; 11 Bridging 5.30pm-6.45pm)</b>
	Tuesday	12.8.14	* <b>Year 10 Formal Interviews with parents - School Hall</b>
	Wednesday	13.8.14	* <b>Year Meetings</b>
6B	Monday	18.8.14	* <b>COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING (4.30pm)</b>
	Tuesday	19.8.14	* <b>PACIFIC COMMUNITY PARENT MEETING (10.00am - 12.00pm)</b>
8B	Monday	1.9.14	* <b>ARABIC PARENT MEETING (6.00pm - 7.30pm)</b>
	Thursday	4.9.14	* <b>Year Meetings</b>
			* <b>Newsletter Distributed</b>
9A	Monday	8.9.14	* <b>YEAR 11 PRELIMINARY EXAMS commence</b>
			* <b>COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING (4.30pm)</b>
	Wednesday	10.9.14	* <b>KAREN PARENT MEETING (6.30pm - 8.00pm)</b>
			* <b>Year 10 Work Experience - all week</b>
10B	Monday	15.9.14	* <b>YEAR 11 PRELIMINARY EXAMS continue to 19/9</b>
			* <b>Year 10 Work Experience - all week 15/9 to 19/9</b>
	Wednesday	17.9.14	* <b>YEAR 12 FAREWELL ASSEMBLY – Hall (10.00am – 11.00am)</b> * <b>Year 12 Formal (Evening)</b>

**Last Day Term 3 – Friday 19.9.14      First Day Term 4 – Tuesday 7.10.14**

Please Note: Dates/Times correct at time of publication