# **CHESO NEWS**



Chester Hill High School Newsletter

Term 2, issue 1 | June, 2017

#### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Term 2 has been filled with a never ending series of rich learning experiences since its commencement. We welcomed **Mrs Reynolds**, **Mr Donohoe** and **Mrs Hong** back to CHHS and they are now settled into the excitement that Term 2 always promises in the lead up to major exams, projects and of course, Flag Day.

Despite all the negative media attention, NAPLAN ran smoothly as Years 7 and 9 completed it with little fuss. While there has been much talk about minimum standards and what it will mean for students who don't meet them, I would like to provide members of our community with information on this matter.



Firstly, students **CHHS** are provided with, and have access to, all the necessary resources to help them meet minimum standards. Our staff has the expertise. We have additional programs and initiatives place to support students with identified needs. However, it is vital for parents

to understand that a close working partnership between school and home is so important. The parents who attended our study skills workshops/information forums responded positively to the guidance provided.

What we are concerned about as educators are the lost hours that students do not utilise when they are not at school. Work ethic is key to success. The amount of time invested in learning reflects the value an individual places on education and what



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they want to achieve. No one's reading, writing or numeracy improves if additional time is not spent developing these areas. Consider how often you see your children voluntarily reading or writing if they are not completing schoolwork. Development of such skill does not happen overnight or magically. Work ethic and pride in the quality of work are habits that develop consistently over time. In our community forums we run presentations and workshops that provide guidance and resources to parents so they are empowered to oversee student learning at home. We are more than happy to respond to parental needs in these presentations. We take requests, and we are more than happy to schedule additional meeting times so we can respond in time to parent needs.

As a significant number of our school community will have commenced fasting in Ramadan, we extend our wishes of a Ramadan Kareem to them. We will be reminding students regularly that our expectations will remain focused on learning as the priority and that our school values align with core expectations within any faith when we consider behavior, respect for learning, adults and rules as well as ethical and moral conduct (including respectful language and relationships).

We look forward to meeting and celebrating with parents not only on Flag Day but in increasing numbers at our Community Forums where we can focus on education and student learning outcomes.

#### Ms Z Dabaja

Principal

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### **IEC REPORT**

Term 2 has seen the students at the IEC engaging in a range of exciting programs, events and activities. This wide range of initiatives have been selected to further develop the language needs and life skills of students at the IEC.

A new initiative being implemented this term is the Stage 6 Enrichment Program. Stage 6 students are divided into groups and rotate around different workshops, all of which aim to develop various skills. The workshops include career pathways, mathematics enrichment, basic coding, literacy enrichment and more.

In Week 2, the IEC along with the high school, made their way to the Campbell Hill Reserve and participated in the annual Cross Country Carnival. We were lucky to have a day with great weather and the outstanding behaviour of the students from the IEC made for a truly wonderful day.

In Week 3, 17 students were formally recognised in front of their peers for their leadership skills and qualities. The student leaders for Term 2 are:

Mustafa Alizada	
Ayah Almnajed	
Hamid Hussaini	
Mohannad Kanaan	
Rida Nasiri	
Alina Zahra	
Naoshin Bhuiyan	
Liam Hu	
Lena Le	

Khuong Nguyen Kaylee Vo Noorzia Alizada Aournilla Almansour Jack Alnazzal Susie Dai Mahdi Fasihi Zahra Taqizada



These students were selected because they have demonstrated their respect for others, respect for teachers and respect for themselves. This term, the student leaders will be involved in a peer reading program where they will assist their fellow students in reading. They will also be involved in a range of workshops that will develop their leadership capabilities.

In Week 4, a class attended Full STEAM Ahead, a video conference conducted by the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences in association with ABCN and Microsoft. This initiative aims to introduce students from Stage 4 to coding, virtual reality and augmented reality programs. Under the expertise of **Ms Soma** and **Mr Lui**, the students have been able to develop their understanding of different ICT oriented pathways and computational thinking.

**Mr Ocampo** 

## **EXPLORING ANCIENT LIVES**

On 28 April, Year 7 went on an excursion to the Sydney Powerhouse Museum. They were there to attend the exhibition "Egyptian Mummies: Exploring Ancient Lives" which taught them all about their up coming topic, Ancient Egypt. The exhibition gave the students a sneak peek into what life was like in ancient times. During the Exhibition, Year 7 met six individual mummies who lived and died in Ancient Egypt. They came face to face with significant objects such as Canopic Jars used for organs during mummification and ancient amulets used for protection during the afterlife. Overall, the students had a fascinating experience and are eager to learn more about Ancient Egypt.



Special thanks to the History Faculty, **Ms J Cremin**, **Ms S Ing**, **Mr L Brown** and **Ms C Charalambous** for making this day happen.

#### **Ms Charalambous**



## **GOING MEDIEVAL**

On Monday, 1 May, during periods 1 and 2, Year 8 took part in a History incursion. It consisted of four different activities: archery, weapons and tactics, arms and armour and crime and punishment. All Year 8 students participated and learned something new from each of these activities. We were in our class groups and rotated after each activity.

We competed and challenged each other while we took part in archery, which was fun, although a few students walked away disheartened as they could not hit the target. First, we watched a demonstration from the instructor. He taught us how to properly hold, load and fire a bow and arrow. We all then had three arrows, which we used to attempt to hit the target. A few of us were able to get it! At the end, the instructor told us about a few gruesome deaths caused by arrows.

Next, we learned about crimes committed, and punishments that were in place in Medieval Europe. We were taught the social hierarchy (the majority of the people who lived in Medieval Europe were peasants) and how many people died before the age of five.

Later, we experienced what it was like to use weapons and tactics in a battle. We were placed in pairs where one person had to defend with their shield and the other to attack with their sword. This gave most students the opportunity to show (much to their excitement) their capabilities. Luckily, the equipment is made out of foam!



Finally, our class was shown replicas of weapons and armour used in Medieval times. Some students were selected to try on the armour and hold weapons from different decades. Most people complained about how heavy the armour and weapons were.

Overall, it was a fun learning experience. We enjoyed each activity and the intriguing stories! Through the History Incursion, we were able to learn about Medieval Europe from a different perspective.

#### Ms Taleb





## The Tempest

On Wednesday, 17 May, Year 12 English Advanced and Standard students were lucky enough to attend performances of their HSC drama texts. English Advanced visited the Seymour Centre, where they saw a fantastic production of William Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'. English Standard students attended an Australian play 'The Shoe-Horn Sonata' at the Giant Dwarf Theatre. Many thanks to the English faculty for organising the excursions and accompanying the students.

#### .Ms Sullivan



## **MOCK INTERVIEW DAY**

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## THE HELMSMAN PROJECT

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The Year 10 Mock Interview Day took place on Monday, 22 May. Students came dressed in business attire for the day. Each student had to prepare for a particular job and had a portfolio which they had been working on this year.

Many lessons were learnt on the day about job interview skills and portfolios. Nikki Heald from Corp Training gave an engaging presentation on Interview Preparation Skills. Jennifer Eaton from Aspire gave a presentation on Subject Selection for university and different pathways into university.

Many Head Teachers presented on Subject Selection for 11 and 12. It is anticipated that Year 10 students now continue to seriously consider which subjects they should pick for their HSC.

Well Done! Year10

#### Mrs Patrizi







The Helmsman Project uses an adventure-based program to develop hope, self-regulation and resilience in students.

**Kevin Kasembe, Lam Nhan, Sebastian Ramsey** and **Ali Trad** had to demonstrate these skills in abundance in order to overcome all the challenges thrown at them on the weeklong hike they completed in Week 2 this term, and they did so admirably!

Navigating their way around the Namadgi National Park's wilderness areas, the boys faced sub-zero temperatures, agonisingly steep slopes, barely-penetrable bush and long days on their feet, but overcame all obstacles with smiles and good humour.

The boys are now utilising the skills they've learnt in order to initiate a community project involving recycling. Stay tuned for more information about this in future editions!

#### Mr Criniti









## SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

## **WINTER 2017**





Bookings for our Winter school holiday program are now open! There are heaps of active holiday adventures to choose from around NSW. Led by qualified instructors, you can rest easy knowing your kids are in safe hands.

## Residential programs for Winter 2017

#### FOR KIDS:

- Adventurer
- Cooking 4 Kids
- Hook, Line & Sinker

#### FOR TEENS:

- Adrenalin Rush
- Adventurer
- Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Practice Journey
- Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Journey

Don't want the kids to have all the fun? We also offer a Weekend Family Snow Sports Camp at Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Centre!

Also, check our website on 1 June for a range of day programs in your local area.



sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/schoolholidays | 13 13 02 fb.com/nswsportandrecreation



#### **OZTAG**

On Wednesday, May 24. Chester Hill High School was invited to participate in the Banksktown Zone Oztag Gala Day competition led by **Mr Chahrouk**, the Zone President and NSW Oztag.

The competition was a great initiative to provide schools the opportunity to engage in a fun filled day to connect young people, build student rapport and trust as well as reap the benefits of a healthy, active lifestyle.

48 students represented Chester Hill High School in four teams. 2 teams in the 9 and 10 division and 2 teams in the 11 and 12 division for boys and girls. It was a glorious day, filled with lots of laughs, sunshine, dancing and sportsmanship. We were recognised as one of the schools with a wealth of knowledge and respect for the game and all-round ability. A number of our students were selected by the referees on the day as the Most Valuable Player across all year groups.

Congratulations to all the teams who competed. We placed 3rd in the 9/10 girls division and 11/12 boys division. The 9/10 boys team came 5th and the 11/12 girls team came 6th.

Congratulations firstly to all the girls: Stephanie Baker, Shereen Haidar, Moala Laiafi, Crystal McLean, Noura Tamer, Shandi Willie, Chantys-Lee Panapa-King, Eman Ghamraoui, Saraa Katieh, Mya Kyaw, Vina Le, Jasmine Marzouk, Tina Nguyen, Elizabeth Sankoh, Nadia Soueissi, Sally Trinh (Captain 11/12 team), Naomi Uisa, Happy Uisa, Harmony Uisa, Ranin Yassin (Captain 9/10 team), Khaing Tun and Mariam Kraini.

Congratulations also to all the boys: Fhiras Agha, Maisam Ashraifi, Aymed Ayad (Captain 11/12 team), Mahmoud Chandab, Seung Min Joshua Choi, Da Bo Bo Day, Surasak Day, Ahmed Elmocheyi, Jibril Elrich (Captain 9/10 team) Adam Hassoun, Tarek Hawat, Basel Ismail, Elli Kaio, Thomas Kemp Brown, Phillip Luu, Washington Lwin, Sam Maaliki-Morrissey, Rabi Mouchai, Matthew Rayner, Ahmed Ridani, Adam Rima, Dilal Sankari, Tony Taulaga, Ra Te Rure, Cha Tee Ra Cha, Kaleal Telefoni-Lloyd and Emmanuel Williams.



All the girls and boys showed exceptional leadership, sportsmanship and tenacity. Congratulations to you all!

I look forward to seeing Chester Hill High School succeed in the upcoming Oztag Gala Days.

## YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

**Daniel Ada** (Year 11), **Annika Po** (Year 11), **Carissa Dalglish** (Year 10) and SRC Coordinator Mrs Smith recently attended the 2017 Youth Mental Health Summit (YMHS) at Casula Powerhouse Art Centre. This awesome event comprised of talks, interactive activities, informational resources, an art convention and social activities!

Special guests included passionate NRL sports enthusiast and boxer, Renee Gartner as well as representatives from 'Livin', a company promoting strength to speak up on mental issues and encouraging positive emotions such as love, care, kindness and happiness. A representative from 'Batry', another Australian organisation, spoke about personal experiences and introduced a conversational approach to the program. The talks were engaging, educating and empowering; teaching others how to deal with mental issues and experiences, but most importantly to reach out to the services available that can help you.

- 5 Important Steps to dealing with Mental Illness or helping others;
- 1) Look Out notice changes in another person's behavior or yourself.
- 2) Get Talking Talk to them, or talk to someone else about your concerns.
- 3) Listen Up Listen to what your friend has to say or get someone else to listen to your worries and mental illness.
- 4) Reach Out Talk to a teacher, parent, counsellor or search professional websites for support and further information.
- 5) Take Charge Take care of that person or yourself

Mental illness has a negative stigma in society. YMHS educated us and explained that it is O.K not to be O.K. We are all involved and affected by our individual mentality. What is important, is the support, knowledge, understanding and care to prevent and treat mental illness.

We encourage everyone at Chester Hill High School to be more open and aware about Mental Health; nobody should have to face mental illness alone.

#itaintweaktospeak

#### Carissa Dalglish

The following websites provide some useful information about mental health issues:

- 1) livin.org.au
- 2) www.batyr.com.au

## LITERACY GROUP

The Literacy Group involves Year 7 students meeting each day over a period of 4 weeks. At the end of the program, students are required to produce a piece of writing on a topic of their choice.

We hope you enjoy the following narrative by **Maryam Alhessany**.

Ms A Smith

#### THE FOREST POOL

The four of us sat at the edge of the forest pool. Water splashed over our feet as it gushed loudly from the waterfall in front of us. We had to shout to hear each other. I sat with my youngest sister Annie, my father and mother. "Isabella be very careful!" my mother shouted to me as I tried to lower myself further into the water.

My mother loves this area. She used to come here as a child. The first time she brought me here I was very young. I walked over to a bush of dandelions and picked out four of them. I handed one to everybody and we all made a wish. My mother smiled at me as she made her wish.

I wished for my mother to get well. I never really talked about it with anyone because it made me emotional. Originally she had kept it a secret from me but I found out she was unwell when we went to the doctor with her a couple of months ago. Annie still doesn't know.

Since our house is always very hot in summer and very cold in winter we would stay at granny and grandpa's house, especially at Christmas. Annie and I shared a room at granny's house.

Mother always left early when we were at granny's house. We always used to ask them where she was going but she never ever told us. I was pretty sure father was taking her to the hospital. Whenever I asked dad if they were in the hospital he'd start getting mad so I would let it go.

We decided it was time to go home and began walking to the car. On the way home, Father took us to a Thai restaurant. The food there was amazing.

Finally we went home and got ready for bed.

My father has always wanted to buy us a better house especially for mother but we have never had the money to afford an upgrade. We try to save money but father's work as a hunter barely covers the groceries. Mother said we might have to wait a couple of years.

Unfortunately, my mother never got to live long enough to see a new house. She passed away the following year. But the time finally came when we could move.

On the day we moved a truck arrived to transport our things to the new house. The removalists went to carry the portrait of my mother that was hung over the fireplace. I ran and jumped in front of them and said that I would carry it out to the car.

Tears just rolled down my face as I just stared at the painting. We never realised it was going to happen this quick. I wish I had more time with mother. Now all I had were memories rolling around in my head like golf balls, like sitting at the forest pool a couple of years ago, eating Thai food, swimming, sleeping over granny's house.

They were now carrying the remainder of the stuff into the van. I carried a photo that dad bought into dads little car. We all got in the car and Annie was just sitting on the cold cracked floor crying because she didn't want to leave.

Annie kept crying. It has been three years since mother had passed and we still remember her every second of our lives. We drove in dad's little yellow car up the hills with the van driving behind us.

We arrived at the house and there was a bush of dandelions. I remembered sitting with mother. I could feel my eyes overflowing with tears and I wondered, just what did mother wish for all those years ago at the forest pool.

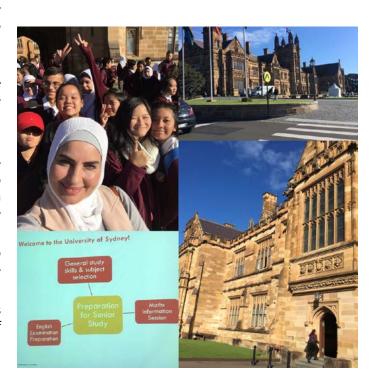
**Maryam Alhessany** 

#### PREPARING FOR UNIVERSITY

On Friday, 2 June, our Year 10 Students participated in the Preparation for Senior Study at The University of Sydney. It was a valuable day out, our students benefitted immensely from the workshops which prepared them for senior subject selection and equipped them with general study skills.

Students participated in 3 workshops including English Examination Preparation, Mathematics Information Session and a General Study Skills workshop.

#### Ms El Samman



#### Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) slogan

I am a safe, respectful learner who belongs at Cheso

All students MUST have their School Diary and ID Card with them at school.



- All students have been issued with a Diary which they use to help organise their studies and school activities. Parents are invited to supervise the diaries.
- The Diary has useful school information for students and parents as well as resource material for students to utilise in various subject areas.
- This Diary will also be used to monitor students leaving class to come to the office/and or a request for a toilet pass. As a parent you will be able to check the <u>Student Movement - page 7/8 at the back of the</u> <u>Diary</u> to see if your child is not engaged in learning by requesting to be out of the classroom.

As part of the PB4L Initiative - all students requesting to leave a classroom will need to have their ID Card, their Diary signed by the teacher with the time they leave the class and then they will need to show their Diary to the Head Teacher/Deputy Principal or Office when they arrive.

**NO DIARY - NO PASS OUT OF CLASS** 

## PARENT TEACHER MEETING

## Parents of Students in Years 7-11 Wednesday 28 June 2017 4.00pm - 7.30pm

- \* Years 7-11 Progress reports will be available for collection from 4.00pm to 7.30pm.
- \* If you wish to discuss your child's progress, an appointment must be made prior to the meeting.

A Parent/Teacher Booklet which includes a Booking Sheet for your child to make appointments for you with their teachers will be posted out. (Check your mailbox)

Where: SCHOOL HALL (Miller Road)

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 28 June 2017.

# THE AMAZING RACE

On Wednesday, 31 May, a group of Year 8 Students had the opportunity to participate in the 'Amazing Race' experience at the Sydney Royal Botanical Gardens, organised by the University of Technology's 'Sky High' program. In teams, students had to check in at different locations around the garden, and correctly answer 3 questions at each spot.

Teams completed the mission when they successfully checked in at all

4 locations. This experience helped students build self confidence, coordination skills and team workethic.







## Chester Hill High School Calendar of Events Term 2 - 2017

Event



7A	Thursday	8.6.17	* Year Meetings
8B	Monday	12.6.17	* PUBLIC HOLIDAY - Queen's Birthday
OD.	Thursday	15.6.17	* Regional Cross Country
9A	Wednesday	21.6.17	* NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE www.chesterhillhighschool.com - click on news - then newsletters
	Thursday	22.6.17	* MULTICULTURAL FLAG CEREMONY (9.45am and 12.45pm)
	Friday	23.6.17	* MULTICULTURAL FLAG CEREMONY - (11.15am tickets ONLY)
10B	Wednesday	28.6.17	* ZONE ATHLETICS
			* PARENT/TEACHER NIGHT YEARS 7-11 (4.00pm to 7.30pm)
	Thursday	29.6.17	* ZONE ATHLETICS
	Friday	30.6.17	* Last day of Term 2

Last Day Term 2 – Friday 1.7.16 First Day Term 3 – Tuesday 19.7.16 Please Note: Dates/Times correct at time of publication

UNIFORM SHOP - School Hall

Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 1.00pm to 1.30pm Tuesday - 8.30am to 11.30am