

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### Flag Day

For all within our school community who have just participated in, contributed to, or experienced our 21st Flag Day, I am certain you are all still feeling the pride, elation and spectacular sense of achievement that so naturally comes with it.



Flag Day is the embodiment of our purpose at 'Cheso'. We are preparing our students to be successful at life in the right way and for the right reasons. This success is determined by the core values of public education. If these values play a core role in your life and how you interact with people, places and things, the future is safe in the hands of the global citizens

our students are destined to become. The values of public education are reflected in the demonstration and application of:

- a love of learning
- high standards
- care and respect for self and others
- care and respect for families and communities
- respect for work
- fairness and social justice
- the pursuit of excellence
- being active citizens of Australia and the world

It was delightful to meet with former Principals, staff members and members of the wider community who attend Flag Day every year. The passion and emotional responses were a

reflection of the amazing student performances that were nothing short of uplifting.

We will never stop reminding students that the sentiment and lessons learned from Flag Day are relevant all year round. When we value diversity, rather than fear it, and when we work in partnership rather than in opposition, we can achieve great things. Things that we can be proud of. Things that restore our faith in the human race.

'All we need is Peace' was the very appropriately titled performance of our IEC students. In this song, we saw a variety of students from different backgrounds who had the same message. So many of these students are refugees, who have seen the terrible ravages of conflict and hatred and forced to flee their countries of birth. They all have one need- peace. We need peace in our lives too. No one can thrive in an environment fueled by fear and hatred.

We want our students to remember this always. As they walk down the corridors and into classrooms at school. When they are in the playground. When they are in their neighbourhood. When they graduate in their caps and gowns.

Congratulations to the entire team at Chester Hill High School, overseen by Ms. Benton, for the wonderful reminder that when we are united, we hold all the answers and can use our collective power for good.

### Community Engagement

Our recent Parent Teacher night was a wonderful evening where our dedicated staff took time away from their families to remain at school and discuss student progress and achievement. I had many conversations with parents and families about the excellent quality of teaching and learning at CHHS. Parents who attended gained much benefit from reading student reports and then engaging in meaningful discussions on how student performance can be improved.

School reports take weeks to write and compile. Teachers spend many hours contributing to this meaningful communication with students and their parents. It is an important representation and tracking of student progress and can be used as a mediating text to oversee and address commitment and strategies invested into learning.

It is so vital that parents collect reports and speak with their child's teacher at half yearly and yearly intervals (at the very least). Without this accountability, students are often (continued page 2)



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(from previous page) dismissive of their learning journey and lose track of their purpose and progress. These are the conversations that matter. The best way to support your child is to ensure that you KNOW how they are performing and what they need to do in class and at home to perform better, followed by working in partnership with the school to ensure the student follows through consistently. The parent workshops we conduct on the Parent Forum evenings each term provide strategies and additional support about how to achieve this. Parents are also welcome to make individual appointments with the relevant Year Adviser, Deputy Principal or the Principal to discuss specific concerns and needs.

Just as you place your children in our care, we also know that as students move through adolescence, they need more parental involvement rather than less. We are more than happy to work with you to support you in achieving this.

#### School Holidays and Well Wishes

On behalf of the staff at Chester Hill High School, I would like to wish all students a safe and restful break from school. I remind Year 11 and 12 students that the coming break is 'school away from school' where the location may change, but the need to continue on with consistent study on a daily basis is necessary in order to achieve the appropriate outcomes and results. Some of our Year 12 students have the opportunity to attend holiday tutorials run by their dedicated teachers and are advised to seize these opportunities which can only advantage them in the long term.

We send blessings and best wishes to all our families and to those who celebrated, Eid Mubarrak.

**Ms Z Dabaja**

Principal

## IEC REPORT

One of the most special and valuable aspects of our school community is the vibrant diversity that brings us together. This term has really seen that shine through with all of the programs and activities taking place at the IEC.

The Stage 6 Enrichment Program was implemented this term and has seen students feeling more prepared for their transition to life after the IEC. From discussing career pathways, completing mathematics enrichment classes, learning about basic coding, and developing literacy, the students who participated felt that they learned some invaluable skills.

Noorzia Alizada, a student from 61, was nominated for a Refugee Youth of the Year Award with Auburn Diversity Services. The award recognises young people from refugee backgrounds and their contributions to their communities. Noorzia was nominated for a variety of reasons. In her time at the IEC, she has made a substantial impact on a variety of areas within the school. Most notably, Noorzia led a team of students in the completion of a project to increase social inclusion for refugees and new arrivals, participated in the Chester Hill IEC Girls' Soccer Competition, demonstrated her oracy skills at the



Bi-annual Chester Hill IEC Oratory Showcase and consistently exhibited outstanding leadership skills in her role as an IEC Student Leader. Of the 66 nominees, Noorzia placed second! Congratulations to Noorzia and all her hard work.

One of the highlights of this term was the annual Flag Day celebration. Flag Day sees the school and the local community come together to celebrate the rich diversity of our students. As with every other year, the students from our school did not disappoint.



The IEC students put together an impressive display of multiculturalism with a performance piece that showcased dances from Sierra Leone, Lebanon, Pakistan, China and Vietnam. An original rap piece was also performed by our students that highlighted their oral mastery. It was so touching to see so many students celebrating in harmony together.

**Mr Ocampo**



## OPTUS DIGITAL SMARTS

On Wednesday 21 June, some of our Year 7 and 8 students had the opportunity to participate in the Optus Digital Smarts presentation.



Students had a great time! The aim of the program was to create empowered and responsible digital citizens, who thrive in today's world of technology.



Students learnt about responsible behaviours for staying safe online, having a positive impact online, and what to do when someone does the wrong thing. The lecture about The Bystander effect was very informative. Students also learnt about the impacts of posting online and looked at solutions if confronted with cyber bullying.

Our students won the 'Building a Free-standing Bridge Challenge', beating the 8 other attending schools for the honour. Chesu was commended for their impeccable teamwork and creativity.

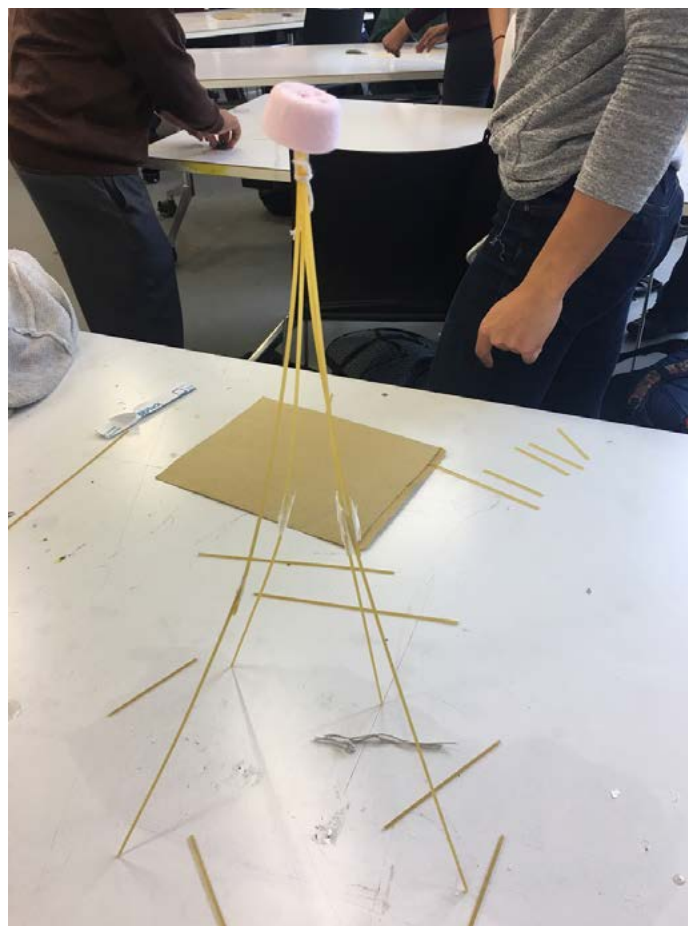
To end the day, we had a special guest appearance. We were all thrilled to meet Ian Thorpe in person! He spoke about his achievements and challenges growing up as a teenager, and gave some good advice about being resilient in the face of adversity.

**Ms El-Samman**



## YEAR 8 INVESTIG8

Selected students from Year 8 went on an excursion to the University of Sydney on Thursday, 15 June, and were able to immerse themselves in a university environment through the Year 8 Investig8 initiative. At the Camperdown campus, students took part in activities based on their chosen interests.



The event was conducted by university students and some university staff. There were university students from various disciplines including architecture, engineering, finance, history, law, and pharmacy to name a few.

The university students were able to give their view of studying at a university level while giving our students an opportunity to undergo a hands-on experience in challenges to design a floating home, solve a medication mystery, or creatively design a building. Ches0 took home the prize for the Design Challenge, which involved creating a structure that could hold more marbles than those created by competing teams. Well done team 'Blood & Guts 2'!

Other students experienced demonstrations in the developing technologies of 3-dimensional printing and virtual reality programs.



Ultimately, Year 8 students were surrounded by inspirational tertiary students demonstrating the possibilities of where creativity and passion can steer learning at a higher education level. In addition to the day, Year 8 students were also provided with a learning platform and resources to assist with their current studies to help make choices in their possible future careers.

**Mr Trovato & Ms El Samman**

## RED SHIELD APPEAL

With 150 years of serving the community, the Salvation Army draw on the values of their heritage and fix their vision towards transforming the lives of those in need.

The Salvation Army provides many services that support and strengthen families and respond when families are unable to cope. Over 30,000 families are assisted each year.

Chester Hill High School joined the Red Shield Appeal on May 26, holding our own fundraiser where staff and students could show their support by wearing a red accessory. We had some very creative and improvised entries from some of our less-prepared staff members!



Robyn Moulds from The Salvation Army addressed the assembly to explain the work being done in Auburn. The school raised \$280 to support this valuable work in the community.  
**Ms Smith**

## FAST FORWARD

The Fast Forward program is designed to provide students with an insight into the skills required to perform well at university and an overview of what university has to offer

On Thursday, 29 June, **Celine Cinkilinc, Danielle Coughlin, Ywar Hay Blu Doo, Mariam Hares, Omar Nassereddine, and Miron Tursunov** had the opportunity to visit the Parramatta Campus of Western Sydney University where they participated in a number of engaging activities designed to employ some of the thought-processes required of university students.



The students conducted themselves well and came up with some creative solutions in a game requiring them to devise an invention using limited resources. We had a few great questions raised by Cheso students too, demonstrating a sense of curiosity that is greatly beneficial in a university setting.



As a result of their continued participation in this program, students are eligible to apply for Fast Forward scholarships which will provide them with financial assistance while studying at Western Sydney University.

**Mr Criniti**



## FLAG DAY

In its 21st year, Flag Day continues to improve. Under **Ms Benton's** guidance, the team worked diligently to ensure that each of the three performances were of the highest standard.

Please enjoy some photos from the day. For more, see our Facebook page













### **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 **Student Movement** - page 7/8 at the back of the **Diary** 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**