

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

As term two draws to an end I would like to thank everyone for their work and commitment to the school. Term 2 has gone so quickly and the students and staff have worked hard for good outcomes. We have seen the magnificent celebration of unity at our annual Flay Day. It was an honour to see so many of our students so vibrantly showcase their culture. We have also celebrated many sporting and academic successes.



The reports that parents received via the parent portal demonstrate the work the students have done in all facets of the curriculum and we are proud of their efforts. I congratulate and acknowledge the hard work of all students and staff this semester in striving for their personal best.

I encourage all parents to reflect on their child's report and commence discussions on goal setting and achieving personal bests with their children now. Please keep lines of communication open with staff at our school if you have any concerns about your child's progress.

Our Learning Centre is open to assist all students with any aspect of their school work or homework. This offers our students an opportunity to obtain extra explanations and assistance as required.

We at Chester Hill High School are strongly committed to the health and safety of our students. As such, I would like to remind all parents to inform the school of any new medical conditions which may arise throughout the year. In particular, students who have anaphylaxis should carry their own EpiPen and ASCIA plan with them at all times. Please ensure that the dates on EpiPens or asthma relievers have not expired.

CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL
MILLER RD
CHESTER HILL 2162
Ph: 9644 1099
Fax: 9743 7174
www.chesterhillhighschool.com

Further details on Allergies and Anaphylaxis can be found at

<https://allergyfacts.org.au/>

I recently read an article written by an education expert Greg Whitby. The article dealt with why regular attendance at school is crucial. Whitby states "Research shows that absenteeism has an effect on academic performance, it reduces the opportunities for students to build resilience, develop strong relationships and establish healthy habits. One absence per fortnight equals 20 days per year. That equates to 1.3 years over 13 years of schooling. That is a huge amount of lost learning. Of course, some absences are unavoidable, but it is important for teachers, students and parents to understand the impact that non-attendance has on wellbeing and academic achievement". When put in these terms, the importance of regular attendance is undeniable. I strongly encourage all parents to support their child's attendance and punctuality.

I wish all members of our community a safe and happy school holidays. School will start for our students on Tuesday 23 July.

Ms M O'Harae

PRINCIPAL

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C Safe
H Proud
E Inclusive
S Respectful
O Inquisitive
O Trustworthy

IEC REPORT

This term has seen student numbers at the IEC grow to 190. We have welcomed students from Turkey, Vietnam, China, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. The rich cultural diversity at the IEC is what makes it such a special place, seeing so many cultures living side by side in peace.

As with all terms, the different extra-curricular programs being run at the IEC have significantly impacted student learning and experiences. This term, **Ms Downey's** Art and Literacy group have successfully painted a 'Unity' mural on room 6 of the IEC. The students learnt painting skills but also developed their oral communication skills when negotiating the design aesthetic.

Mr Furey's Interact Program saw students developing hands on skills in the workplace that will assist them in finding

employment. The Peer Coaching Creating Chances Program has also seen students harness their sporting abilities to develop coaching skills that can be added to their CVs.

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 vibrant cultures of our students. As with every other year, the students from the IEC worked very hard with the help of **Ms Stowers** and **Mr Toms** to put together a fun and engaging performance. The IEC students developed an impressive display of multiculturalism with a performance piece that showcased dances from Lebanon, Pakistan, Samoa, India, Afghanistan and Vietnam. It was so touching to see so many students celebrating in harmony together.

Mr OCampo



ASPIRING COPS EXCURSION

Through our long-established partnership with Coolaburoo Neighbourhood Centre Inc., we were recently fortunate to be able to organise an excursion to The Police Academy at Goulburn on Wednesday, 26 June. We thank Coolaburoo for this great opportunity.

Students aspiring to join the police force had a comprehensive tour of the large training facility. Students learnt about the specific requirements to enter the NSW Police Force and they were able to ask lots of questions to which they got clear answers and added information and advice.

Many myths were dispelled on the day too. For example, the height requirement has changed dramatically and is now far more flexible. The reason being is that the Police Force

are looking at the many traits and characteristics in people wanting to join the force, and they have a variety of jobs within the force for suitable applicants.

Mrs Patrizi



FUTURE FRIDAYS

As a part of the Widening Participation Outreach Program with the University of Sydney we had 50 Year 10 students attend a day at The University of Sydney.

Students participated in Study Skills for Senior School workshop, Subject Selection and University Courses workshop and we had a tour of the Camperdown campus.

Ms Patrizi



FLAG DAY

What a resounding success this year's 23rd Annual Multicultural Flag Day was! With over 1800 audience members from the school and our community, we were able to display what a truly united and harmonious school we are.

It is a testament to our students, staff and parents that such an event can take place at a comprehensive high school such as ours. We truly live and breathe the Cheso Spirit of inclusivity and respect for where we come from. This year's theme of 'Dreams for the Future' was displayed in the emotive video produced by our multimedia team, who worked tirelessly to gather the dreams of many of our students. It then carried through into the performances of more than 25 different items

where our students showed leadership and engagement with culture, and was ultimately expressed in the words of **Hawraa Al-Husseini** when recounting her journey from her home country to our wonderful school.



Thank you to each of the more than 50 staff from across the school who were involved, from **Mr Viller, Ms Moalem, Mr Furey, Mr Trovato, Mr Swindells** and many others who worked behind the scenes, to **Mr Aweida** who mentored the Dabke group, and **Mr Hambly** who brought the Japanese

culture out of the classroom and onto our stage, and finally to **Mrs Wright** who was there for our students every afternoon for the past term. Her absolute dedication is amazing. Without you, these types of productions do not exist.

For all of the students who saw the ceremony and want to be a part of it...You can and you should. Flag Day is about you - where you are from and who you are now. It is an expression of what we would like the world to be, an inclusive space for all where we share culture and participate in a more harmonious society.

Ms Benton





REGIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY

On 13 June 2019, we had 8 students attend the Sydney South West Regional X Country carnival held in Camden. All students performed extremely well with most achieving a personal best for this level of carnival. **Mohammad Ali, Ameer Rahimi, Ali Haidari, Esmat Asghari, Hamid Asghari, Khalil Haidari, Shogufa Sirat and Jamshid Mirzaei.**

Some notable performances were Esmat, Ameer and Mohammad, who all qualified for the State carnival in a few weeks time.

Congratulations to all students who participated on the day.

Mr Jones



STATE VOLLEYBALL NSW CUP

Our school had an epic and very successful weekend at State Volleyball NSW Schools Cup. An U16 boys and Open boys Division 1 team played in the two day competition over 21-22 June.

The junior team had the biggest pool, playing six round matches and ranked second which put them into the final on Saturday afternoon. They had to play against Baulkham Hills High School, who they had lost to in the round match earlier in the day. They rallied hard and played some tactical and incredible volleyball to come back from one set down to win in the third set, bringing home the gold medal for our school!

The seniors also played some amazing matches in a very tough and talented draw. They managed to make it to the semi finals to play Ryde Secondary College but they were too good for us. They played for third place against one of the Baulkham Hills High School teams and won that match two sets to none. Congratulations to them on winning a bronze medal as well!

Congratulations to all.

Ms Poon

Students involved:

**Liam Merlino
Abdullah Al-Badry
Andy Truong
David An
Andrew La
Dominic Chhay
Mohammed Kamaluldeen
Zabih Azimi
Jamshid Mirzaei
Henry Huynh
Steven Le
Anthony Dang
Gordon Luong
Andrew Ha
Ryan Truong
Wooje Choi**



Attend 4 sessions and
receive a certificate and **\$100 voucher!**



Australia's
Global
University

Invitation to Chester Hill Parents and Carers

**FREE morning
tea and childcare
provided.**

We can arrange Arabic,
Vietnamese and Afghani
translators if you let us
know before you come.

Dates: Wednesday, 31 July
Wednesday, 7 August
Wednesday, 14 August
Wednesday, 21 August
Wednesday, 28 August

Time: 9.15am – 10.30am

Where: Chester Hill High School

FREE

To register: Send your name in a text message to Ayesha at 0413 430 098 or sign the form at the School Front Office. If you need a translator, please let Ayesha know when you register.

We look forward to seeing you there!



RATION CHALLENGE

In Week 8 Chester Hill celebrated Refugee Week (June 16 to June 22). The week was organised to celebrate the many great contributions of our refugees in Australia. The SRC also used the event to spread awareness about the struggles many refugees continue to face around the world.

On the Monday, an assembly was held where students with a refugee background from the IEC and high school shared their stories with the school. Thank you to **Rohullah Bahrami** and **Mahboba Hemmat** for your moving poems and **Jamshid Mirzaei**, **Ywar Hay Blu Doo** and **Rida Nasiri** from the SRC for sharing your own stories. The SRC collected a gold coin donation from the student body to support Act for Peace's Ration Challenge.

This year, four teachers and fifteen students participated in the Ration Challenge. This means they lived on the same rations as a Syrian refugee in Jordan, for a week. In return, the school body was encouraged to sponsor them. All teachers, particularly **Mr Aweida**, struggled with the coffee and sugar withdrawals. Despite the headaches, they continued to turn up to teach each day. Students were really amazed by the tiny box that was supposed to sustain them for a week. Thankfully, many of our students were used to making delicious falafels or a simple mujadara but struggled with eating mainly rice every day. Together we raised over \$8000. This money will go to Act for Peace to support their efforts in providing ration packs, medical attention and education to refugees living in camps around the world.

Congratulations to **Mr Aweida, Ms Smith, Ms Sobrevega, Ahmed Abouzied, Zabih Azimi, Celine Cinkilinc, Nour Chendeb, Farahmand Daryab, Rafik El-Zaghir, Obaida Mahmood, Jamshid Mirzaei, Zainab Mossavi, Ziad Nhaili, Emad Soueissi, Minh-Thy Truong** and **Jolin Ye** on a great effort.

Naziah Mohibi

Year 7 SRC

Edited by Ms Smith



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S
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