Tuesday 4 February 2014

Dear parents and students,

Welcome back all our existing families and a special welcome to those families new to Chester Hill Public School. I and all the staff are certain that your children will experience a very strong and caring educational experience. In our next newsletter I will detail for you the best way to contact the school in regards to any questions you may have regarding your child’s education. Until then if you do have a question please contact the office who will point you in the right direction for the best person to answer your concern.

The policy of our school revolves around effective and open communication between the school and home. At Chester Hill P.S. we also encourage a high interaction and involvement of parents in their children’s education. The more you as a parent values education the higher the learning outcomes for your children. In terms of student welfare we are introducing a new student rewards system this year which will promote a greater emphasis on academic and social excellence over time. We will also be reviewing our behaviour and anti-bullying policies and procedures to ensure all students learn in a safe and happy environment.

You may have heard or read in the news about how public schools in NSW are moving towards more decisions being made at the school level. Therefore, as Principal, I need to hear the voice of the school community especially through our Parents & Citizens Association more than ever. If you are able please attend the P&C’s first meeting in our community room on Wednesday February 26th.

Finally, I would like to introduce you to some new members of our staff.

Miss Smith is not new but after her marriage at the end of last year will now be called Mrs Vergara. Taking one of our new classes will be Mrs Stefanik. Miss Parkinson will be doing relief from Face to Face as well as job sharing on Year 3 with Mrs Probert. Finally Miss Daher will be supporting all staff as the mobile teacher. I am sure you will make them welcome in their new roles.

Classes 2014

Well what a difference a year makes. This time last year we were struggling with numbers to maintain 20 classes. This year we will be forming twenty – four classes. The increase in numbers is mainly due to a record number of Kindergarten enrolments (100) but I also feel that it is a response from the wider community to the excellent educational outcomes achieved by so many of our students. Also, to the friendly and open welcome all our families receive from all our staff. All students (except kindergarten) will be placed in their 2014 classes this week. Our teachers have been working very hard from the end of last year to form classes that will represent the best learning environment for all students. Many different criteria were used and individual student placement was completed using those criteria. Please be aware that the highest priority for student class placement will always be where they will learn the best.

Meet the Teacher Afternoon

I have written and spoken many times about the importance of a strong home-school relationship in improving student learning outcomes. The initial step to achieving this outcome is by attending the meet the teacher afternoon on Wednesday 19th of February. The meeting is held in your child’s classroom and lead by their class teacher. The teacher will discuss matters relating to learning expectations, homework, excursions, class behaviour, home-class communication procedures as well as whole school expectations and information. This is not a meeting to discuss individual students. They are held at the end of term 1. By your attendance it demonstrates to your children how importantly you value their education. More information regarding times and locations will follow next week.
Anaphylaxis - Students at Risk

Many of you would have heard of the word Anaphylaxis. If a person is anaphylactic they suffer from a very adverse allergic reaction to one or more things, the most common being nuts. In many cases this reaction may result in death.

We have several students at school who suffer from anaphylaxis. To help support and protect them while they are at school all staff must complete special training each year. From parents I ask that if at all possible to not send food to school which is made from nuts or may contain traces of nuts. Many foods that you think are nut free are not so please check the labels.

As Principal it is my duty of care to ensure a safe learning environment for all students. In this case I and the school cannot do it without the communities support in this matter.

Student Leaders Induction Assembly

To formally recognise our newly elected student leaders an induction assembly will be held on Thursday 20th February, commencing at 1.00pm in the school hall. This will be followed by an afternoon tea for the parents and or relatives of our student leaders in the community room. All community members are welcome to attend the assembly to support our new student leaders.

Captains and Prefects

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as school leaders for 2014:

Captains
Katie A  Andrew H

Vice Captains
Renae P  Ezadean A

Prefects
Erika V  Hassan S
Vivian N  George L
Victoria K  Daniel P
Sawsan K  Zaid S

School Uniform

I would like to congratulate all parents for the way the students have come back this year. They all look fantastic in their uniforms. For our new school families please remember that all students must wear our wide brimmed hat. Also all shoes need to be black or mainly black in appearance. Thank you.

B. Kunkler
Principal

Coming Events

This calendar of events will be updated in each edition of the newsletter. Dates are accurate at the time of publication but can be changed for various reasons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk 4</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>17 Feb</th>
<th>School Swimming Carnival Yrs 3 - 6</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wk 4</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>19 Feb</td>
<td>Meet the Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 4</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>20 Feb</td>
<td>Leadership Investiture Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 5</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>26 Feb</td>
<td>Scripture classes commence</td>
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</tbody>
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A term 1 calendar will be sent home as soon as possible

School Swimming Carnival

The school swimming carnival will be held on Monday 17 February at Ruth Everuss Pool Lidcombe for students in Years 3-6. A note containing full details will be sent home soon.

Scripture Classes

Scripture classes will commence on Wednesday 26 February. All students will remain with the same religious group as attended in 2013. Please see Mr Condon, Deputy Principal, if you have any concerns.

New students will receive a scripture permission note shortly.

School Canteen

Our school canteen, managed by Mrs Kazanis, will continue to provide lunches, drinks and healthy snacks at reasonable prices. All profits made by the school canteen are used to provide resources for our school and improve its facilities. To continue to do this we need parent helpers. A few hours of your time once a month would be greatly appreciated. Mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles and grandparents are welcome to help in the school canteen. There is a form attached to this newsletter. If you are able to help please complete it and return it to the school canteen as soon as possible.
Allergies

The Department of Education and Communities has recently announced that all government schools will receive a general use adrenaline autoinjector (an EpiPen) for their first aid kit. This does not replace the need for parents to continue to provide the school with an adrenaline autoinjector and ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis signed and dated by their doctor when their child has been diagnosed with anaphylaxis. Instead the general use adrenaline autoinjector is intended to be used if:

- An undiagnosed student has an anaphylactic reaction at school
- There is a misfire of the adrenaline autoinjector that has been prescribed for a student
- A student requires further adrenaline autoinjector to be administered after his or her own adrenaline autoinjector has been administered.

Please contact the school if you would like further information in relation to this matter.

Mobile Phones

A reminder about students and mobile phones. If a student brings a mobile phone to school the following rules apply:

- The phone is not to be used during school hours, that is, from entry onto school grounds to exit out of school grounds after 3.00 pm;
- The phone is to be kept in the child’s bag throughout the school day and must be turned off - it is not to be carried by the student, particularly during lunch and recess;
- The phone is the responsibility of the child. The school does not take responsibility if the phone is lost, damaged or stolen;
- Children are not to use the phone camera to take photos of other students or staff;
- If a child is found to be carrying or using a phone during school hours the phone will be confiscated and kept by the Principal.

The phone can be collected by parents only.

Office Hours

Office hours are 8.30am – 3.00pm. To ensure that you receive an answer to your enquiries, please visit or telephone the office staff between these hours.

School Banking is coming soon!

Every child must eventually learn that Mum and Dad are not the bank! The good news is Chester Hill Public School is again participating in the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to help develop these important financial literacy skills. School Banking also includes a fantastic Rewards Program to encourage good individual savings habits. Look out for further information being sent home early this year.

School Traffic

A reminder to all parents, family and friends who drop off and collect children by car each day:

- Please be considerate of other drivers, residents and students.
- Please do not park or stop in the “NO STOPPING” zones and do not double park.
- Observe the 40K speed limit in the school zone.
- Please do not park in residents’ driveways.

Please help to keep our children safe.
Canteen helpers

Yes, I can help in the canteen (name)..............................................................
(child’s class)....................

I am available on the following days (please circle) Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri

Contact phone numbers (mob)................................................................. (home)....................................................

PLEASE RETURN TO THE CANTEEN