Dear parents and students,

Classes 2015

The beginning of every year is always the same. It takes several days for all our families to return or that we are notified that they have left the school. Our students will be placed in their 2015 classes by the end of this week. We again have had a significant increase in new enrolments which means we are only a few students short of forming a 26th class. If more students arrive over the following weeks and we are able to form a new class this will mean a further movement of some students across the school. I ask that you are understanding and supportive if this occurs.

All classes are formed with the sole intention of placing your child in their best possible learning environment. Many factors such as academic, social, work habits, application and previous class placements are taken into account by the teachers when forming classes. Though friendships are important in many instances they may hinder learning and so they are not a high priority in class formation. Once classes are formed there will be no movement among classes unless we form a new class. If your child is unhappy about their placement it is not a reason to want to change class. Again I would hope I have the support of all parents in recognising that the teachers, as educational experts, are the best people to form classes.

Finally, Mr Schou has finally succumbed to his back injuries and will be on leave to have an operation and recuperate for the first month of this term. We all wish him well.

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 18th February. Please keep this date free in your diary. 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. I understand that many families may have students spread across several grades at the same time. I suggest that you split your time between the meetings. I would also ask that if possible children are not brought to the meetings.

The times for these very informative and important meetings are:
3.15pm – 4.00pm: Year 2, Year 4, Year 6
4.15pm – 5.00pm: Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 3, Year 5

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. To support these very vulnerable students I ask that if at all possible you do 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. To help support the safety of all students parents are reminded that our school with the support of our P&C has a policy of no birthday cakes (or birthday food) being brought to school to share with other students. 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 community supporting the school in this matter.

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.
To formally recognise our newly elected 2015 student leaders an induction assembly will be held on Wednesday 18th February, commencing at 2.15pm in the school hall. This will be preceded by an afternoon tea for the parents and or relatives of our new student leaders in the community room. All community members are welcome to attend the assembly to support our new student leaders.

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as school leaders for 2015:

Captain Hillary P Gordon H
Vice Captain Amani K Arthur J
Prefects Leeanne P Noah E Madison S James L Tohi F Abdullah D Vivian W Ahmed C

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

Welcome to 2015!

Our school has been fortunate again to be granted funding to continue with the community hub program for parents and community. From early childhood programs, English courses, educational courses, migrant and refugee services and social activities; there is something for everyone in the hub.

School Readiness Program

Give your child the best start to school in 2016 through the school readiness program held in our hall. This program is open to children starting school next year along with any younger siblings and an adult. The program will start on Tuesday 10th February and will run during school term from 9am-11:30. To enrol please contact Lina on 0403433212 or 96441286.

Playgroup

Unfortunately the playgroup that usually runs on Wednesday mornings will not be run until further notice.

Diploma of Business in the hub

For those who have already enrolled, you will be contacted shortly by the course provider with a start date. If you are interested in enrolling we still have spaces available, please contact Lina on 0403433212 or 96441286 for more info.

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.
P&C Annual General Meeting

The P&C AGM will be held on Wednesday 25th February at 9am. To ensure the canteen, uniform shop, school banking and other P&C initiatives keep running it is crucial that we have a board of members elected. The current P&C members are available to support any parent willing to give up some time each term to help with running the P&C. Being a member has many benefits including gaining new skills and experience, volunteering in your child’s school and the most fun part is the social aspect where you get to meet other parents and build relationships with our school community. The P&C meets twice a term for about an hour. We hope many parents will come to our first meeting to find out what it’s all about.

Hats for students wearing hijabs

As of this term, all girls wearing the hijab/headscarf are required to wear a hat also. This is a new rule introduced into all schools in NSW. Hats can be purchased from the uniform shop.

Canteen

Our updated canteen pricelist has been sent with this newsletter.

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop will be open all week 2 from 8:30-11:30 and will resume normal trading hours from week 3 on Thursdays from 8:30-9:30 and Fridays 8:30-11:30.

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.

Student banking will resume on Friday 6th February.

Importance of Breakfast

Breakfast-the most important meal of the day! But did you know that one in four children in Australia skips breakfast? At school, a hungry child can lose concentration in class, have no energy for playtime and snack on unhealthy foods, such as chips or biscuits. A calm healthy breakfast every day is the best defence against this happening. It also helps children to get into good habits that they can carry through life.

Breakfast Ideas:

Breakfast can include all sorts of options: cereals, bread, fruit, dairy products and meats. Quick and easy ideas include:
- cereal with milk, fruit or yoghurt
- Wholegrain toast, with a little polyunsaturated or monounsaturated margarine (not butter), fruit spreads or sliced banana.
- Fresh fruit with yoghurt
- Fruit smoothies made with fresh fruit.

For more ideas visit [www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au](http://www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au)

Keep up to date with what is on at our school by liking the Chester Hill Public School Facebook page

Find us on Facebook!

School Swimming Carnival

The school swimming carnival will be held on Monday 23 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 25 February. All students will remain with the same religious group as attended in 2014. Please see Mr Condon, Deputy Principal, if you have any concerns.

New students will receive a scripture permission note shortly.
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.

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 below, if you are able to help please complete it and return it to the school canteen as soon as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Canteen helpers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, I can help in the canteen (name).........................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(child’s class).......................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am available on the following days (please circle) Mon  Tues  Wed  Thurs  Fri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact phone numbers (mob)......................................................... (home).........................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLEASE RETURN TO THE CANTEEN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Permission to publish photographs

As part of the Department of Education and Communities child protection policy, permission must be provided by parents and guardians for the publication and public display of photos and videos of school students outside of school. A permission note will be sent home for students in Years 1-6 once students have been placed in their new classes for 2015. Please read the note carefully and return it to school by Friday 20 February. If the note is not returned by this date, we will assume that full permission is given.

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.