Dear parents and students,

**Classes 2016**

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 were placed in their 2016 classes at the end of last week and so the new academic year begins. We again have had a significant increase in new enrolments which means we were able to form a 26th class.

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 and executive 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.

**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 24th February. Please keep this date free in your diary. The meeting is held in your child's classroom and led 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. Those meetings (parent / teacher interviews) are held at the end of term 1. By your attendance at the Meet the Teacher afternoon 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 6, Year 4, Year 2
- 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 communities support of 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.
Student Leaders Induction Assembly

To formally recognise our newly elected 2016 student leaders an induction assembly will be held on Thursday 25th February, commencing at 2.10pm 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 2016:

Captain Sussan H TK C
Vice Captain Kylie H Isaac M
Prefects Nadia C Jason P
Yoona L Matthew L
Rachael D Dominic E
Natalia K Ibrahim E

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 2016!

Our school has been fortunate to be granted funding to continue with the community hub program for parents and community. This year hub programs will include:

- early childhood programs
- parent workshops
- parenting programs
- cultural cooking
- health, wellbeing and fitness programs
- English classes
- Adult education courses
- Job skills workshops and more.
- Hub drop in and lots more!!

You can find out about hub programs through notes sent home, this newsletter and on the school Facebook page. Please note that the sms communication we have used in the past years will not be continuing in 2016.

Welcome Breakfast for Parents & Carers

Parents and carers are invited to the community hub for a welcome breakfast. This event will aim to bring our school community together and you will have the opportunity to meet members of our parents and citizens association. They will be available to talk about their roles on the committee and answer any questions you may have. The breakfast will be held from 9-10am on Tuesday 16th February. Please bring a plate of breakfast to share with everyone. Your little ones are welcome to join.

English Conversation Classes for Parents & Carers

English classes will commence in the hub this week, starting on Thursday 11th February. The classes will run all term from 1-3pm every Thursday afternoon. To enrol or for more information contact Lina on 0403 433 212

School Swimming Carnival

The school swimming carnival will be held on Wednesday 17 February at Granville Swimming Centre, Enid Ave, Granville for students in Years 3-6.
A note containing full details has been sent home.
School Readiness Program

Give your child the best start to school in 2017 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 9th February and will run during school term from 9am-12pm. To enrol please contact Lina on 0403433212 or 96441286.

P&C Annual General Meeting

The P&C AGM will be held on Wednesday 24th 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.

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 commenced on Friday 5 February.

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

Find us on Facebook!

Bounce Back

This year we are continuing to implement a new program into our classrooms, called BOUNCE BACK!

The BOUNCE BACK! Wellbeing and Resilience Program teaches children the skills and attitudes to help them become more resilient.

The unit we are teaching now is called ‘SCHOOL RULES AND VALUES’.

Following school rules is extremely important for students in school. When students follow school rules it can lead to staying safe and focused. When students are focused they are more able to learn.

Now that students have settled into classes for 2016, their teachers will be explicitly teaching our school rules and how to follow them. It is expected that all students at Chester Hill Public School follow our school rules and students are encouraged and rewarded through our Rewards system. All teachers within the classroom and on the playground will be looking for students who are following our rules.

In this week’s lesson the students will be concentrating on being kind and polite. There are many ways you can be kind at polite at school:

- Say please and thank you
- Greet someone with a smile
- Help someone to do something
- Listening to friends about their feelings
- Invite a friend to join in a game
- Let a teacher know if something is happening
- Cheer up a friend
- Ask someone if they are ok
- Comfort a friend and say I understand how they feel

Next week’s lesson is ‘Be Fair’

Our School Rules

Be Safe
Be Kind
Be Polite
Be Fair
Be Honest
Be Tidy
Scripture Classes

Scripture classes will commence on Wednesday 24 February. All students will remain with the same religious group as attended in 2015. 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 below, if you are able to help please complete it and return it to the school canteen as soon as possible.

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.

Speech & Drama

Get The Best Results

Drama Public Speaking
Trinity Exams Pronunciation
ESOL Eisteddfod Comp’s.
Speaking Skills Gain Confidence

Ms. Davis: 87104554 : 0435 517 217

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

ORAL HEALTH SERVICES
FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS

IT’S FREE!

Dental treatment for children under 18 years of age is free at NSW Public Dental Health Clinics.

CALL TODAY

Clinic Locations:
BANKSTOWN | NORTHERN BEACHES | INGLEBURN
LIVERPOOL | NARELLEN | ROSEMEADOW | YAGOONA
PHONE (02) 9293 3333
BOWRAL AND TAMMOR Phone 1300 559 393

Quality education in a caring learning environment