

Charlestown South PS Newsletter

Monday 14 September
2020



Education



Upcoming Diary Dates

Cross Country Friday 18 September
Jump Rope For Heart Fundraiser Friday 25 September
Last day of term 25 September
Students return to school Monday 12 October
Morisset Camp Stage 2 & 3 Outdoor Experience Day Thursday 22 October

An Excellent Result!

Congratulations to all of our Charlestown South community on the recent Public Education Foundation Minister's and Secretary's School Excellence Award. As we understand, the number of nominations were quite significant and the Minister selected 5 primary and 5 high schools to be recognised via the Foundation. Well done Team CSPS and on to the next challenge!

The Write Thing To Do

Over the past few weeks many of our primary aged students have busily been working at school and at home on their own story ready to submit the final draft on Thursday of week 10 in the Inaugural CSPS Narrative Story Writing competition. The format and regulations have been distributed and there will be a prize for the winners of each grade division. Remember there is no *write* or wrong answer ... but just a wonderful opportunity to improve and explore our writing skills. It is hoped that all entries will be able to be collated and made into a book as a P&C Fundraiser. We are currently researching this possibility to see if it is financially viable.

Phoning Home

This week we commence our Year 1 through to Year 6 parent/teacher phone interviews after bookings have been made via our School Interviews Online platform. Notes home, Skoolbag Alert sent, a Facebook post as well as email, hopefully gave everyone the opportunity to book in. This year, unlike previous years, is a little bit different of course it is! Each phone interview will be 10 minutes with our teachers conducting back to back interviews at a time so please be ready to receive your call as per booking time. We appreciate that some may require extra time and if you do so, please email the teacher or call the office to make an extra appointment.

Despite No Travel, We're Going Cross Country!

Finally an event we can run literally! This Friday we will run our annual Cross Country events as per usual at school. This year we will run in age groups for primary and grade groups for infants. Every other year we have combined the 8s and 9s together as per the zone, regional and state carnivals so as we can identify competitors at school to move through to representation level. However, there is no Cross Country at a representational level in 2020 so we have streamlined our event accordingly. **Unfortunately, we are unable to invite parents to be part of this event due to the Covid-19 restrictions.**

Students are reminded to bring a drink bottle to school each day -
the school bubblers remain closed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Thank you.



Give Late Enrollers A Push

As we confirm all of our kinders for next year, please give a gentle reminder to neighbours, family and friends if they happen to have forgotten to enrol for next year given the craziness of 2020. A quick call to the office will let them know the next step.

We're Going Camping Almost!

The bad news no Stage 2 or 3 overnight camps for 2020. The good news we have secured a one day booking for all of Years 3 to 6 at Morisset Outdoor Education Centre on Thursday 22nd October. We will head out early morning and all students will enjoy three different outdoor activities which may include canoeing, high ropes, flying fox, archery, giant swing and more! We will be the only school onsite and have the run of the camp. We will head out at 7.45am with students supplied with morning tea, lunch and an afternoon snack before arriving back exhausted but happy at 3.45pm. Notes were sent home outlining the event last week.

And the Survey Said???

Thank you everyone for not throwing things at us as we ask you to consider once again completing another short survey. As many are aware, all NSW public schools are currently working on the development of their next 4 Year School Improvement Plan. As part of that process as we analyse 'where we are at', we would like to get some feedback from parents and carers. The survey is quite focused as we look at academic achievement and growth rather than a broad 'school life' type survey. As a staff, we have spent six hours together over two afternoon after-school sessions in the last few weeks analysing various aspects relating to student attainment and growth. We have looked at a variety of elements including assessment data, evidence based research papers, current teaching practices, measuring ourselves against the School Excellence Framework, as well as looking at some in-house student/staff surveys. This important time of 'looking inward and outward' will help significantly as we plan ahead and 'look forward'. You can help us do that by completing the 5 minute survey by following our link to: <https://forms.gle/KEDYF5xqEFGR7XmJ8> . The survey will remain open until this Friday.

Skippy on Parade

Skippy the bush kangaroo may possibly have been spotted in our Nature Play area recently by an imaginative kinder student, but the spirit of 'Skip' will most definitely be bouncing at CSPS on the final Friday of term at our *Jump Rope For Heart* SRC fundraiser. Miss Garland, the CSPS Queen of Rope, has coordinated a superb day and we will twirl and spin our way to raising a heart-warming monetary donation for the Heart Foundation. Don't forget your bounciest shoes and a gold coin!

Lowes Help Us Scale The Height!

Our Uniform Review Committee will meet once more this Thursday to continue the uniform option process. Our Week 7 meeting, which included the attendance of the Lowes School Wear Coordinator, did help clarify and guide us in many ways as she presented a variety of options, styles and materials and discussed what had worked and what hadn't worked at other schools. The cost factor, supply, and availability were all things touched on and her attendance at this week's meeting again will help to move us forward. Once this meeting has been held, we will distribute an update to all of our community to report on progress.

Prime Real Estate Wanted!

Can we ask our community to keep their ear to the ground in your street and notify us if you hear of houses coming up to rent. We have a few of our families desperate to stay in the area but due to sales of homes they currently rent, they may be forced to move some distance from CSPS due to availability of properties at this time.

Mr J's Free Parenting Tip

Social media is like the highlights reel of people's lives. Moments captured show children who are good-looking, joyful, thoughtful and high-achieving. You rarely see posts about families' low moments, their underlying struggles, their frustrations. It seems like other people have the perfect families! Don't be fooled by the social media highlights reel. Everyone has a story which would surprise you if you knew it fully. Share in their joys and achievements but never feel your family is any less important, successful or valuable.

Principal's Award

Term 3 Week 6

Grace J



Principal's Award

Term 3 Week 7

Niamh M



Principal's Award

Term 3 Week 8

Alfie C



P and C Report

P and C Meetings continue to be held via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Fundraising

Due to Covid-19 restrictions our ability to fundraise has been significantly affected in 2020. Thank you to all the families who have supported our fundraising events this year. If you have an idea for a socially distanced fundraising event, suggestions are always welcome! Contact Cheryl in the office and one of the P and C members will be in touch.

We have recently contributed \$500 for the purchase of Year 6 Farewell gifts.

Canteen

Several of our volunteers have had to step down due to work commitments so we're looking for new helpers. If you can spare a few hours once a week, once a fortnight, once a month or once a term please leave your contact details with Cheryl at the office. Our canteen has been our major fundraiser this year and with your support we can continue to offer this great service to our kids.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 27 October - Zoom details will be emailed to all parents.

Diary Dates

September

- Fri 18 Cross Country - sorry no parent spectators this year, due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- Fri 25 Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser - more details to follow.
- Fri 25 Last day of Term 3.

October

- Mon 12 Students return for Term 4 - no Staff Development Day this term.**
- Thu 22 Morisset Outdoor Education day trip - Years 3 to 6. Leave school at 7.45am.
- Tue 27 P and C Meeting 7.00pm.
- Wed 28 Book Week Celebrations and Book Fair - more details to follow.

November

- Tue 24 P and C Meeting 7.00pm

December

- Tue 1 Year 6 Whitebridge High School Transition Day - more details to follow
- Mon 7 Year 6 Farewell - more details to follow.
- Thu 10 Presentation Day - more details to follow.
- Wed 16 Last day of school for students.

**** Please note these end of year events may be subject to change due to future COVID-19 restrictions and Department of Education guidelines.****

January 2021

- Wed 27 Staff Development Day - no students
- Thu 28 Students return for Term 1 - Years 1-6
- Thu 28 - Tue 2 Kindergarten completing Best Start Assessment

February

- Wed 3 Kindergarten students commence



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Charlestown South Public School
Kristin Hadley-Helleur
0487391245
kristinhadley@gmail.com