

Charlestown South PS

Newsletter

Monday 12 October 2020



Education



Upcoming Diary Dates

Thursday 22 October - Morisset Camp Stage 2 & 3 Outdoor Experience Day

Tuesday 27 October - P and C Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday 28 October - Book Week Celebrations

Covid Update

As we commence the final term of a year that can only be described as bizarre and totally unique, there has been some minor easing of current restrictions about what schools can and can't do in order to maintain a safe and healthy workplace. There are now a number of events that we can run, however, these events have restrictions imposed upon them which mostly relate to the attendance of parents and other adults at these events. This certainly is a hard pill to swallow considering our tight knit and supportive community at CSPS in which we love, foster, invite and welcome community participation.

An Update Summary

- * *Non-essential adults are still not permitted on school grounds*
- * *SRE teachers, Occupational and Speech Therapists, Music Tutors permitted*
- * *In general, avoid singing activities except in spacious and well ventilated areas*
- * *P&C to continue to meet via Zoom*
- * *Weekend and afternoon community use of facilities may continue*
- * *Assemblies still only 15 minutes*
- * *Physical distancing not required for students*
- * *Schools should limit the number of staff in common spaces and staffrooms*
- * *Staff Professional Development should not be conducted face to face with external providers unless a mandatory face to face demonstration is required for certification*
- * *Schools are not required to conduct widespread temperature checks*
- * *Any staff member or student who wishes to wear a mask is able to do so*
- * *Kinder Orientation can proceed with strict guidelines. (Until clarification is forthcoming, we are assuming that this does not include having the mums and dads all onsite as a group for an info session, but rather refers to having the kinders only in for 90 minute Orientation sessions)*
- * *Camps and excursions can also proceed under strict guidelines*
- * *At school events - spectators, parents and carers not permitted to attend*
- * *Principals may continue to restrict, limit or prohibit activities if deemed to be contrary to the advice of the day*

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

Thank you.



Permission to Ride the Orientation Express Granted!

The great news delivered this week includes permission granted for schools to now conduct Kindergarten Orientation for the new 2021 kinder students. This week we will put together the schedule for our Orientation and be contacting parents and carers via email very soon to inform them of the process and program. It is unfortunate that parents won't be able to attend en masse as per our 'usual' parent information sessions.

Now For the Top Stories

A couple of incredibly pleasant and enjoyable days were spent during the holiday period - poolside and feet up - with endless short stories on my lap written by our enthusiastic primary students who entered our Term 3 Writing Competition. What a delight it was to read so many entries that had taken on board so many of the literary devices they had learnt during writing warm ups and genre writing lessons. Stories were awash with special challenge words and vocab picked up during warm ups not to mention the metaphors, similes, onomatopoeia and the embracing of the characters' senses to describe the surrounding and story setting. If it is economically feasible, our aim is to have all of the stories published in a '2020 CSPA Story Writing Booklet' and made available for sale as a P&C Fundraiser. A huge thank you to QBD Books at Charlestown Square who generously donated some beautiful book series for our grade winners. Selecting winners was nigh on impossible but I will finalise these later this week as I make a final decision on the top 3 stories in each grade.

Please Remind the Late Enroller

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. The good news just through from the Director that he is happy to support the attendance of siblings commencing kinder who live out of zone but already have older siblings enrolled at CSPA.

We're Going Camping Almost!

Other scheduled overnight excursions may have been scrubbed from the calendar, but we have managed to secure a one full day visit to Morisset Camp for Stage 2 & 3 for an Outdoor Experience Day on Thursday 22 October. Bear Grylls here we come! Payment is due tomorrow Tuesday 13 October 2020, thank you.

Pick Up Parking Poised to Please

With the extension of our main staff carpark, we expect pick up time to be far smoother than ever before on Patricia Ave. All staff who are still onsite at 3pm each day will now be able to park onsite, therefore leaving up to 10 extra parking spaces on Patricia Ave for parents to utilise which will lower congestion and heighten traffic flow. Thank you for your patience as we worked with many department officials over many, many months in order to see this happen. A reminder that the carpark is for staff only and is not to be used as a pedestrian walkway by parents or students at any time.

Our Hearts Skipped a Beat!

Well done to our SRC and Year 6 Peer Group Leaders who played a key role in our Term 3 final day *Jump Rope For Heart* fundraiser. At the end of the day we raised \$346 for the Heart Foundation. A big thank you to Miss Kate Garland for the many weeks of planning and preparation. There is absolutely no doubt despite the interruptions of Term 2, that we have skipped far more in the last few weeks than at any other time this year!

Canteen News

Fruit Cups are back!

\$2 each - please order them in the morning at the Canteen.

Each cup contains a selection of fresh fruit cut into bite-sized chunks.



Despite Covid Closures, We Successfully Crossed Country!

Friday of Week 9 saw us successfully complete our Cross Country Carnival which was postponed from Term 1. Perfect weather conditions for long distance running saw some stellar performances from students right from Kinder to Year 6. A couple of quite notable runs came from Hudson J who covered the 3km course at breakneck speed as did our champion long distance champ 'The Red Flash' Lacy B who didn't seem to raise a sweat despite lapping most athletes both female and male in the 11 year event. The event that had all onlookers mesmerised and enthralled was the 10 Year Girls. Ella S and Elise M ran shoulder to shoulder and pushed each other to the absolute limit over 2km almost at full speed for the duration of the race. In the end Ella prevailed by a short half head after the camera was called for in a photo finish. Congrats to all and a special congratulations to Wentworth House who held the House Trophy aloft after the points had been tallied.

Age Champions 2020

K - boys	Alfie C	Will S	Harrison J
K - girls	Ruby W	Carlie S	Elaine W
Year 1 - boys	Jonah P	Oliver S	Kyran V
Year 1 - girls	Phoebe S	Marnie S	Angelina G
Year 2 - boys	Rio S	Jensen W	Jett S
Year 2 - girls	Charlotte J	Pippa R	Imogen G
9 years - boys	Joel D	Braxtan M	Ethan H
9 years - girls	Isabella H	Sophie A	Maddison C
10 years - boys	Harry F	Zayne R	Lachlan M
10 years - girls	Ella S	Elise M	Ashlee H
11 years - boys	Hudson J	Jacob T	Oliver F
11 years - girls	Lacy B	Lulu F	Sierra M
12 years - boys	Michael R	Aiden W	Reegan D
12 years - girls	Emma S	Sunny R	Tiana B

Parent/Carer School Planning Survey Feedback

Thank you to the families that completed our Term 3 School Plan Survey. The results will sit alongside our staff and student surveys and other elements of our situational analysis as we continue to formulate the composition of our next 4 Year School Improvement Plan.

And the survey said

- Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of the education my child receives at CSPS. (78% Strongly Agree, 22% Agree)
- The school has an excellent teaching staff who deliver quality education (67% Strongly Agree, 33% Agree)
- I am proud of the school my child attends (78% Strongly Agree, 19% Agree, 3% Unsure)
- I would recommend CSPS to other parents who are seeking a quality education for their child. (78% Strongly Agree, 15% Agree, 4% Unsure, 3% Disagree)
- My child enjoys school (67% Strongly Agree, 30% Agree, 3% Disagree)
- It is evident that my child is progressing academically (60% Strongly Agree, 37% Agree, 3% Disagree)
- The leadership team at CSSP set high expectations around academic growth (67% Strongly Agree, 33% Agree)
- The Home Reading Program assists in reinforcing reading skills and therefore, should remain as part of the CSPS Leading Program (67% Strongly Agree, 26% Agree, 7% Unsure)
- My child is a consistent reader at home (48% Strongly Agree, 48% Agree, 4% Unsure)
- The Earlybird Reading Program is a positive initiative to assist with reading development (48% Strongly Agree, 48% Agree, 4% Unsure)
- I believe that the Explicit Instruction method of teaching and the daily Literacy, Maths and Writing Warm Ups help my child's learning. (78% Strongly Agree, 19% Agree, 3% Unsure)
- I believe that CSPS should continue to grow and further develop the Explicit Instruction approach to teaching and learning. (71% Strongly Agree, 22% Agree, 7% Unsure)
- There is a good balance of literacy, numeracy and other subjects represented at CSPS. (45% Strongly Agree, 41% Agree, 11% Unsure, 3% Disagree)
- I would be interested in attending a workshop which would focus on further supporting my child at home with reading and maths? (Yes – 74%, No – 26%)

Mr J's Free Parenting Tip

Keep the fruit flowing following each Friday! The daily school day mid-morning fruit break has proven to be one of the very best initiatives in promoting fruit eating for kids. There is hardly a single child from Year 6 right down to Kinder who doesn't partake Monday through Friday in devouring a healthy piece of fruit. Can I encourage all to keep this tradition flowing over the weekend? I am amazed at how many teenagers state they don't eat much fruit at all which is reflective of the variety of fast foods available to them for just a few dollars. I think if we compared the afternoon 'snack' of a 2020 teenager to that of a 1963 teen, we might just see far more plastic wrapping! If we can keep the fruit eating habit rolling right through to high schooling years, the chances of healthier choices being made by our kids increases dramatically.

Principal's Award
Term 3 Week 9
Abby F



Principal's Award
Term 3 Week 10
Isaac T



Diary Dates

October

- 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

Notes were sent home today for the Mango Fundraiser. Orders and money are due back to the Office by Monday 26 October at 9.00am. As this is a P and C Fundraiser, we accept **cash only - no POP payments**. The delivery is scheduled for Week 8, commencing Monday 30 November and a Skoolbag notice will be sent with all the collection details.



Thank you for your continued support of the P and C Fundraising this year.

Uniform Review Committee Update

Throughout Term 3, I have had the unique experience of chairing the Uniform Review Committee to review the current Charlestown South Public School uniform, with the specific goal of ensuring that our uniform is updated to better meet the needs of our female students. Our hardworking committee was recruited by Mr Johnson and P&C President, Mr Craig Barnes, and is comprised of school staff, P&C parent representatives and our 2020 school captains and vice captains.

As a committee we have been strongly led by the results of the uniform survey conducted by Mr Johnson in early Term 3. The results of this survey showed overwhelmingly that while CSPS parents are relatively happy with the boys' uniform, the girls' uniform absolutely required review which is also in line with the new Department Policy.

Our committee established a suggestion box to gather additional information from families and staff and we have carefully reviewed every single piece of feedback submitted by our school community. While some families expressed a desire to have a singular, gender neutral uniform for all students, this was not supported by the majority of the school community. Instead, our parent survey showed specifically that families wanted to retain the current tunic for girls, but also wanted female students to have an additional option involving pants for summer and winter. This view was clearly echoed by staff and in our survey of the female students in our Primary years. It was however, expressed by the school community that less difference in the uniforms for boys and girls would be very welcome and the committee feels that moving in this direction will better meet the needs of our diverse and inclusive school community.

Based on our research to date, our committee have decided to present the following recommendations to Mr Johnson;

- The current girls' tunic should be retained, but girls should be provided with additional separates options for both summer and winter so that they can wear pants.
- The current boys' uniform should also be reviewed so that there is less difference between girls' and boys' uniforms.
- Ideally, the committee would like for students to have a selection of navy pants options to be worn with a shirt.
- Gender should remain a consideration in terms of providing pants and shirt options that comfortably suit male and female body types as this is an especially important consideration in Primary years, but students should be able to choose the option that they feel best suits them.

The committee is now engaged in a voting process to determine the selection of pants and shirt options that they feel will best suit the needs of our students. Our key considerations are that our uniform provides comfort, durability and cost effectiveness and allows our students to fully engage in learning and play activities while also maintaining the high standard of uniform for which Charlestown South Public School is now known.

We look forward to providing you with further information once our committee voting process is completed in the next fortnight. Our uniform selection will then be submitted to Mr Johnson and his executive team who will make the final decision.

Mrs Elise Mountford