

# Charlestown South PS

## Newsletter

Monday 25 October 2021



Education

### ***Some Upcoming Dates for Key Events***

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November - Year 6 Mini Fete

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November - Colour Fun Run

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November - Book Week Costume Day & Book Fair

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November - Commencement of 2-week Swimming Program for Kinder to Year 3

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December - Presentation Day onsite at CSPS as per 2020

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December - Year 6 Farewell at Club Charlestown

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Primary Pool Day, Valentine

### ***Welcome Back EVERYONE!!***

If you're not just a tad excited today then you need to check your pulse for a heartbeat! How absolutely thrilled and relieved we were this morning as our CSPS kids from Kinder right through to Year 6 streamed through the gates. Watching kids greet each other like long lost siblings was such a delight and so heart-warming to experience.

Parents ..... well done! Take a breath, forget schoolwork for a moment and grab a cuppa. It's our turn again. Be encouraged that even in just one week of Kinder and Year 1 being on deck here at school, they have made up so much ground already. I sat and watched KW go through a Literacy Warm Up last Friday and was amazed at how much they have retained. They were buzzing!

Let's now hope that the rest of the term runs smoothly and we can enjoy being back at school and hopefully, also enjoy some of the events planned for later in the term.

### ***Term 4 Covid Update***

Last Friday an email was sent to all families as well as Skoolbag Post outlining the current school guidelines as we commence operating under the Level 3+ restrictions. Please refer to these communications which will no doubt answer many of the questions if you have them about our Covid practices as we return to face-to-face learning at school. Should there be a case onsite at CSPS, we have a complete response plan in place that will fly into action within moments. Once again, please refer to the communications of last Friday for a more comprehensive explanation

### ***Kinder Zoom in to CSPS***

Despite all NSW Schools not being allowed yet to conduct onsite Kindergarten Orientation meetings, we will gather remotely via Zoom tomorrow night (Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October) with all of 2022 Kinder parents to welcome them and pass on some information to assist with the transition of their children to school next year.

## ***Holiday Hysteria!***

During the second week of the school holidays, two of our staff members received some incredible news! Given the growth of our school, we were forced to immediately fill at least one of our vacant teaching positions, which put into jeopardy the employment of some of our temporary staff (despite some being here for years!) The Department allows schools to have their own 'Local Choice' via interview for every second teaching appointment, but every other appointment is appointed centrally by the Department of Education Staffing Unit, with no school input. During the holidays we were notified that Mr Tom Collins, a new graduate teacher, had been appointed to CSPA and will commence on the first day of 2022. Last week Tom visited us at CSPA and made an amazing impression from the moment he walked through our doors. He studied and completed a degree in clinical psychology before realising that teaching was his passion and calling. All who met Tom during his 3 hour visit had the feeling that he fitted into the CSPA culture seamlessly.

..... And now for the really GOOD news!

At the start of Term 3, the NSW Staffing agreement opened a new opportunity, valid for the next six months only. For the first time ever, schools were permitted to permanently appoint a long term temporary teacher who had been in the school in a 'fulltime' capacity for a minimum of three years, as long as the school's next teaching position was a Local Choice. After many days of negotiation with the Staffing Unit, CSPA was permitted to offer two positions as we had two teachers who met the necessary criteria.

Massive congratulations to Mrs Amber Woodward and Mrs Renay Butler who can now say they are permanent teachers at CSPA! To say that we were all just that bit excited and even shed a few tears, is not an exaggeration. To finally be able to secure two quite amazingly talented teachers as CSPA permanents is beyond good news.

## ***Open For Business Friday Only***

Our Canteen will be operational from this Friday for lunch orders only. We will be open on our regular days starting next week (Week 5) Thursday and Friday. For now there will be no over the counter service for students during lunchtime. Cass Small has her canteen volunteer roster ready to go but would also love a few more volunteers for spots later in the term so as we can maintain the 2 days open per week. This is the perfect way to get to know people and all new volunteers are on 'light duties' just to get the feel for the morning procedures. Commitment is just for a couple of hours with all done and dusted at 11am! Please note, Canteen Volunteers are required to be double-vaccinated.

## ***Principal Awards Locked Down***

As well as slamming shut the doors of schools in NSW, so too the COVID lockdown shut the lid on the Principal Award Certificates folder that was ready to be opened on the following Friday. Despite being unable to conduct whole school assemblies, I was able to present certificates to the award winners in front of their class buddies. Our overdue Principal Awards go to Isabella H, Anneliese K & Jensen W for their dedication, citizenship and their contribution to making CSPA a better place.



### ***Put Your Costumes On!***

Even though lockdown has forced the cancellation of almost every event, we cannot complete the year without dressing up for a Book Parade! On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November we will exchange our uniforms for a costume that reflects this year's theme 'Old World, New World, Other Worlds'. It certainly leaves it wide open for the imagination and creative juices. Students are asked to dress up as a character from a book that is from the past or historical significance (old worlds); futuristic, unusual phenomena (new worlds); fantasy, creatures (other worlds). Start planning now, everyone! Whether or not we are able to have parents, relatives and friends attend is highly doubtful unless the restrictions change suddenly. However, our aim is to live stream the event to you using a secure platform.

A Book Fair will still be held in the library after the parade. Students will be able to purchase a book/books. Prices of books will vary between \$10 and \$30 and during that week students will have the opportunity to view the books in the library. Mrs Stoppini will send a 'wish list option' home with your child. Books can be purchased on the day of the parade, using cash or the online payment option. The payment receipt option must be returned on the day of the parade.

### ***Testing Times***

If your child has entered for one or more of the ICAS Tests, please be advised that these tests will be held over the next few weeks. We were able to conduct the Writing Test online via Zoom as the cut-off date was set prior to return. However, the following tests will be conducted on the following dates:

Spelling – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November

Digitech & Science – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Maths – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November

English – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November

### ***Hard To Bank On This One***

Due to the recent ruling by ASIC, school banking will no longer be able to continue in NSW Schools from 2022. We thank those many volunteers over the years that have counted the coins over the years and watched so many of our kids accounts accrue cash during their school years. Many a bike has been purchased with these hard earned and saved funds.

### ***Mr J's Free Parenting Tip – Edition 14, 2021***

Don't play Monopoly with all the family when everyone is over tired! This tip can save you months of tension and apologies!

Remember, there is no need for parents and carers to sign-in if they are picking up or dropping off students. If you do come into the school grounds, please keep your visit brief, practise social distancing and wear a mask, thank you.



## Diary Dates

### November

- Thu 11 Book Week Costume Day and Book Fair.  
Tue 16 P and C Meeting - Zoom details to follow.  
Wed 17 Mini Fete - more details to follow closer to the date.  
Fri 19 School Fun Run Crazy Colour Day.  
Mon 22 - Fri 3 Dec Intensive Swimming Program years K-3.

### December

- Tue 7 Presentation Day - details to follow closer to the date.  
Thu 9 Year 6 Farewell - details to follow closer to the date.  
Tue 14 Primary Party Day - details to follow closer to the date.  
Thu 16 Last day of term for students.

### January 2022

- Mon 28 and Tue 31 Staff Development days - no students in attendance.

### February

- Tue 1 Students return Years 1-6.  
Tue 1 - Fri 4 Best Start Interviews for Kindergarten 2022 - appointment times will be sent out later this year.  
Mon 7 First day of Kindergarten.  
Fri 11 Swimming Carnival.

