

# Charlestown South PS

## Newsletter

Monday 6 December

2021



Education



### ***Some Upcoming Dates For Key Events***

Monday 6 December - Presentation Day onsite at CSPA

Tuesday 7 December - Industrial Action by teachers - minimal supervision for students

Wednesday 8 December - Gold Day In

Thursday 9 December - Year 6 Farewell at Club Charlestown

Tuesday 14 December - Primary Water Activity Day, Valentine; K-2 Activity Day at school

Thursday 16 December - Last day of the year for students

### **2022**

Friday 28 January - Staff Development Day 1

Monday 31 January - Staff Development Day 2

Tuesday 1 February - Students Years 1-6 return

Monday 7 February - Kindergarten commences

Friday 11 February - Swimming Carnival

Wednesday 9 February - Gymnastics program starts

### ***The Year That Was ... We Think!***

Lockdowns, Learning from Home, to job or not to job, Zoom Meetings, Wellbeing Wednesdays, mask wearing, check ins, 11am meetings with Gladys ... were just some of the abnormal occurrences that became the new norm in 2021. Charlestown South students had every excuse to neglect their learning. However, in true CSPA spirit, the opposite prevailed! A combination of parent persistence, teacher tenacity and student dedication, saw their learning soar beyond expectation. Upon returning to the classroom in Week 4, the expectation was that teachers would have to head 'backwards' to regain some momentum before attacking new learning. Only a few hours into the first day it became delightfully apparent that a stagnation of learning had not generally occurred. Students, especially Kinders, had forged ahead with their reading.

The all-important NAPLAN results, whereby a school is judged by those in higher places in the Department of Education, were once again in 2021 quite amazing. In a list published in the Newcastle Herald during 2019, Charlestown South was the highest performing school in the entire Hunter Region including all of the public, private and catholic schools, achieving across Years 3 and 5 an average score of 526 in the 5 disciplines tested. Our average score this year was 535, which is almost 10 points higher than 2019. I suspect once again that had it been published this year, CSPA would have appeared very close to, if not on top of that Hunter Region list of schools. Congratulations, everyone, for a truly amazing achievement and one of which you should all be extremely proud.

As Principal of Charlestown South, I do get great pleasure from our academic achievements and milestones, but this pleasure is surpassed by the multiple daily demonstrations of great character displayed by our students and the lovely manner in which they treat each other. The way they include each other and also keep a constant eye out for those that need a helping hand both inside and outside of their classrooms is noticeable. This year we have a handful of students join our school community from other schools and even countries, and I love the way our children accepted them from the very first moment and make them feel part of CSPA. I recall a parent of a new student earlier in the year saying that the other students in their class had 'killed them with kindness' and their child had returned home on the very first day far less anxious and far more welcomed than they thought was possible.

It is those moments that bring the greatest pleasure to all of the staff at CSPA. Being part of a real community like this is what makes a great school and not so much a set of NAPLAN results. The manner in which our students respect their friends, classmates, younger students, older students and the adults is a huge credit to their parents and significant adults in their lives.

This year I have received calls from more than 20 other public and private schools; schools as far up the valley such as Greta and Lochinvar; Central Coast schools such as Gorokan, Budgewoi, Bluehaven and The Entrance; Sydney schools such as Richmond North, Yagoona, Gympie Bay and Sackville; country schools such as Gilgandra, Deniliquin and even interstate schools such as Ipswich Boys Grammar in Queensland. They have all heard of the amazing students and teachers at Charlestown South Public and ask if they can come and see what goes on here. Congratulations to every single person involved in making Charlestown South Public School an exceptional place to belong to and a leading model for others.

### ***An Almost Perfect Presentation Day***

Despite dearly missing our parents onsite at our Presentation Day this morning, proceedings went beautifully to plan with the weather being extremely kind to us for our outdoor event. It was such a delight to hear our Year 6 members of the Concert Band finally get an opportunity to play together and entertain the masses at our celebration of learning. Our four highly skilled and adept school leaders in Lacy Barnes, San Cox, Niamh Maguire and Josh Freeman, did themselves proud in conducting the proceedings for our school community. A huge congratulations to all of our 66 class book award recipients and the many students who received individual academic, citizenship, service and sporting awards for their efforts in 2021. I was extremely proud of the manner in which the 100s of students who didn't receive an award this year applauded and celebrated the success of their friends, peers and classmates. The comradery and amazing ability to genuinely celebrate the success of others makes the students of CSPA very special. A full list of our award winners for 2021 appears later in this newsletter.

### ***Things Went Swimmingly!***

After 10 back to back days of intensive swimming lessons for Kinder through to Year 3, we are amazed at the progress. Can I encourage all parents if possible and necessary, to head to Charlestown Pool and book in for summer swimming lessons to reinforce the incredible gains made by our younger students in the pool? We had several students incredibly fearful and in the 'non swimmer' category. However, by the end of the 2 weeks, every one of them were jumping in independently, kicking along with a board with their face in the water and mastering their 'big arms' freestyle. Now is definitely the time to keep this going! A massive thank you to all staff members, including our prac teachers, who jumped in the pool each and every day to assist the swimming instructors. This was most certainly one of the reasons for the massive progress with our non-swimmers who can now call themselves swimmers!

### ***We'd Love Your Pre-loveds!***

One of the great legacies than many Year 6 students leave behind, is their pre-loved uniforms! If you do have shorts, tunics, shirts, trousers, jackets, hats etc, rather than making polishing rags for the commodore, consider donating them as spares and second-hand options for our CSPA families. Simply pop them in a bag and send them into the school office and we will magically do the rest!

### ***Our Cooks Voted Best Ever!***

Thank you to our team of parents and staff members who gave up part of their Saturday to run our local Election Day BBQ. Eggs and bacon were flying off the grill in order to keep voters happy as they pondered over their selections for Mayor and Councillors. All funds raised will head toward our outdoor learning space and yarning circle that we plan to install adjacent to the Stage 3 classrooms early in 2022.

### ***Absolutely Outstanding!***

Just a quick reminder to check your emails to see if you have received an email from our office in regard to outstanding fees. The fee statement was distributed back in February and has obviously just slipped off the radar for a few. We do try and keep costs to a minimum throughout the year for everyone, but we do need seek payment for certain programs in order for our students to have all the access and tools they need for optimum learning.

### ***Mr J's Free Parenting Tip – Edition 18, 2021***

This one I have mentioned previously a few years ago in my parenting tips, but with holidays fast approaching it's worth another 'ponder'. Are you able to set your default response to "yes" instead of "no"? As parents, it's an interesting exercise to tally up our replies to our children over the course of a day to questions they ask that need a yes or no response. Not always, but often we say no far more than we say yes. Mum/Dad, can we go to the beach .... sleep outside .... make a mud pie .... cook a cake .... walk to the shop and get an ice cream .... go on a train somewhere .... have a movie night .... build a cubby house .... go fishing .... get a gold fish.... have a water fight ..... "no, not today, maybe another time ..." As parents (or is it just me?) most often we say "No, not right now etc etc" before we stop to consider if it's actually a possibility or even a really great idea! Many times, it could actually be a "Yes!" After all, most of the time the children have to do what mums or dads want to do! So sometimes, why not do what they want to do? Whenever we are doing what we like, and allowed to make choices about what we do, we tend to be happier and far more content and there isn't a parent on the planet that doesn't want happy and content kids. Of course we don't say yes to everything! If I had, back in the 90s, my 5 year son would have driven himself in the car to the shop each day! He would have never worn shoes right up until this day! He would have still been in the swimming pool at midnight all summer and had his Nan's spaghetti bolognaise for breakfast, lunch and dinner 7 days a week!

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your resilience this year and, on behalf of the CSPA staff, wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and well-deserved rest!

Principal's Award  
Term 4 Week 8  
Tahlia W



Principal's Award  
Term 4 Week 9  
Sierra M



### Diary Dates

#### December

- Mon 6            Presentation Day.
- Wed 8            Gold Day In.
- Thu 9            Whitebridge High School  
Orientation day.
- Thu 9            Year 6 Farewell.
- Tue 14           Primary Activity Day.
- Tue 14           Infants Activity Day - held here at  
school.
- Thu 16           Last day of term for students.

Merry Christmas from  
the Office ladies!



#### January 2022

- Fri 28 and Mon 31        Staff Development days - no students in attendance.
- Mon 31 - Wed 2 Feb       Best Start Kindergarten Interviews - appointments sent home  
last week at Transition visit.

#### February

- Tue 1            Students return Years 1-6.
- Mon 7            First day of Kindergarten.
- Wed 9            Gymnastics program commences.
- Fri 11            Swimming Carnival.

Advance notice - The additional specialised sporting gymnastics program will run in Term 1 for eight weeks at a cost of \$45 per student. Permission notes will be sent home in week one of next term.

## Presentation Day Award Winners

### Class Awards - KH

Academic Achievement - Charles Bevan

Academic Achievement - Ivan Su

Academic Achievement - Pippa Wilson

Academic Achievement - Lachlan Dunn

Consistent Effort, Application & Achievement - Isla Newell

Consistent Effort, Application & Achievement - Daniel Pickering

### Class Awards - KW

Academic Achievement - Harrison Sager

Academic Achievement - Levi Johnstone

Consistent Application & Effort - Isla Snowden

Consistent Enthusiasm & Effort - Matilda Grainger

Consistent Application & Effort - Ella S

Class Citizenship - Lulu Phillips

### Class Awards - 1F

Academic Achievement - Liam Arthur

Academic Achievement - Elaine Wu

Outstanding Academic Progress - Ava-Jane Rowley

Consistent Effort, Enthusiasm & Application - Alfie C

Consistent Effort, Enthusiasm & Application - Ruby Winchcombe

Class Citizenship - Patrick Gardoll

### Class Awards - 1L

Academic Achievement - Matej Jovanovski

Academic Achievement - Anneliese Kurian

Academic Achievement - Callum M

Academic Achievement - Macy Moore

Academic Achievement - Piper Wheatley

Consistent Effort, Enthusiasm & Application - Monroe Jeffrey

## Presentation Day Award Winners

### Class Awards - 2-3K

Outstanding Achievement in Mathematics - Kyran van Dam

Consistent Effort & Application - Muhammad Minhas

Consistent Effort & Application - Mila Perry

Achievement in English - Khloe Arthur

Outstanding Improvement in Reading - Kayden Neilson

Class Citizenship - Marnie Steele

### Class Awards - 2-3M

Consistent Application & Effort - Jasmine Ward

Consistent Application & Effort - Emily Vogue-Percy

Academic Achievement - Nicholas Kim

Outstanding Improvement in Reading - Abbie Jeffes

Consistent Effort & Application - Evelyn Price

Class Citizenship - Natalie Dyet

### Class Awards - 3-4C

Academic Achievement - Rio Streatfield

Academic Achievement - Evelyn Stone

Academic Achievement in Numeracy - Zach T

Academic Achievement in Numeracy - Purnota Hasnat

Consistent Effort & Application - Kelly Chen

Class Citizenship - Evie Cox

### Class Awards - 3-4K

Academic Achievement in Numeracy - Parthib Hasnat

Academic Achievement in Literacy - Isaiah Aunei Mose

Outstanding Academic Achievement in all KLAs - Pippa Rufford

Outstanding Academic Achievement in all KLAs - Joel Dyet

Most Improved Effort & Application - Brendan Ward

Class Citizenship - Layla Klinkenberg

## Presentation Day Award Winners

### Class Awards - 5-6B

Academic Achievement -Tahlia Wilson

Academic Achievement - Lana Gagovski

Outstanding Academic Improvement - Emily C

Consistent Effort & Enthusiasm - Hamish Beer

Consistent Application & Effort - Alyssa Ridgeway Layzell

Consistent Application & Effort - Lexi Barker

### Class Awards - 5-6G

Academic Achievement - Neve Boettcher

Academic Achievement - Ruby Apps

Consistent Effort & Application - Lily Callagher

Consistent Application & Effort - Kayla Sandford

Academic Achievement - Jacob Thomas

Class Citizenship - Charlotte B

### Class Awards - 5-6S

Consistent Effort, Application & Enthusiasm - Rosie Price

Consistent Effort, Application & Enthusiasm - Ella Streatfeild

Consistent Effort, Application & Enthusiasm - Jett Hughes

Outstanding Academic Progress - Lachlan McDonald

Outstanding Academic Progress in Mathematics - Lulu Frame

Outstanding Academic Progress - Lacy Barnes

## Presentation Day Award Winners

Dux of the School - Heba Ali Minhas

Stage 3 School Citizen of the Year - Lacy Barnes

Michael Golledge Memorial Award - Alexander Fisher

Robyn Waller Memorial Award - Samuel Cox

Stage 2 Community Involvement Award - Maddison Chicken

CSPS Writing Award Stage 3 - Ariana Campise and Niamh Maguire

Information Technology Award - Luke Ward

Library Award - Luke Ward

Band Person of the Year - Coen Preston

Most Improved Instrumentalist - Ellie Johnstone

HopeUC Scholarship - Lilly Till and Denni Crawford

Consistent Effort in Debating - Sienna Hardy

Excellence in Debating - Ariana Campise

Premier's Sporting Medal - Zali Hunter

Sportsman of the Year - Jacob Thomas

Sportswoman of the Year - Lacy Barnes

Sporting Blue Award Swimming - Kyran van Dam

Sporting Blue Award Cross Country - Lacy Barnes

Sporting Blue Award Cross Country - Charlotte James

Sporting Blue Award Golf - Lachlan McDonald

Swimming Junior Girl Champion - Aurora Arthur

Swimming Junior Boy Champion - Kyran van Dam

Swimming 11 Year Girl Champion - Neve Boettcher

Swimming 11 Year Boy Champion - Costa de Haan

Swimming Senior Girl Champion - Zali Hunter

Swimming Senior Boy Champion - Jacob Thomas

Athletics 10 Years Girl Champion - Lana O'Reilly

Athletics 10 Years Boy champion - Joel Dyet

Athletics 11 Years Girl Champion - Ella Streatfeild

Athletics 11 Years Boy Champion - Harrison Watts

Athletics Senior Girl Champion - Lacy Barnes

Athletics Senior Boy Champion - Jacob Thomas