

Charlestown South PS

Newsletter

Tuesday 10 August 2021



Education

Term 3 Covid Update

Congratulations CSPS community for the seamless transition to Learning From Home. Our hope is that the current Level 4 School Restrictions will be lifted come Thursday midnight which would see our students back at school in their classrooms with their classmates. If not, we will cope and move forward as we always do. The current booklets, along with the tasks set on Google Classroom, will keep our kids learning and we will respond according to whatever the next few weeks looks like. We will continue to keep everyone updated as things change via our Skoolbag App, Facebook page, direct email and Newsletters. Students should keep logging in to their Google Classroom to check on communication from their teachers. Activities, hard copy or online, are the same for all 'buddy' classes. Meaning that 3-4C and 3-4K have the same activities just as 2-3M and 2-3K have the same.

A huge pat on the back to our amazing staff who went into Learning from Home mode 0.24 seconds after Gladys gave her 11am address last Thursday. The work they do over the next week and possibly beyond making sure there is no hiccup in our learning cycle, I already know will be extensive and with great thought and planning.

This period of interruption can also be an opportunity to check in with others to see if they are OK or need anything. Just a simple communication sometimes is all it takes for others to know that they are thought of and cared for and can make all the difference to one's day. Don't forget to remind the kids to check in with each other too. It is important for our children as well to still feel a sense of connection. It was once said, how wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

No Vacancy

A huge congratulations to Mrs Louise Sutton on being appointed to the vacant Assistant Principal role at CSPS. We became eligible for a third Assistant Principal at the start of 2020 after maintaining student numbers over 241 for a 12 month period. Our local school Director allowed us to fill this position in a 'relieving' capacity for 2020 and the role would be filled by the Department Staffing Unit once the year ended. Every second staffing appointment to a school is made by Central Appointment which essentially gives the school no say on who is appointed to the school. However, we have been incredibly fortunate in our timing as we decided to notify the Staffing Unit that we were releasing the vacant position at the end of Term 2. We were notified at this time that there were no Assistant Principal 'matches' across NSW and we could therefore, commence a 'Local Choice' option and advertise the position or simply wait until a suitable person became available and 'matched' with CSPS. We chose the former and posted the ad via the Department platform.

We had 14 incredible applicants who were all required to submit a comprehensive application addressing 9 different areas of criteria. From the applications, 4 candidates progressed to the interview stage of the process. To compliment the applications and interviews, each applicant listed 3 individual referees most of whom were contacted by the panel team to support the application. The process does require many hours of sacrifice from the panel members and we thank them all for their expertise and professionalism. The panel consisted of a community member (Craig Barnes our P&C President), a staff member (Kate Garland was elected by our staff), an Aboriginal Education Consultative Group representative (Roselea Newburn), an Assistant Principal from another school who is appointed by the local Director (this was Steve Kelly from Dudley PS) and CSPS School Principal, me (Colin Johnson).

Up For The Count??

Each Monday a tribe of future investors and money moguls aged between 5 and 12, pop into the office to hand in their school banking. For the past 20 or more years we have had many a faithful mum or dad put their hand up for a 12-month period to process the kid's bank books. This usually takes a little under an hour. The more counters we have, the less weeks on the roster. This year we thank mums Julie Banyard, Marg Ward and Michelle Barnes for always being up for the count. With Julie and Michelle moving on to high school next year (not actually them but you know what I mean) so please consider joining the banker ranks for 2022. If you do need more info or have questions, please ask our friendly office ladies. The pay isn't great but you will know which kids to go to for a loan if you're short one week!

Reading With Mr J

Every second year I attempt to read with every child in our school starting with the older students and head off on my journey finally ending with kinder. With 2 classes down and 9 to go, the fact that our kids are such good readers is so encouraging, yet not the most exciting thing. That comes when I ask kids if they love reading. So far, 47 out of 53 have said incredibly enthusiastically, "yes!". At least the other 6 said "yes, sometimes" or "it depends what I'm reading." If kids love reading by the time they arrive in Year 6, it is highly likely that this will always be the case. How do you get them there, read on to this week's parenting tip

Kinder Enrolment Reminder

Just in case it's slipped your mind and you do have a kindergarten aged child for 2022, please enrol asap as very soon we will be commencing our Kinder Orientation activities. Please remind your neighbours with kinder kids too!

Put Your Costumes On!

Even though this event may have to be pushed back a few weeks, it is never too early to start thinking of what costume to create for our Annual Book Week Parade. In Week 6, Thursday August 19, 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, I'm sure will become clearer over the next few weeks.

A Book Fair will still be held in the library. It will be held after the parade. Students will be able to purchase a book/books. Prices of books will vary between \$10 and \$30 and during this 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.

We are hoping to add photographs and prices to either our website or Skoolbag so parents can see what's on offer at the Book Fair... we will keep you posted.

Date Change Hunter Athletics

Parents of our 15 super athletes who have made it through to the Hunter Regional Carnival, please note that the date has been moved from Week 6 to Tuesday September 14 in Week 10.

Testing Times

Please note that if your child has entered for one or more of the ICAS Tests, these will be held over until Term 4 due to the current Covid interruptions.

Something Borrowed – From Mrs Stoppini in the Library

Despite the lock down, borrowing of hard copy books is available from the Library. Books can be borrowed by going through the student portal. On the left-hand side of the home-screen is a tab called 'Oliver Library'. Click on the tab. It will take you to the library home-screen. Search for a book and click on the title. On the next page, click the reserve tab on the left side. Alternatively, books can be requested by clicking on 'add to basket'. Back on the homepage, click on basket. Books added to the basket will be displayed. One of the tabs will say 'request'. Follow the links and I should get an email. Green tick indicates the book is available. Books can be collected outside the office on a Tuesday. Books will be wiped before collection and after returning. A grey tub will be next to the table for book returns.

Audiobooks can also be borrowed. Students can only borrow one book at a time. Type audiobooks on the homepage of Oliver library. A list of audiobooks are displayed. Click on title. On the next page there is a tab that says 'borrow audiobook'. Click on tab, click on sign in and listen to the book. To return audiobooks, on library homepage (right corner), click orbit. Click on 'My library', click on 'loans'. The borrowed audiobook is listed under 'ebook loans'.

Please do not hesitate to email me if you have any queries.

M. Stoppini

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Mr J's Free Parenting Tip – Edition 13, 2021

Are our children ever too young to be read to? No! Are they ever too old to be read to? No! It is extremely rare for parents not to read to their very little ones but it isn't unusual for this to come to a grinding halt once they reach around Year 3. Yet, this is an extremely crucial age as their ability and capacity to follow a longer novel over a number of weeks and to connect to the story and the characters escalates dramatically. Nearly every single child that says to me that they love reading, also states that they love looking forward to what happens next in a lengthier story. They seem to really enjoy the 'wait' as the tale unfolds. However, in many children this transition needs some assistance. Adults reading to them aloud, especially books that the child personally relate to and enjoy, pushes them so much closer to the destination of 'I love reading'!

A few weeks ago I hid in the Newsletter a famous quote from a famous book. Great job CSPS dad Milton Hasnat in being first to identify 'The Tale of Two Cities' by Charles Dickens. Will you be the one to find the famous quote from a famous book in this week's Newsletter? Let me know if you find it!

Principal's Award
Term 3 Week 3
Nyra S



Principal's Award
Term 3 Week 4
Charlotte J



Diary Dates

August

- Thu 19 Book Week Parade - **pending Covid restrictions.**
- Mon 23 Stage 1 Hunter Valley Zoo trip - **pending Covid restrictions.**
- Tue 24 P and C Meeting 7pm in the Staff room - **pending Covid restrictions.**
- Thu 26 Matter of Seconds program Years K, 3 & 6 - **pending Covid restrictions.**
- Thu 26 & Fri 27 Kindergarten 2022 Interviews - **pending Covid restrictions.**

September

- Thu 2 Fathers Day Stall - **pending Covid restrictions.**
- Tue 14 Newcastle Permanent Maths Competition - Stage 3 - **pending Covid restrictions.**
- Thu 16 Charlestown Cup - **pending Covid restrictions.**

October

- Mon 11 ICAS Digi Tech, ICAS Science
- Wed 13 ICAS Writing
- Mon 18 ICAS Spelling, ICAS English
- Wed 20 ICAS Maths

