

Newsletter

Monday 25 March 2024



Charlestown South
Public School



Education



Naruta
Blue tongue lizard

The next 3 weeks at a glance

Week 9

Mon - Choral fest practice, Scripture

Tues - Peer Support

Wed - NAPLAN - Gymnastics, Connection BBQ

Thu - P and C Hot Cross Bun Breakfast, Easter Hat Parade, Gymnastics.

Fri - Good Friday

Week 10 Parent Interviews 3-4S and 3-4K

Mon - Easter Monday

Tue - Peer Support

Wed & Thu - Gymnastics

Fri - Cross Country Carnival, Concert Band, Sport, Student Assembly

Week 11 Parent Interviews 3-4S, 3-4K, 5-6B and 5-6K

Mon - Choral fest practice, Scripture

Tue - Combined Schools ANZAC Service - Year 5 & 6

Fri - Concert Band, Sport, Assembly

Awabakal

Word of the Week

Week 9

yalawala
sit

Week 10

mubayila
shhh!

New Principal - Mr Tim Sparke's visit to CSPS

Mr Tim Sparke made the trip up from Sydney and visited CSPS last Wednesday. His warmth, leadership and dedication has already made a positive impact on us all. Mr Sparke took the time to connect with our students and staff, demonstrating his genuine interest in getting to know our school community. Throughout the day Mr Sparke witnessed first hand our explicit instruction teaching methods, the high expectations in each classroom, the passion for learning of our students and the positive atmosphere that defines our Charlestown South PS family. Thank you to our wonderful students, dedicated staff and supportive parents for welcoming Mr Sparke to CSPS. He will commence as Principal from Term 2 Week 1.



Attendance - Every Day Counts!

Every day, we witness the positive impact that regular attendance has on our learning environment. When everyone is on deck, our classrooms are buzzing with energy, creativity, and enthusiasm for learning. Each smiling face contributes warmth, kindness and friendship to the vibrant tapestry of our CSPS family. Thank you for instilling the value of education and the importance of showing up ready to learn into your children. Your partnership plays a crucial role in creating a positive school culture where every student feels valued, supported, and inspired to succeed.

	Above 95%
	Expected Attendance
	90%-95%
	Minimum Standard
	Below 90%
	Educationally at Risk

Class	Week 7	Class	Week 8
★ KF	100.00 %	★ KF	100.00 %
1J	98.18%	★ KH	100.00 %
KH	97.50 %	★ 5/6K	98.46%
★ 3/4S	96.43 %	1J	98.18%
1WD	96.36%	2M	96.15%
2/3G	95.20 %	3-4K	94.62%
4/5D	95.00 %	3/4S	94.29%
2M	94.62 %	2/3G	92.80%
3-4K	94.62 %	4/5D	91.67 %
5/6K	94.62%	1WD	90.91%
5/6B	93.08 %	5/6B	87.69%

No Parking in the Staff Car Park

We understand that parking can sometimes be challenging, especially during busy periods. However, recently there have been 2 incidents where CSPS students were almost hit by parents' cars backing up in our staff car park. We kindly remind all members of our school community that the staff car park is designated for staff use only. Allowing parents to park in this area creates safety hazards for children. Parents can use nearby street parking on Patricia Avenue or Gari Street when dropping off/picking up or visiting the school or before/after hours OOSH. Gari Street parking provides closer access to OOSH (near the 'Rosella' gate). Following the NSW DOE protocols for staff car parks and keeping children safe, students are not allowed to enter or leave a school through a staff car park. The gate will remain closed and students will no longer be allowed to use the Staff Car park as a pedestrian thoroughfare. We understand this isn't always convenient, but it is a small price to pay for keeping each student at CSPS safe. Please discuss with your children about not entering or leaving school through the staff car park, thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Congratulations CSPS!

Research confirms that students who experience explicit teaching practices make greater learning gains than those who don't. Last Friday the Secretary of NSW Department of Education, Murat Dizdar, attended the Effective & Systematic Teaching Network of Schools who are working together to improve the explicit teaching practice. Elise Mountford was one of the presenters on the day and had the chance to share the Charlestown South Journey and successes in front of a packed audience. Well done Elise and CSPS in leading the way!



We Need to Talk! Parent Teacher Interviews

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all parents who have attended or are attending the parent-teacher interviews. It was wonderful to see so many families taking an active interest in their child's education and progress. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity for teachers and parents to work together to support our students' academic and personal growth. The feedback we received from parents has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing gratitude for the dedication and care shown by our teachers. We hope to continue fostering a strong partnership between home and school.

We always aim for 100% attendance at these meetings. If you couldn't book an appointment because of work hours, please contact the school office via email to make an alternative arrangement.

Upcoming Parent Interviews

Week 10 and 11: 3/4S and 3/4K - booking details sent home soon.

Week 11: 5/6B and 5/6K - booking details emailed to parents this afternoon.

Term 2: 2/3G and 4/5D - booking details sent home soon.

Homework Survey

Thank you of our parents who have responded to the homework survey. What an impressive and overwhelming response with 135 completed surveys already. It will remain open until Friday. If you haven't had a chance and would like to contribute then here is the link.

<https://forms.office.com/r/VRGHFL46xc>

We had a Purple Patch with our Purple Day Fundraiser!

Last Friday saw CSPS hit a purple patch as we donned the colour of royalty and donated a gold coin, raising \$338 for MPS (Mucopolysaccharidosis) and the Epilepsy Foundation. Our Student Representative Council made up of students from Year 2 to

Year 6, under the guidance of Mr Kiely and Miss McLelland, were passionate and adamant that these organisations would be the recipient of these funds as they directly relate to two of our most popular and adored students, Seamus and Blake.

Cross Country Carnival

Our annual Cross Country Carnival will take place on Friday Week 10 as our students pound the ground running, sprinting, jogging and sometimes staggering around our challenging track. Our 11 and 12 year olds are required to cover 3km and the 8, 9 and 10 year olds just a mere 2kms! These distances are in line with the zone event which will take place next term. This is a low-key event run at school with our student body as the main audience. Parents are welcome to come and watch. You will need to bring your own chair and there will be a section of the backfield near Gari Street allocated to parents. The plan is for our primary classes to commence not long after the morning bell and our K-2 classes will circle the oval a few times after the lunch break finishes at 12noon.

Our Athletics Carnival is set to take place on Wednesday, May 22nd, at Baxter Field in Marks Point. This year marks an exciting first as we welcome twenty Year 10 students from Whitebridge High to help facilitate various events throughout the day. These students, pursuing sport coaching, are fulfilling a requirement of 70 hours of work placement in a sports coaching environment. It presents a fantastic opportunity for them to engage with their local Wiyellai Koa (WCoS) community while contributing to the success of our event.

🎵🎵🎵 *Grab Your Easter Bonnet, with all the Frills Upon It* 🎵🎵🎵

This Thursday March 28th, our infants will cast off their CSPS hats and adorn themselves with crafty headwear that will no doubt be the envy of all the world's greatest fashion designers! Our K-2 students have created their marvellous masterpieces in class as part of their arts and craft lessons and will parade them proudly for parents and friends. Everyone is welcome to attend and we will commence the parade just after 9am under our COLA area. The P and C will also draw the Easter raffle at this event, so don't forget to get your tickets!

Inclusive Athletics Day



Congratulations Kyah E on her recent participation in the Inclusive Athletics Day. She competed in lots of events including the 50m, 70m, 90m sprints, the relay, long jump, shot put, discus and vortex. We are certain she slept very well that night. What an inspirational student Kyah is with her 'have a go' attitude and she represented our school with pride! Well done Kyah!



Hunter Mountain Biking Championships

Why did the mountain biker bring a map on their ride? Because they wanted to stay on track and avoid getting 'wheel-y' lost! Last Friday we had 8 students from CSPS compete in the Hunter Mountain Biking Championships. Although many of these students were competing for the first time, they put in a terrific effort in muddy and slippery conditions. Isla N, Harry N, Pippa W, Willa S, Abel S, Halle M, Lou M and Danny R all showed excellent sportsmanship and cheered each other on (and everyone else) along the way! Congratulations to Isla N who finished 1st in the Funduro event and 3rd in the Cross Country (XC). Our school team finished 9th for the Cross Country (XC) event and 8th for the Funduro event out of 60 primary schools. From the photos it looks to have been a very inspiring and successful day!



Hunter Regional PSSA Swimming Carnival 2024

Kyran V received 2 Gold Medals in 50m Freestyle and Backstroke, 1 Silver Medal in 50m Butterfly and a Bronze Medal in the All Age 100m Freestyle. He has qualified for the PSSA NSW State Carnival in those 4 events and also finished 5th in the 200m Individual Medley and 5th in the 50m Breaststroke. Congratulations to Kyran who was awarded Male Swimmer of the Regional Swimming Carnival. In addition our Junior Boys' Relay Team finished 3rd fastest in the Hunter and have qualified as well. Our Senior Girls Relay Team swam hard against some very tough competition and finished in 8th place.



Road Safety Rules

Our school aims to establish a safe and secure learning environment for our students to excel. Ensuring road safety around schools remains a top priority. Kindly refrain from stopping in the middle of the road for drop-off or pick-up purposes, or to engage in conversation. Such actions are not only illegal but also pose serious risks to the safety of our children as they enter or exit school premises.

Playground Off Limits to Students after 3.00pm

From 3-6pm, our school grounds are hired out to the Victory OOSH (Out of School Hours) program. During this time, students are not permitted to utilise the playground equipment or play on the school grounds. We kindly ask that you pick up your children promptly at 3pm and then exit the school grounds reminding them to stay off the playground equipment. You and your children are welcome to use the school grounds on the weekends when we encourage you to use our facilities.



Diary Dates

March

Tue 26	Book Club Orders close.
Thu 28	Easter Hat parade - from 9.10am under the COLA.
Fri 29 - Mon 1	Easter Weekend.

April

Fri 5	Cross country carnival.
Tues 9	Combined Schools' ANZAC Ceremony, Civic Theatre - Year 5 & 6.
Fri 12	Last day of Term 1.
Mon 29	Staff Development day - staff only, no students to attend.
Tue 30	Students return for Term 2..

May

Thu 9	Mother's Day Stall.
Fri 10	Mother's Day Breakfast - more details to follow.
Tue 14	P and C Meeting - 7pm in the Staff room.
Wed 22	Athletics Carnival - Baxter Field, Marks Point.

Buying new football boots for the upcoming season? We'd love to have your old ones please... especially sizes 13 to 5. They will be used by our school football teams. Please bring them into the Office, thank you.



CSPS P&C FUNDRAISER:

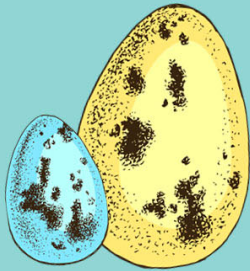


EASTER RAFFLE

and more!

Thursday 28th March

Fundraising activities at the CSPS Easter Parade:



NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS!

Please hand raffle donations
into the office by **Monday 25th**

- **WIN a bundle in the
Easter Prize raffle!**

Buy your tickets online
or on the morning
(cash/card)

- **\$2 Guessing competition**

**CHARLESTOWN SOUTH
PUBLIC SCHOOL**

P&C

MORE INFO & ORDER NOW:

cspspc.square.site

Thank you for your continued support.



We are pleased to advise that a new edition of this valuable safety resource is now available online with updated safety content.

We urge you to download the latest edition and discuss the safety content with your children.

Available to read at www.childsafetyhub.com.au

Or download the FREE Child Safety Handbook App



Special thanks to our supporters:



eSafety Commissioner



When My Child Won't Listen

One of the most common complaints I hear from parents about their children is that, “The kids just won’t listen.” But guess what. They are listening. They’re just not complying! You’ll typically find that a handful of standard answers permeate the Internet and parenting advice books when it comes to this topic. Let’s acknowledge them first, because they can be helpful.

1. Keep it simple

Short sentences are easier to process than long lectures. Keep your statements and requests simple, clear, and direct.

2. Get on your child's level

Making eye contact, smiling, and ensuring your child has heard you always improves the likelihood that your child will act.

3. Repeat it back

Ask your child to tell you what you told them. If you ask them to pick up the wet towels from the bathroom floor and they’re not responsive, ask them, “What did I say just then?” and wait for them to tell you.

4. Speak more quietly

Speaking louder (yelling) won’t draw them to you and it’s unlikely to encourage them to want to listen to you. Try speaking softly. They’ll open their ears, lean in, and listen carefully.

5. Gentle touch

A soft touch on the arm, a squeeze or a hug, or an arm across the shoulder... These gentle touches can be enough to act as a circuit-breaker so your child can pay attention to what you’re asking and help move things along.

6. Drop the don't

Say what you want. If you tell your child what not to do (such as “don’t hit the stick against the wall”) it requires more effort on the part of your child to redirect their energies. Now they have to stop doing the thing that’s bothering you and think of something to do instead.

7. Find a way to say “yes”

When you have to say “no”, spin it into a “yes”. If you’re asked, “Can we stay at the park longer?” you can say, “You bet. We’ll have a longer stay at the park on the weekend when we come back with your friends.” If they plead, “Can we please have ice-cream”, respond with “You sure love ice-cream. We’ll have ice-cream on Friday night with our movie like always.” Your yes is usually going to be a “not now,” but if you phrase it right, it goes down a treat.

If we want to be even better parents, the five suggestions in this next section will help us take it to a whole new level:

The fancier answers

1. Keep it simple

When you ask your child to do something, consider the connection. Connection means feeling seen, heard, and valued. Do your children feel like you see them as more than a convenient way to get something done? Trying to command without connection – like yelling between rooms – is a lousy way to have your kids pay attention and usually won't lead to anything resembling compliance. (It's not realistic to expect that you'll "connect" every time something needs doing. But maybe we can connect more than we currently are)?

2. Timing

If your child is in the middle of something their listening and compliance will be way down. This doesn't mean we shouldn't ask our children to be involved in helping when they're doing something. That's not realistic. But when we're sensitive to their priorities, things go better. Consider statements like, "When that episode is done, please turn off the tv."

3. Capability

We expect too little of our children physically and we expect too much of our children emotionally. Demanding they "calm down" or "stop it" might be more than they can manage. But asking them to clear the table will typically not be too much. Consider their developmental capability, emotionally and physically, before issuing edicts.

4. Context

Your child might be perfectly capable of going to bed on time most nights, but on a sleepover night (or some other major event), the context changes. Demanding perfect behaviour at a funeral might make sense and be a sign of respect, but if they're grieving and confused, or if all of their cousins are there and they're excited, we might need to adjust our expectations. Requiring our children to listen to us the same way in every context is to expect our children to act like robots. Be mindful of context.

5. Gentle reminders

Call your child by name. Look at them and quietly remind them of the issue that's requiring focus. The fewer words you use the better. Two is ideal. For example, "Your bedroom," "Your stinky socks," "The dishes," and so on. Say please, and smile kindly.

The advanced answers

There are even better answers, but space won't allow me to describe them here. You can find the entire list in my brand new book, *The Parenting Revolution*. As a sneak peek, remember to be involved with your children when they have something to do. Be patient and give them a chance to act before cajoling them again, make it fun, and consider how much connection is happening compared to correction and direction. Lastly, remember it's totally reasonable and acceptable for parents to expect their kids to help out around the house. These ideas (and the extras in my book) will help change the game.



AUTHOR

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Dr Justin Coulson is a dad to 6 daughters and grandfather to 1 granddaughter. He is the parenting expert and co-host of Channel Nine's Parental Guidance, and he and his wife host Australia's #1 podcast for parents and family: The Happy Families Podcast. He has written 9 books about families and parenting. For further details visit happyfamilies.com.au.

