



Drawbridge

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Drawbridge

Volume 11 24 July 2015

Principal's Message

Special points of interest:

- Student Attendance Policy
- Concert Band News
- Sport News
- P & C News
- Year 12 Trial Examinations
- Student Voice
- BYO Device

Student voice

Sarah O'Dowd, Year 12 student and Vice-Captain, has been invited to give an address at the Women In Educational Leadership (WIEL) annual conference to be held at Darling Harbour in August. Sarah will speak just before Dr Michele Bruniges, Secretary of the Department

of Education and Tara Moss, novelist, journalist and TV presenter and in front of some 300 education delegates from across the state. Sarah's incisive and penetrating views on issues regarding girls and women will, no doubt, be very well received.



Sarah O'Dowd,



Above and beyond

The staff of Castle Hill High School is relentless in their work ethic. Constantly looking for ways to give feedback and provide opportunity for students to connect more deeply with their learning, they go above and beyond.

Extra lessons, for example, are organised for students outside of teaching time including additional PDHPE revision lessons for Year 12 students before school on Thursdays, additional Maths lessons for all students after school on Wednesdays, Homework Club for ESL students on Monday after school, Biology and Chemistry tutorials at lunchtime, Film Club, Art Club..... and the list goes on.

Combine this with extra curricula activities in ethics, chess, band, sports coaching, for example and you can see that teachers are very committed and very busy.

Year 7 Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

After consultation with the community, a panel of teachers and parents met through the course of 2014 to develop a BYOD policy for Castle Hill High School, which has been successfully implemented this year. Students in Year 8 – 12 now have a capacity to connect to our network with their own specified technology. We are continuing to review the effect of the BYOD program, knowing that time for learning new applications is important, but nevertheless pleased with student uptake and teachers' determination to incorporate technology tools into lessons.

With so many users at one time, though, speed issues are currently of concern so the move to include Year 7 in the program has been forestalled, for Semester 2 this year. Investigations have suggested that the school needs to upgrade from 50 megabits to 100 megabits for all students to have appropriate access to their technology. This matter will be addressed so that in 2016 the whole school can be part of the BYOD program.

TRIAL HSC exams commence

Monday July 27

Students in Year 12 are about to commence their Trial HSC exams which will take place over a fortnight. I know that you wish them well at this demanding time in the HSC calendar.

Good food, plenty of sleep, set routines and good planning all help in managing stress. Good luck to all.

“Sometimes you just need a little hope”

I have the pleasure of working with a team of community members (ranging from police, local psychiatrists and psychologists, pastors, journalists, politicians) on the Hills Youth Suicide Task Force which aims to do “everything possible to eradicate youth suicide in the Hills”.

A forum will be held on July 31 from 9am – 2pm at St Paul’s Anglican Church where keynote speaker, Dr De Quincy Lezine, President and CEO of Prevention Communities, along with John Brogden and a panel of experts, will consider effective strategies for the prevention of youth suicide, the highest cause of death for those under 25 years of age.

This is a pressing, urgent issue, one that needs full community and political consultation and negotiation.

The school will be sending representatives from its welfare team and our P and C will be sending four of its members.

Additionally, I would like to invite parents from our school to the forum, so I have reserved ten places for any interested parents. Please would you register with Julie or Jane at our Front Office (9634 4199).

I will keep you informed of the outcomes of the forum.

Vicki Brewer

ATTENTION PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

Student Attendance Policy

The Minister for Education has approved the following changes to attendance.

As part of the implementation of the National Standards, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. **A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose.**

Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations. If travel outside of school vacation is necessary, the following considerations apply:

- If the principal **accepts** the reason for the absence, the absence will be marked as “L” and a Certificate of Extended Leave – Holiday issued. Leave must be applied for prior to departure.
- If the principal does not believe the absence is in the student’s best interests and does not accept the reason, the absence will be recorded as “A”. A Certificate of Extended Leave – Holiday **will not** be issued.
- If the period of absence is in excess of 50 days, the student may be eligible to enrol in Distance Education. See Distance Education – Revised Enrolment Procedures 2014.

Castle Hill High School notifies parent/caregivers by SMS of all whole day absences and late arrivals.

Parents/caregivers who respond to the SMS by supplying a valid explanation are not required to send in a note as the SMS explanation is saved to the attendance record for that date.

A detailed explanation for all absences from school is required. This also applies to late arrivals and early leavers.

The following reasons can not be used if your child is absent from school:

- At home studying for exams and/or assessments
- At home
- Permission to be absent/to stay at home
- Family reasons and/or commitments – A specific reason needs to be given
- With me (Parent/Caregiver)
- That you are aware of your child’s absence

The abovementioned are not valid reasons for absence and consequently will be recorded as “Unjustified Leave”

Early Departure/Late Arrival

Notes requesting special permission for your child/children to leave school early must be presented to Room 1 before school commences, when a pass will be issued. These passes have been provided by the Department of Education and Communities. Students must show the pass to their teachers to leave the class and present the pass at Room 1 to sign out of the school. Students without a pass will not be allowed to sign out. Students who leave the school grounds without a pass are regarded as being truants.

Students who are late to school are required to bring a note from their parent/carer. They should report to Room 1 for a Late Slip to hand to their teacher, before being admitted to class.

Castle Hill High School
P & C News Stand

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stay informed

Second Hand Uniforms - Do you have uniforms your child has grown out of? Uniforms in good condition are always welcomed as donations to the Uniform Shop. They can be left at the School Reception if the shop is closed.



Boys Uniform

Boys may choose to wear either Shorts or Trousers at Castle Hill High School. The uniform shop always has shorts and trousers available in all sizes. Grey Shorts and Trousers for boys in Years 7 - 10. Navy Shorts and Trousers for boys in Years 11 - 12.

Winter Uniform Price List

Girls:

Short Sleeved Blouse	\$ 40.00
Long Sleeved Blouse	\$ 45.00
Tab Tie	\$ 5.00
Royal Skirt Year 7 - 10:	\$ 65.00
Black Tights	\$ 10.00
Navy Blazer	\$130.00

Boys:

Short Sleeved Shirt:	\$ 40.00
Long Sleeved Shirt:	\$ 45.00
Grey Trousers	\$ 35.00
Grey Shorts	\$ 30.00
Navy Trousers	\$ 50.00
Navy Shorts	\$ 40.00
Navy Blazer	\$160.00

Common items:

Jumpers are available in either wool or cotton blend

size 10 - 16	\$70.00
size 18 - 24	\$75.00

Fleece Scarves	\$10.00
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Opening Hours
Monday and Friday
8.15 - 11.30am



What's Happening in the Canteen?

Castle Hill High School
P & C News Stand

*...where Parents and Community
stay informed*

CANTEEN UPDATE

The Castle Hill High School Canteen is a P&C operated canteen that prides itself in providing healthy, delicious and affordable food for all students and staff.

I think everyone probably agrees that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. A good breakfast helps with concentration, energy and general feelings of wellbeing.

Did you know that the Castle Hill High School Canteen is open for breakfast every school day from 8:15 am? These cold mornings have resulted in a surge in sales of hot chocolate (\$2) and warm, toasted banana bread (\$2.50). Toasted cheese sandwiches (\$1.50) and toasted ham and cheese sandwiches (\$2.00) have also been popular.

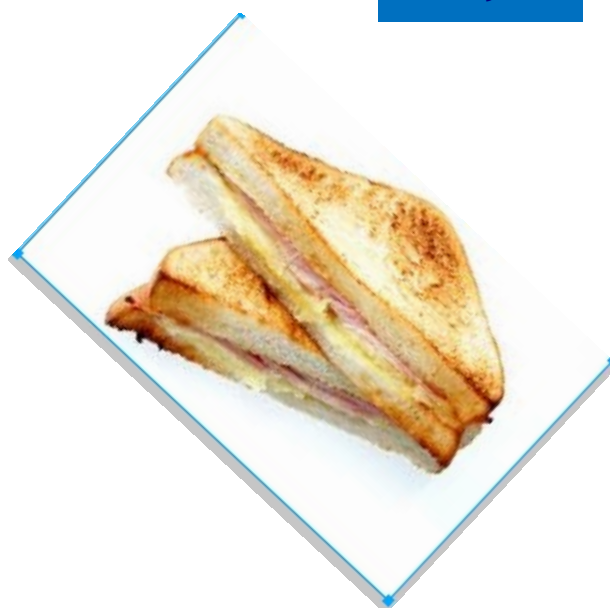
From next week, a new breakfast menu item will be available – warm, healthy muffins (bacon and cheese or apple and oats) The cost of a muffin alone will be \$1.50 but a combined meal package of hot chocolate and a muffin will sell for \$3.00 – a saving of 50c! Not a bad way to start the day.

All in the canteen would like to wish the year twelves the best of luck with their HSC trials. During this stressful time, the canteen is available to the year twelves whenever they need us. Just knock and come on in. Sometimes trial exams just don't fit into the regular canteen opening times and certainly understand this. If you are a year twelve and you need a bottle of water or you have forgotten your breakfast in your hurry to get to school, please don't hesitate to come to the canteen. We will try our best to make things just a little stressful.

Joanna Sutherland
Canteen Manager



CANTEEN NEWS



Concert Band News

On the second last day of Term 2, the CHHS Concert Band members loaded the van, boarded the bus and set out on a day trip around the local area. Their first stop was Beehive Daycare, where students performed an assortment of songs, including *Medley from Shrek* and *I Go to Rio*. The pre-schoolers and staff enthusiastically clapped along to *Mambo No. 5* and were delighted by the chance to see the instruments up close. Many took up the invitation to touch the instruments and expressed interest in learning music themselves.

The band's second destination was Ironbark Ridge Primary School, where members performed for hundreds of students. *The Music from Grease* was a hit, with children dancing in their seats and singing along to the well-known tunes. Castle Towers was the final stop for the band. Here members played through their set, including *Selections from Hairspray* and *Greatest American Hero*. A crowd gathered as passing shoppers paused to listen and tap their feet along to the beat.

Overall the band members had an enjoyable day and were pleased to see the positive response to their performances - a satisfying end to the term. Thank you to Mr Lavis for organising a thoroughly enjoyable day and to everyone else who gave up their time to provide transport and to perform with us.

Students are currently working towards their upcoming performance in the Ryde Eisteddfod and the Orange Blossom Festival. The band is always happy to accept more members (we are particularly in need of trombone players), so feel free to come by and check out practise on Wednesday afternoons in the drama room.

Mrs A Danckert



Sport News

Sydney West Cross Country

Congratulations to all the students who represented the Hills Zone at the Sydney West Cross Country Carnival. All students did an excellent job and gave it their all.

Congratulations to the following students who made the Sydney West Team:

Matilda Donkin, Georgia Garnett, Paris Hilal, Taylor Horton, Alex Organ, Zoe Petridis, Charlotte Sainsbury and Carley Thomas.

Zone Athletics

Castle Hill HS were once again named zone champions which is a fantastic achievement. The school won the carnival by over 210 points which is an amazing effort. The students did a fantastic job through being well behaved, supporting their peers and competing to the best of their ability.

Congratulations to the following students who were named age champions at the zone carnival:

Travis Donaldson, Joel Flude, Georgia Garnett and Carley Thomas.

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent the Hills Zone at the Sydney West Carnival:

Rich Amevor, Honore Anderson, Alaina Baker, Lara Bargh, Jason Barrett, Jeff Barrett, Georgia Burgess, Ryan Calvert, Hayley Chapman, Emily Clark, Kiara Costello, Matt Cottam, Travis Donaldson, Matilda Donkin, Molly Donkin, Hannah Eagleton, Kaitlyn Eagleton, Brent Flavin, Joel Flude, Georgia Garnett, Sofia Georgescu, Adam Guven, Rebecca Harris, Courtney Hemmings, Jarrod Horder, Jordan Jalalaty, Taylor Jones, Alex Kean, Bethany Kitto, Jack Lawrence, Landy Huang, Victoria Manning, Mitchell McVey, Zoe Petridis, Harrison Read, Charlotte Sainsbury, Ashley Shimmon, Sally Shokry, Eve Shvartsman, Max Shvartsman, Carley Thomas, Hayley Thorndyke, Raaya Tiko, Roshan Varatherajan, Andrew Vesperman, Matthew Vesperman, Jacob Wilkinson, Kristin Wilson, Aydin Zirh and Ethan Zirh.

Open Boys Soccer

Congratulations to the Open Boys Soccer who recently became Sydney West Regional Champions. The boys won the final at Castle Hill HS defeating Colo High School 1-0. The boys then received entry into the final 16 teams in the state which is an amazing achievement. The opponent for the final 16 match was Albury High School. The boys had to arrive at school at 5am as the team had to catch a plane to Albury for the game. The behaviour of the students was excellent, they followed all instructions and displayed a mature attitude on the day. The result of the game was a 1-0 to Castle Hill HS which is an amazing result as Albury High School were an excellent team. The game was totally dominated by the open boys as they had the majority of the possession and created quality chances. The boys won the game during extra time scoring a golden goal once again as they also did this during the regional final. The boys involved throughout the games were:

Rich Amevor, Todd Caisley, Taylor Cambaz, Lachlan Campbell, Josh Cramer, Damian Cupac, Jay Daynes, Liam Daynes, Brent Flavin, Kurt Garnett, Liam Gilchrist, Daniel Green, Oliver Harling, Connor Holmes, Divan Laubscher, Ruben Laubscher, Sohaib Mohammed, Aidan Tobin, Walter Wegmann and Ethan Zirh.

Mr T Conistis
PEHPD Faculty

CALENDAR

Term3

Week 3A

Monday 27 July	HSC Trial Examinations Education Week Year 11 English Advanced Assessment Task Due
Tuesday 28 July	HSC Trial Examinations ICAS English Competition
Wednesday 29 July	HSC Trial Examinations Assembly Years 7-11 Concert Band and small Ensembles Ryde Eisteddfod
Thursday 30 July	HSC Trial Examinations Year 11 PDHPE Students First Aid Course Australian Mathematics Competition
Friday 31 July	HSC Trial Examinations Year 11 Music 2 Assessment Task Due Year 11 Geography Assessment Task Due Year 10 G&T PBL Project Orientation Day
Saturday 1 August	HSC Practical Exam Period Commences

Week 4B

Monday 3 August	HSC Trial Examinations Year 10 English Assessment Task Due Year 10 Mathematics Assessment Task Due
Tuesday 4 August Wednesday 5 August	HSC Trial Examinations HSC Trial Examinations Year 11 Music 1 Assessment Task Due Year 11 Society & Culture Assessment Task Due Assembly Years 7-10
Thursday 6 August	Sea World Resort Hospitality Excursion HSC Trial Examinations Sea World Resort Hospitality Excursion Year 11 Drama Excursion Year CAFS Assessment Task Due
Friday 7 August	HSC Trial Examinations Sea World Resort Hospitality Excursion Year 11 Ancient History Assessment Due Jeans for Genes Day

Week 5A

Monday 10 August	HSC Trial Examinations Year 11 Design & Technology Assessment Due Year 11 Business Studies Assessment Due Year 10 Drama Assessment Due Year 10 PASS Assessment Due Year 9 Commerce Excursion
Tuesday 11 August Wednesday 12 August	Group Photo Day Year 11 ESL Assessment Due Year 11 Engineering Studies Assessment Due Year 11 Modern History Assessment Due Assembly Years 7-12
Thursday 13 August	Year 10 French Assessment Due Scripture Seminar Years 7-10
Friday 14 August	Years 11 & 12 Vaccinations Year 11 Biology Assessment Task Due Year 11 PDHPE Assessment Due

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Sunday 19th July - 9:00am to 2:00pm
 Saturday 25th July - 9:00am to 2:00pm
 Baulkham Hills Sports Club, Renown Rd, Baulkham Hills

Milo In2Cricket for 5-8 year olds - Friday nights from 6pm-7.30pm at Charles McLaughlin Reserve
 The season runs from September to December only (approx 10 weeks)

Junior Cricket

We have teams in every age group. Family discounts apply.

Under 10's (Modified rules) play on Saturday mornings 8.30am -11.00am from September to March

Under 11,12,13,14,15 & 16's play on Saturday mornings 8.30am -12pm from September to March.

Senior cricket

For age 16 & over

Senior cricket is played on Saturday afternoons 1.30pm -6.15pm from September to March.
 We normally field a minimum of 10 senior teams each year.

Junior training and grading will be held throughout August
 Senior training and grading also in August

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