



Volume 20—13 December 2019

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Principal's Message

Special points of interest:

- Library news
- P&C News
- Uniform shop opening hours

Curriculum Review

I wrote some weeks ago about a review of the NSW curriculum being chaired by Professor Geoff Masters, CEO of the Australian Council for Educational Research. This review is the first comprehensive review undertaken since 1989. In thirty years so much has changed. As the curriculum needs to reflect the changing context and needs of its learners, it is natural that a fresh analysis of it, with a view to the future and its challenges, is timely.

I am pleased to say a number of our staff are contributing by writing a submission for the review team. I'm sure you would agree that it's important for experts on the ground to have input. Any parent wishing to contribute can do so online by googling "NSW Curriculum Review".

As well, representatives from NESAs (NSW Education Standards Authority), the body that oversees the design and implementation of syllabuses, examinations, assessments etc, asked to speak with CHHS students about their views on what should be taught in schools. Twelve articulate, thoughtful Year 10s spoke for two hours with three NESAs representatives on a range of issues, including the crowded curriculum and how students like to learn. I know that the NESAs personnel were very impressed at the food for thought provided by these students.

Thank you to: Ellen Dickinson, Chelsea Pedler, Rebecca Le, Indigo Meadows, Ruby Groth, Max McGrath, Ethan Saphier, Adam Richardson, Matthew Lemon and Joshua Corradi.



Enrolments for 2020

As flagged with you on a number of occasions now, our enrolments will increase next year. I keep saying we will reach 1900 students. But I fear this is an underestimation. I suspect we will be closer to 1930!

Our next challenge for 2020 – 2021 will be the location of additional demountables. Four will be installed over this Christmas vacation with none of the student recreation areas sacrificed for this. But, after this year we will have to think differently. The challenge is: what will we sacrifice? Student playing areas or staff car parking areas? There are issues with both of these options.

Your thoughts would be appreciated. I'll certainly be discussing this with the P&C next year.

Thank you Ms Larnie Bedano, Year 8 Geography and Ms Jo Perkins – drought and fire

Ms Bedano's Year 8 Geography class has been studying the social impacts of drought on children in rural areas. Spending a lot of time researching the towns struggling, they chose Cobar Public School as a school to focus on as the bubblers in the school had to be turned off due to lack of water. With the recent closure of a mine and the subsequent loss of many jobs, our students felt an affinity for the area and students in this school.

The class wanted to do something to support the children who would be having a very different Christmas morning to themselves with families unable to provide as many gifts this year. The aim was to buy a small gift and write a note to all children in the public primary and secondary school, 411 students in total. With a goal of raising \$4110 for a \$10 gift for every student, the class has raised nearly \$12,000, almost \$20 for each student with further money still coming. Support from local businesses and gift vouchers distributed to the most needy by Cobar Lions Club, this project has been so positive for everyone concerned.

(Photos are on Page 4)

Both Castle Hill Primary School and the Hills Council have donated many thousands of dollars, with the Mayor Michelle Byrne spending time with our students at Stockland Mall, raising \$1300. Olivia Wright in Year 8 and her father Mr Ian Wright have volunteered to drive the 15hr round trip to personally deliver the gifts to Cobar Public School at their final assembly. Ian's workplace has also raised \$1000, along with paying for the hire of the van and petrol.

Students have been working tirelessly for weeks, to collect this money and to purchase 411 presents in the next few days. Many have volunteered to help with the Christmas wrapping on Thursday afternoon,

There was amazing support from the community, with many on Saturday congratulating students on this initiative at Stockland Mall.

At the same time as this, CHHS launched a school donation drive to collect supplies for local fire fighters under the coordination and watchful eye of Ms Jo Perkins, our SAM. Supplies such as eye drops, Gatorade, protein bars, water, baby wipes and the like, were delivered to South Maroota Fire Station and Glenorie Fire Station on Monday 9 December. Donations will continue to be collected from our community up until 18 December.

Can I particularly congratulate Ms Larnie Bedano and parent, Mr Ian Wright, who have been invaluable in their support and coordination of the rural project. Also, congratulations go to Ms Jo Perkins for her work in organising the drive for fire fighters.

Orientation Day

On Tuesday 3 December, we had pleasure in welcoming 340 Year 6 students who will enrol at CHHS in Year 7 2020. Expectant and excited, they had a terrific day meeting their Year Advisers, Mr Ashok and Ms Wheatley, and their peer support leaders who will mentor them for the first part of 2020.

It was an absolute pleasure to meet them and their parents. They are the graduating class of 2025!

Presentation Evening

A highlight of each year, I always love the presentation evening, a chance to celebrate with students and parents. This year the evening will be on Monday 16 December in our school auditorium at 7pm.

Higher School Certificate

The 2019 HSC will be released to students and schools on Tuesday 17 December, and this year for the first time the ATAR will be released to students and schools on the same day. As always, we will have a Year 12 BBQ the following day, Wednesday 18 December to celebrate with students.

School ends and school opens

The school year finishes for students on Wednesday 18 December.

Year 7, 11 and 12 students will return on Wednesday 29 January 2020 and Year 8, 9 and 10 students will return on Thursday 30 January 2020.

The year gone

Thank you for a terrific year. Your support has been very much appreciated.

This will be our last Drawbridge for 2019 so I take the opportunity now of wishing you a restful and therapeutic holiday period. I know that teachers are very much looking forward to some rest too.

Many of you will be thinking of others at this time of year, particularly of those who are drought affected and those in the bushfire zones. Our thoughts are definitely with these people.

Can I thank you as a community. You are such an intelligent, compassionate and friendly community, giving so much and contributing in a positive way. I'm very grateful for your ongoing support of this school and its direction.

Some holiday reading or Netflix binging for you: "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doer (a beautiful book set in Paris and St Malo, it is also an HSC English text and one that I read in France while holidaying this year) or "The Crown" on Netflix (we know the characters and story so well, of course, but it's a fascinating look at the eye-opening intrigue, behind the scenes).

Good wishes.

Vicki Brewer





Thank you Ms Larnie Bedano, Year 8 Geography and Ms Jo Perkins – drought and fire

Thank You from the Library

A BIG THANKYOU to all of the Castle Hill High school staff, students and their families for generous donations of food and gifts to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. We have been overwhelmed with the school community's response. The Salvation Army will collect this week.

We wish you all a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Mathews & Mrs Roberts



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P&C News

It is with sadness that our P&C farewell's Ingrid Waite from our executive team. Ingrid has faithfully served as president and vice president over her nine year involvement and has a great deal of insight, experience and knowledge that I need to bottle before her departure. She has been instrumental in over-hauling our business units (canteen and uniform shop) and involved in many a project. She is passionate about our school and supporting a community of engaged parents who are promoting the recreation and welfare of students in our school. Our team cannot speak highly enough of her contribution. Ingrid is not leaving our community and will still be regularly seen volunteering in our canteen flipping a burger or two.

I also have great joy in announcing that Ingrid has been confirmed as the finalist of our electorate for the P&C Federation's volunteer of the year award. The awards dinner will take place in February 2020. There are 16 electorates and the awards dinner will acknowledge the efforts of each these finalists and one will be announced as the volunteer of the year. Our P&C Association has been invited to send two financial representatives to support Ingrid at the dinner. We will be calling a special meeting in the next week of all of our financial members to determine who will attend. Please join our executive in congratulating Ingrid on her nomination and selection as a finalist. We wish you every success on the night!

The P&C executive committee would like to thank you all for your support this year both financially and in meeting attendance. It has been a year of transition, great community engagement and we are very excited for 2020 and the opportunity to bring you stage 1 of our infrastructure projects. Farwell to our year 12 parents and welcome to our year 7 ones. Have a wonderful, healthy and bright Christmas and a hugely successful & invigorating start to 2020.

Article: Spending time with kids: How much is enough?

The need to spend time with their parents differs for different kids. For some, there's no end to the time they'd spend with you. However, other kids feel differently. There's no right answer. I'm fortunate to have the flexibility that allows me to spend a great deal of time with my children. However, my nine year old daughter wants to spend more time with me. My eleven year old son, on the other hand, is content either way.

Australia ranks first

According to a recent study Australian parents rank number one among OECD countries (including most of Europe, North America, the UK and Finland) when it comes to spending time with their kids. The lion's share of this time is still invested by mums, but Australian dads are ahead of those from many other countries, averaging around 70 minutes a day with their children.

The source of misplaced parental guilt

According to research published in the Journal of Marriage and Family, not spending enough time with children is the biggest source of parental guilt in Australia.

The researchers also found that it's quality, not quantity of time children spend with parents that's important for their emotional wellbeing, achievement and behaviour for kids aged 3-11 years. The researchers concluded that volume of time doesn't matter. It's much more important how time is spent with your children when you are together. This in no way advocates for absentee parenting. It's about making the most of the family time you have and reducing feelings of stress for you if you can't be around as much as you'd like to be.

Here are some ideas to help make sure you optimise the time you spend with your kids:
Create a tradition of one-on-one time with each of your kids around an activity that you both enjoy, such as a cafe catch up over a milkshake, shooting hoops or playing a favourite board game
Read regularly to each other, as these are special times of connection, especially in bed at night
Eat meals together as a family so you can all catch up and connect – this is worth its weight in gold when it comes to quality time

Pay attention to your children, watching for cues that they're in need of extra time with you
Adolescents benefit from spending extra time with their parents. Through interactions with their parents teenagers can learn to make better decisions about their health, improve their academic achievement and experience better wellbeing

Take an interest in their interests. Connect with your children through the activities that they value such as music, sport or games, even if they aren't hobbies you don't normally enjoy. Your kids will appreciate you making the effort and will respond accordingly

Be present when you're with your kids. Research shows our minds can wander up to 47% of the time when we are with our loved ones. If you're present with our kids, you won't miss out on nearly half of that precious time.

Be mindful of the importance of unstructured time for kids. That is, time they spend playing alone or with siblings and friends. Play is essential for our kids' wellbeing and development. Play changes as our kids grow up but as long as whatever they're doing is child-led, it's play. This is the time to leave them to it.



Dr Jodi Richardson

P&C Information links:

P&C website: <https://www.chhspsc.org.au/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CHHSPC>

Contact us: chhspsc@gmail.com



Uniform Shop News

Last Day for 2019 will be Monday 16th December



Winter



Sports



Summer

Opening hours for 2020

Monday 20 January—10am-12pm
Tuesday 21 January—10am-12pm
Wednesday 22 January—10am-12pm
Thursday 23 January—10am-12pm
Friday 24 January—10am-12pm

Week 1 Tuesday 28 January—8am to 11.30am

Wednesday 29 January –8am to 11.30am

Friday 31 January –8am to 11.30am

Week 2 to 11: Monday's & Friday's - 8.15am—11.30am

Thank you to all the families who have handed in 2nd hand items. They are much appreciated.

Margaret
CHHS Uniform Shop Coordinator

Calendar

Monday 16th December
Tuesday 17th December
Wednesday 18th December

Thursday 19th December
Friday 20th December

Presentation Evening CHHS Hall
HSC Results available online
LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS
BBQ Lunch for Yr 12 Students
School Development Day for Staff
School Development Day for Staff
LAST DAY TERM 4 FOR STAFF

Monday 27th January
Tuesday 28th January
Wednesday 29th January
Thursday 30th January

Friday 31st January

Public Holiday
Staff Development Day
Year 7, 11 & 12 Return to School
Year 8, 9 & 10 Return to School
Whole School Assembly 10am

Monday 3rd February
Tuesday 4th February
Wednesday 5th February
Thursday 6th February
Friday 7th February

2019 HSC High Achievers Assembly
Year 7 Camp
Year 7 Camp
Year 7 Camp
Year 10 Drama Workshop