



## Volume 10—14th August 2020

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### Principal's Message

#### Special points of interest:

- Prefect Nominations
- Locker Renewal
- Library
- P&C

#### School Directions 2021 – 2024

As always, we want to hear from parents and community members about the future of this fine school. I always say there is room for improvement, problems to solve and new directions to forge, when relevant, when the context is right. Your input into the development of plans is not only sought, but gratefully acknowledged.

I sent an email on Wednesday inviting parents to respond to three questions:

1. What three things are you most proud of at Castle Hill HS?
2. What three things need improvement or attention?
3. Is there anything else you want to say?

Additionally, I am speaking with members of the P and C about their contributions. I have asked them to address some themes (like wellbeing or learning culture or school leadership and so forth) and again, I look forward to the feedback.

It is only together that we can continue to find the common future of this school for the betterment of students, their learning and their lives.

#### Student Support Officer (Youth worker)

I am pleased to announce that an appointment has been made to the position of Student Support Officer at Castle Hill High school. This is essentially a social worker with delegated responsibilities befitting a fully qualified, university educated social worker whose focus is young people and their wellbeing.

I am also pleased to advise that Ms Meredith Maihi, an ex student and ex Student Learning and Support Officer at Castle Hill High School has gained this position, on merit. Meredith has a background in child support, working with Family and Community Services prior to this appointment. She loves the idea of connecting with the community, working collaboratively with external agencies and working together with our dynamic welfare team to enhance wellbeing and learning outcomes for students.



Amongst the many roles and responsibilities Meredith will be undertaking, she is looking at targeted programs to assist young girls with relationships, friendships and self esteem as well as group stress management programs for seniors, such as yoga. (I want to join this too!). We're very excited about this opportunity for students to have a specialised and personalised expert to guide and mentor students.

### **Year 12 Graduation**

One of the most important rituals at any school is the graduation of Year 12. There is no question: it has pride of place, is valued by students, teachers and the community and cannot be underestimated in its status as an important milestone in life.

COVID of course has meant there are restrictions and regulations that must be adhered to for the health and safety of everyone.

Currently, we will have the graduation in the school Hall for Year 12 students only, socially distanced with sanitisers, on tap. We have secured the services of a videographer who will produce a highly polished and professional keepsake for students and their families. Additionally, we are looking at livestreaming the event, ensuring the possibility that students' wider families can participate.

We will ensure that the same rituals are undertaken – students dressing in their gowns, formal speeches, musical performances and so forth – and believe that we can replicate the dignity and importance of this ceremony.

While we cannot provide “the morning tea for one thousand”, a tradition loved by the community, we will ensure there is time after the ceremony for a socially distanced gathering to occur with plenty of photographs.

### **COVID – an update**

As I write, the daily updates on the COVID situation are increasingly more localised.

All we can do is to remain vigilant. Anyone with flu or cold symptoms should be tested. Be preventative by not going to many public places and be socially distant from one another. Restrict outside activities to essential ones. Please be reminded that the school is being intensively cleaned each day with additional cleaning staff on board to wipe down surfaces, including door handles and railings. We have procured more sanitiser stations strategically placed around the school for ready use by students. A number of students and staff are wearing masks and I would encourage anyone who wants to do this to do so.

### **The Trial HSC**

The Trial HSC exams commence for Year 12 on Monday 17 August. We have adjusted the rooming for larger exams (English and Mathematics) to ensure there is plenty of distance between each student during the exams. So, in addition to the school Hall, five classrooms will be used in the supervision of English and Mathematics students.

I do wish all Year 12 the very best during this time. Remember: eat well, plan your study, sleep, have regular breaks, stay away from distractions and don't be too hard on yourself. Good luck everyone.

Vicki Brewer


Principal



# Prefect Nominations for Year 10 or 11 Students

To All year 10 and 11 students

Any student in year 10 or 11 who wishes to be nominated as a prefect for 2021 must go to D1 to Mrs Boss to receive a nomination form. These forms are due on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> August. Next Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August there will be a meeting for interested year 10 students to find out what responsibilities are associated with being a prefect next year.




**PREFECT NOMINATIONS for 2021**  
**PROCEDURE**

1. Ask your **Pastoral Care** teacher to fill in the Prefect Survey.
2. **YOU** now need to carefully fill out the Prefect Written Nomination Form. Be honest with your answers as some of the issues raised will be discussed in your interview.
3. Make sure your written nomination form is signed by both a **staff member** and a **student**.
4. Once forms have been completed, they must be handed to Mrs Boss in person. **Do not leave the form on her desk.**

**Note:** Staff and students have the right to make a decision not to sign your nomination form.

**CLOSING DATE:** Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Elections will take place the following week.



**CASTLE HILL HIGH SCHOOL**  
**PREFECT JOB DESCRIPTION**

The following conditions and duties must be accepted by all students who wish to be nominated for the office of Prefect of Castle Hill High School.

- Full school uniform is to be worn at all times at school, when travelling to and from school and when representing the school.
- The position of Prefect is an honourable one and brings with it prestige but also considerable responsibility.
- Maturity and self discipline are essential qualities.
- A Prefect must be willing to serve others for the good of the school and its members. Service will often require self sacrifice and may cause inconvenience.
- Duty may also bring a Prefect into conflict with a fellow student. She/he must be able to handle such situations with tact and care.
- A prefect must be active in his/her role, for the good of the school and the benefits of others.
- Specific duties allocated must be carried out willingly and as competently as possible.
- Each member of the Prefect Body is responsible for setting an example in conduct, dress and study and in actively fostering all that contributes to the good name of the school and to the improvements of school life.
- Prefects are leaders of the school. In leading one is required to give oneself, in service to those who follow.
- Attend meetings. If a previous function has been organised apologies must be given to the SRC Co-ordinator.

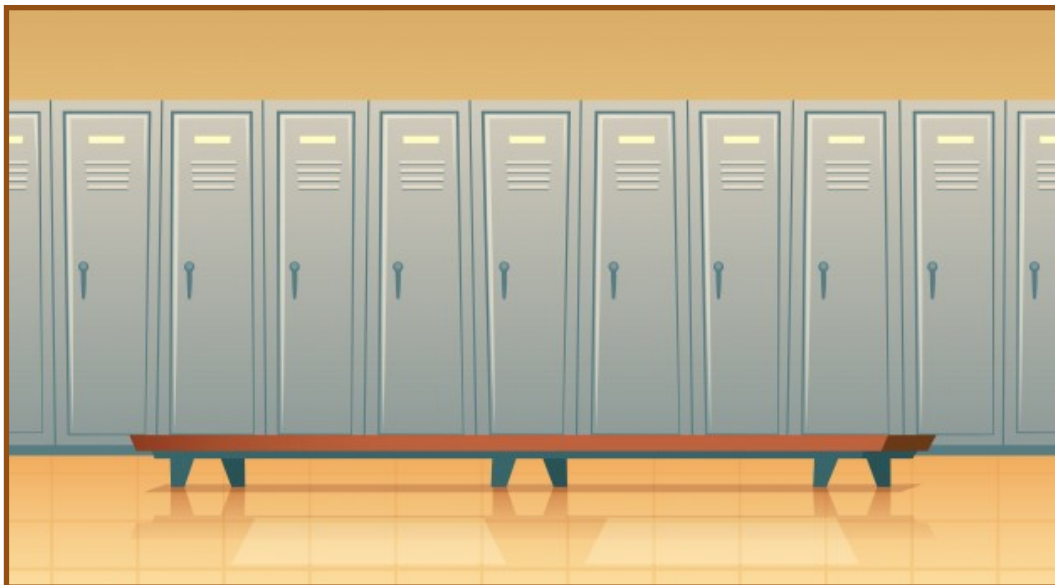
# Year 12

## Do you have a locker???

It is time to start thinking about clearing it out and returning your key/lock to the Payments Office.

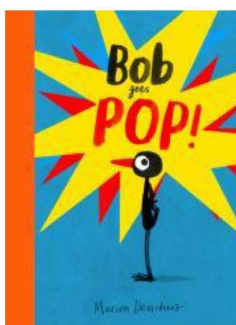
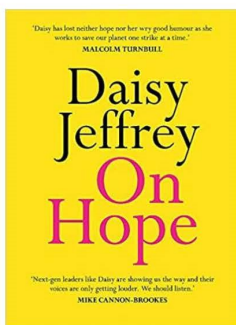
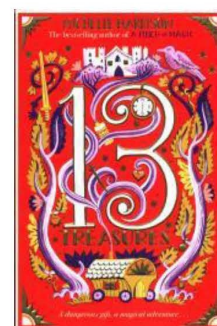
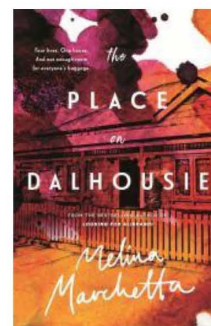
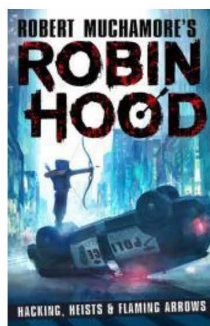
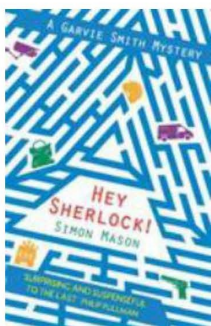
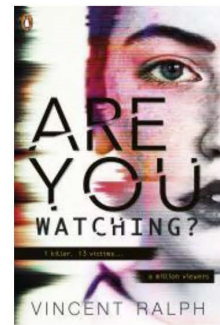
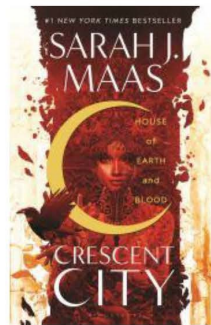
All lockers are to be emptied and key/lock returned by Wednesday 23rd September.  
If you wish to transfer the locker to a sibling, please advise the Payments office to transfer ownership.

Your assistance with this is appreciated.





# BOOKS in the Library



## P&C News

It was wonderful to see such a great turnout at our meeting last night. I would like to congratulate Mr Len Smith for his successful nomination to the role of Vice President (2)v. Mr Smith is very passionate about our school and keen to contribute to our P&C community. He will be a great asset to our team.

A number of parents also expressed interest in merit selection training. This is wonderful as we can build up a pool of parent volunteers to assist the school executive in the employment process of new staff. Please refer to the minutes

It has been a very tough year for us all. We are particularly mindful of our Year 12 students who are navigating an HSC year that looks entirely different to what they may have envisaged. It is the little things that matter and can make the difference in someone's day so I would like to request that students from years 7 to 11 refrain from skipping the canteen queue and using the dedicated year 12 line. Please keep the line **EXCLUSIVELY for year 12**. If the line is empty please do not assume that it can be used by other year groups. At all times you should follow the instructions of the canteen staff.

Our canteen vegetable garden needs a bit of a zhuzh. Please let me [know](#) if you are keen to be part of a little working bee.



Liga Hegner  
President

## Parenting Ideas Article

### Standing behind difficult decisions

Johan and Harry were both suspended from school for a day after willingly watching a schoolyard fight. Their school had a zero-tolerance policy toward fighting and believed that those who watched a fight were as complicit in the conflict as those engaged in the fighting.

The reactions of both sets of parents to the boys' suspensions differed greatly. Johan's parents supported the school's actions and made the necessary changes to their work schedules to accommodate the suspension. Privately, they thought that the suspension may have been harsh, but as they agreed with the school's zero tolerance approach to violence, they knew they had no option but to accept the suspension. They counselled their son against similar behaviour in future and made sure his time away from school was spent doing schoolwork.

Harry's parents weren't quite so supportive. Thinking that their son's suspension was unfair, they contacted the school's principal asking to have the suspension removed. The principal listened to their concerns however she didn't remove the suspension. She reminded Harry's parents of the reasons behind the school's zero tolerance approach to fighting and urged them to support of their policy. Disappointed but obviously not deterred, Harry's father took time off work to take his son on a fishing trip on the day of the suspension. This action showed little regard for the school's efforts to encourage a culture of respectful relationships, as well as scant respect for the principal's authority.

#### Make the most of learning moments

Both sets of parents thought that the suspension of their sons was harsh. However, only one set saw the situation as a learning experience for the son. Johan's parents discussed with their son the place that bystanders play when violence breaks out. They reinforced the message that although it may take courage to stop a fight or bring it to the attention of teachers, it's these sorts of actions that constitute positive leadership.

Harry's parents couldn't see past the injustice of the suspension and missed a great opportunity to teach their son any number of lessons. These include what he may do next time a similar incident occurs, how he might respond when he sees someone being bullied or even how to nip conflict between peers in the bud before it escalates. There are many discussions they could have had with their son due to the suspension. From an educative perspective, this was an opportunity missed.

#### Trust the process

Arguably, the bigger issue in this story is that just as Johan's parents did, we parents need to trust the processes that teachers put in place at school, even when we don't always agree. Family-school partnerships are strongest when parents stand behind the difficult decisions that teachers make, even though the wisdom behind them may not be immediately evident. Sometimes, we all have to stand back and trust a process that's been in put in place, particularly when it's been implemented after a great deal of thought and diligence.



Michael Grose

## Uniform Shop News



*Winter*



*Sports*



*Summer*

### UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS TERM 3

TUESDAY 8.15-11.30 AM  
FRIDAY 8.15-11.30 AM

### PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE FROM MONDAY TO TUESDAY

Check skirts for those girls going into year 11 in 2021 are available and can be worn in term 4. The blouse is the same as Year 10.

Boys may purchase blue shorts and blue trousers for year 11. The shirt is the same as year 10.

**N.B the Department of Education advises that non-essential adults are still not permitted on school grounds—please be aware this includes the uniform shop. Please place orders online.**

Orders are available to pick up at recess on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Margaret Pritchard

Uniform shop co-ordinator.



# Calendar

## Week 5B

Monday 17th August	Year 12 HSC Trial (All Week)
Tuesday 18th August	
Wednesday 19th August	
Thursday 20th August	
Friday 21st August	English Extension 2 Major NESA Due

## Week 6A

Monday 24th August	Drama Project NESA Due Year 12 HSC Trial (All Week)
Tuesday 25th August	
Wednesday 26th August	Year 11 into 12 Info Meeting—Hall
Thursday 27th August	IT Major Works NESA Due
Friday 28th August	Prefect Voting for 2021 Glasser Training (2days incl Sat 29th)

## Week 7 B

Monday 31st August	Textile and Design Projects NESA Due HSC Textiles & Design Major Project Incursion Day
Tuesday 1st September	
Wednesday 2nd September	
Thursday 3rd September	
Friday 4th September	Write a Book in a Day