

# Volume 6 30th April 2021



☒ Telephone: 96344199 ☒ Facsimile: 9899 6527 ☒ Email: [castlehill-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:castlehill-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
☒ Website: [www.castlehill-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.castlehill-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

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## Principal's Message

### Special points of interest:

- Duke of Ed
- My Story
- Online Enrolments
- School Musical
- Anzac Service
- Library News
- Webinar
- P&C News
- Calendar

### The Duke of Edinburgh International Award

With the recent death of the Duke of Edinburgh, a focus on the International Award named after him seems appropriate. Aimed at "preparing young people for an active, healthy and rewarding life, helping to build connected communities" the Award has been a feature of Castle Hill High School's outdoor program for a few years. A number of key staff are very keen to give opportunity to intrepid students to embrace a physical challenge, to grow and persevere, to volunteer and help the community. It fits neatly with CHHS's mantra: "Challenge Minds, Build Character". Without the initiative of staff, students would not be able to enjoy the rewards of this wonderful scheme.

And so it was that last week on Thursday 22 April and Friday 23 April, 28 students under the supervision of Ms Nicole Parker and Ms Rhonda Davis completed a 19 kilometre hike through Berowra as part of their Bronze level in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. You'll recall the weather was sensational with crisp and sunny days, but the evenings were bitterly freezing. So the camp at night was not for the faint hearted. Having to back - pack all their food and items for an overnight stay, with some never having camped before, this was a real adventure.

A huge thank you must go to Ms Parker and Ms Davis who have added to the richness, interest and importance of curriculum for students. We can't thank them enough.

As a side note, Matthew Thompson from Year 12 2020 will receive the highest Duke of Edinburgh Award, the Gold Award, in May 2021 at a special ceremony at Sydney Showground's Amphitheatre. Matthew completed his Gold accreditation in August 2020, despite the restrictions of COVID. He completed 52 hours of physical recreation (soccer), 52 hours of skills (guitar), 52 hours of assistance and fundraising for a Year 6 farewell, a cultural and adventure trip to Lake Wanaka in New Zealand and a Gold residential project where he was youth camp leader at the Outdoor Recreation Centre. We wish Matthew well and congratulate him on this wonderful achievement. (More Photos on Page 5)



## ANZAC service

On Friday 23 April, Castle Hill High School commemorated ANZAC Day with a meaningful service. Our speaker was Bethany Wade, an ANZAC Ambassador in 2021, from Year 11. She also spoke at the Castle Hill Dawn Service attended as well by our vice captains Zac Fairnham and Natalie Bailey. Bethany's grandparents – Elsie and Barry Russ - were also invited to attend and lay a wreath in front of our 2000 plus student assembly. Bethany's grandfather is a war veteran and member of Castle Hill RSL so this occasion for her and Barry was special and poignant lending a local and personal touch. (More on page 9)



## Excellence on the track

The Australian Athletics Championships were held recently in Sydney. Two of our outstanding sports people reached this national platform, a place where only the best compete.

Josh Atkinson came second in both the 400 metre and 200 metre sprint. Josh has such a terrific future as he was competing against 20 year olds. Sidney Burrell also performed well by gaining 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 400 metre relay. Congratulations go to both of these students.

I'm always impressed by young people who combine the rigorous work required for sporting excellence with their studies. These are two fine athletes – and two wonderful students.



## **Toilet upgrade**

The work has finally begun! And that's good news. We expect to have new , modern toilet facilities for our senior students by the end of this term. Students can't wait.

## **Study skills**

Mr Brad Tudman ran a special study skills forum for Year 11 students last week. Always necessary and always informative, this voluntary tutorial on a Thursday morning from 8.30 – 9.30 saw 100 Year 11 students give up their late-morning start to participate. The word on the ground was that it was excellent and well worth the early morning rise.

## **P&C Annual General Meeting**

We have a wonderful P&C who competently run our canteen and uniform shop, amongst other things. They give their time to the cause of students in this school. I am ever grateful for their efforts and contributions.

The AGM will take place on Wednesday 12 May at 7pm. I hope you can join us.

## **The Da Vinci Decathlon**

The Da Vinci Decathlon is an academic competition designed to challenge students who compete in teams of 8 across 10 disciplines: engineering, mathematics and chess, code breaking, art and poetry, science, English, ideation, creative producers, cartography and legacy. Students through the course of 2 days are given a scenario and question or problem to address in each of the disciplines. Clearly, students need to be lateral and creative in their thinking, work in a team, be open to new ideas and alternatives, be patient, persevere, and much more. This competition too clearly embraces our vision to "Challenge Minds and Build Character".

On May 4 and May 5, 32 Castle Hill High School students from Year 7 – 10 will be participating in the Da Vinci Decathlon. The competition would normally be held in the Great Hall at Knox Grammar but because of unknowns with COVID is now on line and will be held for our students in the Teachers' Common Room.

As with all of these time consuming, extra curricula activities, they simply would not or could not take place without the enthusiastic support, guidance and expertise of teachers. Can I thank Ms Rhonda Davis (the one who has just returned from a camp no less!) who works closely with all 32 students to assist them in their pursuit of higher order and creative thinking.

I've included a sample Da Vinci Decathlon question for Year 7 and 8 students on art and poetry. How do you think you would go? (Article on page 4)

## **SIP and Annual Report**

Our School Improvement Plan for 2021 - 2024 and our 2020 Annual Report are on our website for those who are interested.

Regards  
Vicki Brewer  
Principal



# THE FUTURE WORLD

## BACKGROUND

In 1908, a young Italian poet called Filippo Marinetti was driving his car along Italy's streets. Swerving to avoid a cyclist, he ended up flipping his car into a ditch. However, Marinetti had learnt far more from this experience than simply to avoid cyclists. The revelation he made from this clash of man versus machine, old versus new, traditional versus contemporary was to change art forever. *'On the summit of the world, we hurl our defiance at the stars!'* one of his most famous works reads.

In that line, Marinetti gave birth to the movement of futurism. Worshipping scientific progress and glorifying speed, technology, the automobile, the airplane and industrial achievement, futurism put established traditions to the side and pursued the representation of victory over nature. Their work adopts the Cubist technique of fragmenting and intersecting plane surfaces to show several simultaneous views of one object, favouring speeding objects as oppose to still life. With bright and vibrant colours, futurist work often repeats an object's outlines during their movement, capturing the pace of their subject in real time.



Consider Giacomo Balla's 'Dynamism' of a Dog on a Leash' above. Do you see how the dog's legs are captured like they are moving, the vibrancy of the dog, and the way in which this dog can be viewed several different ways at once? This is what you will be attempting in this task!

## THE TASK

The team is challenged to create an original poem and artwork that uses the concept of futurism to convey a future landscape in which the 'new' has triumphed over the 'old'. The artwork must adhere to the conventions of futurism as found in the background and the poem must be physically, symbolically **AND** thematically linked to the artwork, clarifying exactly what the 'new' and the 'old' are in the artwork and how exactly this triumph has taken place.

Please take note of the following:

- Futurist artworks utilise fragmentation, speeding objects, and repeat a subject's outlines during movement – think about how this influences what you create!
- Simple words, when expertly crafted, can often be more powerful than verbose terminology.
- **The artwork and poem MUST BE physically, symbolically AND thematically connected. This will be a clear discriminator in the marking process.**
- Please include the team number in the artwork.

## More Photos from Duke of Ed





# My Story

My journey to become a teacher started soon after I commenced schooling. I enjoyed playing 'Teacher', and my first students were my toys and my grandparents. Along the way, I considered a variety of career options till the day that I received my HSC results. My ATAR would have allowed me to enrol into any course that I wanted to study but my family was aware that my heart lay in teaching and encouraged me to pursue it. There were many points throughout my life that attracted me to become a teacher and continue to shape me in my teaching practice.

I consider myself as incredibly lucky to have been educated in two vastly different education systems. I was educated in India till I turned 11, when my family migrated here. The contrasting schooling experiences, and an evolving appreciation of the cultural differences has led me to believe that there is not a perfect approach to teaching and that teaching is complex and context driven. As a result, I would love any opportunity to teach overseas for a period of time (Singapore would be a dream come true) so that I can learn more about how different educational systems operate. I have also enjoyed teaching students who are new to the country and am fascinated to learn about their overseas learning experiences.

I was academically inclined from a young age and always enjoyed volunteering for peer tutoring programs at my school. It was very satisfying to see students improve their vocabulary and read increasingly complex texts as the years progressed. In the process, I realised that I was good at articulating ideas and explaining things in a simplistic manner and felt that these qualities would be best suited for teaching.

So, why teach Maths? There is a certain beauty involved in Maths, one that goes beyond the patterns in nature or in the engineering marvels. As I have taught more and more students, I've loved hearing students say "ahhhhh..." when they've had an 'aha' moment. I've had many inspiring Maths teachers over the years who have helped me to experience this and there is something special about the moment that the lightbulb goes on. I don't know if I would have been able to replicate that moment if I were to teach another subject.

Looking back on my journey since the day that I decided to become a teacher, I feel incredibly grateful for the opportunities that I have had. I was awarded multiple scholarships and prizes in my years at university, had the opportunity to complete practicums in diverse schools across different sectors and even had the opportunity to go on an exchange and complete a practicum in Sweden. Through all of this, I have learned about the importance of giving things a go and persevering when you don't achieve a goal the first time.

More importantly, I have been incredibly lucky to start teaching at Castle Hill High School. The colleagues, including the Senior Executive, have been very supportive to nurture my capacities as a teacher and a leader, while the students have been warm and welcoming, greeting me with a warm smile when passing in the corridors. I have learned as much from the students as they have learned from me and over the years they have made it easy for me to let my personality shine through in the classroom. Presently, I am enjoying the challenges and opportunities that come with being the Year 8 Advisor, alongside the talented Mrs Wheatley, and am keen to see how this journey will continue.

Mr Ashvin Ashok—Mathematics Teacher



# Online Enrolment System

We are excited to announce we will be rolling out the new Online Enrolment system from Monday 3rd May 2021. However, the Online Enrolment System is **not applicable** for Year 6 into 7 enrolments at this time.

The Online Enrolment System is designed to provide flexibility for our parents to submit an enrolment application online and at the time that best suits you. The application can be accessed on all browsers and mobile devices including iOS and Android.

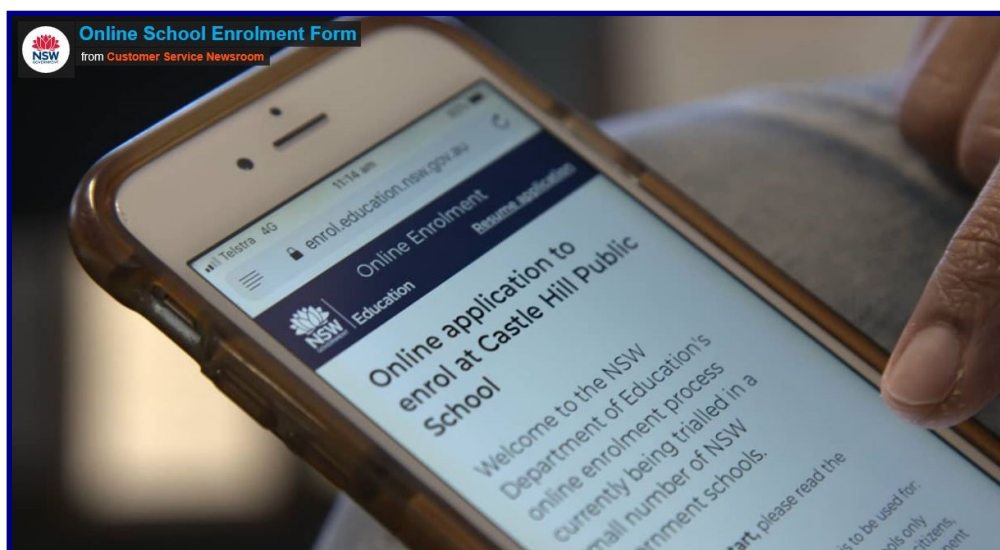


The Online application process is currently restricted to:

- Enrolments into local schools only
- Children who are Australian Citizens, New Zealand citizens or permanent residents
- Children who live in NSW

We offer our support and encourage you to complete your application to enrol online. If, however, you do not feel comfortable completing an application online, a paper copy will be available for collection from the front office or can be downloaded from the Department's going to a public school site.

Further information about online enrolments can be found on our website .





## Take a Plunge on *The Little Mermaid*

Disney's *The Little Mermaid* is CHHS's musical for 2021. After the events of last year, it has been two years since we have staged a musical production and we are really looking forward to treading the boards again. A great family favourite, *The Little Mermaid* has something for all ages. Tickets are now on sale at the school, please come along and support our brilliant and hardworking cast. They can't wait to see you there.

Dates: 25 May – 29 May



# CHHS Anzac Ceremony 2021

On Friday 23 April, Castle Hill High School, held our annual ANZAC Day Ceremony.

It was great to see the whole school community together for the first time in more than a year and on such a lovely day. Last ANZAC day, we had recently retreated into lockdown and we have not been able to come together as a whole school ever since.

So, this was a very happy occasion, but it was also a solemn one, one in which we respectfully remembered the sacrifice of the very many Australians who have served in our armed forces.

It was a pleasure to have Bethany Wade from Year 11 as our speaker. Bethany has also taken on the role of ANZAC Ambassador for Castle Hill RSL, representing our school and community wonderfully on ANZAC Day. What impressed me the most was to see Bethany exude such obvious pride in being able to represent the service of her grandfather. So, it was a particular pleasure to have Bethany's Grandad and Grandma as guests of honour at our remembrance service.

Bethany's Grandad, Lance Corporal Barry Russ, was called up for National Service in 1966 and served as a section machine gunner in 1966 and 1967, during the Vietnam war. Like so many Australians, he began his service at Nui Dat working with the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Task Force.

At the conclusion of the service, Bethany and Mrs Brewer together with Mr and Mrs Russ lay wreaths on our behalf.

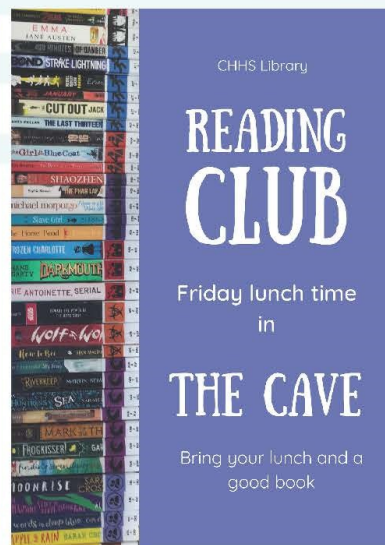
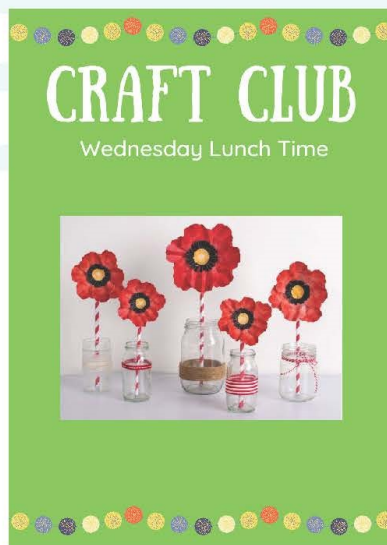
I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to Bethany as well as Mr and Mrs Russ for enriching the experience for us. I would also like to thank Ms Sonja Branagh, who once again made one of the wreaths from her own garden, beginning hours of construction work at about 4.30am.



Newsletter

# CHHS LIBRARY NEWS

WHAT'S ON IN TERM 2



## Lunch time Events in the Library

The Library is a great place to be every lunch time. Students come to study, research, read and play chess. Our clubs are growing in popularity so we thought you would like to know what we do each week in our Clubs.

### Monday : Movie Club

Monday Lunch is Movie Club is run by Mrs Roberts in The Cave. Students may bring their lunch and enjoy watching a movie together. We often have 30 students attending. This week we will be starting Spirited Away, a delightful anime fantasy movie. Another movie planned for term 2 is The Secret Garden (2020).

### Wednesday : Craft Club

Wednesday Lunch is Craft Club in the Meeting room. Mrs Hemmings and Mrs Mathews prepare paper and felt crafts on a theme. This week will be ANZAC day poppies. Next week we will start Mother's Day crafts.

### Friday : Reading Club

This is not your traditional Book Club. Reading Club, run by Mrs Mathews, meets each Friday lunch time. Students may bring their lunch. We usually have 10-15 students attend to sit and read quietly, enjoy and share books, over a hot chocolate and cookie. At the end of each term we share the books that we have enjoyed most. Students love to hear what others' are enjoying and quickly pick up their next read.

## NEW LIBRARY HOURS

*Our library hours are now as follows*

**8.00 - 3.10 (Monday,**

**Tuesday, Wednesday,**

**Friday)**

**9.30 - 3.10 (Thursday)**

**We are open every Recess except Thursday.**

**We are open every Lunch.**



FORUM FOR PARENTS

# Building Healthy Relationships in our *Teens*

The Hills Domestic Violence Prevention Network is proud to present a **FREE** thought provoking forum for parents of high school aged young people wanting to know more about building healthy relationships in their teens.

**Colleen Hirst – Clinical Psychologist/Family Therapist**

Raising teenagers- understanding the teen brain, physical and psychological development, hurdles to respectful communication.

**Collett Smart- Psychologist/author/speaker**

Healthy relationships toolkit – exploring sexualised media, body safety and conversation ideas on consent.

**Ethan West – Youth Liaison Officer - Castle Hill Police**

Trends and issues police are dealing with concerning young people in The Hills.

**Wednesday 26th May**

**Registrations from 6pm**

**Forum runs from 6.30pm- 8.15pm followed by a Q & A till 9pm**

The Pioneer Theatre (underneath Castle Hill Library)

12-14 Pennant St, Castle Hill

FREE thought provoking forum for parents, refreshments and access to professional advice.

**RSVP via Eventbrite <http://bit.ly/Hillsparentforum>**

For enquiries contact **Carol 0408 705 848** or **hillsparentforum@gmail.com**



**BaulkhamHillsSports**



**THE HILLS**  
Sydney's Garden Shire



# Webinar: Parents Prepared

Starting the conversation with young people about alcohol and other drugs

**When:** Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

**Time:** 4.30-6.00pm

**Cost:** \$10 per ticket

**Presenters:**

Vivienne Li & Hayley Bowen, Counsellors

**Bookings:** <https://www.trybooking.com/BQTAB>

Drug types  
and their  
effects

Talking with  
young people  
about drug  
and/or  
alcohol use

Why young  
people use  
alcohol  
and/or other  
drugs

Reducing  
alcohol  
and/or drug  
use harm

Support  
services and  
resources

Visit us at [sdecc.org.au](https://sdecc.org.au)

**'sdecc'**  
Sydney Drug Education & Counselling Centre

## LOST PROPERTY

**It is the end of Week 2 and we have so many lost Winter Jackets and PE uniforms in bags and we can't find their home as the items have NO NAMES ON IT!!**

**Please come and visit us in the Administration Office and claim your items. These items cost a lot of money so please PUT YOUR CHILDS NAME CLEARLY ON THE ITEMS!**

## P&C News

Our next meeting is our AGM. It will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> May and is a wonderful opportunity for parents to put their hand up for a volunteering role with the committee.

Anyone wanting to nominate for an executive role must already be a 2021 financial member and prepared to commit to a 12-month tenure in that role. If you cannot make the AGM but are prepared to accept a nomination if put forward then please email [castlehillhighschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au](mailto:castlehillhighschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au) as you will be required to fill out a nomination acceptance form. The AGM will be a face to face meeting only and immediately followed by the May general meeting for which zoom will be available.

For those of you new to P&C's you can watch this [video](#) provided by the P&C Federation on office bearer roles & responsibilities. The following links detail the roles of [President](#), [Treasurer](#) and [Secretary](#).

Our P&C actively applies for community grants to supplement the parent voluntary contribution we invest back into the school. In the near future the Federation will hold a grant writing workshop. If you would like to assist our P&C in grant applications and are interested in this workshop please get in [touch](#).

Liga Hegner  
P&C President

## CANTEEN NEWS: Winter Menu Update

The daily specials (\$5) in the canteen are updating from Week 2.

**Mondays** = Creamy Chicken & Bacon Pasta (GF option available) \*NEW\*

**Tuesdays** = Sweet Chilli Chicken Wrap

**Wednesdays** = Chicken Pad See Ew \*NEW\*

**Thursdays** = Butter Chicken \*RETURNING\*

**Fridays** = Nachos

Pumpkin Soup (\$3 or \$3.50 with a roll) and Hot Chocolate (\$2) are also returning.

There will no longer be a separate line for year 7 students from Term 2.

# Uniform Shop



Winter



Sports



Summer

By now students should have winter uniform but plenty of stock if extras needed or uniform still to be chosen.

Online orders are always ready at recess on the days we are open. Each person who orders is notified by text that the order is ready.

## NEW ITEMS

This week size 10 in fleecy jumpers arrived . AVAILABLE ARE SIZES 10 TO XXL \$35.00

## OPENING HOURS FOR TERM 2

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY 8.15 TO 11.30.

NO APPOINTMENT IS NEEDED .

Margaret Pritchard

Uniform Shop





# Calendar

## Week 3A Term 2

Monday 3rd May	Year 10 Half Yearly Exams commence (All week) Sydney Writers Festival Yr 11 & 12 Geography Minnimurra Fieldwork Sydney West Table Tennis
Tuesday 4th May	Yr 7 & 8 Da Vinci Decathlon - Knox Grammar
Wednesday 5th May	Hills Zone Cross Country Yr 9 & 10 Da Vinci Decathlon - Knox Grammar 9/10 Da Vinci Decathlon Knox Grammar Plain English Speaking Award
Thursday 6th May	U15 Girls Soccer vs Cheltenham Girls
Friday 7th May	Year 10 Half Yearly Exams conclude Sydney West Open Girls/Boys Touch Champions

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## Week 4B

Monday 10th May	Naplan—Year 7 & 9
Tuesday 11th May	Naplan—Year 7 & 9
Wednesday 12th May	P&C Meeting / AGM
Thursday 13th May	Naplan—Year 7 & 9
Friday 14th May	Naplan—Year 7 & 9 (Catch-up only)

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## Week 5A

Monday 17th May	Year 11 Construction Work Placement—(All Week) Year 7 half yearly exams (All week) Year 9 half yearly exams (All week) Photographic shoot—Cockatoo Island Years 10,11,12 Photography Students only
Tuesday 18th May	
Wednesday 19th May	
Thursday 20th May	Musical Bump in
Friday 21st May	Year 12 Reports Distributed and Published Musical Dress Rehearsal & Tech Rehearsal