



Volume 1—5th February 2021

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Principal's Message

Special points of interest:

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Welcome to all

Can I welcome back all of our parents to the Castle Hill High School community. I'd particularly like to acknowledge parents and caregivers of Year 7 students and those of students in other years who are new to the school – and there are many! It's a wonderful community and school. How lucky are we. I am hoping to be able to meet as many of you in person as possible. With the dreaded COVID however, that poses a difficulty but I live in hope that we can revert to "normal" soon enough. In any case, I will make myself available, as much as I can, to talk with you by phone or in my office, if you wish. We want to connect, solve problems and find solutions together.

Numbers

Our school has been growing exponentially for a decade, culminating this year. We have 2030 students on our books at the moment. With over 130 teaching staff, 50 support personnel (administration, technology, general assistants and teachers' aides (we now refer to them as SLSOs), this is without doubt a small country town, as I like to refer to us. Additional demountables have been installed, staffrooms have been changed and upgraded. Though, we are still awaiting the finalisation of additional student toilets but I am reliably informed that this is in the pipeline. Patience, as they say, is a virtue!

Our new teaching personnel

I am delighted to welcome our new teachers for 2021, seen below. They have been inducted and are still finding out so much - but they still have a spring in their step and are filled with enthusiasm. Some are from very far afield, including Brewarrina, many are from greater western Sydney area but all bring fresh perspective and new ideas. And that I like. This combined with our very experienced, wise people makes for a terrific mix. The staff at Castle Hill High School is magnificent. Teachers, after all, can make a difference.





Peter Romanos



Peter Jackson



Andrew Pearn



Alex Thornton



Audine Burnand



Jessica Morrison



Shital Modi



Suhani Neesha



Hasini
Thiyambarawatte



Deanna Yang



Thomas Clark



Sam Holleley



Haseena Shah



Daniel North



Susan Pilley



Ainslie Morgan

Year 7 camp

356 fresh-faced Year 7 students went off to The Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens on Wednesday 3 February and will return on Friday 5 February. I made a flying visit on Wednesday afternoon and can report that the activities provided by the camp were amazing. They were not for the faint-hearted! High ropes, high swings, enormous poles for climbing, harnesses the like you would see on the stunt crew of a film set, mud crawls... the list goes on. This camp was about challenge, risk, resilience, confidence, moving out of your comfort zone, embracing fears. I have always said that this is such an important part of all of our growth – to be stretched and challenged in a safe, caring environment. Students had a ball – and so too did teachers. To see Mr Jenkins on the high swing was a sight to behold! Students also had the chance to connect with their year group, meet teachers in a social setting, immerse themselves in the school's culture (relationships, relationships, relationships) and find friends. I hear that the food was pretty good too. I think parents will encounter some weary return - travellers on Friday afternoon.

2020 Higher School Certificate results

Once again, I am proud to report that our academic work, as evidenced in our HSC results, is very pleasing. We expect to do well, as we should. But we want to improve always and learn more, no matter what we achieve. Academic achievement takes pride of place in this school, for all students, in my view.

Fine and detailed analysis of results continues but the following is a snapshot of our performance:

- **Forty eight (48) students gained an ATAR over 90**
- **Two hundred and twenty (220) bands 6s were achieved**
- **Five (5) students gained a band 6 in 10 units or more (known as All Rounders)** – Miranda Clinton, Vy Dinh, Joshua Sotomayor, Sophie Sullivan, Amelia Wheeler
- **Josh Sotomayor was dux with an impressive 99.2.**
- The following students gained a place in the **top ten in the state (known as Top Achievers)** : Kyah Bedano (Business Studies), Nathan Csizmadia (Hungarian Continuers), Shahn Raza (English Standard), Joshua Sotomayor (Engineering Studies), Sophie Sullivan (English Extension 1)
- The following courses had a **mean of 1.0 or greater compared with the state**: Ancient History, Biology, Business Studies, Community and Family Studies, Design and Technology, Drama, Engineering Studies, English Standard 2, English Advanced, EALD, English Extension 1, French Beginners, Industrial Technology, Investigating Science, Japanese Beginners, Japanese Continuers, Legal Studies, Mathematics Standard 2, Mathematics Advanced, PDHPE, Society and Culture, Software Design and Development, Textiles, Visual Arts
- The following courses had a **mean of 2.0 or greater compared with the state**: Ancient History, Business Studies, Community and Family Studies, Design and Technology, Engineering Studies, English Standard 2, English Advanced, EALD, English Extension 1, French Beginners, Industrial Technology, Investigating Science, Japanese Beginners, Japanese Continuers, Legal Studies, Mathematics Standard 2, Mathematics Advanced, PDHPE, Society and Culture, Software Design and Development, Textiles, Visual Arts
- The following courses had a **mean of 5.0 or greater compared with the state**: Business Studies, Community and Family Studies, Design and Technology, EALD, French Beginners, Investigating Science, Japanese Beginners, Legal Studies, Mathematics Standard 2, Society and Culture, Software Design and Development, Textiles
- Courses that **were above the state in band 6** : Ancient History, Biology, Business Studies, Community and Family Studies, Design and Technology, Drama, Engineering Studies, English Standard 2, English Advanced, EALD, English Extension 1, French Extension, Industrial Technology, Information Processes and Technology,, Japanese Beginners, Legal Studies, Mathematics Standard 2, Modern History, Music 1, Society and Culture, Software Design and Development, Textiles, Visual Arts

We are determined to reflect the community's aspiration to maintain high academic standards, to learn and improve and this will be reflected in the Strategic Plan for 2021 – 2024 which will be finalised by the end of term 1.

COVID restrictions:

Once again, we need to adjust to a COVID environment – as does everyone in their daily work and rituals. While it is frustrating, it is important. Australia can hold its head high with the containment of the virus so far compared with the drastic circumstances in the UK, USA and Europe. We will come out of this if we hold the line.

So, as a result of continuing restrictions the following events, regrettably, have been modified:

- **The High Achievers Assembly**, to celebrate achievements of 2020 HSC students scheduled for Tuesday 2 February was cancelled, instead a presentation will be given to the current Year 12 students (2021) identifying the 2020 High Achievers with a recorded speech from Josh Sotomayor (dux) and myself. That will appear on our homepage. More information will come on this soon.

- **The Swimming Carnival**, scheduled for Monday 15 February, will be for competitors only
- **The Meet the Teacher Evening for Year 7 parents** scheduled for Wednesday 17 February cannot proceed, regrettably. This would have been an opportunity to casually chat, “put a face to a teacher” and build relationships. We will have a parent/teacher evening in Term 2 and we hope that this will go ahead, even if it is a different format
- **The SRC induction ceremony** scheduled for Monday 22 February will go ahead but will be livestreamed for parents

Finally

I do want to remind parents that we are only too happy to talk with you. Please feel free to contact the school regarding any issue. We are in the business of working with you to find solutions.

Warm regards
Vicki Brewer
Principal

My Story

After completing Year 12, it was my Dad that convinced me to apply for University. I had no idea of a course to choose but my favourite subject was Engineering Studies taught by Mr Lark. He was my teacher for Graphics in Years 9 and 10 and also my Engineering Studies teacher for 2 years. He made a lifelong impression on me, through his knowledge and commitment to his teaching.

I attended Sydney University and completed a Bachelor of Education in Industrial Arts. Once finished my first job was at Shalvey High School for 11 years. This is where I met the first bunch of wonderful Industrial Arts teachers led by Mr Scott the Head Teacher, who taught me to never accept second best, that 100% quality is in everybody. Throughout these 11 years I had the best and sometimes the worst times of my teaching career, they were challenging and extremely rewarding. It was only because Shalvey was moving into a 7 – 10 High School that made me leave, not teaching seniors would have been disappointing.

I came to CHHS 20 years ago the last 10 years as the Head Teacher of TAS. This school has really challenged me with many roles, year adviser, exam coordinator, admin, and whole school timetabling just to name a few. But it was the chance to teach lots of different senior subjects that really kept me busy, Industrial Technology Metals and Engineering, Design and Technology, Industrial Technology Graphics and Engineering Studies. Continuing to learn is so important for the brain and it keeps you motivated. The last 10 years have tested me again, moving a small faculty into a very large committed and driven staff that are truly the best bunch of teachers you could ask for.

I have been so lucky to have chosen this profession and to see so many students achieve their potential. This is such a rewarding job.
Kind Regards

David Hovelmann



School Photos 2021

School photos will be held on **Thursday 11 February and Friday 12 February**. The schedule for the days is as follows:

Thursday 11 February

Year 12: Group and Portrait, 8.30am – session 2

Year 10: portrait only, session 3 – 4

Year 8: portrait only, session 5 – 6

Friday 12 February:

Year 9: portrait only, session 1 – 2

Year 7: portrait only, session 3 – 4

Year 11: portrait only, session 5 – 6

All students will have their portrait photo taken on the day, even if photos have not been ordered.

Please order and pay for your photo packages ONLINE using the school code: X1048HSB46C

The banner for 'The School Photographer' website features the following information:

- Contact Information:** Unit 20, 14-16 Sturges Road, Seven Hills, NSW 2147. Phone: 02 8674 9824, 02 8602 3399. Email: enquiries@theschoolphotographer.com.au. Website: www.theschoolphotographer.com.au.
- Promotional Code:** X1048HSB46C. ID Cards also available.
- Photo Packages:**
 - BLUE PACK:** Includes a 20 x 25cm portrait, a 13 x 18cm portrait, and a 4x 6.5 x 9cm group photo. Bonus: HI RES portrait download.
 - RED PACK:** Includes a 20 x 25cm portrait, a 13 x 18cm portrait, and a 4x 6.5 x 9cm group photo. Bonus: HI RES portrait download. Labeled 'BEST VALUE!'.
 - GREEN PACK:** Includes a 13 x 18cm portrait, a 6.5 x 9cm portrait, and a 4x 6.5 x 9cm group photo. Bonus: HI RES portrait download.
- Other Options:**
 - BOOKLET ONLY:** 1x 21 x 30cm Booklet. Includes Student Portrait and Group, May also include Principal's Message, and Full-page Photo. Price determined by your school.
 - GROUP ONLY:** 30 x 25cm Group. Front cover not included. *Group may be composite or traditional as determined by your school.
 - PORTRAIT ONLY:** 13 x 18cm portrait, 6.5 x 9cm portrait, and 4x 6.5 x 9cm group photo. Does not include portrait download.
- Gifts:** Drink Bottle (500ml), Mug, Keyring (Image size 3.5 x 4.5cm), Magnet (Image size 4.5 x 6.5cm), Gift Pack (Calendar, Bookmarks, Gift Tags).
- Footnote:** *All image sizes are approximate. Castle Hill High School Years 7-11 Composite Only / Year 12 Traditional & Composite.

www.theschoolphotographer.com.au

If families need to bring cash on the day, photo envelopes are available at Reception or in the Library.

Sibling photos

Sibling photos will be taken on Thursday, 11 February at Lunch time in the Hall. Sibling photo envelopes can be collected at Reception and in the Library and can be brought on photo day. Online sibling photo orders must be placed before 7am on Thursday 11 February.

If you have any questions, please ask Mrs. Mathews or Mrs. Hemmings in the Library.

Mrs. Kate Mathews
Teacher Librarian

Bus Changes

Bus stop ID 215447 located at Carrington Rd before Showground Rd, Castle Hill will be permanently closed from February 1 2021.

This is due to the Showground Rd and Carrington Rd intersection upgrade.

The current routes for this stop are as follows:

2021 – Winston Hills to Oakhill College

2549 – Gilroy CC to Seven Hills HS via Castle Hill

2607 – Crestwood PS to Castle Hill

8023 – Seven Hills opp Waroonga Av to Castle Hill PS via Gilroy CC & Castle Hill HS

The bus company will be putting up notices on the buses.



P&C News

A very hearty welcome back and a special welcome to our new year 7 families.

Our P&C is extremely engaged and efficient and here to serve the students and school community. Everyone is welcome and we get particularly excited about seeing new faces.

The P&C runs the canteen and uniform shop and over the summer break we hired Tracey Watt as business manager to oversee business operations. Tracey will join our team on 8 February and will be based on site working between the uniform shop and canteen. Please give her a warm welcome when you see her.

Our budget for the year has been set and we are keen to see what initiatives we can implement this year. This year we will see the completion of the court resurfacing and the commencement of improvements to the quad area with additional seating and landscaping. The parent voluntary contribution is a very important part of our budget. All of the contribution is invested back into the school community for the benefit of the students at our school. The contribution is only \$50 and will appear on your student statement as 'P&C Vol Levy for Year X'.

Our meeting dates for the year are:

Wed 17th February

Wed 17th March

Wed 12th May with AGM

Wed 9th June

Wed 4th August

Wed 1st September

Wed 13th October

Wed 10th November

These meetings will commence at 7:00 PM [via zoom](#) until further notice.

The AGM is not too far away and is a wonderful opportunity for parents to put their hand up for an executive position. No experience is necessary. We are a group of parents who are passionate about our school and invested in sowing into its community. If you are interested to know about the benefits of P&C membership, you can read about it [here](#).(Please make sure you are financial in time for the AGM).



All information related to the P&C and its activities can be access via the school website? [Bookmark it](#) for future reference. Here you can find the uniform price list, canteen menu, order online from both of our shops, make a uniform shop appointment, access minutes of all our meetings and our governance documents and make a tax-deductible donation to the building fund. So many options in one place!

If you would like to receive our minutes and be notified about all things P&C, please [email](#) us and we will add you to our database.

Parenting Ideas

The P&C pays for a subscription to [Parenting Ideas](#). I regularly include this content in the newsletter and the webinars are free for our parent community.

How to access the webinar:

1. Grab the voucher code
2. Use it in the [online shop](#) to reduce the webinar cost to \$0 in the cart
3. Proceed to checkout
4. Place order
5. Enter the school name to verify your eligibility
6. You will receive an email with instructions on how to view your webinar
7. Add webinar to your calendar from the options provided
8. Listen from the privacy of your own home on any device

N.B: If you have missed a webinar that you registered for, you can listen to a recording. This can be found in the dashboard section of your account.

Liga Hegner

P&C President



Webinar dates and codes

Hear from the experts from the comfort of home in 2021



Maggie Dent presents: Communicating with teenage boys

Adolescence has a way of transforming children's brains that can make communication challenging, especially with teenage boys who often start articulating in monosyllabic grunts. These brain changes also make them more sensitive, volatile and critical of themselves, making the tween/teen years a high-risk window. In this webinar, Maggie Dent shows how using compassionate, empowering communication with teenage boys can better guide them across the bridge to healthy manhood to a place where they feel worthwhile and engaged in respectful relationships.

Key learning and discussion points include:

- communicating effectively
- giving feedback
- avoiding arguments
- helping teenage boys to problem solve
- letting our sons know we really hear them, and that they matter

WEBINAR DATE 24 MAR 2021, 8-9 PM AEST VOUCHER CODE COMMUNICATION VOUCHER EXPIRES 24 JUN 2021



Dr Justin Coulson presents: Connecting with teenage daughters

Trying to guide a teenage daughter through a complex adolescent world is... well, complicated. Alcohol and drugs, mental health concerns, body image issues, friendship issues, and premature and/or non-consensual intimacy are just the tip of the iceberg. In this webinar, Dr Justin Coulson (father to 6 daughters) unpacks the science and provides practical real-world advice for parenting teenage daughters. You'll discover what is really going on in their minds, how they really feel and what they wish you knew.

Key learning and discussion points include:

- dealing with eye rolls and bad attitude
- why your teenage daughter "hates" you, expects the world and needs to talk
- how we can stay connected to our teenage daughters and keep them motivated
- how to keep our teenage daughters safe and informed without pushing them away
- how to encourage teenage girls to develop strong, healthy relationships and resilience

WEBINAR DATE 23 JUN 2021, 8-9 PM AEST VOUCHER CODE DAUGHTERS VOUCHER EXPIRES 23 SEP 2021



Dr Kristy Goodwin presents: Taming digital distractions

Technology is an integral part of life for our children – it's the portal for their leisure, learning and connection. However, digital technologies can also disrupt a child's focus, put a dent in their learning and compromise their wellbeing. In this webinar, Dr Kristy Goodwin helps parents and carers understand why children and adolescents are vulnerable to digital distractions. She provides science-backed solutions to help kids and teens develop healthy digital behaviours so that they can focus, learn and thrive online.

Key learning and discussion points include:

- how long we should expect focused attention from children and teens
- the research behind why digital distractions are interfering with our children's attention
- how some technologies have been intentionally designed to be captivating and alluring
- why banning technology isn't the solution
- how to teach children and teens how to build a 'fortress around their focus' and leverage the benefits that technology offers them

WEBINAR DATE 8 SEP 2021, 8-9 PM AEST VOUCHER CODE TAMING VOUCHER EXPIRES 8 DEC 2021



Michael Grose presents: Using birth order knowledge for a parenting edge

Effective parents and carers are always looking for an edge to help them raise happy, confident, resilient kids. Many people do a brilliant job of learning on the run, but can miss a rich vein of knowledge that's right in front of them – a child's birth order position. In this webinar, Michael Grose explains how birth order position impacts on a child's personality, attitudes and behaviour. He provides insights to help bring out the best in every child, reduce destructive sibling rivalry and increase family harmony.

Key learning and discussion points include:

- how birth order works and why it sometimes doesn't make sense
- how birth order applies to both large and small families
- how to conduct a birth order audit for your family
- the impact that your own birth order has on your parenting
- essential parenting strategies for kids who don't quite fit the birth order mould

WEBINAR DATE 10 NOV 2021, 8-9 PM AEST VOUCHER CODE ORDER VOUCHER EXPIRES 31 DEC 2021



Uniform Shop News

Thank you to all the customers who made appointments and made everyone feel safer and had less waiting time and more time to purchase uniform. Appointments will continue for the foreseeable future.

Stock is now up to date and all items of uniform are available in all sizes.

Returns need to be within 60 days. Please keep your docket to show the date of purchase.

OPENING HOURS FOR TERM 1 2021

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY 8.15 TO 11.30 AM

Margaret Pritchard

Uniform Shop Co-ordinator

Canteen News

Welcome back to the Canteen in 2021 and hello to the new Year 7's.

Hope you all had a great break and are ready for hopefully a more stable Year this year.

Those of you that have been in term 1 in previous years will know that the far end Window is for Year 7's only. This allows them to settle in and get to know the Canteen without feeling awkward with older years around them. This only goes for 1 term and we would appreciate other years respecting this decision. If there are no Year 7's we will call other students one at a time from the front of the next line.

Can we also ask that only 1 student at a time come to the window? Most students do remember but a few forget, so if we remind you, it's just a reminder.

This week we have had issues with the internet crashing on us. We've managed to get back on but it takes a small amount of time. Unfortunately, if it goes down we cannot accept card payments so if you can be patient and try 5 mins later. Hopefully we won't have any more issues but just in case we do, we thought we should give you the reason why.

Alice Yip & Diane Flanders

Canteen Supervisors

Calendar

Term 1 Week 3A 2021

Monday 8th February	
Tuesday 9th February	Peer Support lesson 2
Wednesday 10th February	
Thursday 11th February	School Photos Day 1
Friday 12th February	School Photos Day 2

Week 4B 2021

Monday 15th February	Year 12 Hospitality & Construction Work Placement Swimming Carnival (Competitors only)
Tuesday 16th February	Year 12 Hospitality & Construction Work Placement
Wednesday 17th February	Year 12 Hospitality & Construction Work Placement P&C Meeting
Thursday 18th February	Year 12 Hospitality & Construction Work Placement School Photos Catchup
Friday 19th February	Belvoir Theatre Year 9/10/11/12 Drama Year 12 Hospitality & Construction Work Placement

Week 5A 2021

Monday 22nd February	SRC Introduction Assembly (Gym)
Tuesday 23rd February	Peer Support Session 4
Wednesday 24th February	Hills Zone Swimming Carnival
Thursday 25th February	
Friday 26th February	