Principal’s Message

It’s hard to believe that the term is almost over and that there’s only one more newsletter from here to the holidays. Time flies when we’re having fun!

Firstly I’d like to acknowledge the participation and efforts of the following students who represented our school at the Regional Swimming Carnival — congratulations to Ryan and Dean 2/3W, Hamish, Anneke, Hal, Kaemon, Samuel, Dylan, Greta, Toby, Charlie, Liam and Jack 3/4C, Sai and Conroy 3/4M, Johan 5/6D, Sascha, Thomas, Ava, Heather, Jade, Tara, Isaac, Katie and Nicholas 5/6C. You were outstanding ambassadors for our school. Your team spirit and manners were a credit to yourselves, your families and our school! Thank you to all the parents who attended and were a great cheer squad on the day and to Kiranjit Randhawa and Christie Ciantar for their organisation on and leading up to the carnival.

Extra special mention to Katie Soter who came second in 12-year-old girls’ 50m backstroke. Last week Katie participated in the Regional Carnival at Homebush Sports Centre and came third in her heat. She recorded a personal best time of 54 seconds which was 2 seconds faster than her swim at Zone. Congratulations Katie, we are all very proud of you!

Congratulations also to Tom Stelling of Year 6 who participated in the Zone soccer trials and was selected to represent the school in the Sydney East trials to be held this afternoon at Barden Ridge. Good luck Tom, we’ll be thinking of you.

This newsletter can be found on our school website—
Last Friday the canteen had ‘Kebab Day’ and boy weren’t those kebabs delicious! Thank you to Nicole and all the parent volunteers who made the event so successful. Particular thanks is also extended to Kate Purcell (mum to Henry) and Suzanne Trimmer (mum to Jack and Henry) and Nicole (mum to Noah) for their commitment, flexibility and organisation of the canteen renovation. They have had a few unexpected delays but the canteen renovations will soon be complete and we are all looking forward to seeing the finished product. Thank you for all your hard work on behalf of the Canteen Committee, P&C and the school.

**Internet safety and the appropriate use of the internet is a real, current and ongoing issue** faced by many families, schools and the community at large. Earlier in the term I attended a Principal’s forum organised by Ashfield Police where these issues were discussed at length. Unfortunately, in the past fortnight, as a school we have had cause to investigate an incident of this nature involving several senior students sending inappropriate messages via social media sights when their families thought they were sleeping. I have contacted Constable James Bottalico - Youth Liaison Officer, Ashfield Police Station who will address all Stage 3 students about the importance of internet safety, cyber bullying and the consequences associated with inappropriate use. Attached to this newsletter I have listed some applications that many young people are communicating with. Please read through the list and check your child’s devices as most of the applications have age restrictions meaning that they are not suitable for students in primary school. Christie Ciantar, ICT Coordinator and teacher 5/6C is currently booking a comprehensive workshop for staff, students and parent in this area. Information about this will be communicated in future newsletters. Let’s all continue to work together to ensure our students/children are well educated to make informed decisions for their safety.

Additionally, please also have conversations with your child/ren about keeping safe when travelling to and from school. Last week there was an incident in the Penshurst area with an alleged attempted abduction of a student from a person in a white van with graffiti on the tyres. Some parents might find an application such as the one found on this website useful.


**Last week, your children may have mentioned that we had an evacuation drill.** All students were safely evacuated in less than four minutes and all students, teachers and community members on site were accounted for in another 4 minutes. Each term we will practice another aspect of school safety to ensure that in the unlikely event of an emergency or critical incident we can act swiftly and effectively.

**As a school we value the partnerships we have with our local universities** - Sydney University and the University of Western Sydney. In the next few weeks we are hosting several groups of teachers from Sydney University for observation visits and five pre-service teachers from the University of Western Sydney for a three week practicum. I’d like to thank Christie Ciantar, Sadie Davies, Lisa Wright, Nicole Cushway and Nicole Fay for their commitment to mentoring these teachers and working with them at the elbow. This role is pivotal to their success and to the ongoing success of our students, our school and the public education system. Ensuring that highly trained and confident teachers enter the teaching profession is a shared responsibility. I’d also like to thank Lisa Haller for her coordination of these opportunities.
It was a great turnout at the P&C meeting and AGM last Wednesday. Alex Di Prinzio, Eva Tzadouris and Albert Vella from the Federation of Community Languages were warmly welcomed and Connie Emmington duly farewelled. I’d like to take the opportunity to thank the outgoing members of the P&C and in particular the former president Glenn Smith for his warmth in welcoming and orientating me to the school community this year. I found his insight and support invaluable. I equally look forward to building a productive partnership with David Taffa and the new executive team, to ensure the students at Canterbury PS continue to receive a broad range of opportunities and a high quality education.

Parent focus group – Feedback on written school reports
Next week Friday the 4th April, Lisa Haller and I will be facilitating a parent focus group to give parents an opportunity to offer feedback on the new style of reports that went home at the end of 2013. This will be held from 8.30am in the staffroom and children are also welcome to attend. For those who are unable to attend please feel free to provide feedback via the link below.

http://tinyurl.com/ltn8ana

Written reports will go home to parents at the end of term 2. In the meantime we are looking forward to seeing as many families as possible at the goal setting conversations/interviews next week.

Unwanted items
We have several unwanted items awaiting disposal on the right of the garden next to fence adjoining Canterbury Girls HS. Families who would like to take any of these items over the next week are welcome to. All remaining items will be removed in the last week of the term. Thank you to Cate (mum to Pandora) for offering this suggestion. Please let Jennie Hanna or Brigid McGill at the front office know if you intend to take any items.

Swimming Scheme
The students have had a wonderful time at swimming scheme over the past week and a half, learning new skills and developing greater confidence in the water. Monday’s downpour saw our stage 2 get completely drenched but so far that’s been the only hiccup (please ensure that all items of second hand clothing are washed and returned to school by Friday). Like all school programs we will seek feedback from students, staff and the community as to how this important program can be improved for the future. A survey will be sent home via class parent coordinators before the end of the term. Please check your emails. Thank you to Lisa Wright for her organisation of swimming scheme, as you can imagine there’s a lot to coordinate.

Voluntary Contributions
If you haven’t had a chance to consider Voluntary Contributions for the year please do so as these funds are much needed to support a whole range of school programs and in particular resources and books for the library. So far we have collected $4500 but would really like to stretch this to $5500. If you can, please help us reach this goal.

Lastly, please purchase your tickets for the movie night coming up on the 5th April. It will be a great night of family fun. Unfortunately I will have to leave before the movie starts but I look forward to helping set up and having dinner with everyone. Thank you to Annabel (mum to Spencer and Charlie) and Phillippa (mum to Alex) for all their work behind the scenes.

Berlinda Cook
Principal
Week 7 Challenge:
Only one entry to my challenge this week. Congratulations Conroy, this is a GREAT poem.

School
Six
Creative
Hours
Of
Official
Learning

The Next Challenge:
This fortnight’s challenge - please share with me one of your interests. You may choose to write about it, send me some information about it, draw something, create something or take some images of you enjoying it.
Please email me at: berlinda.cook@det.nsw.edu.au
Please use your DEC email address. Also feel free to send me suggestions for future challenges.

Monday 24 March was a very wet day...if your child was one of our swimmers who got caught in the rain and was provided with spare clothes would you either return those items of clothing after laundering or make a small donation to our second hand uniform fund. Thank you.

CLOSE THE GAP MORNING TEA
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People can expect to live up to 10-17 years less than non-Indigenous Australians. By holding an event on National Close the Gap Day, we contributed to a fairer, better Australia – one that says no to health inequality, injustice and discrimination. Thank you very much for you support of Close The Gap day. As a school community we raised $285, which will be donated to Oxfam. Lisa Haller - Assistant Principal

News from the Sports Committee
Zone Swimming Carnival: Twenty eight talented swimmers represented Canterbury Public School at the Wiley Park zone P.S.S.A. annual swimming carnival at Ashfield aquatic centre. Katie Soter of Year 6 came second in 50m backstroke (12 yrs girls) and went on to represent the school at the Regional sports competition at Homebush Aquatic Centre.

Sydney East Soccer trials: Tom Stelling of Year 6 participated in the Zone soccer trials and was selected to represent the school in the Sydney East trials to be held on Wednesday, 26th March 2014 at Barden Ridge. Students selected in the SEPSSA team will compete in the NSWPSSA state carnival from 27-29 May, 2014 at Camden. We wish Tom all the best for the trials.

Winter PSSA Sports:
Selections for PSSA sport will take place in Week 10 and teams will be announced shortly.
Kiranjit Randhawa – Sports Committee Chair

Great feedback for Christie Ciantar and the Stage 3 team
“I have just seen the blog you have created for school and want to say that I'm extremely impressed! I love it!! What a great way for parents to see what you are doing at school and much better than the newsletter!!! Can I also say that, as a high school teacher, I believe you guys do far more than we are ever expected to do and for that, I am truly grateful!!! I'm glad you're back! Chaltu still loves school and that is, by far more, due to the work the teachers do than anything else. “ Karin Strachan (Stage 3 parent)
Applications (Apps) that your child may be using and the age restrictions.

Instagram (13+) is an online photo-sharing, video-sharing and social networking service that enables its users to take pictures and videos and apply digital filters to them, and sharing them on a variety of social networking services, such as Facebook, twitter, Tumblr and Flickr.

Snap chat (13+) is a photo messaging App where its users can take photos, record videos, add text and drawings, and send them to a controlled list of recipients. These sent photographs and videos are known as “Snaps”. Users set a time limit for how long recipients can view their Snaps (ranging from 1 to 10 seconds) after which they will be hidden from the recipient’s device and deleted from Snap chat’s servers.

Kik Messenger (17+) is an instant messaging App that uses a smartphone’s data plan or Wi-Fi to transmit and receive messages. Kik offers swift text messaging service and also allows its users to share photos, sketches, voice messages, and other content. ACMA receives a lot of reports of harassment amongst users on this App.

Tumblr (13+) is a microblogging platform and social networking website that allows its users to post multimedia and other content to a short-form blog. Users can follow other users’ blogs, as well as make their blogs private.

Keek (13+) is an online social networking service that allows its users to upload video status updates, which are called “keeks”. Users can also reply back with text or video comments, known as “keekbacks”, and share content to other major social media networks.

Vine (17+) is a mobile App that enables its users to create and post short looping video clips. Video clips created with Vine have a maximum clip length of seven seconds and can be shared to Vine’s social network, or to other services such as Twitter.

Qooh.me (no age restriction) is another social media site that teens and tweens are using, one which parents need to know about. Qooh.me allows users to ask one another questions anonymously. The person asking does not have to join to ask questions. The questions asked will go into your Qooh.me inbox; at this point the public won’t see the questions. If you choose to answer a question, the Question and answer will be seen by the public on Qooh.me profile, Facebook wall and Twitter. If you don’t like the question, you simply delete it, in which case nobody will see or know about it.

Ask.fm (13+) is a social networking website where its users can ask other users questions, with the option of anonymity. There have been seven alleged suicides of Ask.fm users in 2013. The account cannot be deleted, only deactivated as their main source of income is through advertisement.

EASTER RAFFLE

Raising money for Indigenous programs. You may have noticed that your child has brought home a book of 20 raffle tickets. We ask you to please support Aboriginal Programs at Canterbury Public School by either selling raffle tickets to your friends, neighbours and family or purchasing a raffle ticket... or 20 yourself.

Tickets are 50c each, 3 for $1.00 or 20 for $5.00.

The raffle will be drawn on the 8th of April at the morning assembly.

Prizes: Dinner for 2 at the Canterbury Hotel and 5 x Easter Egg Hampers.

We thank you in advance for your support.

Aboriginal Group

April is Autism Awareness Month, and on Wednesday April 2nd we will ‘Go Blue’ in support of World Autism Day. This is a great opportunity to raise awareness about autism spectrum disorders, as well as raising some much needed funds for our Special Education Unit here at Canterbury and Autism Organisations.

We would appreciate your support on the day by wearing blue, baking blue, and bringing a gold coin donation.

Any baked goods will be sold to staff and students at lunchtime by the SRC. Please label all ingredients used. Thank you for supporting this fantastic cause.

Gina Perez – Class teacher K/4P