Principal’s Message

Firstly let me extend a very warm welcome back to the whole school community and an extra special welcome to all the families and staff who are new to our school this year. It’s been a wonderful start to 2015 and I’d like to thank the staff, families and the students themselves, for all the energy they’ve given to ensuring that all members of the school community felt relaxed and confident to embark on the learning adventure at Canterbury Public School this year.

From my perspective it’s been a extremely settled start to the year. I’ve received lots of positive feedback from community members echoing this sentiment. Parents and students really appreciated that we were able to finalise classes early and in doing so were able to bring forward the Meet the Teacher night by a few weeks.

Thank you to all the families who attended on Monday evening. The teachers and I really enjoyed sharing a meal together and getting to know families a little better in an informal setting. Thank you to all the families who contributed to the meal and an extra big thanks to the student leadership team at Canterbury Boys HS who made an extraordinary contribution by cooking all afternoon. It felt like we hit the mark on the communication front as it was a fairly intimate Q&A at the end and we took that to mean that families came away with a lot of useful information about their child’s class and the various extra curricula offerings we have. In the next week or so we will endeavour to have all this information on our website.

I’d like to acknowledge the amazing volunteer work done by Genevieve Ginty (mum to Liam in 2/3J and Joel in 1/2S) who has almost single-handedly transformed the way uniforms are sold at our school. With the P&C’s support and financial backing, the sale of school uniforms is an arm of the P&C and operates from the canteen. Genevieve (like so many other parents in different project areas) has given many hours to make this change successful. Her initiative and persistence in this area has been extraordinary and greatly appreciated by the school. More volunteers are always appreciated. Many parents indicated their interest last night and I look forward to seeing a few new faces helping out in the canteen, garden, uniform shop and in classrooms. Remember too, that we have a fete this year and before that an election day BBQ, so there’s many ways you can make a small contribution.

At the Meet the Teacher night, teachers handed out a note that indicated; resources your child/ren will need for school, an overview of expenses for the year and details about the school’s voluntary contribution. These will also be posted on the school’s website shortly. We understand that not all families will be able to make these contributions as a lump sum so please do not hesitate to contact the front office staff to discuss a payment plan.

This newsletter can be found on our school website
http://www.canterbury-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
**Safety concerns**

**School Hats**

One of our beautiful students in the Special Education class who is non-verbal loves playing ‘chasing’ games. As a way of getting friends/other students to chase him he takes their hats and runs away. This is the signal to the other children to chase him. Most unfortunately this game resulted in a couple of serious incidents resulting in one of our students receiving rope burns to her neck. This is because the safety catch on the style of hat doesn’t always work properly. I have consulted with Genevieve Ginty (coordinator of the uniform shop) and our P&C President David Taffa and with their support I have asked for the cords to all future hats being sold to be removed. I would humbly ask all parents to do the same to their child/ren’s school hats of the same style. I would greatly appreciate the support of the whole community on this issue.

**School Parking Zones**

I would urge parents and community members to please be respectful of each other and most importantly students’ safety. Please park appropriately, in accordance with parking signs and laws in a school zone. These are clearly outlined on a poster in the body of the newsletter. Please remember that you can stop in a NO PARKING zone for a maximum of two minutes to drop off and pick up passengers. You must stay within three metres of your vehicle at all times.

**Swimming Carnival**

The weather was beautiful and the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. I’d like to thank Lisa Wright (Assistant Principal Stages 2/3) for her outstanding organisation of the swimming carnival. She was well supported by the staff and many willing parent volunteers as well as her wonderful son, Michael. We all had a great day with the only small bit of disappointment being that the water play equipment had broken down the previous day! Please enjoy reading a report by two of our stage 3 students and some of the photos form the day which you’ll find in the body of the newsletter.

**Staffing Update**

Welcome to Griffen Jones (class teacher 2/3J) and Karen Meers (Relieving School Administrative Officer) who have joined the CPS team this year and also welcome back to Linda Askin who is teaching RFF two days a week this year.

Congratulations to Keiko Seino (School Learning Support Officer Special Education) who has been appointed permanently in the role she has held at the school in a temporary capacity for the last five years. Keiko is a hard working and nurturing professional who is highly respected and well-liked by staff, families and most importantly the students. We are thrilled to have her as a permanent member of the CPS team!

Jennie Hanna’s last day at CPS will be next Wednesday the 18th February. She will be taking sick leave to recover from a minor operation and after this hopes to enjoy some well earned long service leave. Jennie will likely follow this with the announcement of her official retirement (even though there are many among us, holding out hope that she may change her mind). After 35 years providing loyal and dedicated service to the Department of Education and 28 years at Canterbury PS, who could blame her for wanting to have a rest and to begin the next stage of her life - kicking her feet up in Gerringong! Later in the year when Jennie’s plans are more concrete we will form a committee to organise a fitting celebration to formally farewell her. Thank you to the parents who have already indicated their interest in being part of this.

Lastly, we value your feedback. Let us know your thoughts about the Meet the Teacher night. What did you like? Was there anything you didn’t like? Is there anything we could change or improve for next year? It’s a shared responsibility to ensure we continue to grow and improve at CPS.

Berlinda Cook– Principal
The Canterbury P.S Swimming Carnival

By Charlie and Sai on behalf of Stage 3

On the 2nd of February, Canterbury Public School had their Swimming carnival for 2015. Stage 2 & 3 had a splash at Enfield Pool. The races were 50 metre freestyle, breast stroke, butterfly and back stroke. There was also 100 metre race which was only freestyle. These were only for green armband people. Then there was 25 metre race for yellow armband people.

After that there were novelty races and games which included teachers & one parent. Everyone could compete in these events. The noise was people cheering for their house teams which are Wentworth, Phillip, Flinders and Barton.

The carnival was very well organised by the teachers. Especially Mrs Wright who told everyone when it was their time to race and she were very enthusiastic about the novelty games. House captains like Charlie and Sai were cheering with their houses. Enfield Swimming Pool also has a water play area for little kids where there was lots of fun water equipment. It was an incredibly fun day with our friends and family in the pool.
Some pictures from our swimming carnival.
Some pictures of Playgroup
They meet each Monday
between 9.30 am-11am in

Some pictures from
Meet The Teacher Night
The Canterbury Public School community celebrates diversity and strives for excellence, equity and participation to ensure the development of the whole child. The learning environment is rich with quality learning experiences and opportunities for students to make meaningful connections with others and the world around them.

We create a positive and successful learning environment.
Teachers provide a safe and welcoming learning environment and know their students as people and learners.
Learning is relevant, purposeful and connected to students’ interest and the real world.
Learning is student centred and student voice is valued.
Learning is differentiated to meet the individual needs of students, staff and the community.
Creativity, curiosity and wonder is fostered to support students in becoming resilient, confident, independent thinkers.
Student achievement and assessment data drives classroom programming and decision making.
Feedback is integral to the teaching and learning cycle.

We support and respect each other.
Students, parents and staff are partners in the learning process.
Students, parents, staff and the broader community work together to actively support and promote the school for the benefit of the students.
Parents, staff and students take an active role in ensuring effective communication and shared decision making.
Diversity and different perspectives are embraced.
New community members are welcomed, oriented, mentored and supported.
The strengths of students, staff and the community are recognised, utilised and appreciated.
Celebrations enhance a sense of belonging and greater understanding of all members of the school community.

We are life-long learners.
Goal setting, reflection and evaluation are embedded in teaching pedagogy.
Life-long learning is modelled to students through the engagement of staff and parents in ongoing quality learning opportunities.
Extra curricula opportunities are embedded in the curriculum and support the development of lifelong skills, passions and interests.
Opportunities for leadership and active citizenship are actively sought in all stages of learning, career development and community engagement.
Staff are self-reflective and strive for professional excellence in their practice.