

CHALCOT WEEKLY

NEWSLETTER No 7 - 13th March 2015

Getting Along Resilience Organisation Persistence Confidence Achievement

'I sea, I care' Workshop

Boom, boom, boom, boom! My heart was beating as fast as a cheetah as I got up on the stage. I was presenting to Grade 2 kids. So cute, but right now I was scared out of my mind.

On 27th February, our Green Team leaders went to Southern Cross Primary School for their second 'I sea I care' workshop. We took notes on different information about marine life, to later teach the year two students.

With the facts we learnt, we are going to teach students from Chalcot Lodge. We may also bring in a few little surprises!

So get ready to learn some awesome information about our marine life, early next term.

by Ella, Marko and Tome



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Casey Student Leaders' Reception

It was my great pleasure last night to accompany our School Captains, Nyarath Gatkuoth, Vishal Panditharatne, Dyamond Cummings and Kaelen MacKinnon to the City of Casey Student Leaders' Reception held at the Berwick Church of Christ Auditorium.

The reception included inspirational young speakers with the message that regardless of the obstacles you face, by setting goals and having faith in yourself, almost anything is possible. Student leaders from schools across Casey received leadership lapel pins and enjoyed refreshments following the formal parts of the forum.

Seven Steps Writing Program

On Tuesday, teachers and educational support officers participated in a full day professional development session on the Seven Steps Writing Program. The day proved to be very informative and the new teaching and learning strategies will be implemented across the school to improve the learning outcomes for all our students.

2015 Peer Mediators

The Peer Mediation Program is an important part of our Student Wellbeing Program, which runs during Terms 2, 3 and 4. During Term 1, students in Year 5 who wish to be Peer Mediators are trained by Mr Evans about how to listen to other students and how to assist them in dealing with problems such as: 'I can't find my friend' or 'I have lost my toy'. Peer Mediators are rostered to be available in the junior playground and wear brightly coloured tops so that they are easily spotted by students in the playground.

The 2015 Peer Mediators will be presented with their badges at a special assembly next Tuesday, 17th March at 2.45pm in the hall. Many thanks to Mr Evans for his ongoing work in coordinating this valuable program at Chalcot Lodge.

Annual Report

Next week, I will be presenting the 2014 Annual Report to the school community during our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 18th March at 7.00pm.

The document provides details about the profile of our school's families and staff and reports on achievements in relation to student learning, student engagement and student wellbeing. Included also are the strategies undertaken last year to drive these achievements and directions for 2014.

The document will be available through our school's website at: www.chalcotps.vic.edu.au.

Parents may also wish to visit the My School website at: www.myschool.edu.au.

Term One Ends - Friday 27th March at 2.30pm

Please ensure that you have made arrangements for your children to be picked up at 2.30pm.

If you are unable to make arrangements for a 2.30pm pick up and supervision is required, please contact Before and After School Care on 0400 194 859.

The arrangements for the day are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 9.00am to 11.00am | Session 1 |
| 11.00am to 11.30am | Morning recess |
| 11.30am to 12.30pm | Session 2 |
| 12.30pm to 12.40pm | Students eating their lunch in classrooms |
| 12.40pm to 1.40pm | Lunch recess |
| 1.40pm to 1.50pm | Rolls called in classrooms |
| 1.50pm to 2.20pm | Assembly |
| 2.20pm to 2.30pm | Children will be dismissed from their classrooms at 2.30pm. |

School Policy Review

We are currently reviewing our Homework policy. School community input is welcome. If you would like to make any comments in relation to this policy, please feel free to email your comments to me via the school's email address at chalcot.lodge.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Monica Ghirxi
Principal

Casey Student Leaders' Reception



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Harmony Day Celebrations Tuesday 24th March

On Tuesday 24th March we will be celebrating Harmony Day with a specific focus on our Indigenous Culture. There are many wonderful activities planned throughout the day ranging from AFL clinics with AFL Indigenous players, traditional indigenous games with our local Koori Engagement Team, students working with a local indigenous artist and much more. I will place specific information about which classes are participating in which activities in next week's weekly. students are asked to wear something orange on this day

Supporting children's learning

As parents and carers, it is hard to see children struggle with their learning, especially when they are frustrated or upset. Sometimes, and often before you know it, you become caught up in trying to help them and you wind up doing their schoolwork for them. How do you find the right balance between telling them "You just have to do it!", and giving them all the answers? And what if you don't even have the answers?

Helping children with schoolwork

(e.g., homework assignments or projects) is sometimes a challenge for families as well as for children. However, it can also be an opportunity for parents and carers to get to know what children are learning at school and to support their learning. Children learn better when they have opportunities to share and practise at home what they are learning at school.

It is not necessary for parents or carers to have all the answers when children have difficulties with their schoolwork. If adults simply provide children with the answers, children miss out on the chance to learn and think for themselves. Parents and carers can help children by guiding their learning and thinking and supporting them to try for themselves.

"Helping children think through tasks supports their learning. Teaching them skills for thinking helps children learn to think for themselves"

How parents and carers can help

Parents and carers scaffold children's learning by leading and coaching them towards coming up with their own answers. This shows children how to learn, and makes it more likely that they will succeed. The next time your child asks for help, you might try some of the following ways to scaffold thinking and learning.

- **Prompt children to extend their thinking**

- Ask them to think about something relevant:

"Why do you think...?"

- Ask them to think through alternatives:

"That would be one way, what's another way we could try?"

- Provide support for thinking through difficult tasks:

"Let's have a think about this together."

- **Ask them to explain the steps**

- Help children to plan their approach: *"What is it that we need to do?"*

- Ask them to review their steps so far: *"Tell me more about what you have already tried?"*

- **Demonstrate**

- Show an example and talk it through: *"First, I will ..., and then I will ..., and then I can..."*

- **Break it into steps**

- Help children who are stuck by breaking the task into smaller steps.

- It's a good idea to ensure the first step involves something that children can already do. This way they will experience success early which helps their confidence.

- Be sure to provide praise for completing each step as they work through a task.

- Guide children step-by-step to build their skills so they can eventually complete the whole task on their own.

SUPERVISION TIMES

I wish to remind parents that supervision of students commences at 8.45am and concludes at 3.45pm. Between these times, when students are in the playground, they are supervised by teaching staff. I would suggest that if parents are having their children dropped off by carers, it is advisable to ensure that carers are informed of the times teacher supervision is available.

Have a Great Weekend!

Paul Poliviou
Assistant Principal

**CANTEEN IS OPEN FOR LUNCH ORDERS AND COUNTER SALES ON WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS
CLOSED MONDAY, TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS**



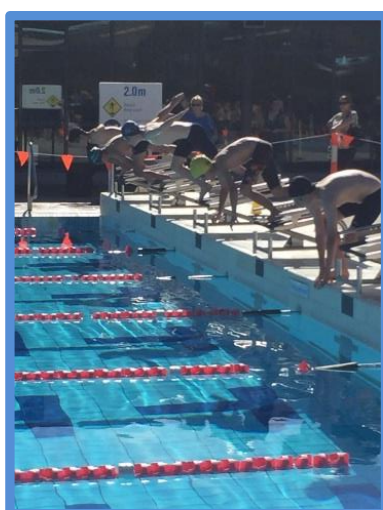
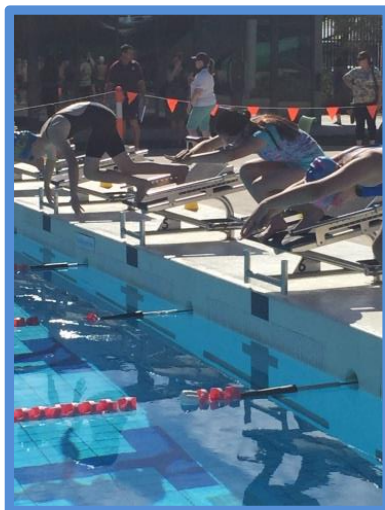
DIARY DATES

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|--|
| Saturday | 14 th | March | Environmental Committee - Bunnings Barbeque | 8.00am - 4.00pm |
| Tuesday | 17 th | March | Assembly – Badge Presentation – Peer Mediators | 2.35pm |
| Wednesday | 18 th | March | Year 5/6 Camp Meeting (Mr Napier’s room) | 6.00pm |
| Wednesday | 18 th | March | Co-op AGM | 6.45pm |
| Wednesday | 18 th | March | School Council AGM | 7.00pm |
| Wednesday | 18 th | March | School Council Meeting | 7.15pm |
| Friday | 20 th | March | Disco | 9.15am - 10.30am |
| Tuesday | 24 th | March | Harmony Day | |
| Wednesday | 25 th | March | Koorie Cultural Invisit – Whole School | Payment \$7 due 19 th March |
| Wednesday | 25 th | March | Parent Club | 6.30pm - Staffroom |
| Thursday | 26 th | March | Parent/Teacher Interviews | 2.30pm - 8.00pm |
| Thursday | 26 th | March | Hot Cross Bun Deliveries | Order through QKR by 19/3 |
| Friday | 27 th | March | Assembly – Froggy Awards | 1.50pm - 2.20pm |
| Friday | 27th | March | End of Term 1 | 2.30pm dismissal |
| Monday | 13th | April | Commencement Term 2 | 9.00am start all students |
| Mon – Frid | 20 th – 24 th | April | Year 5/6 – Ace High Ranch Camp | |
| Friday | 24 th | April | Anzac Day Assembly | 9.15am - 10.00am |
| Wednesday | 29 th | April | Kinder Club | 2.30pm - 3.30pm |
| Thursday | 30 th | April | Fun Run | |

DIVISIONAL SWIMMING

Congratulations to Catharina Truong and Campbell Newton for representing our school at the Divisional Swimming competitions on Wednesday.

We are extremely proud of you and congratulate you both on your outstanding achievements!!



BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE
Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate available for all families.

Morning: 7.00am – 8.45am Monday to Friday during school term, excluding all Victorian Public Holidays.
Permanent/casual: \$ 15.00.

Breakfast is provided until 8.30am.

Afternoon: 3.30pm – 6.00pm Monday to Friday during school term, excluding all Victorian Public Holidays.

Afternoon snack and drink provided.
Permanent/casual: \$ 19.00.

Welcome to another exciting week of before and after school care.

This week's activities include:

- * Art and craft activities
- * Dramatic play using props
- * Train and block activities

Please feel free to speak to Iris or Alex if you have any concerns.

Call 0400 194 859 during session times or come in and have a chat!

Y.L.V Team

UNIFORM SALES

School uniform items can be purchased directly from the Beleza School Uniform Store at shop 7, 151 – 159 Princess Hwy, Hallam, phone 9702 3181. Mastercard and Visa are accepted.

Beleza order forms are also available at the school office. When placing your order you will need to make payment to the school either by cash or by completing your credit card details on the order form. Beleza staff will then deliver your order to the school.

SCHOOL BANKING

Don't forget that FRIDAY is School Banking day and students should bring in their weekly deposit.

ORDERING REWARDS: When ordering rewards, please remember to make your selection from the items available in Term 1 (not Terms 2, 3 or 4 yet), or from the separate list we provided. You must also return 10 tokens to be able to claim your reward, and the tokens must not be shared with your siblings or other students.

COMPETITION: Throughout 2015, any student who makes 25 or more deposits goes automatically into a draw for a family trip to Disneyland. Good luck!

Ingrid Williams
School Banking Coordinator

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Department of Education and Training (DET) does not endorse the products or services of any private advertiser. No responsibility is accepted by DET for accuracy of information contained in advertisements or claims made by them.

Host Families Needed For New Exchange Students in 2015

Many girls and boys aged between 15 and 18 from Italy, France, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Canada, Japan, Switzerland, Brazil, Norway, Sweden, Argentina, Finland and Austria are hoping to come here to study for 3, 5 or 10 months from July this year. We are looking for volunteer families that are willing to host and welcome them into their home. If you can afford an extra member at the family table for the length of their stay or even some of it, please contact Klaus Schumann on 97584279 and let me know of your interest.

Yours sincerely,
Klaus Schumann, WEP Community Coordinator

CHALCOT LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY: HOMEWORK

INITIAL COPY

DRAFT REVIEW

14/12/1994

11/3/2015

PURPOSE

Homework aims to: foster good life long learning and study habits; develop planning and organisational skills; encourage student to take responsibility for their own learning; and will also assist students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning.

GUIDELINES

- Homework Policy will reflect the Department of Education and Training Homework Guidelines.
- Homework enables parents to be involved in a supportive and positive way with their child's learning.
- Homework is a shared responsibility between parents, teachers and students.
- Homework should be seen as a non-school time activity, which is relevant to the current curriculum program being taught.
- Homework helps students to develop organisational and time management skills, self discipline, skills in using out of school resources and personal responsibility for learning.
- The level of parent participation is dependent on the needs of the student as it is important to encourage students to become responsible and independent learners.

IMPLEMENTATION

- At all year levels, parents will be encouraged to talk with their children, discussing school activities and reading together on a daily basis;
- Homework will consist of daily reading and will also reinforce class work through practice of skills or inquiry learning;
- Homework in Years Prep-4 will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day and not be set on weekends or during school holidays;
- Homework in Years 5-6 will range from about 30-45 minutes a day and not be set on weekends or during school holidays;
- Students may be required to complete class work at home;
- Unless the homework is of an open-ended nature, it must be appropriate to the ability of the child in Mathematics and English;
- Teachers, in collaboration with parents, may choose to send practice sheets for specific students during the holidays;
- Students who take lengthy holidays during the term may be given tasks to complete as homework. Eg diary writing, reading, practice sheets;
- Homework will be assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided to students;
- During Term 1, parents will be advised in the year level information handout, of specific homework requirements for their child's year level and strategies for assisting their children;
- Students will have an appropriate period of time in which to have homework completed;
- It is the student's responsibility to complete their homework;
- Failure to complete homework will be recorded by the teacher and may be noted in the student's mid and end of year reports to parents;
- Parents will be encouraged to sign the homework and may choose to make a written comment;
- Diaries in Years 3 and 6 will facilitate communication between home and school, including homework tasks each week; and
- Class teachers will take into consideration other homework set by other colleagues including: Literacy Intervention; Speech Therapy or other outside agencies.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed by the Education Policy Committee in consultation with staff, every three years or sooner if required.