Dear Parents

We are now past the half way part of the term and our students have settled well into their new classes. Teachers have spent many hours developing appropriate learning programs for your child. Please don’t hesitate to make an appointment with your child’s teacher if you have any concerns about their social, emotional, physical or academic achievements.

SCHOOL PLAN
We are into the second year of the School Plan where the following strategic directions will be a focus:

Strategic Direction 1
Learners:
Students experience success as learners and responsible and productive citizens.

Strategic Direction 2
Leaders:
Lead whole school practices enabling the delivery of innovative teaching and learning programs, equipping students with the necessary skills to be successful 21st Century learners.

Strategic Direction 3
Links:
Cultivate the collaborative process within the Whitebridge Community of Schools to enhance the quality of teaching, learning and leadership.

The full school plan can be viewed on the CPS website where more detail is available for each strategic direction.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 1 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.3.16</td>
<td>WHS info evening for parents of prospective students for Y7 in 2017 – 7pm @ WHS Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.3.16</td>
<td>Book Club orders &amp; $s due</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.3.16</td>
<td>K-6 Free Watershow</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.3.16</td>
<td>Meal Deal note due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.3.16</td>
<td>Harmony Day, Bullying No Way day and meal deal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.3.16</td>
<td>Harmony Day Easter Raffle tickets and donations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.3.16</td>
<td>Y3-6 Free Coding Game Roadshow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.3.16</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade Jacket orders due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.3.16</td>
<td>Public Holiday – Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.3.16</td>
<td>Public Holiday – Easter Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.3.16</td>
<td>Y3-6 T-Ball Gala Day <strong>CANTEEN CLOSED</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4.16</td>
<td>Coding for kids (and parents too) cost involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4.16</td>
<td>Last day of school for Term 1</td>
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</tbody>
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TERM 2 2016

| 25.4.16             | Public Holiday – ANZAC Day |
| 26.4.16             | Staff Development Day – no students |
| 27.4.17             | All students return to school |

HARMONY DAY
Harmony Day-18 March is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all
Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it. At Charlestown PS we will be placing an emphasis on developing the understanding and tolerance of the students by studying the differences between people of the many nationalities at our school and in the general community. The children are encouraged to wear orange on 18 March. Parents can find out more at the Harmony Day web site http://www.harmony.gov.au/

This day, 18 March will also highlight BULLYING “NO WAY” DAY. It will provide students with information and strategies to deal with the issue of Bullying. This focus supports the on-going programs the children participate in at our school. These programs include the Life Education visit, the You Can Do It program, special anti-bullying lessons and Child Protection lessons in Term 4.

YR 7 HIGH SCHOOL FORMS

High School enrolment forms were sent home two weeks ago. Please return them before Friday so they can be sent to the high school. It is important they are returned on time to allow enrolment to occur at Whitebridge High. For those students who are seeking enrolment elsewhere, the forms still need to be returned as soon as possible.

HOMEWORK

It is always a controversial issue as families and schools prioritise the opportunities children have with after school activities and balance this with academic practice. There is also the difficulties teachers face in complying with DoE requirements and providing work at an individual student level so that homework is reasonable, practical and appropriate. At Charlestown PS, the official school policy is available on the school web site.

The staff work within this policy and provide work which:

- Encourages reading – home readers, Premier’s Reading Challenge, Reading Recovery tasks, library borrowing
- Encourages Maths practice – Studyladder, sheet work, tables practice, maths discussions
- Spelling practice-Soundwaves
- General revision or research work

Homework is a fantastic opportunity for parents to sit and talk about school, its successes and its challenges. Research has shown that when parents value education and support learning, children make greater gains at school. Parents are encouraged to help their children, but the teaching should be left for the teachers. If parents have questions or are unable to help, write a short note on the homework to alert the teacher. Please ensure your child returns their homework each Friday.

Nothing is more powerful than parents sharing their children’s learning and homework can be the key.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Last Thursday Mrs Gill, Mrs Lynch and I hosted the community forum for student wellbeing at school. This forum was a wonderful discussion about the new wellbeing policy and also changes that need to be made to accommodate the new domains of Connect, Thrive and Succeed which form a major part of the new policy. When the new policy has been finalised it will be sent home to each family.

EASTER RAFFLE

Thanks to those who have donated to the Easter Raffle so far. We look forward to more donations coming in over the next week or so, including baskets if you have any. Please return raffle tickets and money to the office.

LORIN NICHOLSON

At the time of writing, Lorin Nicholson is appearing at school. A report will be done about this amazing young man for next week’s newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS

During the past two weeks many of our Yr 6 students have trialled in basketball, AFL and rugby league. Congratulations to all of our students who have shown great sportsmanship and have tried their best in their chosen sport. Well done to Eti who was chosen in the Hunter Region Basketball team to compete in the NSW PSSA titles on the Central Coast later in Term 2.
NAPLAN- National Assessment Program-Literacy and Numeracy
If your child is currently in Year 3, 5, 7 or 9, they’ll sit NAPLAN tests this May. And despite what you may have heard, there’s no reason to panic or start an intensive study schedule for your child. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/all-about-naplan

On Tuesday 10 May Yrs 3 and 5 will sit the Language Conventions assessment which includes Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. This will be followed by Reading on Wednesday 11 May and Numeracy on Thursday 12 May.
The results of these tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support individualised teaching and learning programs.

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT
The school’s Annual School Report has now been uploaded to the CPS website. Please read and enjoy the wonderful achievements of our students and staff. It is also an indication of where and how the Gonski funding has been spent at CPS. Special thanks to the P&C and School Council for their contributions.

Have a great week
Jayne Thompson
Principal

CASH FOR CLASSROOMS
Lake Macquarie Fair is conducting this campaign from Monday 4 April until Sunday 8 May 2016. Customers who shop at Lake Macquarie Fair can allocate every dollar they spend as points towards their nominated school. The local school with the most points wins. The school with second highest points will win second, and so on. The total prize pool for the winning schools is $4,000.

STUDENT BANKING
Commonwealth Bank applications for student bank accounts are available from the school office.

CANTENE NEWS AND ROSTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Roster</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>10.3.16</td>
<td>K Style, T Black, M Rowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>11.3.16</td>
<td>No orders–counter service at lunch only L Lee, P McNally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>14.3.16</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>15.3.16</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>16.3.16</td>
<td>K Bassett, L Todorovski</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CLOTHING POOL HOURS
Wednesdays 2:45 pm – 3:15 pm
Fridays 9:00 am – 9:30 am

P&C NEWS
Easter Raffle Tickets due Monday 21st March
A book of 10 tickets were sent home last week.
We would appreciate your support by purchasing the tickets and also if you are able to make a donation/s for prizes that would be great. Donations and tickets will be due to be returned by Monday 21 March with the raffle being drawn at the Easter Hat Parade.

Clothing Pool - Brown Jackets
We have a small number of the old plain brown jacket for sale. These are brand new but we are no longer stocking them as we have a new jacket that is jersey lined. These plain brown jackets will be sold from the Clothing Pool for $20.
3/4O NEWS

We have had a great start to the year in 3/4O. As a new teacher at the school, I have enjoyed getting to know the students and meeting many of the parents. Thank you to all of the parents who were able to attend the parent information session. Congratulations to Michellie, Cadell and Ryan M who proudly represented our school at the Zone Swimming Carnival. Michellie will also be proudly representing the school at regional level this week. Well done!

Our Reading and Writing Groups are up and running. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered their time, helping us with our reading and writing tasks. In Writing, we have been creating some fantastic narratives. Here are a few of our introductions:

As the clock struck 12 and the full moon was shining in the night sky, the green tree python slowly slithered down the tree and into the dark, gloomy cave.
*Written by the Red-Finned Blue-Eyed Fish*

On a hot summer’s day, as the sun began to set, the tiny but very strong ant crawled through a crack in the wall of the hospital.
*Written by the Mountain Pygmy-Possums*

As the sun set over the mountains, the lonely, black bear began to fall asleep in his creepy, abandoned mansion.
*Written by the Southern Bent-Wing Bats*

As the sun began to rise on a cool autumn morning, the energetic, cheeky monkey swung from vine to vine through the moist, green rainforest.
*Written by the Orange-Bellied Parrots*

It was a hot sunny day on Christmas Eve, the shiny, new robot powered up and slowly navigated its way out of the lab. In the distance it detected a colourful floating object in the sky.
*Written by the Southern-Corroboree Frogs*
FREE & fun program for fitter, healthier, happier kids!

Are you worried about your child’s weight?

Go to www.go4fun.com.au to see if your child could do Go4Fun.

Go4Fun is a FREE 10 week program which runs over one school term after school hours. During the program children and their families get involved in fun games and activities and learn about delicious nutritious foods they can eat every day.

Children need to be 7-13 years old and a parent or carer also needs to attend. Younger and/or older siblings are encouraged to attend.

Go to www.go4fun.com.au or call 1800 780 900 to see if your child could do Go4Fun.

Gifted and Talented Students (GATS)

The Hunter Primary GATS Committee will be holding 2 Parent Information Sessions to accommodate the Newcastle and Maitland regions.

Maitland session
When: Wednesday 9th March at 6pm
Where: School library
Rutherford Public School
Weberlands Street, Rutherford
NSW 2320

Newcastle session
When: Wednesday 16th March at 6pm
Where: School hall
The Junction Public School
Union Street, Merewether
NSW 2291

Guest Speakers:
Mrs Christine Rippon  
Principal of Merewether High School

Mrs Lee Saurins  
Principal of Wiripaang Public School

Agenda
- What is a Gifted and Talented Student?
- Myths around ‘Gifted Students’
- Respect, Rights and Responsibilities
- Geniuses in the Making

Tea, coffee and light supper will be provided from 5:30pm.
Social skills for children

By Michael Grose

Here are 7 important social skills to help children to develop:

1. Ask for what you want
Help children ask for what they want. It means they don’t throw tantrums, whinge, and sulk or expect parents to guess what’s on their minds. While we need to be patient with toddlers, we need also to give older children the chance and opportunity to ask for what they want. Sometimes we need to ignore shrugs and grunts and expect them to articulate their wishes. This is the basis of civil behaviour, as well as a basic human skill.

2. Good manners
Teach kids good manners, in particular the three ‘power words’. These words are very persuasive because they have a way of breaking down barriers and people’s defences. These three words are: your name; please; thanks. These terms are the basis of good manners, and, when used, will increase the likelihood of getting what you want.

3. Sharing
Sharing is a basic social skill. Developmentally, very young children like to keep their possessions themselves. As they get older and move into Pre School and beyond the notion of sharing becomes a pre-requisite for playing with and forming relationships with others. Other children like to play and be with those who share their time, possessions and space with them. Sharing is the start of empathy as it shows sensitivity to other people’s feelings.

4. Holding a conversation
Holding conversations with others is a lifetime friendship skill. Conversations require self-disclosure, which can be challenging for some children. Good conversationalists give of themselves, but also take an interest in the person they are talking to. Many children forget that good conversations are two-way events, and tend to focus solely on themselves.

5. Winning and losing well
Kids need to learn to win without rubbing others noses in it, and lose gracefully without throwing tantrums and making excuses. Wanting to win is natural, but they need to do so in a way that they maintain a relationship with other players so they will play again. Losing may make kids feel bad, but kids need to control their negative feelings so that others will play with them again.

6. Approaching and joining a group
The ability to approach strangers in social situations is valuable skill that opens up many doors, both friendship-wise and business-wise. These skills can be learned and practised during childhood, so that it becomes second nature in adulthood.

7. Handling fights and disagreements
Disagreements happen in families and among friends. The key is to make sure disagreements don’t lead to the breakdown of friendships. It’s important to get across to kids that having an argument or disagreement doesn’t mean that a friendship is over. Strong friendships, like strong family relationships, withstand disagreements. In fact, they only serve to strengthen friendships.