Dear Parents

**EASTER**

Have a wonderful Easter holiday break this coming weekend! Thanks to everyone for buying raffle tickets and donating prizes to our fabulous Easter raffle and we look forward to seeing you at the Easter Hat/Mask parade tomorrow at 2:15pm. I’m looking forward to the amazing talent and beautiful bonnets on display! All pre-schoolers are welcome to bring along an Easter hat to school and join in the parade.

**WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY**

All schools throughout the state participate in a range of measures to protect and ensure that a safe working and learning environment occurs for everyone. Some of these measures include regular Evacuation and Lockdown drills, putting fluro tape around poles, ensuring signage is correct around the school, maintaining a safe playground and also new non-slip tape has been put onto the stage in the school hall. Evacuations and Lockdowns occur to protect students, staff and visitors if an unusual circumstance should occur. It is important to remember that when a Lockdown or an Evacuation does happen that decisions are being made to protect the safety and wellbeing of everyone at school at the time. Evacuations and Lockdowns can occur for a variety of reasons: fires at the school, the recent bomb threats and hoaxes that have occurred in some schools, flooding from severe rain and also the unwanted visitor. Depending on the situation the following bells will occur: in an evacuation you will hear a continuous long loud bell and everyone at school should evacuate to Attunga Park, whilst in a lockdown it is the opposite: several short bursts of the bell. In a Lockdown you should proceed to the nearest classroom or office area. With everyone following the Department of Education’s WH&S procedures we will prevent harm to ourselves and others. If possible, and time permits, our school app will be used to inform parents in an emergency situation.

**HARMONY DAY AND ANTI-BULLYING DAY**

Thanks to the hardworking P&C for their meal deal contribution to our Harmony Day celebrations. Students have designed posters, participated in role plays, discussed anti-bullying scenarios and completed art activities spreading the word that we are taking a stand against bullying. Our CPS students are very aware of our zero tolerance when it comes to bullying and that it is never okay to be a bully. Please take the time to discuss with your child about our individual responsibility to take a stand together against bullying.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 1 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24.3.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Easter Hat Parade –</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Canteen closed for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.3.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Public Holiday – Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.3.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Public Holiday – Easter Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.3.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Y3-6 T-Ball Gala Day –</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Canteen closed all day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Coding for kids (parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Last day of school for Term 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15 Frederick Street, Charlestown 2290 Telephone 4943 4063, 4943 4137 Facsimile 4942 2583
E-mail charlestown-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au website http://www.charlestown-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 2 2016</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25.4.16</td>
<td>Public Holiday – ANZAC Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.4.16</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.4.16</td>
<td>All students return to school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHAPLAINCY FUNDING
In 2015 the State Government released another round of the Chaplaincy funding and after discussions with a number of local schools who “raved” about their Chaplain and the benefits to students, we proceeded in submitting an application. In 2016 we were notified of our successful application and secured a local Chaplaincy Program Administrator (CPA) who looks after the salaries, credentials and training side of the program. After looking through several cv’s and contacting referees we are delighted to welcome Mrs Jodi Handscomb to our school. Miss Jodi will work every Monday and Thursday and run small group programs for our students such as Shine, (empowering young women), Seasons for Growth (dealing with grief), Cool Kids (dealing with anxiety) and Social Skills Programs. She will also be a listening ear for our students who may be dealing with day to day challenges of life as she works closely with teachers to ensure the wellbeing of all our students is well catered for.

POSITIVE PARENTING
Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as holding their school in high regard. Children copy many of their parents’ views so your positive attitude to school and learning is catching.
At CPS you can become involved in many classroom jobs such as hearing kids read, taking small groups in elective activities such as gardening and craft activities. Unfortunately finding parents to take part in these activities is increasingly difficult. Many find themselves worn out from working too hard or being involved in a variety of activities. They find themselves with no energy left to be involved in their child’s school.
Here are some ideas to help you participate in your child’s education in positive ways:
  * Talk with your child about their day
  * Hear your children read, help them with their homework
  * Ensure your child has had enough sleep and plenty of fresh fruit, a sandwich and water for the day
  * Become an advocate for the school and promote its positive features throughout the wider community
  * Attend school activities such as open days, sports events and celebrations. Invite other members of your family ie grandparents, to come along as well.

Positive parent participation in school and learning is a proven contributor to student success. One practical way to assist your child as a learner is to become actively involved in his or her school life. We look forward to seeing you being part of Charlestown Public School.

MANY THANKS
Unlike the private school sector where you are required to part with thousands of dollars each Semester in order to have your child attend school, in NSW Public Schools a massive part of your child’s education is funded by the government. However every Public School has a voluntary contribution scheme whereby parents are asked to contribute $7.50 per term, which is usually a one off payment in Term One of $30 for one student with a further discount for two students ($40) and three students or more in the one family ($50). Many thanks to those who have paid this contribution, as it goes towards acquisition of further resources for our classrooms. If it has slipped your mind you can pay it online through our “POP” payment system or send it to the office. Also thank you for paying for our new spelling program “Soundwaves” and the Sport in Schools Social Skills program.

GAMING AND CODING WORKSHOP
Yesterday students in Yrs 3-6 attended a coding and gaming workshop organised by Mrs Gill. The students found it really enjoyable and some were keen to learn more. If this applies to your child, please complete the note and send it to school with the attached money for the next course before 1 April. Parents are also
able to attend the workshop. Money will not be receipted at school and will be handed directly to the gaming workshop organisers.

Have a great week!!

Jayne Thompson
Principal

Harmony Day posters

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

CASH FOR CLASSROOMS
WIN UP TO $2,500* CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL!

Simply shop at any participating store at Lake Macquarie Fair until Sunday 8 May 2016. For every dollar you spend, your nominated school will collect one point. The school with the most points wins! Simply fill in an entry form, enclose your receipts and place it in your school’s entry box. Good luck!

www.lakemacquariefair.com.au

CANTEEN NEWS AND ROSTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>24.3.16</td>
<td>J Hope, L Fletcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Closed for recess due to the Easter Hat Parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>25.3.16</td>
<td>No orders–counter service at lunch only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>L Lee, Magata Seu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>28.3.16</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>29.3.16</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>30.3.16</td>
<td>CLOSED due to T-Ball Gala</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CLOTHING POOL HOURS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesdays</td>
<td>2:45 pm – 3:15 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fridays</td>
<td>9:00 am – 9:30 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P&C NEWS

Easter Celebrations
Last week we sent home a book of 10 tickets with each student. We would appreciate your support by purchasing the tickets and if you could make any donations for prizes that would be great. The raffle will be drawn at the Easter Hat Parade.

P & C Events in Term 1
6 April – Requests for donations for the Mother’s Day stall Friday 6 May
**Entertainment Books**
The books will be available late in April.

‘You Can’ Mobile Phone recycling
If you have any old mobile phones, please drop them into the recycling box in the foyer.

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

**New Jacket Orders**
As the cooler weather approaches, we start to consider buying a school jacket. These jackets are jersey lined.

Whilst we have a small number of jackets currently available in the Clothing Pool, we want to ensure that we have enough to meet demand. The jackets come in sizes from 6 to 16 at a cost of $40. Please complete order form and return with a $5 deposit to the school Office by Thursday 24 March 2016.

**Canteen**

**Information Manual**
An Information Manual has been sent home to all Canteen Volunteers. We ask that you have a read of the manual to ensure you are familiar with the policies and procedures that need to be adhered to when working in the canteen. These are required as the Canteen is inspected by Lake Macquarie Council annually and to ensure we meet our Work Health and Safety requirements for both the Department of Education and our insurance policy.

**Canteen Closures**
The Canteen will be CLOSED on

1. Thursday 24 March for RECESS due to the Easter Hat Parade
2. ALL DAY Wednesday 30 March due to the T-Ball Gala Day

**Community News**

FREE & fun program for fitter, healthier, happier kids!
Are you worried about your child’s weight?

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](http://www.go4fun.com.au) or call 1800 780 900 to see if your child could do Go4Fun.
Charlestown Uniting Church’s Kids Holiday Fun Club

24-26 Milson Street, Charlestown
Wednesday 20 April 2016
(Children in Years K - 6)
9.30am – 3.30pm
Cost $10/Child (maximum family payment $20)
Includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea

Registrations & payment essential by 15/04/2016

Registration forms and payment can be posted to:
Charlestown Uniting Church
P O Box 449
Charlestown. 2290

For all enquiries please phone:
Cathy - 4908 1083  OR  Laraine - 4944 7826

Rhee Taekwondo

Celebrating 46 Years in 2016

Martial Arts & Self Defence
Discipline & Perseverance
Improve Concentration & Self Confidence

Men, Women, Children (5yrs+)
The Family Art
(2 Free Trial Lessons)

Beginners Enrol NOW!!

CHARLESTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL
Cnr Smith & Frederick Streets

TUESDAY & THURSDAY
6.30 pm - 7.30 pm

Inquiries: 0418 511719

www.rheefamilay.com
Creating creative kids

Dr Jenny Brockis

Creativity adds value to and enriches lives and our kids have wonderful fertile minds just brimming with ideas. The problem is we can stifle that creativity, particularly during those upper school years when sticking to the demands of a busy curriculum takes increasing priority.

Research tells us that those kids who continually access creative outlets are the more successful students, because creativity is linked to whole brain development. Brain wise, creativity is important for the development of language, problem solving, reasoning skills, understanding and learning.

There are four main ingredients required for creativity:

Mess
Mistakes
Make-believe
Mucking in together

Top tips for fostering creativity

1. Give permission for freedom of expression.
   It’s not about you or what you think is the right way to create something. Encourage your child to explore, and create on their own terms while having fun.

2. Encourage play
   Encourage active unstructured play that takes them away from the TV, tablet or computer for a while.

3. Celebrate your child’s creative expression
   That’s what fridge doors, corkboards, and mantelpieces are for! It’s not to reward the masterpiece itself (that's a quick way to stymie any future creative activity!), but to celebrate the process of exploration and discovery.

4. Foster originality by being accepting of difference.
   While some rules are important to keep our children safe, being allowed to do things their way when developing ideas, is what helps shape their individuality.

Dr Jenny Brockis is a Medical Practitioner, speaker and author. She specialises in brain health and the science of high performance thinking. Her new book Future Brain (Wiley) is available in all good book stores and online. www.drjennybrockis.com