



CHARLESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 8 – Wednesday 16 September 2009

Dear Parents

It is most pleasing to have issued the *NAPLAN* (National Assessment Program – Literacy & Numeracy) results to the Year 3 and 5 students and their families last Monday. The results paint a picture of student performance when compared to students all over Australia.

For individual students, it provides feedback on progress to this point in time, identifying areas of strength as well as areas to target for improvement. For the state and the school, it provides data and feedback on our processes and helps us identify strengths and weaknesses as well.

This is a national testing program and for NSW some highlights in the 2009 results include:-

- ~ NSW was first in spelling on every indicator and every year level;
- ~ In Year 3, NSW had the highest percentage of students at or above minimum standard in reading, writing, spelling and equal highest in numeracy, in Year 5 writing and spelling, Year 7 spelling and writing (equal first), and in Year 9 spelling;
- ~ NSW had highest percentage of students in the top band for numeracy at all year levels;
- ~ NSW achieved the highest percentages in the top band in Year 3 writing, spelling and numeracy, Year 5 spelling, grammar/punctuation and numeracy, Year 7 spelling and numeracy and year 9 spelling and numeracy;
- ~ Mean scores for NSW increased by about 10 score points or more in years 3&5 reading, year 3 grammar / punctuation and Year 5 numeracy.

Overall for Charlestown PS, the 2009 NAPLAN results demonstrated that:

~ the school average was higher than the national average in all areas

~ Year 3 student averages were above the state average in overall literacy (reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy

~ Year 5 student averages were above state averages in overall literacy (reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy

The students and the teachers are to be congratulated on the results, which are due to hard work and new approaches to teaching and learning. Parents with concerns regarding the results are encouraged to contact their child's teacher to discuss the results. An overview of the results, without identifying individual students, will be shown at the P&C meeting tonight.

It was a fantastic evening last night at the *School Disco!* Congratulations to all of the students who attended. Everyone had a great time and the standard of behaviour was excellent.

This week the school was audited regarding *attendance*. Schools are required by law under the Education Act to maintain a variety of registers, with attendance being but one. Your assistance in resolving the following issues is very much appreciated. Overall, the audit results were pleasing, but areas identified for improvement were:

~ the significant number of absences not explained. Please send notes or ring within two days of an absence.

~ the number of students arriving late was an issue and needs to be addressed immediately

~ those families having extended absences, for example holidays of two weeks or more, need to complete a form at school prior to the holiday.

Last week I met with some representatives from the building company which will be renovating the internal parts of the school. This is the Primary Schools for the 21st Century program which is a part of the Building Education Revolution, funded by the Federal Government. The program will see each classroom completely refurbished with the library being extended and renovated. It is hoped that this program of works will begin before the end of this school year.

A reminder to all, that a Canteen Meeting (7pm) and a P&C Meeting (7:30pm) will be held tonight in the Staffroom. It is always wonderful to see the regular faces but it would be fantastic to see some new ones and have some new opinions.

Unfortunately the **P&C Working Bee** is being postponed. This is due to the external painting and external works, which should be starting soon. A Working Bee will be organised at a more suitable time.

The **P&C Trivia Night** is on this Saturday night (7pm) and it is not too late to book seats or a table. There will be a variety of questions, fun games and activities to entertain everyone. This is a major fund raiser for the P&C and it is hoped that it will be well supported.

Great news and congratulations! **Shaun**, a former student and school captain of Charlestown PS, has been elected School Captain of Whitebridge HS for 2010. It is wonderful to see past students continuing to be high achievers.

It is the time of year to get some feedback on the progress of various aspects of the school. A **Parent Survey** will be sent home early next week. This survey will be much smaller than last year, and as with the 2008 version, your opinions are very much appreciated and the information will be used to fine-tune the direction for our school in 2010. If possible, please return the surveys before the end of this term. Thank you for your assistance.

Regards

John Theissen
Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
16.9.09	Canteen Meeting 7 pm P & C Meeting 7.30 pm
18.9.09	Y3&4 to Yamuloong excursion
Saturday 19.9.09	P&C Trivia Night
22.9.09	P&C 'Meal Deal' Gym
24.9.09	Book Club orders & money due. Finals Debating Year 5 -Kahibah
29.9.09	Gym Year 5 Kinder Buddy Training
30.9.09	Touch Footy Gala Day
1.10.09	Charlestown Cup for Years 3&4
2.10.09	Jump Rope for Heart Day Last Day Term 4
19.10.09	All students return for Term 4
19-30.10.09	Intensive Swimming Scheme
21.10.09	7pm Canteen/P&C meetings

CANTEEN NEWS

A special thank you to the mums and dads who have volunteered to do extra days in canteen to fill the vacancies – especially, Sally Egan, Kerrie Sparke, Jacqui Watsford, Gary Brinks, Mel Wickens, Kylie Hillier, Jenny Forster, Diane House & Debbie Levin.

We still need another volunteer on the following Fridays to allow the canteen to remain open on these days:

Friday 25/9/09 (next Friday)

Friday 13/11/09

Friday 11/12/09 x (2 volunteers – Presentation Day)

Don't forget Meal Deal orders are due in this Friday.

No late orders can be accepted

Error on Canteen Pricelist:

Large Pies are \$1.70 not \$1.60

The following are on canteen duty. If needed, please arrange your own replacement.

Thur.	17.9.09	J. Velovski, K. Sparke
Fri.	18.9.09	S. Baker
Mon.	21.9.09	S. Widdison, R. Warren
Tues	22.9.09	D. Bosevski, M. Hall
Wed.	23.9.09	G. Brinks, M. Smith

CLOTHING POOL HOURS

Wednesdays	2.45 pm – 3.15 pm
Fridays	9.00 am – 9.30 am