



CHARLESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 9 – Wednesday 23 September 2009

Dear Parents

As the busy times continue during the second last week of Term 3, it may help you to know that there are only 11 weeks of school left for the year, with 14 weeks till Christmas! The year is rapidly passing by.

The Staff are continuing their training with a number of Staff attending courses relating to First Aid, Maths, Writing, Best Start as well as NAPLAN in the past few weeks.

It was unfortunate that the *P&C Trivia Night* needed to be postponed from last Saturday, due to the lack of support. The date has been changed to Saturday, 14th November. It is hoped that more families will be able to attend on this night and support the school. The P&C is continually trying to develop the wonderful community feel the school has, and is trying to incorporate fund raising through community events rather than just raffles, etc. Your support is most appreciated.



Attached to this Newsletter is the **2009 Parent Survey**. The major focus for evaluation is the curriculum area of Maths and the administration area of Management. The school and the P&C are also trying to monitor and modify programs and approaches to best serve the needs of all of our students. To help us with this, the opinions of students, staff and

parents will be asked for. It would be most appreciated if all families were to complete one survey and return to the office or class teacher as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.

As a part of the *School Communication Plan 2009-2010*, a new promotional brochure has been developed. One has been sent home with every family. Thank you to Lynne Dobinson for her excellent work, and her patience! The brochure has been designed to introduce new families to our wonderful school and help increase the number of students who will attend our school in the next few years. If you know of anyone moving into the area or intends to change schools, please ask for a brochure to help promote our school as their first choice.



Volunteers are needed to deliver some brochures within the school's enrolment area to make sure that all families who have the opportunity to enrol at Charlestown PS know about our school. If you can spend a little time doing a letter box drop, please ring the office as soon as possible and leave your name.

Mrs Thompson has now completed her interviews with every child attending *Kindergarten* next year. The interviews are important as it gives the school valuable information and helps fine-tune our Transition

Program. The Transition Program continues next term with an Orientation Morning on Wednesday, 28th October. We are looking forward to meeting all of our Kinder 2010 students and their parents again on this morning. And so are their buddies.

Please note that there is a change to the calendar, with the **Year 5 Buddies** for the Kinder 2010 being trained next Monday, September 28th. Having a 'buddy' is a huge part of our Transition Program, and the Year 5 students are really looking forward to this new responsibility.

The **Charlestown Cup** is a new Whitebridge cluster of schools initiative for students in Years 3 and 4. It is designed to have these students participate in a wide variety of sports and to socialise with students from other schools in the local area. The non-competitive nature of the day is to encourage participation in sport and promote a healthy living life style. Notes and a more detailed explanation will be sent home this week.

Congratulations to the following students who gained outstanding results in the **University of NSW English competition**.

Distinction: *Scott, Lucy*

Credit: *Anna, Emma, Gordon.*

There were 11 Participation Certificates as well.

The importance for every student to be able to swim safely can not be stressed highly enough. The school prides itself on its outstanding success in having nearly all students able to swim before they leave for high school. There are two programs which are used to teach swimming at Charlestown PS:

1. The **Intensive Swimming Program** - notes have been sent home to all students in years 2 and 3 as well as students in the primary grades who can not swim. The prompt return of the notes, etc is appreciated as this program begins from day 1 of next term.
2. The school **Aquatics Program** will be held during Weeks 5 & 6 next term for Years 2-6 and is a compulsory part of the school's PD/H/PE curriculum.



Finally, the **Fruit and Vege Packs** will be available to order this week. As promised, this will be a fortnightly event and it is hoped that families will make the most of this opportunity.

Regards

John Theissen
Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
24.9.09	Book Club orders & money due.
28.9.09	Year 5 Kinder Buddy Training
29.9.09	Gym – last session
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
28.10.09	Kinder 2010 Orientation morning
2-4.10.09	Y5&6 - Great Aussie Bush Camp
14.11.09	P&C Trivia Night

Book Club



Orders & money due back Thursday 24th September 2009.

Yamuloong Excursion



Years 3 and 4 had a fabulous day at the Yamuloong Centre at Garden Suburb last Friday, led by Centre co-ordinator, Shelley and her assistant Zoran. The children went on a walk through the seven hectare site looking at various trees which provide “bush tucker”.

After a recess of fruit and yummy wattle seed cakes the students then participated in 3 work shops, dot painting, dance and Aboriginal history and artifacts.

What a wonderful day and a fun way to learn more about the history and culture of Indigenous Australians.



CLOTHING POOL HOURS

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

P & C NEWS

Dear Parents

It was most disappointing that for the third time this year, the P&C and Canteen Meetings struggled to have a quorum, with less than 5 people attending on each occasion. It seems like the number of families and individuals making decisions is slowly decreasing. This is so different to the support everyone provides for our activities, which is always outstanding, and your support of the canteen, which is wonderful too. The Executive and I do hope that more people will become involved in the decision making processes, so that the P&C always has new ideas, and more importantly, is representative of everyone.

On the back of the new Trivia Night flyer is the list of individuals and businesses who have made donations for the Trivia Night. The P&C and I thank them very much for supporting our school and its fund raising activities. It is hoped that more families will be able to attend the Trivia Night on the new date. This will be a great night. Please ring the Office to book your tables now.

The P&C is also looking at different ways to support students and families as well as making school fun. The Meal Deal yesterday, Book Club, the Fruit & Vege Packs as well as the Cake Drive are just some of the ways the P&C is making school more interesting.

Thank you to the mums who assisted with the Meal Deal. It was a great success.

Regards

*Diane House
P&C President*

Lake Macquarie MCDO October School Holiday Calendar Monday 5 October – Friday 16 October 2009

The Middle Childhood Development School Holiday Calendar is targeted for children aged 5 to 12 in Lake Macquarie.

Fee for Service

- *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services - Cost: \$1 to \$8.*
Fun and educational low cost programs at Awabakal Nature Reserve, Blue Gum Hills Regional Park and Glenrock State Conservation Area. For enquiries, booking and/or to be added to our electronic or postal mail out list contact the Hunter Region NPWS office on 49 848200 or follow link <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/Tours.aspx>

Local Government Area

- *Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery - Cost: \$20 to \$26 (\$5 per additional child).*
Fun and creative workshops from Tuesday 13 October to Friday 16 October. For further details and to book phone (02) 4965 8260
- *Lake Macquarie City Council - Cost: Free to \$15.*
School Holiday workshops and shows at the library. For more information phone the library on 4921 0447 or visit www.lakemac.com.au/downloads/Whats%20on%20Oct%202009.pdf
- *Livesites and the Newcastle Museum - Cost: \$45 all day program*
A fun school holidays program in October that incorporates science, drama, music, circus, creative Indigenous activities and craft. The activities will run for six days in the October school holidays between 9:30am – 4:30pm with an hour of minding before and after the main program. For further information and to book phone 49291977 or visit website www.livesites.org.au/index.php?id=6

Private Sector

- *Charlestown Square - Cost: Free*
The Great Lego Building Lego Challenge , Donut King Donut Decorating Workshop and Ben 10 Live Experience - Meet & Greet. For more details follow link http://www.charlestownsquare.com.au/content.aspx?urlkey=whats_on
- *HYPE 4 Kids School Holiday Program - Cost: \$16 to \$45.*
Monday 5th October - Friday 16th October at Carey Bay Shopping Village, Toronto for children aged 5-12yrs. For bookings and further information please phone 4959 8386

Established Vacation Care Centres

- **Awabakal Vacation Care** - will be providing quality care for school aged children (ages 5 to 12) from Tuesday 6th October to Friday 9th October.
For bookings and further information please phone Karen Smith 4956 9132
- **Biraban OOSH** - Operating from Biraban Primary School, by YMCA
Operating hours: 8am - 6pm Contact on 4959 4444
- **Boolaroo Vacation Care** - Operating from Boolaroo Primary School, by Community Activities Lake Macquarie Inc (CALM)
Operating hours: 7.30am - 6pm Contact Katherine Morrison-Rice on 4950 3880
- **Cameron Park Vacation Care** - Operating from 35 Harris St, by Community Activities Lake Macquarie Inc (CALM)
Operating hours: 7.30am – 6pm Contact Kathy Taylor on 4953 0000
- **Cardiff Vacation Care** - Operating from Cardiff Primary School, by Community Activities Lake Macquarie Inc (CALM)
Operating hours: 7.30am – 6pm Contact Kirby Lunn on 4956 8814
- **Southlakes Combined OOSH** - Operating from Morisset Multi Purpose Centre.
Operating hours: 7.30am - 6pm. Contact on 4973 7005
- **Woodrising Preschool OOSH** – Operating from Woodrising Youth Centre, by Woodrising Preschool
Operating hours: 7am - 6.30pm. Contact on 4950 4212 **Felicity Smith**

Middle Childhood Development Officer

Community Activities Lake Macquarie (CALM) Direct: (02) 4950 3884 General Office: (02) 4950 3888 Fax: (02) 4959 6810
PO Box 456 Toronto NSW 2283

