



Castle Hill Public School

NEWSLETTER

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Term 1 Week 3 – February 12, 2025

WHAT'S ON

Wednesday February 12

Twilight Swimming Carnival at 4.30pm

Wednesday February 12

P&C Meeting at 7.30pm

PBL Fortnightly Expectation Focus



RESPONSIBLE

Be organised and ready to learn.

Principal's Report

Welcome back!

A very warm welcome back to Castle Hill Public School to all our students and their families. I trust that you enjoyed the Christmas and vacation break with your family and friends and are ready to go for the year ahead!

A special welcome to our new students and families. We hope that you settle in quickly to Castle Hill Public School and enjoy your time here. We are exceptionally proud of our school! Our amazing students, outstanding teachers and administrative staff, and very supportive parents and community members each play a part in making Castle Hill Public School a wonderful school to attend.

New Facilities!

'This is SO worth the wait!'

One of our students stopped me in the playground last Thursday morning to let me know of her excitement at the prospect of stepping inside her new classroom for the first time and it was a view shared by all our students and teachers. As you would be aware, our new canteen, hall and classroom block is now open and we are enjoying our magnificent school facilities.

We look forward to inviting parents into the hall and classrooms and will be offering a tour of the new facilities as part of the 'Meet the Teacher' evenings (see further in my report).

Despite the fact that our new buildings are open, the building program continues. Currently, demountable classrooms are being removed and once they are off-site, our playground upgrade will commence which will include the construction of a basketball court.



Gilham Street back gate access on Monday 17 February

As I write, I am negotiating pedestrian access for students and parents for next Monday 17 February via the back gate (Gilham Street) entrance. At this stage, it is anticipated that access will be reduced (but still possible) between the hours of 8.15am and 9.15am and then 2.30pm-3.30pm.

This is to allow the demountable classrooms nearest the back gate to be removed from the school site. Should these works proceed next Monday, we encourage access via the front of the school (Les Shore Place) if possible, instead of using the back gate. School Bytes messages will be sent home to confirm these arrangements.

New classes

Students were placed in their 2025 classes on Monday morning. There are no changes anticipated to class structures.

New staff

We welcome the following staff members to Castle Hill Public School:

Miss Hemmings (4H), Miss Baxter (6L), Mrs Carol and Mrs Lau (counsellor).

We are very pleased to welcome back many of our teaching staff: Mrs Giess, Mrs Unmack (job-sharing on 1G), Mrs Paiva (job sharing on 1A), Mrs Jongma (1J) and Mrs Yabsley (4Y). A full staff list will be published in next week's newsletter.

Please note that Mrs Kohary will be the Deputy Principal with oversight of K-2 and Miss Machuca will be the Deputy Principal with oversight of Years 3-6.

School Timetable

Now that we have regained access to additional playground space, we no longer have a split timetable in operation. All students will have recess from:

11.00am-11.20am, eating time from 1.10pm-1.20pm and lunch play from 1.20pm-2.00pm.

Students can once again purchase items over the counter from the canteen at recess and lunch.

Entering and leaving the school

A reminder that if you are entering or leaving the school via Les Shore Place that the **only entrance to the school is via the fenced path from the intersection at the traffic lights into the school.**

School Finish and Kiss and Drop times

Kiss and Drop will start at the following times:

Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 (and their elder siblings) 3.05pm

Years 3-6 students – 3.15pm

Please ensure that you do not arrive at Kiss and Drop prior to your child's pick-up time.

Meet the Teacher Evenings

Meet the Teacher evenings will consist of a face-to-face presentation and will be led by your child's class teacher, in their classroom, at the following times:

Tuesday 25 February 6.00 – 6.45pm Years 1 (except 1J) and Year 2 (tour of new facilities to start at 5.30pm)

Tuesday 25 February 6.45 – 7.30pm Years 3 and 4 (tour of new facilities to start at 6.15pm)

Thursday 27 February 6.00 – 6.45pm Kindergarten (tour of new facilities to start at 5.30pm)

Thursday 27 February 6.45 – 7.30pm Years 5 and 6 (tour of new facilities to start at 6.15pm)

Tuesday 4 March 5.30 – 6.15pm 1J only (tour of new facilities to follow)

We strongly encourage parents to attend if possible!

Twilight Swimming Carnival

A reminder that our twilight swimming carnival will be held this afternoon after school at Riverstone Swimming Centre. Competitors should arrive at 4.00pm for a 4.30pm start. Students who have indicated that they will be attending must be competitive swimmers who are competing with the intention of seeking to represent our school at the Zone swimming carnival. Students must be able to swim 50 metres in deep water without stopping and unaided.

P&C Meeting

Our first meeting of the year will be held tonight. Because of the clash with the swimming carnival, we will start a little later than normal at 7.30pm. Please see details further in this newsletter.

We extend a warm welcome to any new parents who wish to join us at tonight's meeting.

Craig Oliver-Principal
Craig.oliver@det.nsw.edu.au

News from the Deputies

Welcome back!

Our school was filled with lots of big smiles last Thursday as we welcomed back all students to our school. Even Pabalo, our school mascot, joined in our morning celebrations. There was and continues to be a lot of excitement about the school building and our students and teachers appear to be enjoying the new facilities.

We are very excited about the term ahead and look forward to working with you all.



Opportunity Class and Selective High School

Miss Dunn and I welcomed close to 60 families on Monday evening in our new school hall. All families were present to hear about the opportunity class and selective high placement tests. Any families who missed the session and require further information are asked to contact Miss Machuca. Applications for both assessments will close on **Friday 21st February**.

Playmates

Sixty-three Year 5 peer mentors have given up their playtime to assist our Kindergarten students settle into our school. Our peer mentors met their playmates today and engaged in a range of activities with them including hopscotch, duck duck goose, captain ball and various other games. Our playmates program runs each lunchtime until the end of Week 5.

Band News

Band will be commencing next Wednesday February. Please refer to communication from Teaching Services Australia (TSA) regarding your child's lesson and rehearsal location. All students will attend a band meeting next Wednesday at 2:30pm in the school hall to discuss expectations for band members. Parents new to band are also encouraged to attend.

Canteen

It has been fantastic to have our new canteen in operation. A few reminders for all students to remain in the lines allocated to their grade only. Please do not buy for friends. Icy treats will only be available for purchase at lunchtimes as we are finding that students have not been able to finish these treats during the recess break.



**Mrs Alex Kohary and Miss Danielle Machuca
Deputy Principals**

PSSA and Sport News

PSSA



PSSA trials will occur this Thursday and Friday (weather permitting). Both days we will trial touch football, cricket, softball and tee-ball. Students are asked to wear their sports uniform and ensure they bring a hat and water bottle.

School News

CHPS String Ensemble

We are forming a string ensemble again this year, with a performance to be held at the Sydney Opera House as part of the Festival of Music. Please scan the QR code on the flyer in this newsletter for full details.

P&C News

President message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our first P&C meeting for 2025 will be held online via Zoom, TONIGHT Wednesday 12 February at 7:30pm. We understand that there may be some parents who are delayed in joining us due to the swimming carnival this evening, however we hope you will consider joining us when you can.

P&C meetings are a great way to find out what is happening at our school as well as a chance to get to know the school executive and other parents.

All are very welcome to attend.

To register, please visit:

<https://au01web.zoom.us/meeting/register/79MDaDBpQyK4BxEr9xN9Yw>

We look forward to seeing you.

If you have any questions or concerns or would like to become a financial member of the P&C, please feel free to contact me at the address below.

Erica Miller CHPS P&C President
president@chpspandc.org.au
<http://www.chpspandc.org.au>

Canteen

Canteen Update

Welcome back to Term 1 2025! We are pleased to announce that the new canteen space is up and running at the front of the new hall. Along with continuing to provide our online ordering for full lunches, we are very excited to welcome the children back for over-the-counter service for snacks, drinks and treats during recess and lunch, please see the attached Price List for over the counter sales. Get that pocket money ready!



Flexischools Online Lunch ordering

By now you should have all updated Flexischools to your child's new 2025 class.

If you have not, please do so now as this will help us greatly in getting the lunch orders delivered to where your children are in a timely manner.

Flexischools has also made several changes to their online ordering system including the functionality to place orders for two children at the same time. We have also updated the canteen menu so that sandwiches and burgers are "build your own" reducing the amount of scrolling to reach these items. If you haven't downloaded the Flexischools app yet, visit www.flexischools.com.au to get started.

If you have any questions about lunch ordering, food items or ingredients, contact Tanya at canteen@chpspandc.org.au

ROSTER:

Monday February 17	Cecile
Tuesday February 18	Gurpreet, Rebecca
Wednesday February 19	Winkie
Thursday February 20	VOLUNTEER REQUIRED
Friday February 21	May VOLUNTEER REQUIRED

Our monthly roster has some spaces to fill, even more importantly this year as we have returned to counter service. If you would like to join our wonderful team of current volunteers it would be greatly appreciated.

We pay coffee (or tea), laughs and a free lunch for yourself, also anything you purchase for your children on the day you volunteer you will receive a 50% discount off the total cost.

Volunteering in the canteen is a fantastic way to get to know other parents and school staff as well as ensure the P&C can keep prices affordable for everyday ordering. A regular commitment of as little as one day a month is all it takes, or you can opt to be a part of our last-minute contact list.

If you would like to be added to our roster, even for just one day a month, or have any other questions at all about the canteen and the services we offer please reach out to us using one of the methods below.

- 0428 401 821 Text message
- canteen@chpspandc.org.au
- [Online Canteen Volunteer Form](#)

Tanya
Canteen Manager
Castle Hill Public School

Uniform Shop

Uniform Purchases

Online purchase is encouraged through the Flexischools app and delivery will be made to your child's class. Please ensure to update their class in Flexischools before placing your order.

If you need to purchase uniforms and accessories in person, the uniform shop is open Monday and Thursday mornings from 8:30-10:30am.

Appointments are encouraged.

To make an appointment to visit the uniform shop, please visit:

<https://outlook.office365.com/book/UniformShop1@chpspandc.org.au/>

Exchange is always available if you've ordered the wrong size, provided the item hasn't been worn and is accompanied by the Flexischools receipt and original packaging.

Uniform donations in good condition are always welcome.

You can drop these into the uniform shop on Monday or Thursday mornings or any time during the day to the front office.

If you have any uniform questions, please contact our Uniform shop manager, Amanda, at:

uniformshop@chpspandc.org.au

Amanda Turner
Uniform Shop Manager
Castle Hill Public School P&C Association
www.chpspandc.org.au



**CASTLE HILL
PUBLIC SCHOOL
P&C ASSOCIATION**

Book Club

Scholastic Book Club – First Issue for 2025 Out Now!

Welcome back to another year of reading thanks to the Scholastic Book Club.

Issue 1 Book Club catalogues are being distributed to children this week. Please place your order online only by visiting www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP. Orders will close at the end of day on Sunday February 23, 2025 and will be distributed a few weeks later.

Preview Issue 1 here: <https://scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents/issue-preview/>

For every Book Club order placed, Scholastic gives back 15% of the order spend to the school, which is used to buy essential books and learning resources for the school library.



Sarah Newlove
Book Club Volunteer
sarah.p.newlove@gmail.com

CHPS STRING ENSEMBLE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR 2025

THE CHPS STRING ENSEMBLE IS LOOKING FOR INTERESTED PLAYERS TO JOIN US FOR 2025. WE ARE ACCEPTING BEGINNER TO ADVANCED PLAYERS. PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED!



Price list

\$0.50



Cheesie

\$1.50



Chicken Drummy

\$1.00



Hashbrown

\$1.50



Muffin

\$0.50



Quelch

\$1.00



Frozen Fruit Cup

\$2.00



Juicies

\$2.50



Slushie

\$1.70



Popcorn

\$1.70



Chips

\$1.70



Gtainwaves

\$1.70



Mamme Noodles

\$1.50



Harvest Snaps

\$2.50



Crispy Fruits

\$0.40



Jatz

\$1.00



Diced Fruit

\$1.00



Water

\$2.00



Plain Milk

\$2.50



Flavoured Milk

\$2.50



Chil J

CHESS!!

Learn to be a chess champion! Coaching for students at Castle Hill Public School is held on:

Years 3-6: Fridays from 3:10pm to 4:10pm, starting on 7 February 2025

Years 1-2: Fridays from 3:10pm to 4:10pm, starting on 7 February 2025

Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment. Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practice games.

Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop.

Each student in the Chess program will also receive access to Chess Squad <https://www.chesssquad.com/> which is an online teaching/playing platform.

If your child is interested in taking part in the class, please email office.sydneyacademy@gmail.com for an enrolment form. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.

Castle Hill Public School

Term 1 - 2025

Month	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/	Sun
Jan	1	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
						SDD		
Jan Feb	2	3 SDD	4 SDD	5 SDD	6 First day of school all grades	7	8	9
Feb	3	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		OC and Selective HS information night		Years 3-6 Twilight Swimming Carnival P&C via ZOOM				
Feb	4	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Feb	5	24	25	26	27	28	1	2
			Meet the teacher Years 1-4		Meet the teacher Kindy, Years 5-6			
Feb Mar	6	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Mar	7	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mar	8	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Mar	9	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Mar Apr	10	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Apr	11	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
						Last day of term		