Caring and Sharing, Learning for Today and Tomorrow

One of the great things I’ve noticed about Cardiff South PS is how comfortable parents feel when coming into the school to participate in events, attend assemblies and support what we do. Whilst I would never want that to change, we do have an issue with a number of people having unnecessary and ‘extended stays’ when either dropping off or picking up their children each day.

In the morning, a number of parents are gathering before and after the bell goes in the area behind the old canteen for a chat and to wave to their children as they head off to class. In the afternoon, we have a large number of non-Kindergarten parents gathering as early as 2:20pm around the Cola and outside the Infants classrooms waiting to pick their children up. This has caused a lot of disruption to the classes closest to this area. This sometimes generates a lot of noise and naturally, the students look out the windows to see if their parents are waiting and they lose concentration during the lessons which are currently underway.

Our playground is properly supervised from 8:30 – 8:55am each day, so we would ask that in the mornings, you simply drop your children at the gate, give them a kiss and wish them a great day. At this time, there is no reason to come into the school grounds. In the afternoons, please do not arrive any earlier than 2:50pm to wait to pick up your children as this is causing disruption to our classes. If you are a volunteer during school hours, you will need to go via the office to sign in and collect a ‘visitor’ badge. The less visitors that we have on school grounds at these times, the easier it is to ensure the safety of our students. If you’d like to discuss this with me further, I’d be only too happy to explain why this is so important.

David Holland
(Principal)

DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assembly 9am</td>
<td>Friday 1st March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kindergarten stay till 3pm from today</td>
<td>Monday 11th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Photos (bring envelope today)</td>
<td>Tuesday 12th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 Expo Day – Cardiff High School</td>
<td>Wednesday 13th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Cross Country (3-6)</td>
<td>Thursday 14th March</td>
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David Holland
(Principal)
Parent Information Night
Tonight we will be holding our Parent Information meetings at school. This is a great opportunity to come along and meet your child’s teacher and learn more about the requirements and activities planned for each stage group. Teachers will have information handouts pertaining to their Stage and will cover a range of topics like homework, sport, library, class routines, excursions etc. The meetings have been scheduled at different times to allow our parents with children across stages to get to more than one meeting as required. The timetable is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Stage Group</th>
<th>Teachers</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Kinder Blue &amp; Kinder from K/1L</td>
<td>Mrs Gallagher, Mrs Wynter &amp; Mrs Leggett</td>
<td>Kinder Blue Classroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Kinder Purple</td>
<td>Mrs Ison</td>
<td>Kinder Purple Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>Stage 1</td>
<td>Mrs Swanson, Mr Fredericks, Mrs Leggett, Mrs Mackenzie, Mrs Thomas</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>Stage 2</td>
<td>Mrs Ellis, Mrs Grant &amp; Mrs Thomas</td>
<td>4G Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Stage 3</td>
<td>Mrs Agius, Mr McCready, Mrs Fiddes &amp; Mrs Beevers</td>
<td>School Hall</td>
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Parental Permission
With last week’s newsletter, we sent home two important notes which we need all parents and carers to read carefully, sign and return to school. These notes provide us with permission to do several things:

- publish students’ photos, work samples etc in newsletters or on our website
- allow your child access to a DEC email account
- provide simple first-aid to your child with a knowledge of any allergies they may have

Thanks to those parents who have already completed and returned them. If you haven’t yet completed them or require a new note, they can be downloaded from our website [http://www.cardiffsth-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/permission-notes](http://www.cardiffsth-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/permission-notes). It is important that we receive these back as soon as possible.
School App
The school has been offered the opportunity of having a School App created especially for Cardiff South PS. A simple demo has been designed to give you an idea of some of the things that the App could do. We would really love your feedback on whether you feel this app would help to improve communication. If we go ahead it will be FREE to families to download. Instructions for downloading the demo are:


Login with the email address code CSPS and no password

Zone Swimming Team
Our team of swimmers represented Cardiff South with school pride, spirit & sportsmanship at Crossroads Zone. It is always wonderful to see such enthusiasm from our students. Our relay teams placed in some of their events and several swimmers placed in individual events also. Although we did not progress to Regional level, Cardiff South should be proud of their efforts. A big thank you to our parent supporters on the day also. Well done!!

Library News
Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Library Lovers Book Review Competition. The quality of writing was outstanding.

Winners

Nixon Miller-Pitham (Stage 3)
Alexandra Brown (Stage 2)
Chloe Wright-Smyth (Stage 1)

Highly Commended - Tahlia Bryers, Caleb Fenner, Méabh Nash, Emily Gallagher - Kortbawii

Over the next few weeks the winning entries will be published in the newsletter and on our website.

Star Struck
Congratulations to all the boys and girls who auditioned for Star Struck 2013. All students worked cooperatively, did their best and they all took on the responsibility to rehearse the choreography in their own time. It was a very difficult decision for so few places. The following students were successful in auditions for the dance team. We are looking forward to an exciting Star Struck.

Many families would have received their first instalment of the Schoolkids Bonus by now. If you haven’t already received your payment or to find out if you are eligible please visit http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/benefits-payments/schoolkids-bonus.

School Photos
Our annual school photos are scheduled to take place on Tuesday 12th March. Envelopes have gone home with your child today. Whether you intend on purchasing photos or not, please return the envelope with your child on the day of photos (not before). More information about family photos will be in next week’s newsletter.

Clean Up Australia Day
Clean Up Australia is this weekend. We will be supporting this Australia wide event this Friday by cleaning up our school grounds. Each student will need to bring a pair of gloves to school. In considering our environment, we would prefer not the disposable plastic gloves, gardening gloves are perfect. Recyclable bags are provided by the organisers.

P & C Easter Raffle
Each year the Fundraising committee of the P&C runs an Easter Raffle. This is not only for your enjoyment, but also a great opportunity to raise much needed funds for our school. The raffle will run again this year. For the raffle to be a success we do rely on the generosity of the school community, by way of donations. As in previous years, large Easter gift bags will be placed in each classroom, for you to place your donations.

There will be 15 prizes. Tickets are 50c each and a gift will be given to the student who sells the most tickets in Infants and Primary. More tickets are available from the office and on the website.

Please return all tickets and money to the office by Monday 25th March.
For Sale
New blue polo shirt (Wallaroi)      Size 8     $12
Please contact Samia 0409 049 486

Student Banking
It is wonderful to see so many of our students involved in the Student Banking Program. Students who bank with the Commonwealth Bank through our school know that banking day is Friday. All bank books are handed to the class teacher first thing Friday morning. The teacher will then send them to the office to be collected by the school banking volunteer. If you have any enquiries about student banking you can call Ms Pam Tarrant (McPherson) 0403 205 288 or the school office 49547296.

Canteen Special
Fried rice served in a small noodle box is now available for $3 at the canteen.

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<th>CANTEEN ROSTER</th>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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Have you tried Physie yet?
BJP Physie is the only dance sport with variety, where girls can learn five kinds of dance and associate in every class. It’s twice the fun at half the price! Girls will develop strength, grace, good posture, musical interpretation and confidence. And they’ll never get bored! It’s time for a healthy start - the Physie way — where your daughter can have fun, make friends, learn to dance and feel good about herself. And so can you! Ring us to find your nearest club or go to www.physicalculture.com.au

Phone
Warner Bay Physical Culture Club
www.physicalculture.com.au
Contact: Mandy
M 0403 205 349
It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it’s true.

The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!”

Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.