Principal’s Message

Hi everyone and welcome to the 2016 school year! As I said in the letters that went home last week, it was a slightly more bumpy start than we are used to, but I think all is well now. The students are now in the classes that we hope will be best for them for the year ahead, but I should caution that there may still need to be either minor or major changes in the next few weeks should we take any further new enrolments.

Today’s newsletter contains quite a bit of information about our school with a number of reminders about important processes that we have in place, for example, what to do if you would like to volunteer in school. Please take the time to read through this newsletter and act where necessary for the things relevant to your children. It has always been our approach to over-communicate rather than not provide enough information for parents and we make no apologies for that. With this in mind, our Skoolbag app is the easiest, most direct and efficient way for us to send out messages to you, so if you have not yet downloaded the app please visit the Apple App Store or the Google Play Market as soon as possible to do so. There have been a number of advancements made by Skoolbag to the app that make it easier than ever to use on any device – Windows laptop, iPad, Tablet, Apple or android smartphone.

A special welcome to our 51 new students and their families. I hope your children find CSPS to be a fun and exciting place to learn.

David Holland

Swimming Carnival

Our annual swimming carnival will take place, weather permitting, next Wednesday, 10th February. The carnival is for all students in Years 3-6. Students that are in Year 2 who are turning 8 (and are competent swimmers) may join us for the freestyle events at the start of the day, but parents must be able to return them to school after their freestyle event in the morning. There is more information contained within the permission note sent home today (also available on the app). Although the Term 1 invoices have not yet been sent home, the students will need to have paid for the carnival by Monday of next week in order to participate. Because of the difficulty in getting a booking at the pool, we will do our best to proceed even in wet weather, however if the weather poses a threat to the students safety and we need to postpone - a push notification will be sent out via the Skoolbag app before 9am.

Mosquito Alert

With the rainfall that we experienced throughout January it would appear that the mosquito population has increased. We’d encourage all parents to consider putting a suitable roll-on insect repellent in your children’s bags so that they can apply some before each break. Please remember that aerosol repellents are not permitted at school.
**New Staff**

We extend a warm welcome to two new staff members: 

*Mrs Jessica Lilley and Mrs Anthea Singh.*

Mrs Lilley has been teaching for 9 years, with the last 3 spent at Botany Public School. She has experience as an Assistant Principal and has taught Stage 2 extensively. Mrs Singh has spent the past 5 years teaching at Walgett Public School and has experience teaching Stage 1 and preschool. If you see them around the school, please make them feel welcome. We look forward to working with them this year.

**2016 Classes and Teachers**

The classes and staffing for 2016 are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<td>Wk 1.1.2</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>3.2</td>
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<td>Wk 3.8.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 4.15.2</td>
<td>16.2</td>
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- **K Gold** Miss Murray
- **K Red** Mrs Ison/Mrs Wynter
- **K/1 Green** Mrs Singh
- **1/2 Aqua** Mrs Stallard (AP)
- **1/2 Orange** Mrs Grant
- **2/3 Blue** Miss Ellis
- **3/4 Silver** Mrs Gallagher/Mrs Woods
- **3/4 Purple** Mrs Lilley (AP)
- **4/5 Maroon** Mr Jardine
- **5/6 Jade** Miss Glawson

- **5/6 Ruby** Miss Brook and Mrs Roberts
- **Preschool** Mrs Cann
- **LAST** Mrs Conrick
- **Library** Mrs Downes
- **Technology** Mrs Fergola and Mrs Nash
- **Aides** Mrs Reedman, Mrs Wann & Mrs Onions
- **Office** Mr Nesbitt

**Custody Orders and AVOs**

If your child is subject to custody orders, could you please ensure a copy of these orders are lodged with the office staff. Custody orders and the like can often impact on school life in some form or another, so having them on site gives us the best opportunity to support your family. This needs to be done annually to ensure the best care for your child.

**Personal Details**

If you have changed personal details e.g. address, phone numbers including work or mobile please contact the front office asap so that we can update our records. Also, if there has been a change in emergency contact details please speak to one of the ladies in the front office, or email changes to the school. This will ensure that we contact the most appropriate people in the event of an emergency.
Absence from School
If your child is absent from school, you are legally required to explain the reason for their absence within 7 days of the absence. This can be done, by sending a note in to your child’s class teacher on the day they return or by using the Skoolbag App. If your doctor provides you with a medical certificate for your child, a copy can be provided to school to support their absence if you choose. From time to time, families plan holidays during the school term. Family holidays are no longer an accepted category for exemption from school attendance. If your family is planning a holiday during a school term, please speak to the office staff about the process involved, in some cases you may meet the Department’s guidelines for ‘Extended Leave – Travel’. It is always best to do this in advance and to also inform your child’s class teacher. We will provide more information about absences due to a family holiday in a newsletter in the coming weeks.

What to do if you have an Issue?
We are often asked – ‘What’s the best thing to do if there is an issue regarding or involving my child?’ The best course of action is always to speak to your child’s class teacher first. They are at the ‘coal face’ so to speak and have the best idea of the things impacting upon your child. Often concerns about their learning or friendship issues can be best resolved at the classroom level. If after you have spoken to the child’s class teacher the issue remains unresolved – please make contact with the appropriate Assistant Principal who supervises your child’s grade:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>Alison Stallard</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>Jessica Lilley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>Rohan Carlin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If after you have spoken to the class teacher and AP the issue is unresolved, you can certainly bring your concerns to Mr Holland. For all matters involving school policies and procedures an appointment with Mr Holland can be arranged through the school office.

Children going to the toilet
Children at CSPS are permitted to use the toilets during class time if it is necessary. However, we do encourage using the toilet at the beginning or end of breaks and just before school so as to have less impact on their learning. Any child that needs to go to the toilet is expected to take a friend with them. If we believe that your child is using the toilet to the point that their class work is suffering, Mr Holland has asked the classroom teachers to mention this to you for your guidance on the most appropriate action.

Canteen Helpers
Our canteen is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and is run by a very faithful group of volunteers, led by our Canteen Supervisor, Mrs Jen Sweeney. If you have a spare day a month or fortnight and would like to volunteer in the canteen, Friday being a particular day of need, please see Jen in the canteen on either of these days. Your support would be very much appreciated, not only by Jen, but also the students.

Drop off and collection of students
Supervision in our school commences at 8:30am in the mornings, as a result, students are not permitted to be on the school grounds before this time. To ensure their well-being we ask that parents do not linger in the playground before school as it presents us with some supervision issues. It is best if you kiss them and wave goodbye particularly if they are a child that is a little anxious at the start of the day. At the end of the day, our gates which are locked during the day will be opened at 2:50pm (once Kindergarten are full-time) and parents can wait for students to come out after the bell. Again, it helps us identify students who have not been collected on time if families are quick to leave the school grounds once their children are collected. Please do not linger in the playground or around the cola area.
Bikes for Cambodia
At the end of last year, 5E decided not to do the traditional class 'Secret Santa'. Instead they choose to collect donations to support children in a village in Cambodia. Through the generous support of their families and friends they managed to raise $270 and the donations were used to purchase 4 bikes at $60 each. A personal friend of Miss Ellis was able to personally deliver 5E's donations to families in the village (see right). The money left over was donated to World Vision and was used to purchase 6 mosquito nets. Well done 5E what and kind and unselfish thing to do.

Term Statements
Each term in Week 3 (approx.), we send home a term statement, one per family, which outlines all of the anticipated expenses for that term. It will include excursions, in-school performances, discos etc. We’d ask that families pay the statements promptly where possible. If yours is a ‘split’ family and the invoice has gone home to the other side of the family, the office can update you on what money is outstanding. As has been our policy, students will not be permitted to take part in activities for which they have not paid. If your family is experiencing financial difficulty at any point during the year, please make an appointment to speak with Mr Holland to discuss your circumstances, as you may be eligible for some assistance.

Book Packs
Cardiff South Public School does not charge families school fees or ask for voluntary contributions. Instead we provide each student with a book pack containing the supplies that they will need for the year ahead. Book packs include things like: student workbooks, pencils, pens, rulers, rubbers, sharpeners, glue sticks, display folders, reading journals and quite a few other items needed for class dependent upon your child’s grade. We will provide more information about these in next week’s newsletter, including the cost. These will appear on each family’s Term 1 statement. Please don’t attempt to pay for them until the Term 1 statements are received.

Permission Notes
For most of the extra activities we do through the school year, such as excursions and performances, you will be given a permission note containing the details of the event and the cost (if there is one). These are usually sent home with the term statements, as outlined above, but can also be found on the Skoolbag app and the website, which can be printed off at home if one is misplaced. Other helpful notes and info, such as ‘Prescribed Medication Forms’ can also be found here. Notes and money are always due two days before the activity.

Fixed Equipment
For safety and due to supervision requirements, our fixed equipment is out of bounds and not be used before or after school. Your assistance in keeping students, relatives and particularly younger siblings off the fixed equipment is appreciated.

School Assemblies
In 2016, assemblies will continue to be on Thursday afternoons at 2pm in the school hall, however this year they will be fortnightly. Classes will continue to have the opportunity to lead the assembly and build their public speaking experience. Family members are always invited and welcome to join us for our assemblies. Keep an eye on the newsletters for an indication of when your child’s class are leading the assembly. The first assembly for the year will be on Thursday 11th February and will be led by the School Captains.
Timetable
For families that are new to our school, our school timetable is as follows:

- 8:55 Assembly
- 9:00 Morning session
- 11:00 Recess
- 11:25 Middle session
- 1:10 Lunch
- 2:00 Afternoon session
- 3:00 Home time

Volunteering at School
Volunteers and parent helpers play a vital role in our school and the education of our children. Volunteers help in classrooms, in the canteen or uniform shop and sometimes at specific events. If you visit our school as a volunteer, please remember that in order to do so, consistent with DoE policy, you must first have completed a working with children declaration at the office. This has to be done annually. So even if you did this last year, it must be done again at the commencement of each new school year. When you complete a declaration you also need to provide proof of identification up to 100 points (just like when you renew your driver’s licence). Once this is finalised, please ensure that each time you visit our school you sign-in at the office, collect and wear a visitor’s lanyard and also sign out and return the lanyard when you leave. Our helpful office staff will talk you through it if you are coming in for the first time. Your assistance in our school is such a big help and we appreciate all our volunteers.

P&C Meeting
At Cardiff South PS, P&C meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Therefore, the first P&C meeting for 2016 is scheduled for Wednesday 17th February. Our P&C are a valued part of school and they do a wonderful job of managing our canteen, running the uniform shop and raising funds for specific school needs. Joining P&C is a great way to meet and get to know other school families. Meetings are held in the library starting at 7pm. New members are always welcome to come along and join us.

Uniform Shop News
The uniform shop has had a very busy start to the year. The new garments supplied by LW Reid appear to be well made and of excellent quality. Due to high demand at the start of the year - size 6, size 8 and size 10 school polo shirts are now sold out and on backorder. All other items are currently available. Some Kindergarten children who are waiting on size 6 have tried on size 4 and they found that they fit perfectly. Parents are asked to please bring the correct money when you visit the uniform shop as we only have a small change float to work with. Please note that the school jackets are only $35 not $45 as quoted on the old uniform shop order forms. New uniform shop order forms will be distributed and uploaded to the app and website very soon. When collecting uniforms from the office, please be reminded that there will be no change available; the office is a collection point only and the correct cash is expected. If you don’t have the correct money, your change will be issued after the next uniform shop day.

Student Banking
CBA student banking day will be every Thursday for this year and will resume this week on the 4th Feb.
South Cardiff Junior Football Club

Club Ph Number 0411 399129

All players from U6 to U18 go to website for registration prices and “how to register” details.
http://www.southcardifffootballclub.sportingpulse.net
You will need to register on-line prior to going to grounds to complete registration.

Contact Danielle Whiting on 0438 557 194 or Troy Lewis 0428 321 656.

Registration times are:
Thursday 4th February - 4pm to 6pm
Saturday 6th February - 8am to 12pm
Thursday 11th February - 4pm to 6pm
Saturday 13th February - 8am to 12pm
At Ulinga Park Complex in Cross St, Cardiff South
Welcome Note

Dear Parents and Guardians of Cardiff South Public School,

Thank you for your child’s participation in the Jellybeans In-Schools Music Program. The 8 week program brings motivated, experienced and highly qualified Music Specialists into your school to deliver a systematic music program covering:

* Singing *Movement * Performance Skills - through Percussion & Recorders * Aural/Listening Skills * Composing and Improvising

The emphasis is meeting all your states curriculum requirements by covering musical concepts and providing a level of Creative Arts assessment relative to the curriculum at the course completion.

Dates that Jellybeans Music will be at your school:
TERM 1: Monday and Tuesdays

Educators:
The Jellybeans In-Schools Music Program provides highly qualified and experienced Music Specialists. Karen Green will be the Music Specialist(s) at your school.

What Happens in Jellybeans Music class?
Jellybeans Music provides a sequential, curriculum-based repertoire for students. Approx. 3-4 pieces are taught each fortnight throughout the Term. As Parents/Guardians, you can see which pieces are currently being worked on by checking your child’s class page on our web site www.MyJellybeansMusic.com by entering the class specific password. Pieces are classified by their by coloured beans!

.beans = Yet to practice .beans = Practicing in class .beans = Performance Ready!

www.MyJellybeansMusic.com

Our website allows EACH CLASS to have their own individualised repertoire. As a Parent/Guardian you can log in and view which pieces your child has learned in class. All sheet music and audio streaming for every piece is available in this area. To access the class zone enter your class password in the ‘See My Progress’ area on the home page.

Your entire school has a generic password, which is:

**win**

Your class password is the generic school password PLUS your class name. For example, if the generic password is **bob** and the class name is **5F**. Your class password would be **bob5F**. If the class is called 3/4 J then your class password is **bob34J**. There is more information at www.MyJellybeansMusic.com/class-password-info

We feel very pleased to be able to provide your child with the gift of quality music education.

The Jellybeans Music Team

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*Champions of Change Research of 25000 students*
Great News that Labor will Honour Gonski – now Turnbull Must Do the Same say Parents.

January 28, 2016

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull should reconsider his decision to dump the Gonski reforms and match Labor’s promise today to fully fund the final two years of the schools funding package, parents said.

NSW Federation of P&Cs President Jason Vials said public school parents welcome Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten’s announcement today that Labor will commit to fully funding the Gonski reforms.

“This is great news for every student in Australia and for everyone concerned about the future of our country,” Mr Vials said in a media release.

“If you believe in ‘a fair go’ you have to support the Gonski reforms.

“Now Mr Turnbull needs to reconsider his decision to walk away from the Coalition’s commitment to Gonski pledged at the last election.

“If he wants an innovative Australia, he needs a well-educated Australia and the Gonski reforms will make that happen.”

Mr Vials said all parties and politicians should be pledging full implementation of the Gonski reforms for the next election, given they are based on a review which received 10,000 submissions from teachers, parents and researchers.

“Education is too important to be some sort of political football,” he said.

“Our students deserve Gonski and the voters of Australia were promised full implementation by this government.

“We call on PM Turnbull and his Education Minister Simon Birmingham to rethink their Christmas decision to be Mr Scrooge on education.”

Sydney, NSW, 28 January 2016
For Further Media Information Contact:

Media Contact:
President: Jason Vials 0418 163 665 president@pandc.org.au

FEDERATION OF PARENTS AND CITIZENS’ ASSOCIATIONS OF NEW SOUTH WALES
Locked Bag 40, GRANVILLE NSW 2142
Telephone: 1300 885 982 Fax: 1800 655 866
Website: www.pandc.org.au ABN: 37 439 975 796
When things go wrong at school

Your approach as a parent when your child has difficulty at school makes a huge difference to their resilience, and their future relationships with teachers and peers. Every parent wants the best for their children, and that includes having great experiences at school. By and large, schools deliver on these expectations. They are generally safe places for kids, staffed by hard-working teachers who have the best interests of their students at heart. Achievement, discipline and student wellbeing are high on the list of priorities for most teachers.

Despite best teaching practice things do go wrong at school. Most kids experience learning difficulties from time to time. Conflict and peer rejection are a normal part of school life. The developmental nature of childhood means that there will always be some turbulence, particularly around key transition ages, such as the start of adolescence. During these times young people frequently experience a dip in their learning as well as significant social relationship difficulties. Kids will often come home from school with grievances, and call on their parents for assistance.

Your approach as a parent when your child has difficulty at school makes a huge difference to their resilience, and their future relationships with teachers and peers. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there's been a significant increase in aggressive incidents at schools involving parents reacting to their child's grievances. This not only presents a danger to teachers but harms the all-important teacher-parent relationship.

Here's a six point checklist to help you stay focused and be effective if your child experiences difficulty at school.

1 Stay calm and rational
It's natural as a parent to protect, or defend your children, particularly when you think that they've come in for some unfair or poor treatment. But acting when you are full of emotion is not always smart. Rather than getting on the phone straight away to organise a meeting at school, take your time to think through how you might assist your child.

2 Get all the facts
Once you've calmed down, then get the facts about the situation. Kids are faulty observers and often only see one side of a story when there's a problem with a teacher or a fellow student. They sometimes can't see that perhaps they may have contributed inadvertently to a dispute at school, or perhaps said something that may have upset a teacher. It's the job of parents to help kids process what happens in an incident, so that all the facts emerge and understand their place in any problem. Ask good questions to help the full story emerge.

3 Assess whether to go to school or not
Kids, like adults, like to avoid conflict and will benefit from having told their side of a story to a trusted source. Often problems can be dealt with at home, simply by talking through an issue, and giving kids some common sense tips to help them cope.

If your child has a recurring problem that he can't solve himself, or you think adult intervention may be needed to sort out a relationship issue with a teacher or peer, then consider meeting with your child's teacher or year level coordinator.

more on page 2 ➤


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... When things go wrong at school ...

4 Go through the right channels
Approach the school calmly, going through the school office, or directly to your child’s teacher if that is the usual protocol. If you have already established a relationship with the teacher concerned, then it's often easier to approach them directly.

5 Look for solutions rather than blame
Parent-teacher meetings usually get nowhere when either party blames the other. State the problem as you see it and view your child’s teacher as an ally, not a foe. "I'm really worried about Jeremy. He's been acting strangely lately and I need some help" is the type of approach that will elicit a helpful response. Talk about your concerns and keep the discussion focused firmly on what's best for your child. Listen to your teacher's viewpoint, valuing a different perspective.

6 Stay in touch
Be realistic with your expectations, remembering that some problems can’t be solved to your satisfaction, nor will they be resolved straight away. Be prepared to work alongside your child’s teacher over the long-term, which means you need to keep communicating with each other. Parenting is easy when things are going well, but testing when your children struggle or experience difficulty. Stepping back and taking a long-term, reflective view is often the best approach when your child experiences difficulty at school.

Michael Grose