The Week In View

Week 5
- Monday – John Fleming visit, Zone Public Speaking Stage 3
- Tuesday – Staff CPR training, Zone Public Speaking Stage 2
- Wednesday – Zone Athletics Carnival Day 1
- Thursday – Zone Athletics Carnival Day, Zone Public Speaking Early Stage 1
- Friday – Concert Band, Zone Public Speaking Stage 1, Kinder 2016 Interviews

Week 6
- Tuesday – Lockdown and evacuation drills
- Thursday – Kinder 2016 Interviews
- Friday – Father’s Day Breakfast BBQ, No 8am Concert Band Session

Take Our Canteen For A Road Test

In 2014 our canteen raised over $10,000 which went toward resources that continue to benefit every child at CSPS. This year we are in the fast lane and looking to soon pass that target. However, a road block is looming that might well cause us to have to slow down and use the left lane. And at CSPS, we don’t like the left lane at all! We currently have a small team of very faithful volunteers running our canteen but are in need of more. So, if you would like a test drive trial day to see if it is something that you could do maybe once or twice a term, please let the canteen ladies or the office know and we can organise a ‘have-a-go’ for you. If you have a test drive and decide it’s not for you then we will return your apron free of charge and thank you for being willing to give it a go. Remember our canteen comes with air-con, plenty of seat room and power steering. P-Platers never drive alone! Our canteen always runs with 2 to 3 volunteers ‘newbies’ are always rostered with an old hand. Old hand DOES NOT refer to the age of our super young mums that run our canteen, it refers only to the fact that they are experienced at all things canteeny. Plus, we’ll give you a free lunch to boot! Our canteen is open 2 days per week but we may look at reducing that to just Fridays unless our team grows a tad. Volunteers are in the driver’s seat from around 8.30am to 12.30pm. A short added extra .... Kids absolutely love it when mum, dad or a grandparent is on canteen for the day.

Earn and Learn Coupons

Attention Woolies shoppers. Don’t forget to grab your Earn and Learn stickers when shopping at Woolies and pop them in our sticker box in the foyer at school. Our box is gradually gaining weight but is looking to bulk up over the next few weeks. This program is a ripper and allows us to purchase a wide range of school resources for your children. Be bold and ask the relos and neighbours also if they’d like to give up their Woolies stickers for CSPS.
Great Southern Land – Tickets On Sale Today!

Our bi-annual school musical is only weeks away and tickets hit the box office today! We will have two night performances on Wednesday and Thursday of Week 7 and a matinee performance on the Thursday. You will be entertained and taken down memory lane as we look back at some Aussie legends, icons and classics. Can we please request that when purchasing tickets if you are able to attend the matinee performance, please do, so as to leave spaces available for parents who are only able to attend an evening performance. Get ready for an Aussie night out! Aussie, Aussie, Aussie, Oi, Oi, Oi!

We Salute Our Super 8 Speakers

We wish our CSPS representatives all the very best this week as they compete in the Regional Public Speaking Finals. Each school is able to nominate two speakers from each stage level and our super 8 finalist are; from Early Stage 1 – Niamh Maguire and Ella Beer, Stage 1 - Elyse Olischlager and Beau Boettcher, Stage 2 - Caitlin Beer and Keira Willmott, Stage 3 - Imogen Petrie and Sam Green. Our awesome articulators have worked hard with Miss Lawson in refining rolling their ‘Rs’ and popping their ‘Ps’. They have entertained us greatly in presenting their oratory masterpieces and we are confident they will do the same for the audience in attendance at the finals this week.

We Are taking A Running Jump!

We wish all of our Eastlakes Zone Athletics Carnival competitors the best this week as they compete over two huge days of competition. Our relay baton changes are looking slicker than the Jamaican Olympic champions and we have threatened passing cars with some enormous discus throws of late. All looks good for a number of PBs from our CSPS team.

Weekend Intruder Close To Being Identified

If you can help to identify the person in the photo please contact crime stoppers immediately! We have hours of CCTV footage of this individual who has walked off with all of our garden weeds! Strangely, she has left all of the veges and herbs and turned the soil as well. Noteworthy is the fact that this all took place on a Sunday when the average human being is resting after a week of work. We have suspicion to believe that this unidentified person answers to the name of Mrs Hodson! No surprise there!!

Structured Play Area Heats Up

A big thumbs up to Mrs Jackson and Mrs Boereê who faithfully organise and run our structured play area each lunchtime. Our hall is adorned each break with a wide variety of construction equipment, board games and educational toys and is open to anyone from K-6 who’d like to participate. The train track and intricate set up that Riley Sandford and Liam Brady had operating last Tuesday (see photo) was so creative that it should’ve been a blueprint for the Newcastle light rail project. It seems our structured play area is a haven and nursery for budding engineers and town planners. Of late Mrs Jackson has also had the heater cranked up so the hall is quite an inviting place if the mercury chooses to head south for the day outside.
It's Time To Band Together Year 2

Calling all parents of Year 2 students. Now is the time to start pondering the possibility of your poppet playing and performing in our Concert Band. The Band is open to students from Years 3 to 6 and currently has around 40 active participants. Our Conservatorium of Music trained Mr Blake and our band of merry musos rise early for Band practice every Friday morning at 8am in the Library which is followed during the course of the day by our peripatetic program. We have three outstanding professional musician/tutors who take our students in groups of two or three for saxophone, clarinet, flute, trumpet, trombone or percussion tuition for 30 minutes at an incredibly reduced rate compared to the marketplace. What a bonus for parents not having to run all over the ‘countryside’ in the afternoons dropping off and picking up from private music lessons! Parents, please consider. Studies show that learning a musical instrument at a young age makes kids smarter in literacy, numeracy and problem solving. A note later in the year will head home with students asking for expressions of interest in joining our Band program for 2016.

You've Got Mail!

Over the last 12 months we have extended our modes of communication to our CSPS community in a variety of ways from our Skoolbag App to our various Social Media platforms as well as our good old paper copy of the Newsletter and notes. To ensure that none miss out we would like to add to the equation a bulk email list. We certainly don’t want to clog up your inbox or have you open the same message umpteen times, so we are asking for an ‘opt in’. So, if you don’t have a smartphone or android device that delivers you our Skoolbag App alerts, please complete the tear off slip on this Newsletter or call the office with your preferred email contact and we’ll add you to the group email list. This will allow us to get most messages to you in a variety of ways so none miss out. Please still be aware that teachers occasionally may post an alert from their smart device whilst at an event or on an excursion and not have access to the bulk email platform.

Reading Home Program

It has been a delight of late to chat informally with a number of parents in the afternoon about the academic progress of their kids as they head out the gate or wait for bell time in the COLA area. One of the constants of late has been the overwhelming number of mums and dads who have noticed a rapid escalation in reading skills. I believe, beyond the daily classroom activities that our wonderful teachers plan and implement, two of the keys that have unlocked the treasure chest are the Early Bird Reading Program (EBR) and the Home Reader Program. I commented and outlined our EBR last Newsletter but want to stress in this edition the importance of Home Reading. This program is essential if you desire to see rapid reading progress. Every Friday we have a huge raffle draw for each class at assembly with class boxes filled with names of those students who have read every night that week. Each week we pull a name out of the box and a student receives a prize. It is a great incentive to read. Parents, please continue to partner with us in this program keep your rascals reading! Read to them, with them, listen to them read and talk about the stories and characters in the stories. This discussion triggers comprehension skills and allows you to check for understanding. Reading is not just reciting words: it's understanding what you have read.

Gonski Money A God Send!

The latter stages of 2014 saw funding to NSW Public Schools change radically. The Gonski report ignited Government discussion and action and saw schools receive more funding than previously which has allowed us at CSPS to implement and extend programs that would’ve been otherwise an impossibility. We have added many literacy and numeracy resources as well as using some of this funding to upskill our staff with professional learning that has changed radically how we deliver some of the key components of our literacy and numeracy programs. It is my belief that this training has directly resulted in the escalation of the academic outcomes that our students are achieving. All teachers are reporting an attitude shift across their class, especially in numeracy, with competency levels of all students showing quality growth.
Mr J’s Free Parenting Tip

We have all heard other parents (not us, of course!) say to do what I say and not what I do. Well, guess what ….. ‘It aint gonna happen!’ We are the role models for our children and whether our actions are desirably ‘copyable’ or not, our kids will copy what we do. Ever sit there and hear your little ones say something that is ‘so you?’ If you haven’t, you’re fibbing! Our words, our tone of voice, our positivity or negativity, the way we treat each other, our actions in general, are watched by our children and more often than not, emulated. The primary school years are the formative years where you, the parent, hold the balance of influence. Teenage years, not so much! Make the most of these years and model behaviour that builds quality people and quality citizens. Let them see you help others, let them hear you encourage others, let them hear you speak well of people, let them see you volunteer and demonstrate generosity. Want to see who your children most look and act like? Simply find the closest mirror and you’ll spot the answer looking straight back at you.

Principal’s Award

Term 3 Week 3

Ashton Cox 2/3S

Principal’s Award

Term 3 Week 4

Eli Barnes-Loxley 5/6W

Diary Dates

August
Mon 10 Tickets on sale for “Great Southern Land” Musical
Tue 11 “Matter of Seconds” Water Safety Kinder, Year 3 & Year 6
Wed 12 & Thur 13 Eastlakes Zone Athletics Carnival
Fri 14 Bacon & Egg Roll orders due for Father’s Day Breakfast
Wed 26 & Thur 27 ‘Great Southern Land’ Concert performances
Mon 31 til Thur Sep 3 Stage 3 Canberra Excursion

September
Wed 9 Book Week & Book Fair - see “Library News” notice today
LIBRARY NEWS

Book Week will be celebrated on Wednesday, 9th September, 2015. The theme is ‘Books Light Up Our World’. This year the focus is on the book. Therefore, students are asked to dress up in bright colours to reflect the theme of light. They will parade their favourite book. Although there is no particular theme for the costume, students are encouraged to be creative.

Book Week celebrations will begin with a parade at 9.30am. Afterwards please join your children for morning tea.

Book Week includes a Book Fair held in the library. This is a great time to purchase gifts for birthdays and Christmas. Also, the purchase and donation of a book to the library would be greatly appreciated. A donation sticker will be added to the book to acknowledge the child or family who donated the book.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Premier’s Reading Challenge

The Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) is a New South Wales Government initiative to encourage students to read. Incentives include a Gold Certificate after completing 4 years of PRC, Platinum Certificate after 7 years completion and a medal in Year 9 after completing PRC from year 3 to year 9. I think it is a great incentive particularly for students who are reluctant to read in their early teenage years.

In Kindergarten to Year 2 the teacher reads 30 PRC books to the students from February to August. I record the books for the students and they each receive a certificate at the end of the year.

However, Year 3 to Year 6 learn to record their PRC books on the website. I instruct them on how to record the books and then they record themselves. They have one or two lessons to record their PRC. Then they are expected to record the books in their own time.

Primary students have to record 20 books: 15 PRC and 5 own choice. Reading initiatives in the school would make it very easy to read 20 books.

Would you please encourage students to complete recording their PRC.

The quickest way to logon is to Google – “NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge”. Then students logon with their school username and password. Next they click on student reading records. Click on the title search bar and start typing the book. Alternatively, students can go to ‘Booklist’ and search for their books.

Please let me know if you need assistance. I’m at school on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The Woolworths Earn & Learn program is back for 2015. This community program enables schools to earn educational resources when anyone from the school community shops at Woolworths. Starting on Wednesday 15th July when anyone from the school community shops at Woolworths, they will receive a sticker for every $10 they spend. These stickers are then placed on a sticker card. Once your sticker card is full simply drop it in the collection box in the school office. We also have a collection box at Charlestown Woolworths store.

Thank you for supporting this great program. In past years our school has been able to earn some wonderful educational resources and we hope this year will be even better!
Parent Email Addresses - Please complete and return to the School Office.

Please add my email address to the School Bulk Email. I understand I will receive notifications from the school regarding daily events and reminders.

Student/s Name: __________________________________________________________

Parent Name: ______________________________________________________________

Email address: ______________________________________________________________