It is with great sadness that I write this. Nicole Gillespie, Castle Hill High School Captain Year 2000 has passed away after losing her battle with melanoma. Nicole immersed herself fully into school life. Apart from the leadership role of School Captain she undertook in Year 12, she was a keen sportswoman representing the school in swimming, water polo, netball and athletics to name a few. She was lively and energetic and had a thorough approach to her schooling. She was a natural leader.

In Year 12, Nicole was awarded three prestigious awards:
- Baulkham Hills Shire Council Citizenship Award – for services to the school and community
- Pierre de Coubertin Award – presented to a student who displays all qualities consistent with the Olympic ideals
- Gold Sports Participation Award – Highest school sports award

Nicole was a gorgeous young lady who fought the disease with strength and determination right to the very end. She fought this horrible disease with her “whatever it takes” attitude. She was determined to live life to its fullest. As the guest speaker at our business breakfast last year, she said, “I can’t change what has or is happening to me and I don’t want to be remembered as someone who gave up. You only get one chance at life. You need to make the most of it.” This is a true indication of who Nicole was.

Not knowing how long she would have to live, Nicole embarked on her journey to complete a Bucket List. Her bucket list of achievements included:
- Attending the 2014 Logie Awards as a guest of honour
- Skydiving
- Swimming with the dolphins
- Feeding tigers
- Flying over Uluru
- Meeting the Queensland Maroons and was lucky enough to hold the shield up at ANZ Stadium after winning their eighth State of Origin series
- Flying to New York – First class!!
- Jumping out of planes….. the list goes on.

Every time I saw her she inspired me. She never let the disease consume her. She treated every day as a new day. She achieved things over the last 5 years that people only dream of achieving.

One thing I learnt from Nicole was to always appreciate people around you – your friends and family, and to truly appreciate life. Health and happiness are the two most precious assets that we have.

RIP gorgeous girl. You have been a great friend and an inspiration to us all.

Anna Girginis
Deputy Principal
Principal’s Message

Beauty and the Beast – a sensational show

What a great joy it was to be in the audience at this year’s musical “Beauty and the Beast” which played to bumper matinee and evening crowds last week. What a show it was.

The leads were exceptional. Nate Augimeri (the Beast) and Luke Arthur (Gaston) were outstanding, their strong voices so mature and powerful; the female leads, Demi McFarlane (Belle) and Courtney Randal (Mrs Potts) were superbly controlled and confident, acting and singing with great assurance.

Humour in a show is always important as a foil to strong emotion. And so Jasper Chick (Lumiere), Laura McInnes (Cogsworth) and Hannah Spinks (Madam de la Grande Bouche), not to mention the Silly Girls, timed their comedic lines with great skill providing the necessary counter to mounting tension in the show. They were hilarious and the audience loved them.

The chorus and featured dancers worked with great synergy complementing the leads with such enthusiasm. The lighting, stage and sound crew, as well as the “Go to Girls”, worked behind the scenes to make things happen in a seamless way. And the orchestra, with so many talented musicians...

I was actually lost for words this year trying to find a fitting description to capture the impact of this truly magical show: “breathtaking” was the most appropriate, I thought, but still I don’t think the word does the show justice.
Re scheduled guests at the P and C Meeting

Last month I advised that Mr John Wright and Mr Peter Minne would be speaking at our P and C Meeting about two exceptionally exciting programs being introduced this year to improve student learning. The programs are really interesting and these teacher presentations are not to be missed.

Unfortunately, the P and C Meeting was on the night of the state of origin match. Apparently, this was a really big football game watched by many! There was the thinking that many people would prefer to watch football than attend a meeting!

So…. the P and C have rescheduled Peter and John for the next P and C Meeting on August 13 at 7.30pm. This will be an event not to be missed – just like the football.

Vicki Brewer

Subject selection for Year 10 into 11, 2015

The task of selecting subjects for the Higher School Certificate is a long and important one. The process began last week with meetings of students and head teachers to gain a taste of the range of subjects available for selection in 2015. A comprehensive subject selection booklet outlining the fine detail on the HSC, assessment procedures and subjects, including VET and TAFE options, was given to students to discuss with their parents. As well, on Tuesday June 17 an Information Evening for parents and students was held giving opportunity for more intensive information sharing, questions and discussion regarding options for 2015. This will be supplemented by personalised interviews with every Year 10 student on Tuesday June 24 to check selections and discuss any issues arising. Parents are more than welcome to attend this interview.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Lachlan McCarthy Year 8, for being selected to represent New South Wales Junior Baseball in St. Louis, USA. We wish Lachlan every success and look forward to hearing all about the trip on his return!

Sharon Shaw
Year 8
Year Advisor

students and ex-students, played with energy. As always, the show goes on only with the enormous goodwill of our staff who, year in year out, dedicate many months of their lives to realising such quality. While all members of the production team (too many to mention) have critical roles to play, I’d particularly like to thank Ms Catherine Griffiths and Ms Jo Spinks as directors of the show, Mr David Evans as musical director and Ms Kate Riley as choreographer. They are exceptional teachers and people. We owe them much.

The musical is an annual institution at Castle Hill High School. These shows give us pleasure, provide a wonderful creative outlet, giving students skills in working in a team and working under pressure while building relationships across the school with people from different year and social groups. Ms Lindy Jones, the ever present producer of our musicals, said it best in the foreword of the program: “If the value of the musical can be measured by the dedicated efforts of the performers and crew then this production can only be described as a priceless educational experience. For many, the memories will last a lifetime.”
Beauty & the Beast
Did you know the iPad safety manual published by Apple contains the following warning?

“Orient the device in portrait mode with the Home button at the bottom of the display, or in landscape mode with the cellular antenna (located under the black edge at the top of the device) away from your body or other objects.”

This warning is part of a larger paragraph on EMR safety entitled Exposure to Radio Frequency Energy” and can be found on page 3 of the Important Product Information Guide c2010 Apple Inc.

Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trivia Night</td>
<td>30 August</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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Parent to Parent

We need your help!

Many of you would have seen the beautifully upgraded bathrooms during the Musical. Did you realise the work is not yet complete?

We need the help of school families to finish the works.

Thanks to the P&C securing a government grant last year, we are funding the much-needed renovation of the school Auditorium bathrooms and dressing rooms; however, the grant has fallen short of the total amount needed to finish the work.

Donations to the Building Fund over $2.00 are tax deductible and will be used complete the Auditorium renovations.

Donations will also allow us to plan for our next building project (portable stage? Retractable seating? Other suggestions?)

Donations can be made via cheque, cash or credit card payment through the school at Room 1. Direct deposit is also available.

Direct Deposit details:

Westpac Castle Towers Branch

Account Name: CASTLE HILL HIGH SCHOOL P&C ASSOCIATION BUILDING FUND

BSB: 032 173 Account No: 483270

Please ensure your name is included in your bank reference section and email confirmation to P&C Treasurer at: chhspc@gmail.com.

Please donate to our Building Fund so that we can work with the school to provide the best possible learning environment for our children.
As Term 2 draws to a close, the ‘fun’ part of Geography is able to be brought to the forefront of classwork after Half Yearly exams - fieldwork! Similarly for History, the opportunity to participate in collaborative learning to gain a deeper understanding about World War 1 has involved model making and presentations which the students have thoroughly enjoyed.

**Year 8** will be off to Mount Keira Rainforest on Friday 20 June to complement their study of Global Environments with an investigation of a rainforest at a local scale. Whilst there is a cost associated with this activity, in addition to a very early start in the morning, fieldwork is an integral component to learning in Geography. Fieldwork enables students to:

- acquire knowledge about environments by observing, mapping, measuring and recording phenomena in the real world in a variety of places, including the school
- explore the geographical processes that form and transform environments
- use different kinds of geographical tools including information and communication technology to assist in the interpretation of, and decision-making about, geographical phenomena
- locate, select, organise and communicate geographical information
- explore different perspectives on geographical issues.

We are looking forward to this inquiry based learning experience with our Year 8 students.

During class time, Year 8 are also completing a reflective and interpretive diary as part of geographical learning. Many students across the year group have been developing a researchable question about an issue of interest around the school, and using primary research methodologies to investigate possible answers to this question. Once some information has been gathered, students are then invited to present their findings. Last week at Quality Morning Tea, three students from Ms Garrard’s Geography class were invited by Mr Warren to present their research to the staff. Please see the report these students wrote about their investigation:

**Power Presentation by Alexandria Wheatley, Sarah Rosolen and Alison Tunks**

As part of our Year 8 Geography unit we were given an assignment to investigate geographical issues in our school. The issue we chose to investigate was ‘Is Castle Hill High School using our electrical energy efficiently and responsibly?’. To find our results we tallied the number of lights, fans and smart-boards left on in empty classrooms; and took a survey asking people how they would rate our school’s energy efficiency. We received many comments such as ‘teachers leave the printers on at night without putting them on power saving mode’. On the positive side we found out that our school has installed solar panels. We did notice that the skylights in Upper D and E blocks were ineffective as they were dirty. We thought that if they were clean they could be used instead of the lights, thus reducing our energy consumption.

We asked Mr Warren to answer our survey and he was very interested to do so as he had just paid the school’s electricity bill. He asked us to present our results at the staff Quality Morning Tea which took place on Tuesday 3 June. After we presented, Mrs Caldis, the Head Teacher HSIE asked us to present our work to her senior Geography class who were doing a similar assignment but on a larger scale.

We thoroughly enjoyed working on and presenting our assignment.

**Two Year 9 Geography classes** have been experimenting with a fieldwork based local community study. Again, a similar process was followed – develop a researchable question and a plausible hypothesis, outline some suitable primary research methodologies that could be used to obtain possible answers, go out in to the field and start investigating. Ms Preketes’ class are working as whole group, their question is ‘How has the population increase impacted on the Castle Hill community’. Ms Caldis’ class are working in small groups. Questions vary from ‘What is the perception from community members about CHHS students?’ to ‘Is the rail link necessary?’ to ‘Is there an adequate provision of services (government and non-government) in Castle Hill?’. At the conclusion of this fieldwork activity, findings will be presented to interested staff, students and community members.
Ms Preketes 9H1 History class have been working on a group task all term entitled "Night at the Australian Museum—where the Diggers' stories come to life". Each group competed for the coveted prize of winning the last spot in the Museum's display section—where the Battle would be selected to be placed on public display? Time was allocated in class for research and building of models. Each group was assigned an in-depth research task covering Australia's Involvement in WW1 including Battle of Passchendaele, Gallipoli (The landing and the Trenches), Lone Pine, The Nek, Western Front and The Somme. Students did an excellent empathy task of researching Diggers' stories from the War Memorial website to create a role play interview 'bringing the stories to life'. Analysis and evaluation of the allies, location and the purpose of the Battle provided informative detail to the audience using posters, power point and video. Lastly, each group presented a detailed diorama showing their interpretation of their Battle Scene. The diorama section was done very creatively, for example, teabags were used for trenches whilst the tea leaves formed the soil and terrain; soldiers commando-style crawling across the sandy beaches; diggers in trenches and even an edible diorama with liquorice as barbed wire, marshmallows as sandbags, Australian Diggers as yellow and green jelly babies fighting the German alliance of red and blue jelly babies. Presentations were outstanding and were all performed in front of a guest audience of Year 9 students. This extension activity allowed students to delve into areas not covered in class. Students worked effectively in groups and used their creativity and imagination. They presented their models to Ms Brewer and Ms McDonald’s Year 9 History class. Please see some of the photographs below:
Prefect News

The Year 11 Prefects are currently organizing a volunteer tutoring program open to students of all years, involving students of Year 10 or above who wish to tutor any subject at a preferred time, (e.g. Thursday mornings, lunchtime or after school) matched up to tutor a student of any year who wishes to be tutored.

This would be an entirely free and flexible program mediated by the Year 11 Prefects. Currently, we have more volunteer tutors than students, so we encourage all students who would like to excel in their schoolwork to sign up (or enquire at the email below) and take advantage of this opportunity to be mentored by older students who have a great understanding and passion of their chosen subject.

sarah.odowd@education.nsw.gov.au
Canteen News

For some time now students and staff have asked if the canteen could organise card facilities as a payment option. Well, ask no more! The Castle Hill High School Canteen now has an eftpos machine. Items can be bought using cash or card (pin number essential). We are always trying to meet the needs of the school. Hopefully this step forward will make it easier to purchase our healthy breakfast, morning tea and lunch items.

The canteen also has a special treat for the end of term. On Wednesday, June 25, we are celebrating All Things Italian, with a ‘Taste of Italy Day.’ Many delicious, homemade-or should I say canteen made-choices are available all day. As an added bonus, all pre-ordered items will receive a discount (Pre-orders can be made from Monday 23 of June from the canteen). All details including price, combo packages etc. will be displayed on the notice board outside the canteen. Avoid disappointment and order early!

Joanna Sutherland
Canteen Coordinator

A Taste of Italy
Wednesday 25 June

Minestrone Soup $3, with Roll $3.50
Quarter Pizza Slab $4 (Gluten Free available)
  Meat lovers, Hawaiian, Margherita
Pasta Tub $3.50
  Spaghetti & Meat Balls, Bolognaise
  Tomato Cheese Sauce (vegetarian)
  Creamy Pesto Sauce (vegetarian)
  Gluten Free Pasta & Tomato Sauce
Lasagne $4
Garlic Bread- Small $1.50, Large $2.50
Italian Style Scrolls 50c

Toasted Sandwiches
Cheese $1.50       Salami and Cheese $2
Bruschette $2

Desserts
Tiramisu $1
Jelly Cup $1
Cupcakes $1

Avoid Disappointment! Pre-order.
All pre-orders receive a free dessert
Now Available

Tights –
Black 70 denier  Sizes Mids and Talls  $10.00

Anniversary Polo Fleece Scarves  $10.00

Sleeveless Wool Blend Pullovers
Sizes 16, 18 & 20 only  $40.00

Boys Long Sleeve Shirts
Sizes 34 – 40  $45.00

Girls Long Sleeve Shirts
Sizes 6G, 8G, 12G  $45.00

OPENING HOURS

TERM 2

Weeks 2-9

Monday and Friday 8.15am to 11.30am

TERM 3

Week 1

Monday  14th July  10am-12 noon
Tuesday  15th July  8.15am-11.30am
Friday  18th July  8.15am-11.30 am

Weeks 2-10

Monday and Friday 8.15am to 11.30am
**Week 9A**

**Monday 23 June**
- Year 11 VET Hospitality Work Placement
- Concert Band Community Performance – Mowll Village
- Opens AFL Gala Day - Blacktown International Park

**Tuesday 24 June**
- Year 11 VET Hospitality Work Placement
- Year 10 into 11 Subject Selection Interviews

**Wednesday 25 June**
- Year 11 VET Hospitality Work Placement
- Under 16’s AFL Gala Day - Blacktown International Park
- Primary Maths Day
- Celebration Assembly Years 7-12
- Years 9 and 11 Parent Teacher Night 4pm

**Thursday 26 June**
- Year 11 VET Hospitality Work Placement
- Year 10 Scripture Seminar
- Year 9 PASS Primary Schools Coaching

**Friday 27 June**
- Year 11 VET Hospitality Work Placement

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**Term 3**

**Week 1B**

**Monday 14 July**
- School Development Day
- Staff Resume

**Tuesday 15 July**
- Students Resume
- Years 8 and 10 Parent Teacher Night 4pm

**Wednesday 16 July**
- Hills Zone Athletics Carnival
- Assembly Years 7-9 - Hall
- Year 10 Year Meeting – Gym
- Years 10 and 11 subject selection due online

**Thursday 17 July**
- Year 7 Parent Teacher Night 4pm
- Macquarie University – Careers Visit

**Friday 18 July**
- Year 8 Subject Information Day
- All Schools Cross Country
- Biology Excursion Year 12 - 9am

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**Week 2A**

**Monday 21 July**
- International Student Excursion Years 9-11

**Tuesday 22 July**
- Year 8 into Year 9 Parent Subject Night 6pm

**Wednesday 23 July**
- HSC Drama Evening

**Thursday 24 July**
- Area Athletics Carnival

**Friday 25 July**
- Area Athletics Carnival
CASTLE HILL COMMUNITY NEWS AND ADVERTISING

Disclaimer: Advertisements placed in the school’s Fortnightly Newsletter do not reflect an endorsement or otherwise by Castle Hill High School of that product or service.

CASTLE HILL COMMUNITY NEWS AND ADVERTISING

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For discount prices see www.brennandrivingschool.net.au

HILLS HAWKS SOFTBALL CLUB

- Batter Up/Teeball/Modball/Softball
- Register as an individual or register as a school team!
- Play at the same time and location each week
- Ages 5 to Adult - great team sport, something for everyone
- Register online before Sunday, 27 July for early bird rate

HILLS HAWKS SOFTBALL CLUB
When: On or before Sunday - 27 July 2013
Time: 9am to 12 noon
Where: The Galston Club, Galston or online @ www.hillohawks.softball.org.au
Enquiries: Belinda - 0412 111 058 or email hillhawks softball@gmail.com

Sew & Hem

Clothing Alterations

Whether it be your school uniform or formal outfit, Sew & Hem can take care of all your clothing alteration needs. We specialise in shortening, lengthening, mending, take-in/let-out and any other alteration your clothing needs.

We guarantee quality tailoring at affordable prices with pant hemming for $15!

Sew & Hem
Shop 76 (near Aldi)
Stanhope Village Shopping Centre
02 8882 9662

KENTHURST PRESCHOOL

Fete

- rides, spilt, raffle, ponies - kid’s craft - cafe
- tea, food, plants, cupcakes decorating, BBQ
- face painting, cakes, silent auction
- entertainment - fairy floss, showbags

Sunday 3 August
10am - 3pm
Rotary Park Nelson St
Kenthurst
Parenting ideas
INSIGHTS
Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Reading your child’s report

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

Could try harder . . . always does her best . . . lacks concentration . . . easily distracted . . . a pleasure to teach . . . Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar?

Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1. Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?

Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child’s abilities. A quick check of your child’s last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates?

There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends’ children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3. Are you willing to safeguard your child’s self-esteem rather than deflate it?

Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible. School reports come in different formats. Some are prescription while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child’s progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child’s report:

Focus on strengths

Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs core subjects.

Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don’t dismiss these as unimportant.

Take note of student self-assessment

Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

Discuss the report with your son or daughter

Talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed calibrate your child’s efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.


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parentingideas.com.au
DELE & Spanish Classes
7 - 14 years of age

Official Spanish Language Exam, DELE

The Diplomas in Spanish as a Foreign Language (DELE) are official qualifications certifying the degree of competence and mastery of Spanish, issued by Instituto Cervantes on behalf of Spain’s Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport.

We offer 3 levels A1, A2 and B1 and 6 levels of the DELE from 16 years of age.

Classes at the Instituto Cervantes in Sydney for 10 weeks
(1 hour class per week) $200

SPANISH CLASSES AFTER SCHOOL $95.00

Groups from 6 to 8 students: $150 per student /10 hours each
Groups from 9 to 15 students: $200 per student /10 hours each

Contact: cervanteskids.sydney@cervantes.es P: 02 92749200
Daniel Clifford is organising this Fund Raising Event for the White Ribbon appeal. Please support this event
Tickets are available from Daniel at Treasurer@Blacktownmagic.com.au
Or
HTTPS://Blacktown.yapsody.com