



CAMPBELLTOWN PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL

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24 February 2009

PRINCIPAL NEWS



Community Cabinet Meeting

Tuesday 17th February proved to be a very exciting day for CPAHS and the Campbelltown community.

The Prime Minister, Mr Kevin Rudd and his Cabinet conducted a Community Forum and a series of one-on-one meetings in our school. More than 450 people listened

to the PM outline a number of new local initiatives. He then took a series of questions from the audience.

Our students received much praise from the community for the high quality entertainment and catering they provided prior to the forum's commencement. Congratulations to our vocalists, aerial circus ensemble, instrumentalists, leadership team and staff for their fantastic efforts on the day – all were highly professional and a credit to our school and Campbelltown community. Campbelltown City Council passed on their congratulations and thanks to everyone concerned for the positive impression the school created.

Approximately 100 of our students, including SRC members, were also very fortunate on the day to listen to a short address given by the Deputy PM, Ms Julia Gillard. Ms Gillard was the first high profile speaker organised by the Macarthur Chronicle for its new Inspire Program. She shared some personal stories about her life and how she became involved in politics and then answered a series of questions from the students. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students who appreciated Ms Gillard finding time in her busy schedule to talk to them.

Victorian Bush Fire Appeal

Once again our students and staff displayed great generosity donating \$1830 to the appeal. We supplemented this on the night of the Community Cabinet meeting with an extra \$500 donated by the audience. The entire amount will be sent to School Aid which is supported by more than 300 Australian schools, to aid the rebuilding and resourcing of schools affected by the fires.

Jason McCartney Visit

Last week also saw another high profile visitor to our school – AFL player and Bali bombing survivor, Jason McCartney. Jason spoke to a full assembly about his sport and the aftermath of surviving the Bali bombings. His motivational talk was very well received by our students who proved to be an appreciative and well-behaved audience. Jason and his entourage were full of praise for the maturity and friendliness of our students.

Swimming Carnival

Many students braved the inclement weather to attend the school swimming carnival and from all reports had a great day. Congratulations to the PD/Health/PE staff for organising the carnival and to all students and staff who contributed to the success of the day. A special thanks to Year 12 students who organised a barbecue on the day.

New Facilities

During the Christmas break the library makeover continued with the completion of all internal painting. This complemented the installation of our connected classroom technology and, just this week, the purchase of two new photocopiers for student and staff use. The library is now a well-equipped, aesthetically pleasing learning resource centre that is better able to meet the learning and research needs of our students.

The external finishes of the administration block also received a welcome face lift during the break. We are also hoping to see more painting occur in HSIE and Mathematics Blocks later in the year.

Work will soon begin on our new gymnasium which will include a full size basketball court, strength and conditioning room, staff study, change rooms, store room and first aid room. The new facility is due for completion by the end of the school year and will be eagerly awaited by the entire school.

Overseas Sister School Exchanges

We have already received more than enough expressions of interest to justify organising a visit to Japan next January. Information packages will be given out to all those who expressed interest in the next fortnight. As the tour is over subscribed, places will be allocated in order of receiving deposits - after the information packages are handed out.

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As a result of the interest generated by the Japanese tour it has been decided to readvertise the tour to our Korean Sister School in the October school holiday. The tour is ten days in duration and costs \$1900 for students and \$2000 for adults. This tour also involves home stay accommodation for students and hotel stay for adults. Any students and family members interested in attending should contact me on 46251403 by mid- March when a decision will be made about the viability of the tour. Interested attendees would be required to pay a \$750 deposit by the end of Term 1 and the remainder in two equal payments at the end of Terms 2 and 3.

Robyn Pulbrook
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – S QUINCE

On Tuesday 24th February at 7pm we will be holding our Information Evening for Year 7 2010 students. All local primary schools have already received information about the evening and a number of parents/caregivers have made enquiries about the format of the evening.

Parents/caregivers and students **will:**

- have the opportunity to hear a number of our key personnel, including the Principal, Ms Pulbrook, as well as some of our Year 7 students, discuss features of our school and its programs;
- be taken on a tour of the school for a "fly on the wall" look at what happens in our classes. This will include viewing sample lessons and walking through some of our classrooms and facilities including our media room, performing arts facilities, science labs, kitchens and industrial arts rooms;
- be provided with written information about the enrolment and audition processes.

For further information please contact Ms Quince on 0246 251 403

S Quince
Deputy Principal

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

We are off and running this week with the first of our events for 2009.

Thanks to all of those Performers and Entertainment Certificate Crew who worked on the Community Cabinet. We have had nothing but praise for our efforts and for the outstanding public face we presented to very important members of our country. The performers were exemplary and the audience, not specifically obliged to listen, were more often than not forced to pay attention by the sheer quality of the presentations. Many of these students will be targets for a new event Mr Johnstone and I will be working on this year called Gold Class Cabaret. This event will take the very best of our performers and give them a vehicle to perform extended parts of their repertoire at a venue yet to be arranged.

Year 11 students attended a Sydney Theatre Company performance of *The Removalist* this week. Ms McLure praised the students for their excellent behaviour and perfect audience etiquette. We attend many of these matinee performances with what I call the "Blue Rinse Brigade" [Retirees, fifty years and over] and many of them roll their eyes when they see school students coming in. They expect chatty, disruptive, inattentive students. I, and many of my staff who attend these excursions, have been approached by pleasantly surprised Blue Rinsees after the show, to compliment our students on their behaviour. They seem surprised, but we never are. It is a culture we have developed over the years. Respect for the performer and for the audience.

Thanks must go to Ms Leary and Ms Cameron for all of their work on the Dance project at the arts Centre. The Arts Centre has appointed a Dance co-ordinator and this is a significant opportunity to further forge closer alliances with the Arts Centre. As a Head Teacher who has had to deal with complaints about some "Dance students not getting enough opportunities" I have to say I was disappointed at the number of Year Nine and Ten students who did not take up the offer to be involved in this event. Some dropped out at short notice and I will be talking to these students about their commitment to our Performing Arts ethos. Every Performing arts student performs a minimum of two times a year. There are other opportunities for involvement in Regional and State Dance and Schools Spectacular. Opportunities exist every Wednesday for performers to perform on assembly. In many Performing Arts high Schools, the demand for performers to perform often means a policy of restricting junior performers [Years 7 and 8] from performing at all until they reach Year Nine. We are more equitable.

As audition dates close we are reminded of the need to promote our school and our Performing Arts brand in the area. I will be sitting down with Ms Quince and working out a comprehensive community links, Primary school contact and Publicity strategic plan that will make this process cohesive, focused and systematic. We have a great school, great staff and great resources. Why wouldn't anybody want to come here?

Performing Arts staff will be closely involved with the Year 7 Information Evening, and the Assembly of Excellence. Not only do we provide technical support and entertainment, we also celebrate the many achievements of our own students within these areas. We look forward to sharing some closer observations of life in a Performing Arts classroom when we provide our Year 7 Parents of Performing Arts students Evening in Week 10 of this term.

Performing Arts students are reminded that the Performing Arts Calendar is now online. There should be no reason for clashes given that you effectively have three terms notice. Check your calendars, please!

Ken McBeath
Head Teacher Performing Arts

HEAD TEACHER TEACHING & LEARNING

Parents of Senior Students

How wonderful the past few weeks have been! Year 12 students have begun their final year of schooling and have done so with great enthusiasm and with a very positive and conscientious attitude to their HSC. Year 11 students have settled well into the routine of senior schooling and seem to be taking their new role in the school very seriously. Our senior students are using their great new facilities-the Senior Quad and the Senior Study in the English block-with a commendable level of maturity and respect. It is very pleasing to see the responsible way the students use these areas and I congratulate them on their exemplary behaviour. Such an approach means that we will continue to be able to offer these facilities to our students.

Year 11 students have been issued with their assessment schedule for their Preliminary HSC year. The assessment schedule is a booklet which contains outlines of all the assessment tasks your child will be required to complete in their Preliminary year. It is a good idea to go through this schedule with your child so that you can help them organise their time and so that, if necessary, family activities can be planned around times during which your child has a heavy assessment load. The booklet also contains copies of the school's exam and assessment policies and I would ask all parents to read these carefully so that potential

misunderstandings (particularly with regard to non-submission of tasks) might be avoided.

Year 12 students received their assessment schedules last year but I would recommend you revisit assessment requirements and dates with your Year 12 child.

Please encourage your child to seek help early if they are having difficulties coping with the demands of senior schooling. There are a number of people at the school who can help. In the first instance, encourage your child to speak to his or her class teacher. Stress can build very quickly in Year 11 and 12 and it helps if, as a parent, you can reassure your child that every problem has a solution, and that we at the school will do everything we can to help them find that solution. If you are unsure of how best to support your child in their HSC years, please feel free to call me at the school and we can arrange to have a chat about what can be done.

Parents of Year 7 Students

Congratulations on helping your child make the transition from primary to high school! It is a big leap but our Year 7 students seem to be thriving. As you would no doubt be aware, high school requires a different level of personal organisation to that required by primary school. To assist your child in organising their homework and assessment tasks, please encourage them to use their student planner regularly and correctly. Please check their planner on a regular basis to ensure that it is being used. If you haven't already purchased the Year 7 planner for your child, you can do so by having your child pay \$10 at the front office. If you would like to discuss ways in which you can help your child be organised or if you have any questions about their high school learning, please don't hesitate to call me at the school to arrange a meeting.

All Parents-Parent/Teacher Evening

Parent/Teacher interviews will be held in the school hall on Monday 30th March, from 4pm until 7pm. This evening presents a great opportunity for you to meet with your child's teachers and discuss your child's progress at school. Please keep this date free. Information regarding booking interviews with teachers will be forwarded closer to the date.

Mrs Donna Pooley
Head Teacher Teaching and Learning

NEWS FROM THE P&C

Some of the events for 2009 are:

- 2 Bunnings BBQ's in June and November
- Shopping Tour in October/November
- Bingo Night (**not organised yet**)
- Trivia Night (**not organised yet**)
- Market Day (**not organised yet**)
- Back to Campbelltown High Dinner/Show (**not yet organised**)

Please come along to our first meeting for the year as we organise some of our events for the year and suggest other ideas for fundraising to benefit all the students.

Our first meeting of the year is on Tuesday 24th February 2009 at 7pm meeting in the foyer. We would love to see many parents attending!

THIS IS NOT THE AGM so you will not be asked to take up a position at this meeting.

Any enquiries please do not hesitate to phone me.

Trudy Terelinck
P&C President
46256371 or 0414982767
e-mail - trudyter@optusnet.com.au

HOW TO SAY "NO"

In the previous newsletter parents were given useful information on the importance of saying "No" to their children when the situation warrants it. In this article there are some tips on how to say "No".

KNOW THE RULES

It is important for everyone to be clear on what acceptable behaviour is and what is not. These rules must remain consistent. For example, it is never all right to hurt someone, regardless of what the other person did, no matter how bad your day has been or what has happened. We need to explain to our children that in this situation it's all right to feel angry, disappointed and hurt but hurting someone else will not resolve these feelings. We can empathise with a child about how they feel but we cannot make excuses for their behaviour. Children need to hear a consistent "No" to behaviours that are against the rules.

PRAISE, PRAISE AND MORE PRAISE

The role of a parent is like being a detective. We need to notice and tease out those golden moments when your child has done the right thing. No matter how small these moments are, notice them and tell them that you noticed them and that you are proud of them. Despite the eye rolling and exaggerated sighs even adolescents appreciate praise.

DON'T TRY AND CHANGE EVERYTHING TODAY

Take small steps and don't try to fix up behaviours that have been occurring over many years in a matter of days. Focus on one thing at a time.

TIPS FOR PARENTS IN SAYING "NO"

- Stay calm and try to find ways not to get into an argument or get emotional.
- Believe in yourself as you are the parent and you have the responsibility to make rules for the family.
- Acknowledge feelings both your's and your child's.
- Focus on the behaviour for example it's always better to say, "The way you spoke to me is rude" instead of saying "you're rude".

Part of growing up is about children knowing what the boundaries are in different situations. Children need to learn their rights and responsibilities and also the responsibilities and rights of others. We want our children to stand up for themselves without standing on the toes of other people. Again it is about getting the balance right.

We may think that saying "No" to our children can cause some emotional damage to them but in fact the opposite is true. Not saying "No" can cause difficulties for children because they do not learn to deal with life's inevitable frustrations that they have to wait, they cannot always have what they want and that their needs do not always come first.

"No" is a word that helps children learn how to put the brakes on their wants and impulses. This is a critical skill for their life long happiness.

The Learning Support Team

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

A reminder to parents to notify the school about your child's health

We welcome information from parents about your child's health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know

if your child's health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing to the principal. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child's health and wellbeing.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughters health needs or as otherwise required by law.

S Keogh
Head Teacher Welfare

CAREER NEWS

MHScareers www.mhscareers.com

The school has recently joined this career site. All students are allowed to register for email alerts which will provide current career information and opportunities. To access the latest news you will need to login. **Login** is student and the **password** is *****. There is a link to **Latest News**. To receive email alerts fill in the email form under contact us heading. Parents are welcome to register. A paper copy of the career newsletter will be available in the Snr Study.

Work Experience

Students are able to participate in Work Experience once they have turned 14. Generally students would decide to complete Work Experience in Yr 10 but every year a number of Yr 9 students get involved in the Work Experience Program. Students are asked to attempt to find their own placement. Employers have indicated that they like individuals to show initiative and make contact.

The first stage of organisation is to contact Ms Hughes in the Career Office. At least 2 weeks notice needs to be given so paper work can be completed and teachers can be notified of a student's absence.

Work Experience provides an opportunity to take a look at a particular career pathway and assists individuals in making decisions in regard to their future. The experience is well worth the effort.

A Day with the Army

Year 11 & 12 Students are invited to visit Holsworthy Army Barracks on the 5th May. Information on enlistment and hands on activities will be available. Students are to contact Ms Hughes if they are interested.

Tax File Numbers

Students are able to apply for a Tax File Number through the Career Office. Birth Certificate details are required on the application before it can be processed. The applications are sent each Friday and Tax File numbers are posted to the student's home address.

A Hughes
Career Advisor

The Education Tax Refund – Get 50% back

Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to \$750 for primary students and \$1500 for secondary students.

This means you could receive a refund each year of up to \$375 for each primary and \$750 for each secondary school student in your care.

Are you eligible?

To be eligible you must have received Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A because your child received any of the following:

- Youth Allowance (student) aged 18
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- the Veterans' Children Education Scheme
- the Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- a scheme under s258 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 - an Australian Postgraduate Award.

Independent students are also eligible to claim.

What can you claim?

You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- laptops, home computers and associated costs — for example, internet and paper
- educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- stationery and art supplies
- school textbooks and associated learning materials
- trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses.

Some of the expenses you cannot claim include school fees or the cost of school uniforms, school excursions or travel to and from school, musical instruments or sporting equipment, clothing or footwear. For a more comprehensive list visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

When can you claim?

You can claim your education expenses in your 2009 tax return. If you do not have to lodge a tax return, you will be able to lodge a separate claim with the Tax Office from 1 July 2009.

Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.

If your education expenses in one year are more than the claim limit for your children, you can add the excess to your education expenses for the following year.

For more information:

- visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au
- phone the Tax Office on **13 28 61**.