From the Relieving Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to our new students; Fouady, Zainab, Milana, Psalmody

Mother’s Day
I hope all our mums, aunties, carers, sisters and grandmothers had a fabulous Mother’s Day yesterday and your children spoilt you. I would like to thank the P&C for their effort and time spent working on the Mother’s Day stall last week. The students were extremely pleased with their shopping.

The P&C have kindly donated $13 000 towards 20 ipads, soccer jerseys for PSSA and playground equipment. This funding is very much appreciated and I know the staff and students are very grateful. All fundraising done by the P&C comes back to the school to buy much needed resources.

IGA – Casula Mall
I would like to sincerely thank the staff and management at Casula IGA for their donation of $2000 for the school. We really appreciate the support of local businesses such as IGA and Casula Fruit Shop who help out our school. Next time you are in their stores please tell them how grateful we are.

Voluntary Contributions
Last week I put out a reminder to families to contribute a small cost to the school. Contributions are $40 a child or $75 for families. We try and keep this amount as low as possible each year. Contributions are voluntary but do help the school to provide quality resources such as Maths Online, workbooks, and quality readers to all students.

Winter Uniform
The days are much colder now and I know students are wearing jumpers, beanies and gloves to school. The only thing I ask is that these items are school colours and that black tights should be replaced with navy ones.

Important Dates

Week 4
12 May – NAPLAN, Years 3 & 5
13 May – NAPLAN, Years 3 & 5
School Assembly, Year 2
2.10pm, School Hall
14 May – NAPLAN, Years 3 & 5
15 May – NAPLAN (make-up day)
PSSA Winter Round 2
Dance Fever, Years 3-6
Parent Forum, 9.15am

Week 5
19 May – ICAS Digital Technology
20 May – School Assembly, Year 1
2.10pm, School Hall
22 May – PSSA Winter Round 3
Dance Fever, Years 3-6

Week 6
26 May – Maths Incursion
Zone Cross Country
27 May – School Assembly, Kindy
2.10pm, School Hall
29 May – PSSA Winter Round 4
Dance Fever, Years 3-6
Our Great Classrooms
Over the past fortnight I have spent much time teaching and working in classrooms and I must say I am in awe of the quality teaching and engagement I witness in rooms. Last week the P&C committee visited Year 6 students working in groups to problem solve, using their own technology devices and the parents were amazed. We are continuing to purchase 21st Century learning equipment and resources to support quality teaching across our great school.

School Plan and Annual School Report
Two important documents have been added to our website this week. Our three year school plan outlines our strategic directions for 2015-2017 and the Annual School Report outlines our achievements for 2014. Please have a read. I was extremely proud to write both documents in collaboration with the executive team, staff, parents and students. We have a great school here at Casula, always on the path of continuous improvement.

NAPLAN Testing
NAPLAN testing begins tomorrow for all students in Years 3 and 5. The schedule for testing is as follows:
Tuesday – Language Conventions and Writing
Wednesday – Reading
Thursday – Numeracy
Friday is a makeup session for any students that missed the tests throughout the week. It is very important that your child arrives at school on time as the tests begin shortly after 9am. All students will be provided with a pencil and eraser for the tests. The teachers have worked hard with our students. All the best!

Payments
There are currently a few payments required. It is important that you understand there is a cut off date for payments, and with direct debit payments these must be made earlier as they take two days to be cleared by the bank. When making a direct debit payment, please include the students surname and class in the transaction details. If you are unsure of what is due, please see the office staff who will assist you.

Currently payments are required for;
Professor Maths
PSSA Winter/Summer Sport
3-6 Athletics Carnival
K-2 Athletics Carnival
Stage 3 excursion to Mt Annan
Kindergarten excursion Erth’s Dinosaur Zoo
Year 6 Camp payments
Back at School Sport (Athletics Skills)

Parent Forum
As you are aware, we have started a new Award system this year and like anything new it will take time to understand and adjust to the changes. I have attached in this newsletter a visual display of how the system works. If you have any questions please see your child’s teacher. The most important thing is to ensure that your child keeps their awards in a safe place.

For parents we are offering a parent forum this Friday to discuss the award system and answer any questions.
When: Friday 15th May
What time: 9.15am
Where: School Hall
Mrs Sutarov and Ms Goulder will be presenting the session.
**Baby News**

Congratulations to Mrs McAlister and her husband Dane on the birth of their beautiful daughter, Kasey Mim. They are doing great!

We farewell Mrs Brown this week as she heads off on Maternity Leave to have Baby Number 3. We wish you all the very best and can’t wait to meet your new arrival.

I hope you have a great fortnight,

**Mrs Diamond**

**Library Corner**

**National Family Reading Month**

May is National Family Reading month and we would love for as many families as possible to join in!

This initiative has been running for 19 years and the aim is to get more children reading with their families – just 15 minutes a day will make a big difference to literacy levels and is a great way for families to bond. We encourage families to join the celebration and send (via your child on their library day) a photo of you all enjoying a book to display in our library.

Happy reading!!!!

Mrs Pucovski

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**STEWART HOUSE CLOTHING APPEAL**

Stewart House bags are included with this newsletter.

If you would like to donate any unwanted clean, good quality second hand clothing to help people in need, please place clothing in the bag and return it to school.

Stewart House provides a wonderful program for children who are in need of its services. By returning a bag of used clothing you are helping to raise money for Stewart House.

Please ensure you return your bag to school by Friday, 22 May.

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**CASULA HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE**

This week at Casula High:

- The new term has seen Casula High begin its much anticipated IPAD program with Year 7. Over 80% of students have brought a device and are experiencing 21st century learning through apps like Garage Band, Google Classroom, Edmodo, Popplet and many more.
- Some of our senior History students recently took the opportunity to pay tribute to our diggers by attending an ANZAC Day ceremony in Hyde Park. Our school was selected to lay a wreath at the memorial.
- Are you money smart? Well our Year 9 students are learning the way to become financially savvy through the Start Smart program. This is an important community life with the Commonwealth Bank and is invaluable to our students.
- Our Science faculty has been given a grant to use 2D solar power model cars. Students will build and experiment with this new and exciting technology in the classroom.
- Legacy at our school. See the website for details.
- For more updates on our exciting achievements why not like us on Facebook? Find us at www.facebook.com/casulahighschool

If you have any queries please contact the school on 9642 4710 or Simon O’Donnell, Retaining Transition Co-ordinator
Learning In 5/6D

5/6 D have had a great start to learning this term. Our Year 5's are busily preparing for NAPLAN and we wish them all the best. We have all been involved in a range of activities such as PE, investigating in science and different educational projects.

In our English unit, we have been looking at stylistic and language features found in texts. We looked at the poetic works of Shakespeare and Kath Walker.

A number of us are going to represent the school in competitions such as "Wizz it up", Maths Olympiad and the Premier's debating Challenge. We had to demonstrate our talents before we were chosen in each team.

In writing we wrote some sonnets. A sonnet is a 14 line poem. It originated in Italy. There are two types of sonnets; Italian and Shakespearian.

This is a snapshot of a published copy of Vyom’s autobiography which he showed to the class on the smartboard. He used ‘Bitstrips’ to publish his work.

In our science unit we have been learning about earthquakes and we are about to start a unit on Desert Survivors.

By: Amith
Swaran
Vyom
& Sandil
My name is Rebekah Mellefont. I have been teaching for 1 and a half years and I am currently teaching the amazing 3M. My favourite subject to teach at school is English (I especially love handwriting and punctuation) and when I am not at school I like going shopping and visiting all the sights of Sydney, including the zoo and the art museum.

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**Animals Should Not Be Kept In Cages**

*By Royce Walasek-Oguri*

3M

I strongly believe that it is cruel to keep animals in cages and should not happen. There are too many reasons why they shouldn’t be kept in a cage. They should be free with other animals of their kind and they can’t exercise when they are trapped in a cage. Animals should not be kept in cages!

They should be free with other animals of their kind because they will not learn any life skills such as learning how to hunt for food for survival and how to defend themselves from other animals and this will make them very unhappy not having these skills.

If animals are kept in cages they will not be able to get enough exercise as cages are not very big spaces. If they don’t get enough exercise they’ll become overweight, lazy, unhealthy and they might die. It is a very big issue.

These are my reasons why animals should not be kept in cages and why they should be let out in the wild, unless you want them to be extinct......
Casula Public School Awards

Students collect 10 awards that can be traded in for an "Award of Excellence". When a student collects 10 Awards of Excellence they are eligible for a gold medallion. The award system rolls over from year to year.

\[ \times 5 = \]

Awards:

Any combination below will ensure students can receive an Award of Excellence.

- Blue Merit Certificates (awarded when 5 Casula Champion cards are traded)
- White Merit Certificates
- Term Behaviour Award
- Sports Award
- School Spirit Award
- Principals Award

Merit Awards

Term Behaviour Award

School Spirit Award

Principal’s Award

Sports Award

Blue Merit Certificate
Mother of all jobs

As an ex-house dad, I take my hat off to mothers.

When I was busy at work I would often think about what my wife must be doing. I used to conjure up an image of her playing happily with my three-year-old son in the sandpit at the local playgroup while the other two children slept peacefully nearby. With these images at the front of my mind I thought motherhood sure beat working for a living.

Many years ago I discovered how far from the truth my notion of motherhood really was when my wife and I swapped roles. I must confess that two of the children were at school so it had it easier than my partner but it was as close as I could get.

The first thing I learned was that while I may be the primary carer I could never be a substitute mother to my children. Take sickness or illness for example. When one of the kids was off-colour, had a cut or bruise or just needed some tender loving care they headed straight for their mother. Dad may do in the meantime, but I was a pale imitation of the real thing, their mum, when it comes to dispensing comfort. I could give them just as good a hug as any female. It is just that their mum was well ... their mum. It is as simple as that.

I also learned there are some things that fathers can't do as well as mothers. In my case it was fixing my daughter's hair. The first time I put my youngest daughter's hair in a plait she cried. Not from pain, just the embarrassment of being seen in public with a hair-do that looked like a piece of knotty, old rope. It became accepted in my house that 'daddies don't do hair'.

I soon appreciated the unique skills that mothers develop if they are to survive the rigours of parenting on a daily basis. In particular, mothers seem to have the uncanny knack of doing three jobs at once while dealing with noisy or whingeing children.

Multi-tasking masters

Anyone who can cut a round of sandwiches, prepare breakfast for a family, find a missing pair of socks for tiny feet while making sure everyone is on track, has my vote. I have trouble getting myself dressed in the morning, let alone worrying about anyone else.

There is no place in a mother's repertoire for tunnel-vision or focusing on one task at a time. These are luxuries reserved for the workplace, not the family home. The fact that kids are noisy, demanding and often unpredictable means anyone who spends a fair time in their vicinity must be flexible, patient and able to keep cool under extraordinary pressure. Qualities I still don't possess.

Take cooking for example. The job of preparing a decent meal wasn't too hard. I could -- and still can -- usually produce something quite edible with a minimum of fuss. However, rarely did I have the chance to cook in isolation. There was always a child interrupting, asking for help or just wanting to chat. Not to mention fitting cooking around bathing, hearing kids read or picking them up from sports practice.

An increasing number of mothers do full-time paid work then come home for their second shift of parenting. Any mention to these mothers of my trials with the juggling act, simply evokes a shoulder shrug and a 'welcome to the real world' look.

If anyone says that motherhood is not like real work, send them my way. After many years of being the primary parent to my children -- usually the preserve of women -- I can truly set them straight. It's hard yakka that largely goes unrewarded.

Happy Mother's Day!
Stepping Out School of Dance

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Acrobatics/Tumbling