From the Relieving Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

What a busy few weeks it has been at Casula Public School.

**Battle of the Arts**

Last week, four of our students entered the battle of the Arts competition against 18 other schools from the Campbelltown, Glenfield and Bankstown networks. The children participated in round-robin style activities including ceramics, foam printing and still life painting. The great news is that our school was successful in winning the “Freaky Found Objects”. I was extremely proud of Rupert, Tupou, Rama and Amwar for their creative finesse and behaviour on the day.

Robyn Edwards was the leader of this excellent initiative and has worked tirelessly with a small team of teachers to get this idea off the ground. It was a great success and our School Director, Maria Serafim, congratulated Robyn on her outstanding commitment to the arts. Well done to all involved!

**Saturday School Development Days**

Throughout the year, the hard working teachers at Casula have attended two Saturday sessions. This means that teachers will finish school on the same day as the students on Wednesday 16th December. We believe as a school this option is better as we participate in professional learning during the school year and can implement new learning straight away rather than waiting until the end of the year.

Last Saturday, we welcomed acclaimed author, educator and motivational speaker, Steve Francis, to the school. Steve engaged the audience in two sessions - 7 Secrets to Engaging Students and Work Life Satisfaction.

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**NUT AWARE SCHOOL**

**Important Dates**

**TERM 3**

**Week 4**

4 August – P&C Meeting, 9.15am
   Community Room
   Pre Kindergarten “Jump Start”

5 August – School Assembly, Stage 3
   2.10pm, School Hall

6 August – Coffee & chat with the Principal, 2.15pm
   Community Room

7 August – Parent Forum, 9.15am
   (Science & History)
   Mrs Lloyd’s Room (6L)

**Week 5**

10 August – Japanese student arrive

11 August – ICAS – Maths
   Pre Kindergarten “Jump Start”

12 August – School Assembly, Stage 2
   2.10pm, School Hall

**Week 6**

18 August – Pre Kindergarten “Jump Start”

19 August – 26 Storey Treehouse Excursion – Year 6
   School Assembly, Year 2
   2.10pm, School Hall

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Casula Public School Newsletter  Week 4, Term 3  3 August 15
The feedback from teachers was extremely positive. Some learning from our day included;

“Live the reputation you want to have”
“Feedback is the breakfast of champions for students and teachers”
“A master teacher explains a task to students 3-4 different ways”
“Encourage GRIT and DETERMINATION in all our learners”

Worm Farm
We continue to teach our students about sustaining our environment and protecting it for future generations. We have installed a worm farm. The scraps feed the worms and in return the worm waste fertilises our grounds and vegetable gardens.

Open Day at Casula Public School
Last Thursday we celebrated a great day at Casula. At 9.15am we held an assembly to showcase the great learning occurring at our school. Our choir, dance groups, teachers, support teachers, public speaking champion and Kindergarten students all shared their successes with the audience of over 80 parents. Thank you to Risha and Leo, our School Prime Minister, for confidently hosting the assembly. At 10am we opened our classrooms to parents to watch and work with their children. The feedback from parents was extremely positive and they loved seeing their child and meeting their class mates. A picnic recess was held for families and students. I want to thank all parents who gave up their time to be involved in our Education Week celebrations. It was a great success!
Japanese students visiting
On 10 August we welcome 18 Japanese students to our school for a fortnight of learning and cultural experiences. Thank you to the families that have offered to host a student; we really appreciate it. The students will be based at the Thinking Room and will visit a variety of our classes, attend excursions to the Blue Mountains and Featherdale Wildlife Farm and learn English with their travelling tutor.

Jump Start
Our first session for Jump Start began last week. We welcomed 47 pre schoolers to our Thinking Room to engage in a variety of learning tasks and to meet this year’s Kinder teachers. I was very impressed how settled and engaged our young learners were and look forward to them starting school in 2016. The Jump Start program will continue each Tuesday. If you know a child who turns 5 before July 31 please encourage the family to visit our school office to enrol.

P&C Meeting
Our next P&C meeting is this Tuesday at 9.15am in the Community Room. All parents and community members are welcome to attend.

Pilot program at the Opera House
We were very excited to be asked to attend a Creative Leadership program at the Sydney Opera House last week. This is an incredible opportunity for our school as we will have a resident artist visiting weekly. Mrs Edwards and I attended the training. The Opera House - what a great setting to learn! More details will be out soon.

Results from Science ICAS
Congratulations to the following students who received a Distinction in the Science ICAS competition.
**Year 6:** Swara Hedge
Aditi Chavan

**Year 5:** Rhiannon Essex
Jarif Asad

**Year 4:** Rashid Abuazarov
Siddharth Sali

They will receive their certificates at the next assembly.

Parent Forum
This Friday from 9.15am we are offering a parent information session on the NEW Science and History syllabus. The session will run for 1 hour and will be hosted by Mrs Lloyd and Mr Davis. The session will be held in Mrs Lloyd’s room. The session is open to all parents from Kinder to Year 6.

Cadbury Fundraiser
Thank you to all the families that have offered to sell a Cadbury box of chocolates. They will be sent home this week. We appreciate your support for our school. If you sell a whole box of chocolates your name will go into a draw for a sellers prize.

Casula Parking and Student Safety
Parking around the school and student safety continues to be a problem. Last week I met with Kerrie White, Road Safety Officer with Liverpool Council, to discuss a larger space dedicated to dropping children off. She will be attending tomorrow’s P&C meeting to share her ideas. You will have noticed that De Meyrick Avenue and Holland Crescent are being monitored by rangers and police that will charge you if you park illegally or make U turns. PLEASE
abide by the traffic rules. **PLEASE** model safe practices to your children – don’t cross roads when you can safely cross at the crossing.

**Congratulations** 💕

Congratulations to Mr Beveridge who has become recently engaged to Miss Williams, who is currently working at state office as an English advisor. We wish them both a lifetime of happiness.

### 100% Attendance Awards

Last week Ms Goulder, Mr Field and myself had the pleasure of handing out the 100% attendance awards for Term 2. Every student that attended school each day in Term 2 received these special awards.

Have a great fortnight,

**Mrs Diamond**

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### School Banking News

**Hundreds of amazing prizes to be won.**

An intergalactic portal from another dimension has appeared on Planet Savings, but this is no ordinary portal. It’s a School Banking Portal with amazing prizes.

Help the DoLlamites activate the Prize Portal for a chance to win

To activate the Prize Portal, simply make three or more School Banking deposits during Term 3 and you’ll automatically be entered into the competition for a chance to win one of hundreds of prizes.

You can also complete a Money Mission online to double your chance of winning a prize. You can start your Money Mission at any time, but you’ll need to make sure you’ve made three School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3 to double your chance of winning.

To complete your Money Mission, or to find out more, visit [School Bank Portal](#).

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**Have a great day,**

**Mrs Diamond**
Library Corner

A big big thankyou to our wonderful families and school community for supporting our annual Book Fair. Our sales exceeded $12,500.

We are fortunate to receive a 20% commission from the sales which will go towards creating a 21st century learning space in our Library.

It shows that books do “Light up Our Lives” at Casula Public School.

Happy reading!!!!

Mrs Pucovski

PSSA RESULTS

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<tr>
<th>Term 3 – Round 6</th>
<th>FINAL SCORE</th>
<th>PLAYER OF THE MATCH</th>
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<td>Vs Wattle Grove</td>
<td>Loss 2-3</td>
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<td>JUNIOR B GAME 2</td>
<td>Vs Wattle Grove</td>
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<td>JUNIOR A GAME 1</td>
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<td>GIRLS SOCCER</td>
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ORIENTEERING

Orienteering was on the 24th of June 2015. 5/6D and Millie Ha from 6W went to compete against other schools. Orienteering is a sport which you use a map to navigate around a big park.

Unfortunately we didn’t win but we all had fun in the park. Mr Davis worked really hard in organising it as well as Mr Field helping on the day. It was really muddy and a lot of people came back with muddy shoes. Thank you to all the parents that assisted us on the day. Credit to Mr Field for taking photos, parents for bringing food and of course Mr Davis that organised this really fun day.

COMMENTS:

Kayla- “I had a really fun day because it is full of physical activities!”

Christina- “Orienteering is fun because you get to run and learn to navigate!”

Elaine- “Orienteering is fun because you can run a lot!”

WRITTEN BY: KAYLA, ELAINE AND CHRISTINA
In 1E all the children know who is responsible for their learning – themselves! They really enjoy independent learning time, which is completed each day as part of Language, Learning and Literacy (L3) in Stage 1. Here are some of the excellent learning activities they like to do.

Learn new words

Use the iPads

1E loves to...

Read books

Write stories
ENTER the world of 2/3G!

If you see a child on the playground, it could very well be one of 2/3G. Are they smiling? Are they racing to class eagerly? Are they talking about Maths and their favourite books? Are they being friendly? Well, you might have just found a 2/3G class member!

Here we are, in our natural habitat. Look carefully and you’ll see some of the activities we do here in 2/3G.

In 2/3G, we think learning is COOL!

...and just being our kind, friendly and awesome selves

Why my 2-3G teacher is excellent!
My teacher’s name is Mrs Goetz. She is the best teacher and she always cares about us.

Sometimes, I get in trouble for being naughty but she always reminds me that I’m a good boy and I believe I’m a good boy.

In the morning, when we are learning maths, she always makes it fun and I like to study with her. She always makes jokes about our mistakes and gives us chances to fix our mistakes. She said, “quickly, fix your mistakes or the crocodile will eat you”, when we were learning about the greater than and less than symbols.

She is so funny, that is why she is the best teacher.

By Daniel Tan
Do you let your kids amaze you?

“I’m amazed at what children CAN do when given the opportunity and encouragement. I love the pride, confidence and sense of purpose/plasure in contributing, each new skill achieved brings. The smiles are awesome too.”

A mother left this comment on our Facebook page recently in response to our post: “What would be the impact if you did less, not more for your children?”

Lovely answer!

It got me thinking that at the joy that this mother took from watching her children develop independence was no accident. Her parenting style played a large role in her children’s independence. All power to her and her parenting style!

I’ve long believed that adults are the gatekeepers for children’s independence.

We open the gate to independence when we give children opportunities to develop self-help skills (carry their own schoolbags, get themselves up in the morning, tidy their own rooms); provide them with real responsibility (feeding pets, setting the meal table and preparing meals) and give them autonomy to make some of their own decisions (choosing clothes within limits, following own interests, making choices about pocket-money spending).

We close the independence gate when we do too much for children (tidy their toys away, pack their schoolbags, make simple snacks; rescue them from learning opportunities (take forgotten lunches to school, sort out their friendship problems, pay their library fines) and neglect to build scaffolds to independence (such as help them make their bed, walk half way to school, teach them to ride public transport).

It’s a quick of parenting that many children think they are older than they are, and parents think their children are younger than they are. We underestimate children’s abilities to the detriment of their development.

Are you an opener or closer of the gate to children’s independence?

Think of independence as a continuum with opening the gate and closing the gate at either end. If your parenting is more at the closing end then look for ways to move down the continuum towards independence building. My advice is to make small adaptations to your parenting. For instance, start with a child making their own snacks before moving to helping you to prepare a meal. But first you need to develop a mindset for independence building. That means, be on the lookout for opportunities for children to do things for themselves.

As many readers will know I firmly believe that the job of parents is to make ourselves redundant from the earliest possible age of a child’s life. That means, that our interactions with kids have an endgame in mind – we want our kids to be able to stand on their own two feet physically (Don’t we get a kick out of them walking for the first time!), emotionally (with support, of course) and to navigate their world without being reliant on others.

There is no better feeling as a parent than watching your child beam with joy and pride when they’ve mastered a new skill, overcome a challenge or conquered a fear. It’s those times that make parenting so worthwhile. Those awesome smiles won’t happen by accident. They require a parenting style that gives kids a chance to be independent; that encourages them to be brave and offers them the safety net of emotional support when life throws them curve balls. Why not try it? Give your kids a chance to amaze you.

If the idea of promoting real independence in kids entices you then join me at ParentingIdeas Club where we talk and in week out I’ll show you how to raise kids that will amaze you. Find out more.

Michael Grose


ParentingIdeas.com.au

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Casula Public School Newsletter

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Saturday 22nd August
11am - 4pm
Hornsby Girls’ High School,
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- Huge international food fair
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- Cultural performances in music and dance
- Henna, origami and face painting
- Hornsby Rotary Book Fair for Lifeline
- Robotics display - Trash and Treasure

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