Communication

Last night saw the completion of our Class Information Evenings. Together with our Junior Band Information Night on Tuesday, these were important occasions where information was exchanged and relationships commenced.

Building and maintaining our links as a school community is fundamental to ensuring successful learning and development for our students. When we establish mutual trust, open communication, respect and support, our children flourish because they are in the optimum environment to do their best.

In families where mum and dad disagree on fundamental issues, children can learn to play one parent off against the other. Similarly, when home and school operate in isolation, students fail to get a consistent message that helps guide their development. Walls go up and misunderstandings can more easily occur.

This year, as in every year, our challenge is to ensure that our communication with you is effective, timely and clear. We try to share as much information as we can. Our Newsletter, new website ([www.connellspt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.connellspt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)), meetings and notes sent home are all ways in which we seek to keep you informed and involved. I appreciate constructive feedback that can help us deliver an improved service to you, so always feel welcome to let me know if there is any aspect of our communication that could be better.

With all our best will, there will be times when information isn’t distributed as quickly as we would like, or there is a late development or change of plans that means we have a short time frame in which to get notes out. For those odd occasions where circumstances are beyond our control, I apologise in advance and seek your understanding.

In this climate of mutual trust and respect, I encourage you to please speak with your child’s teacher or me if ever you have concerns about any aspect of their life with us. One of the things I most value about the staff, students and community of Connells Point Public School is the manner in which concerns are raised, and the partnership parents extend to me in acting to address these concerns. Hopefully, they will be few and far between, but always know that we are here to work with you in the best interests of your children.

Value of the Week

This week, we have been focusing on our Social Value of “Respect”, with particular reference to displaying good manners.

Good manners show awareness, consideration and thoughtfulness for others. They are a social skill which allow children to mix more happily and to be appreciated by friends and strangers alike.

In many situations, courtesy seems to be a disappearing commodity! Training our children to be patient, respect older people, behave appropriately and with awareness of others in different places, say please and thank you, not interrupt, hold doors open, say “excuse me”, eat nicely, tidy away their mess, offer help when it is needed, etc, etc equips them to behave sensitively and unselfishly.

We can assist by having consistent and explicit expectations of good manners from our children, and acknowledging and appreciating good manners when they are displayed.

Dates to Remember 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Term 1 Money &amp; Note due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 Feb</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Feb</td>
<td>P&amp;C AGM 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Feb</td>
<td>Welcome BBQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Mar</td>
<td>P&amp;C meeting 7 pm</td>
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<td>25 Mar</td>
<td>“Jolly Bops” performance K-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Mar</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Apr</td>
<td>Last Day of Term</td>
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New Language Program

The *Becoming Asia Literate Grants to Schools* is a key component of the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP) and is managed by the Asia Education Foundation on behalf of the Australian Government.

The Australian Government is providing $7.24 million in funding to this program over four years. These grants will assist schools to promote the teaching and learning of Asian languages from one or more of the target countries: China, Indonesia, Japan and Korea. The Asia Foundation will assist the project lead school in managing the project.

A submission to introduce Asian languages to feeder primary schools was submitted in 2009 by Blakehurst High School on behalf of its feeder primary principals and, as a result, funding has been granted.

Both Connells Point PS and Carlton South PS have opted to study Japanese while Blakehurst PS will introduce Chinese culture, working within the framework of their HSIE syllabus.

Therefore, we are delighted to announce that all Year 4 students of our school will study a second language this year, joining our Years 5 and 6 students who have studied Greek as a community language for a number of years. 4G and 4S will study Japanese for one hour per week on Tuesdays, taught by Miss Kylie Ha from Blakehurst High School, while Y4 students in 4/5M will study Greek on Mondays with Miss Paloumis, our Greek community language teacher.

We are very pleased to be able to extend the opportunity to learn a Language Other Than English (LOTE) to our Year 4 students in 2010. There is strong evidence that *second language study benefits students in a wide variety of areas* (http://www.ncssfl.org/papers/BenefitsSecondLanguageStudyNEA.pdf). These benefits include:

- increased academic progress in other subjects
- narrowing of achievement gaps
- improved basic skills development
- improved higher order, abstract and creative thinking
- enriched and enhanced cognitive development in early learners
- enhancing a student's sense of achievement
- helping students score higher on standardised tests
- promoting cultural awareness and competency
- improved chances of university acceptance, achievement and attainment
- enhanced career opportunities
- improved understanding and security in community and society

The Japanese language program will begin in Week 5 of this term. The Greek language program, for 4/5M and Stage 3 classes, has already commenced.

Our school also hosts after school language classes in Italian and Greek. Information about these classes can be obtained through the office.

Student Transport

It would greatly assist our supervision if all students attending our carnivals, excursions, sporting activities etc travelled to and from the venues with the school. When children are transported privately, and join or leave an activity separately from their class, team or school group, the opportunity arises for confusion about where the child is and who is responsible for his/her supervision. Your cooperation would be very much appreciated.

School Chess

Students in Y5 and Y6 who wish to participate in our CPPS chess tournament are asked to meet Mrs Stevenson in her classroom at 1.30pm on *Thursday, February 18*. This is a great opportunity for students interested in developing their thinking and logic skills, and who enjoy the challenge of chess.
Best Start for Kindy

This year, every NSW public school kindergarten student will take part in the Best Start literacy and numeracy assessment program. Research shows that early intervention gets the best results when it comes to improving literacy and numeracy skills. Under the Best Start program, 2,300 specially trained teachers will start assessing students' reading and writing, their communication skills and recognition of the sounds and letters of the English language. Teachers will also look at students’ early numeracy skills in counting, number recognition and how they work with groups and patterns. The program allows teachers to assess and diagnose the starting point of a child’s education and gives students the best start to their formal education by allowing teachers to plan their lessons to cater to each child’s level of proficiency in literacy and numeracy. Our kindergarten teachers commenced the Best Start assessments with their students this week and a printed report will be issued to parents by the end of Term 1.


P & C News

**SWIMMING CARNIVAL HATS FOR SALE**

Support your House at the swimming carnival by wearing its colour. Buy a baseball hat for only $5.00 in your house colour and wear it with pride.

Simply fill in the form below and return it clearly labelled “Sports Hat” before Friday 12th February.

Name: .................................................................

Class: .................................................................

House Colour: ...........................................................

Canteen News

Volunteers are needed on Tuesdays. Please contact Sharon if you can assist. Thank you.

Canteen Managers

Canteen Roster

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Feb 12</th>
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<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diana</td>
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<td>Helen</td>
<td>Carolyn</td>
<td>Leasa</td>
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<td>Maree</td>
<td>Xenia</td>
<td>Bronwyn</td>
<td>Lianne</td>
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<td>Barbara</td>
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<td>Minna</td>
<td>Gemma</td>
<td>Daina</td>
<td>Tricia</td>
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Pick Up Zone Supervision Roster

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<tr>
<th>Friday</th>
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<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jodie</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kathy</td>
<td>Vickie</td>
<td>Alison</td>
<td></td>
<td>Leasa</td>
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Welcome BBQ

WELCOME TO 2010 BBQ AND DISCO

The P&C Committee extends an invitation to all families at Connells Point Public School to join us at this annual event to welcome new families to our school community.

WHEN: 24th February, 2010 at 5.45pm – 8pm
K – 2 Disco – 6pm – 6.45pm / 3 – 6 Disco 7pm – 8pm

VENUE: At the School

YOUR HOSTS: The P&C Committee supported by the School Council

Sausages and chicken kebabs will be provided at a cost of $2.00 each. Soft drinks & water will also be available.
A gold coin donation for the Disco on the night would be appreciated.
WHAT TO BRING: Your picnic rug and/or chair and dancing shoes! You may also bring along some of your own nibblies and drinks.

RSVP: Friday 19th February using the form below

To assist with catering, please return this form together with your money to your class teacher or to the office by Friday 19th February.

The ________________________________Family of Class(es)

_________________________
will be attending the school Welcome BBQ and Disco.

No. of adults attending______________ No. of children attending_______________________

No. of Sausages____________________ No. of Kebabs____________________________

Please indicate if you are a new family to the school □

Please indicate if you could assist on the night with the □ Setup, □ BBQ, □ Welcome table or □ Disco Supervision

Contact name & Phone:

Connells Point Public School is a Smoking and Alcohol Free Zone.