

## Newsletter 2, Term 1

### 28 Feb 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

Wow, four weeks down already! Before we know it, term 1 will be coming to an end – but there are lots of activities and events to come before then. We have the athletics carnival, interschool athletics, three more assemblies, Easter raffle and hat parade, student disco and more.

**Assembly:** I was amazed by the large turn-out of parents at our assembly last week. It shows the high level of parent interest and involvement in our school, and made the assembly much more special for everyone. We had a little fun while we were at it, with some of the younger kids needing some reassurance that Mr McLaren cutting off my tie was a joke!

After the assembly, the host classes will hold a morning tea for parents and visitors. We ask that parents provide healthy food for this, as an intake of sugar and additives at 10am will result in students having difficulty concentrating for the rest of the day, and our staff finding them hard to engage.



**A Special Mention:** I have encountered a team of staff at Castletown Primary School who are very committed, professional and positive about their school and their work within it. I want to make special mention of one person though – our Deputy Principal Mrs Julie Fetherston. As Acting Principal during term 4 2019, Julie took the helm and steered the ship safely through to the end of the year. She then worked tirelessly throughout the school holidays to ensure the school was fully staffed and ready to go for this year. I don't think I have come across anyone in any school who works harder than Julie! Her wide-ranging knowledge and skills have been invaluable, as without her we could not have had such a smooth, positive start. She has provided Mr McLaren and me with much patient support and guidance, making our start here so much easier. Thank you, Julie!

**Parent Forum:** On Wednesday night, 18 School Board members and parents attended our workshop to gain parent perspectives for the future of our school. It was a very positive and successful event, and I thank everyone who attended for taking the time to contribute. There was a strong correlation between the outcomes of the staff and parent results, with both groups showing real passion for their school. We now have some clear directions for our Focus 2020 plan, including continuation of the building maintenance program, development of clear whole-school approaches in teaching and learning, and student care and support, and supporting our staff. An interesting point to arise from both staff and parents was the desire for more excursions to the local community and surrounds, and we will explore opportunities for this. More will be coming soon, once the Board has time to process the information.



**School Board Parent Representative Elections:** Our School Board consists of six positions for parent representatives, and four of these terms have now expired (two of them are two-year and two are three-year terms). We are now calling for interested parents and carers, who currently have a child attending Castletown Primary, to nominate for a position on the Board. Should we receive more than four, an election via secret ballot will be held.

**Behaviour Management:** As newcomers to Castletown, Mr McLaren and I have noticed two things in particular in relation to behaviour of students: the excellent examples that our senior students provide as role models in our school;

and somewhat ironically, the propensity of some of our younger students to resort to physical acts to resolve their minor conflicts or problems. The latter is mainly with boys in Years 1 and 2, in the playground. Where this is coming from and why is quite perplexing. We are working on strategies to address this and reduce this anti-social behaviour, and send a clear message that this behaviour is not tolerated in our school – it doesn't solve problems, it just creates them! We also want to create confidence in parents that the school will deal with behaviour fairly and thoroughly. We are ensuring there are consequences for children who resort to physical actions, and helping them to work out how they can resolve issues without the need to do so. Staff are asked to report any deliberate hitting, kicking, pushing etc to the office administration. We are doing our best to investigate each incident thoroughly, including any witnesses, to try to get a true picture of what occurred. In my last school, we had 16 CCTV cameras around the school to combat after hours vandalism, and these were very useful behaviour management tools also! However, we don't have that luxury here, so we rely on what children are telling us, and their versions can differ greatly.

It is worth considering the following phrase:

"We promise not to believe everything your child says happens at home, if you promise not to believe everything s/he says happens at school."

We also strive to deal with students fairly. Deliberate physical actions, whether the student was first, second or third to do so, will be treated as "Big Rocks" and usually result in a time-out for recess or lunch, and completion of a reflection sheet to enable reflection and communication. If at any time you have concerns about an incident at school we encourage you to contact us and clarify the situation, or pass on information. It is in the best interests of us all to be working together and supporting our students as a team.

### Religious Education

I gather that there has been some discussion about the merits and viability of the Religious Education program that runs in our school for Year 1 to 3 students. This program started this week, and parents have been given the option for your child to not participate. Our School Board will follow this up, with possible further consultation soon.

Best Wishes

Tim Baker



## **Deputy's Desk - Student Services**

### **Nut-Aware**

Castletown Primary School is concerned about the safety and well-being of all our students. Many of you will know someone who is affected by anaphylaxis, a life threatening allergic reaction. Our school does its best to be an allergy aware school. Staff have had training in severe allergy management and we have implemented lots of strategies to help keep students at risk of anaphylaxis as safe as we can. We have 10 students who live with the risk of anaphylaxis to foods and insect stings. Whilst these children are being taught to care for themselves at an age appropriate level, we ask that you help us educate your child on the importance of not sharing food with others, washing hands after eating and calling out to an adult if they think their friend with allergies is sick. With increased awareness and understanding of anaphylaxis, you will be able to help protect those around you.

As the only way to manage a food allergy is avoidance, the school has implemented several strategies to help prevent a severe allergic reaction. We can never totally eliminate the risk of an anaphylaxis reaction but we can all do things that will help lessen the risk. Please consider the child with food allergy when packing your child's lunch or when sending in food for any occasion, including school excursions. As such, we ask that parents do not send in food containing nuts, including peanut butter, nut bars and nut spreads

Foods that 'May Contain Traces of Nuts' can be included for the non-allergic students to consume at school as long as they do not share food.

David McLaren  
Deputy – Student Services

## **Deputy's Desk - Curriculum**

### **iMaths**

Our iMaths Student books have arrived. This Maths program is an exciting new addition to our whole school approach to Maths and teachers have access to an online account with a wealth of material to support students requiring additional support or extension. An invoice has been sent home with students today that have not purchased a book as yet. If you may have difficulty paying, please come and see Tania Barnes or myself to organise a payment plan.

### **Booklists**

Back-ordered items from the online booklists arrived with our iMaths books this week, along with the ream of photocopy paper. These items have been handed to the classroom teacher for distribution to your child.

### **Student Assessment**

At the beginning of the year, schools will often have mandated and school-determined assessments to assist in planning for the year. Our Pre-Primaries are currently completing the On-Entry assessment of Numeracy and Literacy whilst our Years 1-6 have completed the ACER Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary Assessment this week and will complete the Easy Mark Maths Assessment next week. Teachers will use this data to identify students requiring additional support or extension, determine class focus teaching points and track student progress from one year to the next.

Julie Fetherston  
Deputy Principal – Curriculum



## Room 5 and 7 Assembly

Our Year 2 and Year 3 students from Room 5 and Room 7 led our very first whole school Assembly for 2020 and did an outstanding job! In their item, they reminded us all of the importance of wearing a hat and showed us their very colourful, self-decorated hats.



We were introduced to our new School Captains – James Guest and Ashley Gallop.

Our Faction Captains were also presented to the school.



Challenger	Cygnets	Parmelia	Success
Demi Hunter Mason Cowcher	Georgia Durdin Jai Wood	Madison Gordon Joseph Richardson	Eden Yetman Hunta McKenna



### **Indonesian Class Award**

Selamat Pagi! Every assembly Ibu Florisson will be awarding a class award for Indonesian. The first award went to Room 1 for their excellent participation in singing Indonesian songs and activities during class. Well done Kamar 1.

### **Aussie of the Month Award**

This year we have reintroduced the Aussie of the Month Award. This will be awarded by our School Chaplain – Mr Jake Meadley to a senior and junior student who have demonstrated virtuous behaviour around the school.

Congratulations to our February Aussie of the Month Junior Award Winner – **Alex Hay** who demonstrated Consideration in assisting Mr Barter in cleaning up the art crayons at the end of the day after school. What a wonderful role model he is.

Our February Senior Aussie of the Month will be awarded at our next assembly as they were away at the last assembly. Stay tuned....



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## Merit Award Winners

Congratulations to our Merit Award Winners at our first assembly.

Room	Year	Award Winners		
EC3	PP	Morgan Guest	Charlee Hagley	
EC5	PP	Chloe Stephen	Brooke Prosser	
EC6	PP	Olivia Richardson	Austin Rickerby	
Room 1	1/2	Carter Watt	Adelayde Humphrys	
Room 2	1	Lucas Maher		
Room 3	1	Ramsha Sarfraz	Hudson Myers	
Room 4	2	Aaliyah Meredith	Indiarnah Houston	Ruby Rigg
Room 5	2	Amberley Owen	Phoenix McMullen	
Room 6	2/3	Spencer Bower	Sadie Witt	
Room 7	3	Beau Sylva	Khloe Charles	
Room 8	3	Chelsea Richardson	Dakota Lay	
Room 21	3	Danielle Knox	Alexander Hay	
Room 13	4	Kady Creedon	Quinn Libo-on	
Room 14	4	Chloe Sinagra	Sophie Goodwin	
Room 9	5	Olivia Stephen	Rhys Muir	
Room 10	5	Ava Neill	Chad Burns	
Room 11	6	Jesse Walter	Taj Spencer	
Room 12	6	Alex Field	Allira Bratten	



## Dates To Remember

2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Labour Day Public Holiday
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Board Nominations Due
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Room 11 Assembly

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