

Inspire - Educate - Succeed

Castletown PRIMARY SCHOOL

At Castletown Primary School we inspire and educate all students to succeed in becoming productive and valued citizens

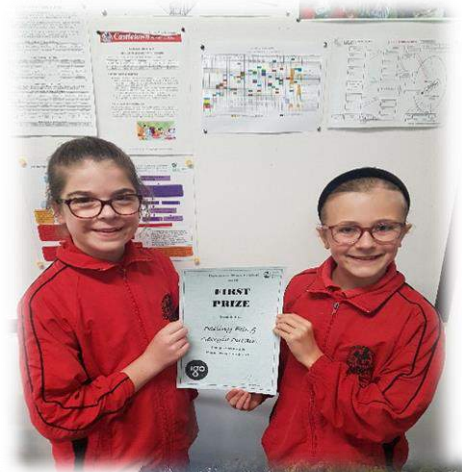
Newsletter No. 2, Term 3, 2019

Dear Parents

The Music Festival preparation and participation, organisation around the pending Year 6 Camp, 6 classes attending swimming lessons across each day, planning for the Colour Run on 6 September and along with the very busy schedule in all classes - has made for a hectic but very exciting week here at Castletown PS.

MUSIC FESTIVAL – what an outstanding success! For those fortunate to attend and listen to our Choir perform they were truly blessed to witness an exquisite performance. Castletown PS was acknowledged for outstanding presentation, the highest score on the day and significant high praise from the adjudicator. This is the result of – a deeply embedded culture of expectation to perform well, support structures in place at the school to meet high expectations and in 2019 specifically, the wonderful support over a long lead up time, of Choir Master Tim Holland.

Sincere congratulations to all of the students from Castletown PS who performed so well in all of the other categories at the Music Festival. It was a delight to listen to the wonderful stories of students who had shown the courage to perform and to feel fabulous about participating. I distinctly remember my own children performing on the same stage 30 years ago and it just gets better and better.



SCHOOL BOARD – Thank you to the dedicated members of the Board for all they are doing to support our school. Currently, the Board is reviewing a range of policies including Uniform, Supporting Positive Behaviour and Healthy School. Their on-going work to set direction and targets for the new 2020-2022 School Business Plan is progressing very well and it is an exciting time for Board members to define how we **all** would like Castletown PS to “look and feel like” by 2022. New Government policies, new and old families, and staff new and old, all have a range of expectations about, and of, the school. The School Board has accepted the challenge to harness these and to outline, in the next Business Plan, its intent for this school community. It is a pleasure to work with the Board at this specific point in time, where the direction for the next 3 years is being cast and set.

CONSTABLE CARE – I have booked Constable Care Theatre-In-Education to run programs at the school on Wednesday 6 November. Different Year level cohorts within the school will enjoy different programs, suitable for their age levels. Importantly, the Constable Care performances align with the WA Curriculum and have been developed in consultation with experts in education, child safety and harm prevention. The performances are supported by teacher resource packs for pre- and post-performance activities. Importantly, the performances have a **Protective Behaviours** message and will provide excellent learning opportunities for all students K-6 at Castletown PS.

FATHER'S DAY STALL – Thanks again to our wonderful P&C for hosting a Father's Day Stall in the Library and providing excellent opportunities for every child from every class to purchase a suitable gift at a great price. There should be many happy Dads come Father's Day. Our P&C make such a difference and their on-going contributions are helping so many kids in so many ways – we all love that they take and make the time to support our school.

YEAR 6 CAMP – The total cost to parents came down to only \$360 and the exciting Itinerary is tailor made for fun and adventure. The 60 students and 4 staff travel to Camp Quaranup near Albany in a couple of weeks and everything is now in order for them to have a fabulous educational tour and to make lasting memories, especially as they edge closer to commencing their secondary phase of schooling.



NUMERO – A huge vote of thanks to both Mr Weckert and Mr Barter for the energy and enthusiasm they have given to support all students keen on Numero. Congratulations to the members of our 8 Teams nominated for the upcoming 2019 Numero Competition. Remember, our Top Team **progressed to the State Play-Off last year and placed 3rd!!!**

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS – Currently, we have 40 completed Enrolments for students in 2020. At this stage we have a small number of students on a wait list and will keep in close contact with families should a vacancy occur. Should we get at least another 15 applications for a placement, we will add another class.

2020 ENROLMENT NUMBERS – As for many, many schools in regional WA, Castletown PS will have a smaller cohort in 2020 because families have left town and advice we have is that this is likely to increase. Currently, we are planning for classes around student numbers being below 500 (K-6).

BOOK FAIR – The P&C have arranged this for Week 5 next Term, 11 -15 November 2019. I have negotiated with them to have the school seriously promote books and literature in the following ways:

- Student Councillors (8x) will each commence, now, working with a particular Year level (teachers and students) to identify favourite authors, genres, specific book types etc.
- At the Book Fair, Councillors will be authorised to spend \$250 each (their share of \$2000 they raised for RIBIT) to purchase suitable books for the Year Level they have been building a relationship with.
- These books will be on display at the following assembly and presented to each Year level to share and use
- As well, the Student Councillors will host a **Book Character Dress Up Day** during the week of Book Fair to do all they can to promote a love of books and to support our P&C. They will be keen for teachers and parents to dress up as their favourite Book Character too and will love for the adults to really support them.

STAFF CHANGES – In Term 4, Mr Moss will continue as the Year 2 teacher, as Mrs Dixon takes Carer's Leave to support her family. Ms Kara Auricht is leaving to take Maternity Leave and will be replaced by Mrs Piercey. Teachers returning from Long Service Leave include Mrs Tolman and Mrs Florisson. Mrs Liddelow has resigned to take on a new career path and we thank her for her valued contribution to our school and wish her every success in her new venture. Currently Mr R Palmer is seconded to another Department and it is not clear yet if he will be returning in Term 4.

NAPLAN – Current advice is that Student NAPLAN Reports will be available in September. It will certainly be interesting to see how our students have performed and the impact, if any, of completing the assessments online.

COLOUR RUN – A meeting with P&C and the school is scheduled for Monday to finalise matters for the big day on Friday 6 September. All details will be emailed to families and we look forward to yet another fantastic Colour Run.

Colin Brand
Principal

School Board News

Reviewing the Business Plan - *how are we travelling?*

The school Board is beginning the review of progress against our 2017 – 2019 Business Plan.

Improvement targets set in the original business plan included to arrest the decline in year 3 and 5 reading, writing, and numeracy performance; to reduce the percentage of year 3 and 5 students at or below the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy; and to increase the percentage of year 3 and 5 students achieving reading, writing and numeracy scores in the higher proficiency bands. To monitor the progress of the school the business plan listed assessment tools such as Naplan, On-entry testing etc for academic performance, as well as attendance rates, behaviour management data, attendance rates in extracurricular activities etc as indicators of how the school is travelling.

Transitioning to an Independent Public School – *a HUGE task!*

The business plan was put in place by the Board as it initially transitioned to becoming an Independent Public School (IPS) from 2017. The Western Australian Department of Education (DoE) commenced the IPS initiative in an attempt to reduce bureaucracy and give school communities greater control of their schools, with the aim of improving outcomes for students. Released in 2013 was a report commissioned by DoE on an evaluation of the IPS initiative. The study found that generally IPS has been a success, with the greatest benefits being felt by early implementation schools, that is those further along the journey. It is a journey, and we are surely making good progress. The study also highlighted the issue of increased workload being born by the schools, with Principals, school administration and teachers feeling the weight of this as tasks previously being undertaken by DoE are now taken on by the schools. The benefit, why our school community made the choice to apply for IPS in the first place, is greater autonomy to act and make decisions locally.

So, in the transitioning to IPS we have to recognise that the shift does, and has, increased the workload for all our school staff. For Castletown Primary School, this change to IPS coincided with the handover of Principal, and at the very end of the day has seen a huge amount of change and an enormous amount of work and effort to follow through. Next time you see your child's teacher, or Mr Brand, any of our deputies or administration/support staff, give them a big pat on the back because behind the scenes they have been working overtime towards that goal of improving outcomes for our students.

Looking ahead to 2020-22

Our school vision statement has also been discussed and reviewed. This vision statement is the yardstick against which every discussion, every decision, is measured to ensure changes are consistent with the aim of ensuring the best outcomes for the students of our school. It was raised and passed at a meeting in 2017 that 'Wellbeing' shall be included as part of our vision statement. The proposed amended vision statement, which is to be formally approved by the Board along with the 2020-2022 Business Plan, is "At Castletown Primary School we inspire and educate all students, through effective pedagogy and a focus on wellbeing, to succeed in becoming productive and valued citizens".

The school policies align with the strategies set out in the business plan and vision statement of Castletown Primary School. Board members have worked on policies for Healthy Eating, Behaviour, and School Uniform. We're always keen for input from all members of the community. If you have any ideas or feedback on a policy area, please do discuss them with one of our Board members.

Regarding our building, we have identified our school building as a significant weakness in achieving our vision in real terms and have acted to address this. To achieve our vision requires a plan for our buildings which ensures:

1. A safe and secure school
2. Modern, functional buildings
3. Efficient and sustainable buildings
4. A place that promotes community

We ask ourselves, what qualities do we most want our children to develop. We want them to develop a healthy sense of pride in themselves, their learning journey, and their school. A healthy growth mindset depends on this, as students need to believe and understand that they will see a return for effort they put in and are inspired by success or improvements they see happening around them.

As we look towards 2020-2022 and consider the plan for our school we reassess targets and milestones, with anticipation of the possibilities for Castletown Primary School.

Board members have been asked to consider what are our key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, as part of the planning process and discussion. For every parent, carer, student, teacher how would you answer that question? If you have ideas, please let a Board member know, we'd love to hear about them!

For me, our biggest strength is our people. Whether our kids are speaking at assembly, on the oval for sports days, on stage in the choir, or in their classroom doing lessons, wherever they are they light up the space, they strive to succeed, they are amazing. Our Principal, Mr Brand and our Deputy Principals, who bring a wealth of experience and passion to the school. Our Sally, Tania and support staff. The energy of our teachers, our Board, our wonderful P&C volunteers, as well as broader parents and community. We have amazing individuals that collectively make Castletown great. I'll share a story, about when my mum came to watch an assembly. Mum has trouble with her legs and can't walk very well. When I met up with her, she said to me that a man had come up to offer her a hand to park her car closer so she didn't have to walk as far back, and she'd given him her car keys. No idea who he was mum? No, but he'd looked honest. Our Mr Bocka of course, what a wonderful kind man, and who we're lucky to call one of our people. We want Castletown to be a community where we all look out for each other, whether we know the person by name or not. We want strategies aimed at strengthening the relationships between all our people, to support that focus on wellbeing. It does take a village to raise a child.

Tania Wright
Board Chairperson

Deputy's Desk - Curriculum

Science Week 2019

Last week was National Science Week 2019. The theme was *Destination Moon: More Missions, More Science*. At lunchtime we had some activities to celebrate Science Week. On Monday we worked as a team to land on the moon with a teambuilding activity where we had to carry a ball (our Lunar Module) over to the moon and land without our ball falling off. We were investigating if more or less thrusters (the number of ropes) made it easier to move our Lunar Module. We also investigated if it was easier with a heavy or lighter ball. On Wednesday we explored the moon by designing and building moon rovers. Our senior students used programmable Lego for their rovers whilst our junior students used regular Lego. On Friday we returned to Earth and explored making parachutes to slow the descent of our space shuttles when returning to Earth. We investigated different materials to determine the best material for a safe return of our astronauts.



Students participating in Monday's Science Week lunchtime activity

ESHS Science Fair

Last Friday our Year 6 students went to Esperance Senior High School to view the Year 7 Science Fair. Students viewed the different projects and investigations that the Year 7 students had conducted and completed a questionnaire regarding the projects.



Swimming Lessons

Our Year 2/3 students have been participating in swimming lessons. The feedback from the Swimming Teachers at the pool has been very positive and we thank our students for being respectful and displaying the virtues of perseverance and determination in their lessons.

Year 4-6 Swimming Lessons will be occurring in Weeks 2 and 3 of next term. More information will be sent home later this term regarding this. Our PP-Year 1 Swimming Lessons will be in Weeks 7-8 of next term as well.

School Photos

Next week we will be having our School Photos. The schedule below outlines the approximate times for each class. Family photos will be taken before school in the music room.

School Photo Schedule**DAY 1: MONDAY 26th August**

TIME	CLASS NAME	YEAR
8.15 – 9.00	Family Photos – Surname A-K	
9.00 – 9.20	EC2 (EC area)	PP
9.20 – 9.40	EC3 (EC area)	PP
9.40 – 10.00	EC 6 (EC area)	PP
10.00 – 10.20	EC 4A (EC area)	K
10.20 – 10.40	EC 5 A (EC area)	K
10.40 – 11.20	RECESS and MOVE to New Undercover Area	
11.20 – 11.40	Rm 4	2
11.40 – 12.00	Rm 5	2
12.00 - 12.20	Rm 6	2
12.15 – 1.00	LUNCH	
1.00 – 1.15	Rm 7	2/3
1.15 – 1.30	Rm 8	3
1.30 – 1.50	Rm 12	4
1.50-2.10	Rm 10	5
2.10 – 2.30	Rm 11	5

DAY 2: TUESDAY 27th August

TIME	CLASS NAME	YEAR
8.15 - 9.00	Family Photos – Surname L-Z	
8.15 – 8.30	Staff Photo	
9.10 – 9.30	Rm 1	1
9.30 – 9.50	Rm 2	1
9.50-10.10	Rm 3	1
10.10 – 10.30	Rm 13	3
10.30-10.50	Rm 14	4
10.50 – 11.10	RECESS	
11.15 – 11.30	Rm 21	6
11.30 – 11.45	Faction Captains	6
11.45 - 12.00	Councillors	6
12.15 – 1.00	LUNCH	
1.00 – 1.30	Graduation	6
1.30 – 1.45	Rm 9	6
1.45 – 2.30	Absent Students	

DAY 3: Friday 30th August

TIME	CLASS NAME	YEAR
9.00 – 9.20	EC4B (EC area)	K
9.20 – 9.40	EC5B (EC area)	K

Mrs Fetherston

Deputy Principal - Curriculum

Kindy/PP POL News

Last week was National Science Week and the theme was Destination Moon. As part of Science Week some special activities were set up at lunch time for the students in ECE to participate in. On Monday the students were challenged by Mrs Fetherston to try and move the Lunar Module onto the moon. It was wonderful to see all the smiles when the children were successful. On Friday the challenge was to make a parachute to land back on earth. Thank you Mrs Fetherston for organising these fun activities and our student leaders to assist the ECE students.

In the Kindy classes the students have had fun making and experimenting with balloon rockets. The students explored how different amounts of air affected how far their rocket would fly. They found out that the bigger the balloon, the further the rocket would travel. There was lots of laughs and it was great to observe all the students trying their best to blow up their own balloon with lots of success.

EC 2 Pre Primary class have been investigating the original landing on the moon and the re-entry of Skylab near Esperance by viewing suitable YouTube clips. This has been in line with recent anniversaries of these events. The students have also viewed what it is like to be an Astronaut, made astronauts with their faces and written about what we would do if we were astronauts. Most of all, they have really enjoyed flying and working in their classroom space station.



Mrs Weckert
Kindy Teacher

Years 1/2 POL News

It has been a busy and engaging fortnight in Year 1 and 2.

The Year 1 classes have been engaged in their learning about Australian animals. We have now learnt lots of interesting facts about emus, koalas and kangaroos. As part of our information report writing genre this term, the students will continue to learn and explore a range of Australian animals.

Last week was Science Week and the classes have thoroughly enjoyed participating in a range of exciting Science projects at lunch time, organised by Mrs Fetherston and the Year 6 school leaders. On Wednesday the Year 1-3 students had the opportunity to collaboratively work with their peers to create a moon rover! They were having so much fun and did an amazing job with their creations.

The Year 2's started their swimming lessons last week and finished this week. Well done to the students and teachers for a smooth start. Keep up the hard work and 'just keep swimming!!'



Eloise Young
Year 1 Teacher

Years 3/4 POL News

Year 4s have been working really hard on neatness the last few weeks to get their pen licences.





In Digital Technologies, we have been learning about input, output and storage devices.

We are enjoying learning about natural and man-made materials in science.

Year 3s have been busy learning about Australia in HASS, and enjoying the beginning of their swimming lessons this week.



Vanna Dellaca
Year 4 teacher

Year 5/6 POL News

Classes have been very busy researching and writing **Information Texts** on all types of subjects across the Senior area.

Room 21 have researched one of our national landmarks, Kata Tjuta – Uluru National Park and our nearest neighbours in the continent of Asia to support their writing of informational texts.

Room 9 students this week wrote an information report describing a classmate. They had to put on their interviewers “hat” to ask quality questions to gather important information and facts about their peers. Some new information was learnt about their class members that was very interesting.

Room 10 have been “travelling” around the world researching countries, geographical aspects and culture to present in a report. Some great spots to put on your bucket list.

Room 11 have investigated a variety of animals for their informational texts. They designed and constructed dioramas to represent the habitats of their researched animal. They look very creative and realistic.

On Friday, 9th August, Year 6 students participated in a Winter Carnival that highlights winter sports with other Year 6 students from other school. It was a great success with our students positively engaged and demonstrating sportsmanship and respect throughout the afternoon. Thank you to Mr Pansini for his support and organisation. We are hoping there are more opportunities to participate with fellow Year 6 students. Also a huge thank you to our parent helpers that supported us, it is very much appreciated.



Year 6 students playing netball at Winter Carnival

Last Friday our Year 6 students attended Esperance Senior High School’s Science Fair. They observed a variety of investigations this year’s Year 7’s have undertaken. This is another great transition opportunity for our Year 6 students to prepare for high school.

Numero is a popular math game that incorporates applying mathematical operations. Room 9 (Year 6) and Room 12 (Year 4) conducted a mini competition with a Year 6 and Year 4 competing against each other. The competition was fierce with the teams engaged and conversed with one another using appropriate mathematical vocabulary. Fluency and proficiency were being demonstrated by all students. It was a great morning of mathematical interaction and competition.



Year 6 and Year 4 students playing Numero against one another.

Nicola Rose
Year 6 Teacher

Specialist POL – Physical Education

It has been a fun filled term so far in regard to sport excursions and physical activity at Castletown Primary. The focus has been Soccer and the students have demonstrated some amazing skills, tricks and knowledge of the sport. It is such a great sport for both the juniors and seniors to play and quickly advance their skills.

Whole School Sports has been lucky enough to score some beautiful weather on the Fridays. Students have been getting out there and practising their fundamental movement skills, playing their favourite competitive games, and participating in sport competitions like Hockey, Soccer, Football and Team Building games.



The Year 6's took part in the Winter Sports Carnival which was held at the Greater Sports Ground on a warm sunny day. The students were given the opportunity to have lunch with students from other schools to help build relationships in preparation for High School next year. They played mixed competitive sporting games including Netball, Soccer, Footy and Hockey. It was a great day had by all and we look forward to the next Interscholar meeting.



Later in the term we have the school Fun Run and competitive match play games in Whole School Sport.

Mr Pansini
Physical Education Specialist

Assembly hosted by Room 10

On Friday 16th August our Assembly was held by Room 10 who held a "Castletown Might Have Talent" Show. What an amazing, entertaining and confident show it was, written and presented by the students in Room 10. The different acts included a Science Experiment, Parkour, a dance routine, Comedians – 3 funny chickens, Harry Potter and a clown, a Skipping demonstration and Mime Football (a huge hit with the crowd). Room 1 students displayed the virtues of confidence, resilience and perseverance throughout their assembly. They followed this up by a wonderful rendition of "Virtues make you Beautiful." The winners from the Talent Show – Everyone! But the real winners were Room 10! Well done Room 10.





Some of the Talent Show Contestants from Room 10.

For more photos from the assembly [click here](#)

Certificates of Merit

Congratulations to these students for their certificates of merit at Friday’s assembly.

Room	Year	Student
7	2/3	Summer Bingham
8	3	Felicity Myers
13	3	Remy Schmidt
14	4	Jayden Arnold
12	4	Chloe Burnett
11	5	Jordan Davies
10	5	Maddison Melville
9	6	Rhiannon Willis
21	6	Dane Bailey



Virtues Winners

Year	Room	Student	Virtue
3	8	Riley	Respect
4	14	Tahlia	Respect
5	10	Troy	Helpfulness
6	9	Logan	Integrity

Nate Thomas was recognised and commended by Mr Brand at Friday’s assembly for his outstanding achievement to be selected as a representative for WA in soccer. Nate will be competing with the WA team in Singapore in November later this year. Well done Nate.



Room	Year	Students
1	1	80 nights – Brody Goldsmith, Carter Watt 100 nights – Brody Goldsmith, Carter Watt
2	1	100 nights – Jaxon Unwin 150 nights – Mikayla Stephen
3	1	80 nights – Lakyn Mackean, Kohen Unwin, Eva Richardson, Taj Laird, Amaya Nankivell 100 nights – Jacob Black
14	4	80 nights – Rachel Smith, Shikira Munzer 100 nights – Zane Hill 150 nights – Alice Naverre
10	5	80 nights – Jorja Cooper
11	5	80 nights – Shaylee Oliver, Justine Ramsell 120 nights – Harvey Paxton 200 nights – Eden Yetman
9	6	80 nights – Addison Daw 120 nights – Ollie Creedon 150 nights – Ollie Creedon

Dates to Remember

26 th , 27 th and 30 th Aug	School Photos
30 th Aug	Junior Assembly – EC2 and EC6
2 nd Sept 1.30pm	P&C Meeting
6 th Sept	P&C Colour Fun Run

To view Community Events, [click here](#)

