

Highlights

SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR WEEK 11, TERM 1 THURSDAY, 6TH APRIL 2016

REFLECTION At the beginning of most Highlights, I use a reflection to help us all reflect on significant issues around the school. The following reflection is from one of the school's teachers, Mr Arthur Sheen, and is about a real life situation here at CBHS. It is well worth a read: **Those repeated words "Blessed Edmund Rice" and "Live Jesus in our hearts"**.

Consider how many times students alone utter them here at CBHS each school day: Homeroom 1,320, five periods a day 6,600 not counting staff and other occasions, we have an average of around 7,800. Now let's consider how much power comes from those simple but very effective prayers. Our great and loving God hears our smallest whisper when we speak to Him; I can assure you the voices of 1,320 do not go unnoticed. I had the great pleasure of being witness to that very fact just last week. One Friday afternoon as I walked past the hectic but organised bus lines I spotted a young Year 5 boy sitting in line with tears streaming down his face. Instinct kicked in and I knelt down and asked him what was wrong. He found it hard to look up at me, yet when he did his face was covered in tears as his choked through broken voice said "n-n-n-nothing Sir". Just behind him was another boy who I knew must have some idea so I asked him "What happened here?". The boy replied, pointing out two boys "these two boys have had a verbal scrap". The second boy had his head down and his cap covered his face so I reached down and lifted the peak of the cap. It was no surprise that he was also in tears and his nose was running. I then gave them an Edmund Rice value, covering how we sometimes forget to follow the path and we say things we do not really mean. I asked them to clean up their faces and shake hands. That is when I saw how powerful our prayers really are. The first boy I spoke to got tissues out of his bag and wiped the face of the other boy. For me, I witness the miracle of prayer and the intervention of Edmund. I asked them to shake hands and they reached out and hugged each other. Once again, the miracle of prayer and the heart of Jesus in our young men. I am sure small miracles happen every day here at CBHS. These wonderful events will stop the day we stop our prayer work. So the next time we invoke Blessed Edmund Rice and ask Jesus to live in our hearts consider the power you are putting out into our school. This is only one story. I have dozens of them and all we have to do to witness them is believe, pray and have faith.

Thank you to Mr Sheen for sharing this story with us.

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

This is the last newsletter for Term 1. It has been a very good term characterised by a good sense of leadership by the seniors and good spirit with the school body. The Year 5 and 7 students have settled in particularly well. With so much happening in a school, it is sometimes easy to forget that the focus of any school is teaching and learning. This will be continued to be looked at by the whole staff with renewed vision next term.

THANK YOU I would like to take this chance to thank the staff publicly for all their efforts in Term 1. Many academic, sporting and cultural opportunities have been provided for the students due to the generosity of many people. I would particularly like to thank staff who have also been very generous in many areas including helping when called on to vary their normal timetables due to illness.

FINISHING WELL Could I urge all students and parents to finish the term well by looking after the little things. Uniform needs to be continued to be worn well and attention to issues such as punctuality and manners needs to be maintained. A poem about little things:

*For want of a nail the shoe was lost, For want of a shoe the horse was lost
For want of a horse the rider was lost, For want of a rider the battle was lost*

STAFFING

It is wonderful news that CBHS staff members Mr Alan Davies and Ms Tanielle Skellern are getting married during the end of term holidays. They will then take Term 2 off for a honeymoon.

We welcome to CBHS Mr Matt McCormack who will teach 6D and Mr Anthony Feeney who will teach in the secondary TAS Department.

Mrs Kayla Davoren has commenced Maternity Leave and be away for the remainder of 2016. Mr Gary Gibbs will work in the Diverse Learning Centre as her replacement.

Mr Rhys Skellern has been appointed the caretaker of Terrigal. He will commence duties at the start of Term 2.

In other staff news Mr Andrew Adamopoulos has advised that after an extensive amount of leave, he will not be returning to CBHS.

Mr David Merchant will be taking the rest of 2016 on leave. Congratulations to Mrs Patricia Papa who has been appointed Acting Visual Arts Coordinator. Mr Anthony Porra will join the staff as an Art Teacher.

MCC REVIEW

It has become apparent over the last couple of weeks that some confusion exists with some parents over our MCC policy. This is a good time to review our MCC policies and our procedures. Mr Zavone will chair a panel that will involve someone from the PDHPE Department, a Pastoral Team member and outside MCC expert. All parents, staff and students will be given a survey and they can contribute if they wish. A targeted group of staff, parents and students will be interviewed. If you would like to have a say about MCC sport, please check Highlights for the survey link next term.

PROJECT COMPASSION One important way CBHS lives out our Four Touchstones is through its commitment to Project Compassion. That is what Project Compassion achieves.

\$10 will buy four jembes or bush knives for farmers in Kenya (the same cost of a bottle of wine); \$20 will pay the monthly salary of a health care worker in a rural clinic in Cambodia (the same cost as a pizza and a couple of beers); \$35 will buy 10 white hens to start a poultry project in Fiji (the same cost as a haircut); \$50 will pay the monthly salary of a carpentry teacher at a youth training centre in Zambia (the same cost as a nice dinner for two); \$70 can buy two sacks of grain to feed two displaced families in southern Sudan for a month (the same cost as a pair of shoes); \$250 will buy a young, productive cow in Egypt (the same cost as ten CDs); \$300 will provide a community well in rural Zambia (the same cost as a compact camera). Just as Edmund Rice helped the needy children in Ireland in a practical way, so can we help those less fortunate to improve their lives.


EVENTS NEXT TERM

Next term will be a busy term. The second week of term will be Founder's Week. This is when we celebrate the life and charism of the Founder of the Christian Brothers, Edmund Rice. Friday, 6th May will be the actual day we celebrate with various activities – a liturgy will be held earlier in the week. Also in Week 2 will be the annual Mother's Day Mass on Wednesday, 4th May commencing at 9 am. This is always a wonderful occasion and a fitting celebration of the unique relationship between mother and son.

With the guidance of Blessed Edmund Rice, may we continue to strive with strength to be of service to others. Live Jesus in our Hearts Forever.

Yours truly,

Br Paul Conn
Principal



Eucharistic Celebration

Founder's Day

2016


Monday, 2nd May
at 11:45am
Br Julian McDonald Centre

Men for Others

... encourage
one
another,
and
build up
one
another...

(1 Thessalonians 5 : 11)


Invitation



Mother's Day Mass

Save the date

Date: Wednesday, 4th May
Time: 9:00 am
Place: CBHS Lewisham
Br Julian McDonald Centre



WINTER UNIFORM

Last trading day for Term 1 - Thursday, 7th April.

Extra trading days on Tuesday, 26th April - 9am - 3 pm & Wednesday, 20th April 8 am - 12 pm.

Book a fitting appointment by visiting ranier.com.au (school password chrisbro2049, Student ID from the school), ring Mrs Mercia on 9572 9287 or email cbhs@ranier.com.au.

Normal trading days: Tuesday 1.00-4.00 pm and Wednesday & Thursday 7.45 am - 11.15 am

Regular trading days resume on Wednesday 27th April

END OF TERM 1 – BEGINNING OF TERM 2

Term 1 will finish on Friday, 8th April at 3.15 pm.

Tuesday, 26th April
Wednesday, 27th April

Staff Development Day – Student Free Day
First day Term 2 for students

CURRICULUM UPDATE

OUTCOME-BASED REPORTING

In Term 1, I took the opportunity to randomly select teachers, students in Year 9-12 and their respective parents, to participate in a Focus Group regarding the introduction of Outcome-based Reporting at Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham in 2015.

I valued hearing from the three groups of stakeholders and the feedback regarding this tool for school improvement was in strong support of the new Outcome-based Reporting. It is timely then for me to thank the Key Learning Area and Pastoral Care Coordinators and all teaching staff for their level of professional commitment and dedication in embracing this new reporting format.

Mrs M. O'Brien
Assistant Principal – Curriculum

CSDA DEBATING Last Friday night marked the beginning of the CSDA Debating Competition for 2016. Santa Sabina College and CBHS Lewisham's senior teams were off to a flying start in Round 1, debating the topic *that the pace of change is sustainable*. The intermediate teams argued *that we need to be connected to be entertained*. The affirmative side, unplugged from their devices for the hour, looked gloomy and bored. The negatives, on the other hand, downloaders of Apple's -go-nowhere-iOS-9.3.1-software-upgrade, found much amusement in scratching away at their relatively highly responsive palm cards. "Internet connectedness is so yesterday; Sydney Grammar here we come!" they wrote. The junior teams were charged with the task of arguing *that playtime is now screen time*. Of course, the topic was far too narrow for these children of the "noughties" who wanted to argue *that all-time should be screen time*. An unnamed chairman, on the board, accidentally scribed "*scream-time*" – my thoughts exactly!

Congratulations to all teams for a great start to the season. Lewisham won the majority of the debates (7/12) in a tough contest against a formidable Santa Sabina College line-up! We are very lucky to be able to compete against such polished, polite rivals. Thank you to Messrs Magri and Jabaji, Miss Di Mento and Mrs Healy, and our old boy coaches and adjudicators for their work with the teams over the last few weeks. I would like to particularly thank our chairmen: Xavier Hassey (7O), Sebastian Ferro (7K), Paul El Azzi (7H), Constantine Deligiannis (7H) and Steven Taouk (10O) for helping to set up debating rooms, usher visitors and clean up afterwards. Congratulations to Gregory Loukaitis on his appointment as Debating Captain. We wish him and the Senior As (Gregory, Thomas Threlkeld, Jack Lewis) and Senior Bs (Ryan Martin, Yash Gurram, Patrick Carolan, Dominic Paiement) the best of luck in their final debating season at Lewisham. We look forward to seeing you for Round 2 on 29th April (venue and opponent unknown at this stage).

Mr Paul McCallum
Public Speaking and Debating Coordinator

WATERFORD LEARNING CENTRE

It's official! The Waterford Learning Centre is a GREAT SCHOOL LIBRARY!

In October 2015, **FAIR** (Freedom of Access to Information and Resources) asked for nominations for **Great School Libraries** across Australia. To be accepted, the following criteria had to be met. Could the library help young people to?

- find reliable information and use it effectively?
- think critically and make informed decisions?
- work productively with others to build knowledge?
- safely navigate the internet?
- communicate and share their ideas?
- find great reads to meet personal interests and abilities?

Members of the school community made a number of submissions in support of the Waterford Learning Centre at CBHSL and the answer was YES! Staff at the Waterford Learning Centre facilitate all this and more, and have been recognised as one of **Australia's Great School Libraries** for 2015.

The Waterford Learning Centre is fortunate to have two professional teacher librarians, both with recent Masters Degrees specialising in e-Learning and Information Literacy. The team is completed by the dedicated support staff who work to ensure the library runs smoothly. We are fortunate to have a budget which enables us to purchase a wide range of quality literature to support our reading programs – STAR Reading during Home Room for all year groups, Accelerated Reader in Years 5 and 6, the Edmund Rice Wide Reading Challenge in Years 7 to 10, and the Waterford Readers' Club (which combines sessions with girls' school Domremy College) for Years 9 to 12. The Waterford Learning Centre homepage has links to online resources that support teaching and learning, and allows access to databases, referencing support, and specially curated websites. Both Mrs Toohey and Ms Martin work cooperatively with teachers to provide orientation to classes for these web-based materials.

The physical environment of the library is spacious and conducive to a wide range of leisure and academic pursuits, providing both individual and collaborative learning spaces. In the words of one student who wrote a submission:

I like coming to my school library because I enjoy the peace and tranquillity. When I walk through the library doors I feel happy – like walking through a curtain and seeing a new world on the other side.

Thank you for your continued support in making us a Great School Library!

For more information, and to view the full list of Australia's Great School Libraries, visit the FAIR website at <https://fair.alia.org.au/australias-great-school-libraries-honours-list>

**Mrs T. Toohey and Ms Martin
Waterford Learning Centre**

MCC SPORT REPORT

Trials for our Winter Sports of Rugby League and Football continue today (Wednesday) at Beaman for all ages except Opens Football who will train at Arlington. For the benefit of our new parents, boys will be provided with return transport to Beaman and depart after school at 3.20 pm and will arrive back at school at approximately 5.15 pm on Wednesday. Thursday sees our only trial for the Winter season v Kogarah. Details are:

Rugby League:

1 st XIII and 2 nd XIII at Bexley	U14 and U15 at Marrickville Oval	U13A and B at Scarborough.
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Football:

1 st XI and 2 nd XI at Beaman	U14 & U15 at Scarborough	U13A & B at Bicentennial.
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All parents requiring information about NSW Combined Catholic College teams and events should visit the new website at www.csss.nsw.edu.au to download all information and entry forms. Please note that ALL individual entries and nominations must be done by parents of interested students via this process. Families should check the website for clarification so your sons don't miss out.

Congratulations to our Cross Country runners who participated in the MCC Championships last Thursday. The team finished in a very credible 3rd place overall. Samuel Bray in the U16 secured a 3rd placing while 2nd place finishes came the way of Daniel Mundine U15 and Finbarr Warren Opens. Our stars on the day were our two MCC Champions. Paul Apostolopoulos U15 and Kai Hammond U14 were outstanding in their victories. Special mention must also go to our Opens team where four of our five runners finished in the top 10. Our successful runners now go on to represent Lewisham and the MCC at the NSWCCC Championships.

**David Mamo
Sports Coordinator**



HSC WORKSHOPS 2016

To help you prepare for the HSC, Ashfield, Burwood, City of Canada Bay and Leichhardt libraries have put together a range of free workshops for students in the lead up to exams.

ASHFIELD

Acing the HSC Trial Exams- Effective Exam Prep
Monday, 6 June at 6pm

General Maths
Tuesday, 7 June at 6pm

HSC English Essay Writing
Wednesday, 8 June at 6pm

English (Discovery)
Thursday, 9 June at 6pm

TAFE: pathways to further education, including vocational training & entry to university from TAFE.
Friday, 10 June at 6pm

Bookings essential.
www.ashfieldlibrary.eventbrite.com.au
For more info phone 9716 1827

LEICHHARDT

HSC Relaxation Techniques
Monday, 18 April at 2pm

HSC Discovery with Larry Grumley
Thursday, 28 April at 6pm
Bookings essential.
www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/library/Library-Events or phone 9367 9266

BURWOOD

A past HSC student's experience of the HSC
Friday, 6 May at 4:30 - 6pm

Mastering HSC Maths
Monday, 30 May at 5 - 7pm

HSC Discovery; its meaning & scope
Saturday, 16 July at 2 - 3pm

HSC Discovery; creative writing
Monday, 18 July at 4:30 - 5.30pm

HSC Lock-in at Burwood Library (with a Discovery expert in attendance)
Saturday, 8 October at 4 - 8pm

HSC Lock-in at Burwood Library
Saturday, 15 October at 4 - 8pm
Bookings essential - phone 9911 9999

CITY OF CANADA BAY

Max your HSC marks @ Chambers Coffee Café Rhodes
Monday, 4 April at 5-6.30pm

Study More at Concord Library
Saturday, 8 October Study More 4 - 8pm

Study More at Five Dock Library
Monday, 10 October at 7.30 - 9pm

Study More at Concord Library
Wednesday, 12 October at 7.30 - 9pm
For more information phone 9911 6210