



# Newsletter

Issue No. 170518

Thursday 18th May 2017

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## Soon@CCS

- 18/5 Yr. 7 Info Dinner
- 18/5 Yr. 3/4 Camp Out
- 24/5 National Simultaneous Storytime
- 26/5 Beef Week Dress-Up

# Welcome YWAM - Fiji



CCS staff and students enjoyed a visit from a YWAM team from Fiji this week. One of the team is notable as being the **World's Fifth Tallest Man**. Read more inside.



**Beef Week at CCS - Read more about how you can participate in local community and school celebrations.**

# Calendar & Notices



## MAY

- 18.5.17 Yr 7 Parent Information Night Dinner 6:30pm
- 18.5.17 Yr 3/4 Sleep Over and Excursion
- 24.5.17 Tumble Monkeys
- 24.5.17 National Simultaneous Storytime 11am
- 26.5.17 Primary Assembly 2:15pm in A5
- 27.5.17 Casino Beef Week Stall
- 30.5.17 PASS Excursion Lawn Bowls
- 31.5.17 Tumble Monkeys
- 31.5.17 Yr 11/12 Vaccinations



## JUNE

- 2.6.17 State Cross Country
- 8.6.17 Secondary Assembly 1:20pm in MPC
- 8.6.17 Kindergarten Information Night Dinner 6:30pm
- 9.6.17 Primary Assembly - 2:15pm in A5
- 12.6.17 Queen's Birthday Holiday (no School)
- 21.6.17 School Athletics Carnival
- 23.6.17 Primary Assembly
- 27.6.17 Staff, Parents & Senior Students Girls Volleyball (Lunchtime)
- 30.6.17 Last day for Term 2 - End of Term Assembly 2-3pm in MPC

For all events please see school webpage calendar:



## CANTEEN

**19.5.17** Fruit Salad Friday  
No regular lunches.  
Helpers: L Reeves, Volunteer needed

**26.5.17** - Beef Week Sausage Sizzle  
Regular recess/ No lunch orders  
Sausage sizzle for Lunch \$1.50  
Helpers: E Lowndes, Volunteers needed  
BBQ COOK REQUIRED.



## Yr 11/12 Vaccinations

Information Packs were sent out this week regarding the upcoming **Yr 11/12 Meningococcal Vaccinations**. Enclosed in the information packs were consent forms. These need to be filled out and returned to the front office ASAP.

Vaccinations for Yr 11/12 will take place at CCS on 31st May. This will also be for students needing catch-ups.



## *"Step Back in Time" - Dress Up*

On **Friday, 26th May**, we invite one and all to come dressed up in the theme Step Back in Time or as a cowboy or cowgirl in celebration of Casino Beef Week!

There will be a gold coin donation for the school sponsor child, so please come in costume and give!

*Ebony, Nic, Jess and Sarah - School Captains*



# Principal's Message

## Australian School Standards Dropping: Fact or fiction?

There seems to be hardly a month go by when popular media is not decrying the state of education in Australia. Talkback radio hosts are always able to gain an audience and find plenty of employers who will denounce the falling standards of education in Australia. Complaints are heard of how young men and women are not coming from school ready for the workforce. We are told that most children can't read and write properly. Listeners are quickly reminded of the "good old days" when they were at school. Is this fact or fiction?

Education is not a static profession! Some people seem to believe that once a teacher has trained at university their learning has finished and off they go to impart knowledge to a classroom of eager children. This is far from the truth. Educational research is constantly being undertaken to understand more about the very complex process of educating students. Good teachers are training and learning, not only throughout their career, but throughout their life time. Good teachers always aim to learn more about how their students learn and what techniques might help that process.

Some people would claim, as I recently read, "The wholesale substitution of 'modern methods' has been found to be unwise. The defects apparent in school children at the present day are summarised thus: a) The children are not thoroughly grounded in the essentials; b) They are not accurate in their work." Does this sound familiar? With the exception of the language it could have been a summary of what I heard on the ABC radio whilst driving to work last week. It's not. It was written in an editorial in 1909!

It doesn't seem to matter how far back you go, people are always pointing back to fabled days of past educational glory. In 1946 we could have read: "It is disappointing to find that students imagine they can pass a leaving Certificate Examination without being able to write a sentence". Thus declared the Chief Examiner, Professor Waldock. He went on to complain about student's lack of ability to spell or understand simple grammar. At this point we must also remember that students sitting the Leaving Certificate were only the top students. Many students had already left

school. In 1952 only 16.1% of students who started first year government high schools completed their Leaving Certificate. This is vastly different to the 66% retention rate in 2009. This retention rate is only set to increase with the minimum school leaving age being increased to 17.

You may think the myth of falling standards is only a modern problem. During an archaeological dig in Iraq back in 1850, clay tablets were uncovered that, once deciphered, found a teacher complaining about the recent drop in standards of students' writing.

Schools are places constantly pulled by societal expectation and political whims. They are places of increasing complexity as ethnic backgrounds diversify, family structures change and retention rates increase. No longer can a student just be taught reading, writing and arithmetic with a focus towards a particular job. Many of the jobs our current students will do don't even exist yet. With the increase of technology the demands of literacy are increasing. Good educators teach children to be discriminating in their reading; to actively think about, and critique what is read. Our children are growing up as "digital natives". They are immersed in the internet world where not all sources of information are reliable. Children must be highly literate in order to be good communicators in such a world.

Maintaining and improving educational standards should always be a high priority and constant vigilance in this area should be sort. Let's, however, give credit where credit is due. Most teachers are good teachers who perform a very demanding job. There is no evidence to support the notion that educational standards are slipping; quite the opposite!

**Peter Spence**  
Principal

(Acknowledgment: All quotes were taken from an article published by the Australian Literacy Educators' Association. This is an outstanding article that deals with the issues in a much broader way should anyone care to read it.)



# Notices Cont...



## CCS Beef Week Stall

This year CCS will be hosting a stall on **Saturday 27th May** as a part of the local Beef Week Festivities. Please come along, visit our stall and tell friends, family and community members to come and check us out too.

There will be some art and technology displays, music performances, information packs, balloons, photos and plenty more.

We look forward to promoting our wonderful school and participating in this important local event.

*Carolyn Coulter*  
**Community Relations Officer**

## New Piano



Our school is going to start raising money for a new electric piano which will be for music tuition, but also portable enough to be used elsewhere for the wider benefit of the school.

We have our eye on a Yamaha CLP535M Clavinova Digital Piano which will be a lovely piano for a good price. In order to purchase the piano we need to raise \$2,200. We will kick off our fundraising efforts next **Wednesday (23rd May)** by selling pizza and cans of softdrink at lunchtime. Prices to be advised.

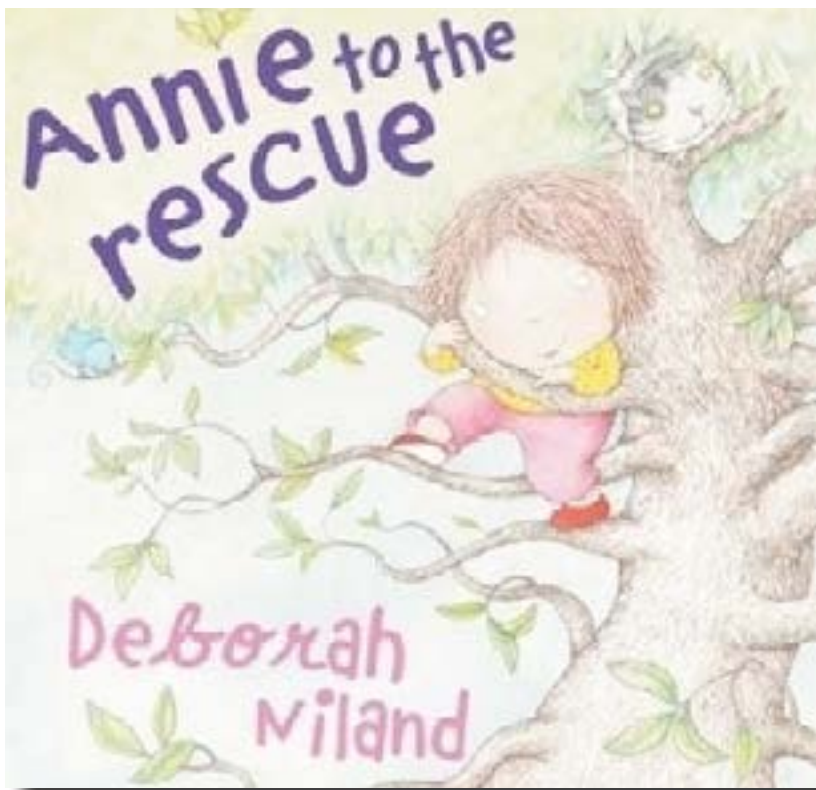


If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation towards our new piano, please contact Mr Arie Bongers through the school office on 6662 5599.

Watch this space for regular progress updates and news of upcoming events.  
**Mrs Karen Jolliffe**







## Do you have this book??

We are trying to track down this book so it can be used in our new Transition Pre-Lit Program, but have had no success in finding it. If you have this book, would you consider donating it to the school? If you can help, please contact the school office or Library.

*library@ccs.nsw.edu.au*  
6662 5599



# Casino Christian School

# Kindergarten 2018

# Information Night



# Dinner

# Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 6:30pm

# SPORT

## State Cross Country

A number of our students have been selected to represent Casino Christian School at the CSSA State Cross Country Championships to be held in Sydney at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre, Saxony Rd Horsley Park on **Friday 2nd June, 2017**.

There are two travel options, as outlined in the information note sent home last week and last week's Newsletter

If you decide to send your child to the State Cross Country could you please fill out the information slip (and any other relevant forms) and return it to the school office with the money by **Friday 19th May, 2017**. If you have any questions regarding these options, please don't hesitate to contact me at school on 6662 5599.

*D. McPherson*  
**Sports Coordinator**

## Lawn Bowls Excursion (PASS Elective)

On Tuesday 30th May, 2017 the PASS elective group will be travelling to Lismore to experience Lawn Bowls at East Lismore Bowling Club. An experienced Lawn Bowls instructor will teach the students how to play lawn bowls and then they will play a few games. The cost of this excursion is \$10 for lawn bowls and bus travel. Students will also be given the opportunity to buy a snack at Hungry Jacks on the way back to school.

**Time:** 11.50am -2:50pm

**What to bring:** Sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, water bottle, lunch, money for Hungry Jacks & asthma puffer.

To participate in this excursion you must complete the permission note and return it TO THE OFFICE with your money (\$10) by Thursday 25th May, 2017.



## Zone Netball and Oztag



*Students from Primary and Secondary enjoyed the Zone carnival in Ballina*



# Zone Netball and Oztag



Students from Primary and Secondary enjoyed a wonderful day at Ballina on Tuesday this week. Sporting skills, teamwork, physical activity, sportsmanship and participation were the main winners of the day.



## Results

- U15 Girls Netball - 2nd place
- Opens Girls - 3rd place
- U15 Boys Oztag 4th place
- Opens Boys Oztag - 4th place



# Library News



## Invitation to Attend National Simultaneous Storytime.

*Come to school and join in the festivities with our Primary Students.*

Spend some time with your child/ren at Recess (10:40am) by collecting them from class and heading to the Library to visit our special display. When the bell goes, join your child/ren in the classroom and hear this fantastic story. Stay for the activities.....lots of fun to be had!

**When:** Wednesday 24th May- 10:40 to visit the Library and 11am for Storytime  
(please be seated in **Room A5** before 11am)

### Why should you take part?

...well why not?

... and here are 3 pretty compelling reasons:

- In 2016 over 520,000 children at over 3,500 locations across Australia took part.
- It's a great way to celebrate Australian literature.
- Hey diddle diddle. You all know the riddle -

A cow jumps over the moon...But the moon is very high in the sky.

How many attempts do you think it takes before Cow makes her famous high-flying leap?

Come and find out.



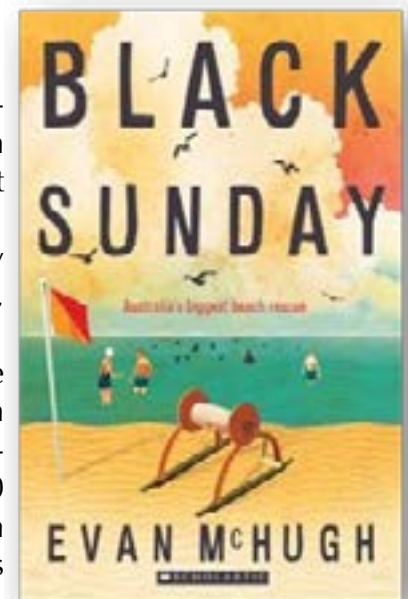
It is a celebration of reading pure & simple. **It doesn't matter where you are at 11am ... STOP!** Grab a copy of this book and read it to whoever is listening!!!

## Black Sunday

By Evan McHugh

Nipper only wants to be one thing: a lifesaver. In his world, they're larger-than-life, walking, talking heroes. He's too young, but he starts to train in secret, challenging himself in the Bondi surf. But his secret comes to light one hot Sunday in 1938—a day that was to become infamous.

This story is set against the colourful world and characters of Bondi, New South Wales, after the Depression and just before the start of World War II, as ominous signs emerge from Europe and Jewish refugees arrive in Bondi. This story is based on a true event. Black Sunday is the largest mass rescue on any Australian beach and one of the largest mass rescues in Australian history. It's estimated that on 6 February 1938 between 200 and 300 swimmers were swept into deep water at Bondi Beach and between 70 and 100 lifesavers and members of the public were involved in efforts to bring them to shore. It's believed that around 40 of those rescued were unconscious when taken from the water and all but four were able to be revived. The death toll rose when a body of a man washed ashore four days later.



*Recommended for ages 10 and up. Available at the Library now.*



# YWAM Fiji Visit



God created you unique, special and designed to have a relationship with Himself. This has been the message from the Fijian 'Youth With A Mission Team' who have spent 3 days this week visiting CCS. The young people have been spending time talking to students, praying, singing, dancing and sharing their stories about what God has done in their lives. The Gospel message that Jesus, God the Son, came to earth, lived, died and rose again to bring forgiveness of sins to those who believe, is central to their message of hope and new life. Kali Selej, one of the team, standing at 7ft 7in, is officially the World's Fifth Tallest Man. He testifies how God turned his life around, from despair due to his difference to finding peace and purpose as a child of God.