



CHRISTIE DOWNS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Message from the Principal

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 3 2023

1/9

Week 6 Friday
School Photos

7/9

Week 7 Thursday
Hopgood
Performance

8/9

Week 7 Friday
Pupil Free Day

22/9

Week 9 Friday
School Open for
50 Year Tours

29/9

Week 10 Friday
**Last Day of
Term 3**
Celebration
Assembly 50 Years
Early Dismissal

*Dream
Believe
Achieve*



Welcome back to Term 3!

In term 2 week 4 we had our external review, thank you to our staff, students and parents. I am very proud to offer you our feedback;

Summative comments

Christie Downs Primary School have worked with rigor and intentionality, in addressing the directions from the previous external school review. The leadership team lead by the principal has a strong focus on the SIP (Site Improvement Plan) and all actions are closely aligned to goals and challenge of practice. All staff actively monitor the SIP through use of data walls, PLC (Professional Learning Committee) discussions and being released to work in teams for moderation of planning and assessment. The school adopts a whole of child philosophy and there are high levels of collaboration between the disability unit and mainstream staff, including opportunities to participate in learning walks to observe other colleagues' practice, continuing professional dialogue through data wall checks-ins and purposeful discussions in staff meetings.

The school is a flagship school in the use of the Berry Street model in trauma informed practice and this philosophy is also enacted in the way the school interacts with its local community. The needs and wellbeing of the child are at the forefront at Christie Downs Primary School. The students are very proud of their school and are engaged in their learning through having a say in setting their learning goals and monitoring their progress along the way. Students have unique opportunities to be involved in other extracurricular programmes such as the Odyssey project and Project Enterprise. The school also has developed a unique physical environment that supports students' wellbeing including break out spaces, nature play areas and Interoception spaces for self and co-regulation. Parents speak highly of the school and the unconditional support they feel they get for their children. The staff are committed to continuing to support the whole of child philosophy and this is clear in their daily interactions with the students. Christie Downs School has made some good inroads into improving curriculum outcomes in particular Literacy, through tight and consistent structures and investing in time for staff to improve their pedagogy through feedback, observations and co-planning. The school is well placed to continue this improvement journey in maths where using similar processes, resources and structures will serve the school well going forward.

Principal's Message continued page 2

LEADERSHIP TEAM :

Principal: Gail Evans

Senior Leader 1 Engagement for Learning and Well Being: Todd McGrath

Senior Leader 1 Disability Unit: Leanne Jacobs

Student Wellbeing Leader: Jo Swift

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Principal's Message Continued

The school principal will work with the education director to implement the following directions:

Direction 1 Build and strengthen staff capability in assessment and planning in maths, through use of agreed assessment tools and sequential unit planning, ensuring optimal learning R-6.

Direction 2 Build and refine whole of school maths commitments, including agreed processes and structures for observations and feedback, ensuring fidelity of practice and high-quality teaching and learning.

Direction 3 Promote and foster opportunities for greater agency in student learning, through the provision of authentic and frequent opportunities for dialogic practice and problem-based learning.

Based on the school's current performance, Christie Downs Primary School will be externally reviewed again in 2026.

Student Free Day this term;

Governing Council has approved our student free day this term which is on Friday 8th September. We will be engaging in a Mathematic focus for half a day and then reviewing all of our actions on our Site Improvement plan and checking if we are on track with our predicted data sets.

Staff Term 3 update;

We welcome back from long service leave Tanya Pennill as teacher of our year1/2 class. I would also like to Welcome JP our garden specialist along with welcoming back TJ our kitchen specialist who has been on sick leave during term 2.

We would like to acknowledge years of service for Deidre LeMaistre. At this stage she has decided to take leave until the end of the year, so we welcome and thank Clare Harvey for the rest of the year.

50 Year Celebrations & Hopgood;

I am so looking forward to celebrating the 50th year of Christie Downs Primary. Our opening night is Hopgood on Thursday 7th September, 2023. We will be joined by Special Guests Martin Westwell our CEO, Blair Boyle our Education Minister and Emily Bourke our Autism Minister. Please see the flyer inside our newsletter so you can join us to celebrate how wonderful our school is.

I look forward to a great term.

Thanks Gail
Principal



New reading assessment at Christie Downs

Currently at Christie Downs Primary School we use Running Record testing to assess learners reading levels. We are always looking for ways to enhance the learning experience and improve our assessment methods to ensure the best outcomes for our young learners. I would like to introduce you to a new assessment approach called DIBLES (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) and explain why we have chosen it over traditional Running Records.

What are DIBLES and Running Records?

DIBLES and Running Records are both assessment tools used to monitor students' early literacy skills. However, they have distinct differences in their approach and application.

Running Records: Running Records are a form of one-on-one assessment where a teacher listens to a student read a passage and records any errors, self-corrections, and fluency. It is valuable for understanding a student's reading level, strengths, and areas of improvement. However, it can be time-consuming and might not provide real-time data on specific literacy skills.

Introducing DIBLES:

DIBLES, on the other hand, is a collection of short, standardized assessments designed to focus on specific early literacy skills. It is a quick and efficient way to assess a child's abilities in areas such as phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The data provided by DIBLES helps us identify students' strengths and target areas that require additional support.

Why DIBLES at Christie Downs Primary

After careful consideration and research by the Department for Education, we have decided to adopt the DIBLES assessment approach for several reasons:

1. **Targeted Intervention:** DIBLES allows us to pinpoint the exact skills that a student needs to develop. This enables us to provide more targeted and personalized interventions to support their progress.
2. **Efficient Assessment:** DIBLES assessments are brief and efficient, reducing the time spent on testing and allowing more time for instructional activities.
3. **Early Identification:** Early identification of literacy difficulties is crucial for providing timely support and ensuring our students stay on track with their learning journey.
4. **Progress Monitoring:** Regular DIBLES assessments help us monitor students' progress over time and make data-driven decisions to adjust teaching strategies accordingly.
5. **Parent Engagement:** By using DIBLES, we can provide you, the parents and guardians, with more detailed insights into your child's literacy development and how you can further support them at home.

For the remainder of the year a few targeted classes will be trialling the DIBELS assessment tools. The plan is to upskill teachers for a full rollout of the assessment in all mainstream classes in 2024.

Another new initiative this year has been the purchase of new decodable readers for early learners. These engaging books are designed to boost reading skills by helping children decode words independently. Watch your child's confidence and literacy skills soar as they embark on this wonderful reading journey. If you have any questions regarding your child's reading program you can pop in to see me at any time.



Regards
Todd McGrath
Senior Leader 1

Student Wellbeing



Rehearsals will begin this term for our Hopgood Theatre extravaganza, *'Hear Us Roar'*

Further information will be coming home this week. Our school will also celebrate its 50th Birthday! An exciting term ahead for everyone!

Student Wellbeing

I would like to share with our School Community how we support student wellbeing. I work with a team of dedicated and brilliant teachers to best support our students. We believe that developing trusting and respectful relationships will be the key to developing greater educational outcomes.

The Berry Street Education Model is embedded into our teaching practice. We have adapted Berry Street strategies to address student needs for healing, growth and achievement. All teachers and SSO's have been trained in the Berry Street Education Model. New staff to our school will be trained in Berry Street strategies to support our students. This term, staff will focus on;

Morning Greeting and Berry Circle.

Students are welcomed into the classroom every morning by their teacher or student leader. Each class has their **Morning Greeting** on the classroom door. This might include a fist bump, a high 5, a hand shake, a dance, or a 'Hello', just to name a few.

Berry Circle is a positive and fun start to every day.

Students stand together in their classroom or outside, and work through the list below.

Greeting (Students greet each other: high 5, handshake, smile, fist pump)

Positive Primer (quick Brain Break, funny YouTube video/song/dance)

Values/Expectations (Students/staff discuss school values, attendance and behaviour)

Announcements (including birthdays, special events, school news)

WWW (What Went Well- during break times and during learning times)

Please talk about Berry Circle with your child and see what their class do!



Student Wellbeing

Foodbank vouchers

Vouchers are available for parents/carers, at any time. Please ask to see me for a voucher for Foodbank on Beach Road.

Attendance

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things every day.

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school. Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a Social Worker Truancy Officer.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Further information

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

The Australian Parenting Website: raisingchildren.net.au
Department for Education; Helping children and young people learn.

Website: education.sa.gov.au

Kids Helpline Phone and Web Counselling

Phone **1800 55 1800** Website: kidshelpline.com.au

Please feel free to contact Jo Swift on 83823266 or pop in for a chat.



Drumming

Our students have been very lucky to have Phil teaching them how to drum on the kit. The students come into the drumming room with huge smiles and leave with even bigger smiles! Thank you so much Phil. We love you! You rock!

Jo Swift
Student Wellbeing Leader



Inclusive Education

Differentiation;

We are all individuals and everyone learns in slightly different ways. To support all students at Christie Downs Primary School, educators work together to plan and differentiate learning content, processes, how students present work and learning environments using ABLES and the Australian Curriculum. Differentiation provides multiple entry and exit points for learning in response to a students' readiness to learn as well as their passions. When planning learning and assessment tasks teachers focus on the key elements of the curriculum that are being evaluated and ensure students have opportunities available to them to share their knowledge and skills.

Interoception;

Our Interoception Room and associated strategies and activities is one way educators differentiate learning environments to support students. Students from all classes across the school are continuing to visit the interoception room to support their development of skills and regulation strategies. Students are increasing their independence in using the interoception space and resources to take a break and regulate and then return to their learning in the classroom. Interoception strategies are also being supported in classrooms. Identifying when they need a break to self regulate and which activities will support them to be ready to learn are important skills for students to develop during their learning journey as they move into high school and beyond.

Leanne Jacobs
Senior Leader 1

Lost Property

We have a big pile of LOST PROPERTY that still needs to be claimed. If you can come in and have a look when you collect your child/ren, you may just find some items you have been searching for. Please label all school clothing then we can return it to its owner.



Feminine Hygiene

We have a large supply of Feminine Hygiene products in the Front Office for any families that may be in need. Please don't hesitate to see our friendly Front Office staff.

school photographs are coming up soon



Group orientation format is chosen by your school. Format may vary from options shown.



Order for 10x15 Frames



42x67mm

53x74mm

29x31mm



48 Personalised Stickers

Please note: Traditional, Composite or High-Resolution Virtual Group format is chosen by your school. Sibling photos, if available, can also be ordered online and must be ordered prior to your photo day. A late fee will apply for photos purchased after ordering has closed.

how to order

Photo Envelopes will be coming home soon

order online

Online payment options include Visa, Mastercard and PayPal.

STEP 1

Go to www.advancedlife.com.au on your computer, phone or tablet.

STEP 2

Enter your school code:

3XN T6D DBW

in the 'order and download' box. This will take you to your school's secure online ordering site.



STEP 3

Click on 'Order Photos' and complete your details and procedures. During this process you can place orders for additional children at your school and sibling photos, if available.

cash/envelope ordering

Your school prefers orders to be placed online. However, if you are unable to order online, please complete your order using the order envelope provided.

STEP 1

Complete a separate order envelope for each individual child's package/s ordered. If ordering for more than one child, payment should be enclosed in the envelope of the eldest child and this should be indicated on the envelope of the other child/children (the envelope that does not have cash enclosed).

STEP 2

Enclose exact cash payment in one envelope for the package/s you are ordering. Payment for more than one child should be in the eldest child's envelope and marked at the bottom of the envelope in the space provided.

STEP 3

Return your completed envelope/s, with correct cash payment, to our photographers on the day.

Please note: You must enclose exact correct payment, as change is not available. Credit card payments can only be made online and we no longer accept cheques. There is a separate envelope for sibling photo orders, should your school choose to offer sibling photos.

School photographs will be returned approximately 6 weeks after the day of photography.

Please note this delivery timeframe is dependant on proofing and additional photography days at your school.


IMPORTANT - "not for publication" students

If you have instructed your school that your child's image is "not for publication" (sometimes called "do not publish" or "not for media release" instructions), the school will ensure that your child is not presented to our photographers on photo day and school photographs will not be available for purchase. If you wish to change your instruction, then you must notify your school, so they change their records and identify your child as able to be photographed for school photography purposes. All students presented to our photographers by your school on photo day will be photographed, their images will appear in school photography packages with their fellow students and these packages will be available to purchase by all families.

Contact us: www.advancedlife.com.au/contact

advancedlife
school photography specialists

TERM 3 2023 DIARY DATES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1	24/7	25/7	26/7	27/7	28/7
WEEK 2	31/7	1/8	2/8	3/8	4/8
WEEK 3	7/8	8/8	9/8	10/8	11/8
WEEK 4	14/8	15/8	16/8	17/8	18/8
WEEK 5	21/8	22/8	23/8	24/8	25/8
	Book Week 21/8 - 25/8				
WEEK 6	28/8	29/8	30/8	31/8	1/9 School Photos
WEEK 7	4/9	5/9	6/9	7/9 Hopgood Performance	8/9 Pupil Free day
WEEK 8	11/9	12/9	13/9	14/9	15/9
WEEK 9	18/9	19/9	20/9	21/9	22/9 School Open 50 Year Tour
WEEK 10	25/9	26/9	27/9	28/9	29/9 Last Day Term 3 Celebration Assembly 50 Years Early Dismissal 2pm