Welcome back to the 2009 school year to all students and especially welcome to our 150 new students. Congratulations to all students for looking so perfect in your uniforms during the first week. We have 672 students enrolled for 2009.

STAFF CHANGES

We welcome the following new staff:

- Mr Steve Wilkins, Head Teacher Administration/CAPA from Auburn Girls High;
- Mrs Kerri Ralph, Administration Manager from McCallum Hill PS;
- Ms Francine Love, Mathematics Faculty from Wiley Park GHS;
- Ms Jane Pokorny, PE Faculty from Parramatta HS;
- Ms Jana Mawassi, HSIE Faculty who has been appointed permanently to CGHS after 2 years as a temporary teacher;
- Ms Debbie Smith, English Second Language teacher from Cleveland Street Intensive English Centre;
- Mrs Mary Vardaxis, English Faculty from Dulwich Hill HS;

Ms Love, Ms Pokorny, Ms Mawassi, Mrs Vardakis and Mr Wilkins

Ms Judy Playfair, Deputy Principal has announced her retirement as of the end of term 1. Ms Playfair has had a long and distinguished career with DET. She was first appointed to CGHS in 2003 after teaching at Leichhardt, Moorefield, Concord, Liverpool GHS, Wilkins, Sydney GHS and as a consultant.

Her commitment and energy to ensure the highest possible standards for the girls of Canterbury has been impressive and she will be missed. We wish her well in her retirement. A selection panel will be formed to determine a new Deputy Principal to begin term 2.

Mrs Maureen Barker, Administration Assistant in the library retires next week after 33 years in education. Mrs Barker has been at CGHS since 1987 and her friendly nature in the library will be missed. Good luck Mrs Barker.

Ms Vicki Dowling, English teacher, who has been on leave for 12 months, has decided to resign from teaching. Ms Dowling was popular English Teacher whose skills and talents will be missed. Best of luck to her in her new endeavours.

Mrs Sylvia Kovanis, Language teacher is on 12 months leave and will return in 2010. She is replaced by Mrs Yanna Mavris.
Congratulations to:-

Madeleine Gill, Year 8, who won the Encouragement Award for the Patrick White NSW Young Indigenous Writers Competition in the Short Story Yr 7-12 category. Madeleine writes about this on page 3.

Susan Le, year 12, who has been highly commended for her Drawing work in the Visual Arts Extension course at the National Art School.

Year 8 students, 2008 whose prolific writing in the UNSW Mosaic Writing workshops on Anti Racism allowed them to have their own special edition of Fusion Forums, see page 5 and 8 for some of the work.

Aninta Finconia, year 12 2008, who has been successful in gaining a prestigious scholarship in Accounting at UTS for 2009-2011.

HSC 2008

Congratulations to all students who completed the HSC in 2008. Many students achieved their personal best and have secured further training in the field of their choice. 35% of the HSC 2008 class have accepted University placements, 40 % have accepted TAFE or private college placements and the remainder are in the work force. All the best to all these young women, but of course work has started in earnest with the 2009 HSC group.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH PROGRAM

This program will be reactivated this year with Ms Jane Pokorny agreeing to co-ordinate the program in 2009. All those girls who began Bronze in 2007 will be able to work on completing this level this year and we hope to have enough girls already completed Bronze to start work on Silver level. Of course students can start from scratch on Bronze, but have to be 14. More information from Ms Pokorny.

SCHOOL BUILDING WORK IN 2009

Throughout this year there are some significant new building projects. In term 4 four Science laboratories will be totally gutted and replaced with the latest science lab design. This is totally at government cost. During the winter a new shade cover will be put over one of the outside Basketball courts to provide shade in summer and of course an extra place to play when it is raining.

An industry standard Hospitality Bay will be installed in one of the Food Technology labs for use by Hospitality students in years 11 and 12. Both the covered area and the hospitality bay are being paid for jointly - half from State Government and half from money raised through school fees and contributions. Lastly a disused toilet block underneath the library is being refurbished into a Fitness Circuit room for use by PE classes and as an extra Sport venue. This is being done through money raised by the school.

Year 12 2008 has donated funds towards some equipment for this room. As well as part of the Premier’s Sporting Challenge all public primary, central and secondary schools across NSW have received a grant to purchase sports equipment to provide a boost for communities that encourage healthy and active lifestyles. We will spend our $3670.00 on treadmills for the circuit room.

IMPORTANT DATES

COMING UP

19.2.09 Academic Achievement Assembly
24.2.09 Year 7, 2010 Open Night
5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
25.2.09 P & C Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Cantabrian Hall
26.2.09 Swimming Carnival
27.2.09 School Photo Day
2.3.09 Clean Up Australia Day Activities
4.3.09 to 6.3.09 Year 7 Camp
9.3.09 International Women’s Day Activities
Patrick White Writers Competition

I am Madeleine Gill in Year 8 and at the end of last year I received the encouragement award in The Patrick White New South Wales Indigenous Australian Writers Competition. This is an annual award open to NSW Indigenous Australian school aged students from K-6 and 7-12. These awards have been created by the NSW Aboriginal Education Council in the memory of Patrick White who was one of Australia’s best writers and a supporter of the advancement of Indigenous Australian youth.

My story is called The Pony with No Name and is a kind of funny fairytale about a pony who has to search for who he is. I wrote the story when we were doing Identity as our first topic in English last year.

My family on my father’s side is from the Jeringah people who come from the South Coast of New South Wales. My father’s family has lived around Mount Coolangatta near Shoalhaven Heads for many generations. My family understands English and the Jeringah language which they speak today. My father and I inherited our looks from my non-Aboriginal grandfather. My grandmother and uncle gained Aboriginal traits from my great-grandfather.

My ancestors were oyster farmers, fishermen and farm workers after the Coolangatta estate was settled by the Berry Family in the 1850s. My oldest living relative is my great-great uncle Harold. He and his sister Hazel were the first children in my family to go to high school. They went to Nowra High School in the late 1940’s, very unusual for Aboriginal kids at that time.

My grandmother, Pamela Gill, was the first Aboriginal student to receive a leaving certificate (like the HSC) from Nowra High. She has told me many stories from her childhood and I visit her a lot at her at her house in Shoalhaven Heads. That has made me grounded in my family history and culture.

My family’s totem is the green tree frog which means I am not allowed to kill or eat one (not that I would).

I am proud that my story won this award and I encourage everyone to enter writing competitions when you have the chance.
CGHS P&C Association would love to see all the old members and lots of new parents at our first meeting. The meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 February at 7:30 pm in the Cantabrian Hall.

Dimity Flowers ~ President

Student Welfare Programs at CGHS ~ 2009

Mentoring
Over the first five weeks of Term 1 Year 7 will participate in 4 mentoring workshops to support them settling into high school. Students in Years 9 and 10 who have trained during Years 8 and 9 will be the mentors working in small groups with the new Year 7s. Workshops cover an introduction to high school including using the diary and timetable, and who can help you with what, as well as friendship, responsibility and anti-bullying.

Day of Well Being
In Term 2 this year all students will be taking part in a student welfare “Day of Well Being”. The day will open with a multi-media assembly, followed by workshops and presentations including plays “Bully Busters” and “Image Busters”, study skills sessions from Elevate Education, and anti-bullying and anti-racism motivational speakers. A payment (approximately $20 per student) will be required; full details will be sent home in the next newsletter and with all students.

Student Health - Vaccinations
This year all Year 7 students will be vaccinated three times over the course of the year. The vaccinations are Hepatitis B, HPV and chicken pox. Three information packs and permission notes will be sent home to families very soon. Year 10 students will be given a booster vaccine for diptheria and tetanus. An information pack and permission note will be sent home shortly. Students must return the permission notes promptly to their Year Advisers.

Counselling & Support Services
All students can access the school counsellor Ms Jennifer Murray. Her office is in the library; you can visit her there or ask your Year Adviser or Office A to make an appointment for you. The Ted Noffs Drug and Alcohol service provides counselling to students at the school on one morning per week. Ms Sarah Cox works from the counsellor’s office in the library on Friday mornings. You can visit her there to make an appointment, or you can leave a message for her at the counsellor’s office, or ask your Year Adviser.

On Thursdays the Chinese Community Liaison Officer works from the office next to Cantabrian Hall. Any student needing to see Ms Ella Wang can leave a message for her at Office A, or visit her in her office on a Thursday.

For all day to day concerns, see your Year Adviser.

Child Eczema Management Study
Dear Parents,
My name is Amy Mitchell, and I am from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) School of Nursing. I am conducting a study to examine parent management of childhood eczema. Managing a child’s eczema can be a difficult, frustrating, and time-consuming task for a parent or caregiver. I am seeking parents of children (aged up to 12 years) with medically diagnosed eczema to complete an online questionnaire about managing childhood eczema. I am keen to hear from parents of children with eczema of any severity, from mild to severe. In recognition of their contribution to the study, participants will be entered in a draw to win one of five one-year subscriptions to the Eczema Association of Australasia, worth $30 each. Details about the study and how to participate can be found at the following website: www.quteczemastudy.com. Alternately, please contact me on (07) 3138 3856 to request a printed information sheet and survey. Thank-you!
FREE Responsible Service of Alcohol COURSES

Campsie Police with funding obtained from the Canterbury Community Drug Action Team will be running RSA courses FREE of charge for participants.

WHERE: Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL
WHEN: Saturday 21st March 2009 or Sunday 23rd May 2009
TIME: 8.45 am to 4.30 pm

WHO CAN ATTEND?
Anyone between the age of 17 - 24 years living or attending school in the Canterbury Local Government Area
Lunch is provided!!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: LEADING SENIOR CONSTABLE VINCE SILVESTRO, FROM CAMPSIE POLICE STATION ON 0416 021 322 OR silv1vin@police.nsw.gov.au.

Photo ID will be required.

Racism
If roses can be red, blue, pink and purple and still be roses.
If hair can be blonde, red, brown and grey and still be hair.
Then why can’t we be black, white, brown and yellow and still be people.
Men Nguyen, Year 9

Women’s World Cricket
8 teams from around the world will contest the International Cricket Cup in March. Teams from Australia, New Zealand, India, Sri Lanka, South Africa, England, West Indies and Pakistan will compete. This is a great opportunity to see the world’s best Women’s Cricketers in action.
The final is on Sunday 22/3/09 at North Sydney Oval. For more information go to www.cricketnsw.com or see the draw outside the PE staffroom. Games are being played at Bankstown, Drummoyne and North Sydney oval.

ATTENTION BIKE RIDERS
Ride to school - there is a bike rack near the Science labs.
Reduce your FOOTPRINT
Work Experience

It was that time of the year in Year 10 when we had to go and find work experience. Mayada and I weren’t exactly looking for the typical options like McDonalds or Kmart. We wanted something memorable and special. So we decided that we were going to work with the children in special care.

Elouise and I worked with the children in special care. I found it really hard at first but I learnt how to look after them and did I mention they were cute. I really enjoyed working there for two weeks and also on the last day we received a present on behalf of the children.

Mayada and I learnt a lot about children with disabilities. You really don’t know what to expect. On one occasion, Mayada got scratched and I got pinched, but we didn’t take it to heart. We really had an amazing time and also a very hard-working two weeks, but it was worth just to have fun with them and to see the smiles on their faces. We will never forget them.

Elouise Dimech and Mayada Rizk

Dear Sue

I am writing to thank your year 10 students, Mayada and Elouise, and for all the help they gave the young children with disabilities at Canterbury Public School.

We really appreciated all their efforts. I have sent a photo that hopefully you can pass onto them. It shows how much the children enjoyed their attention.

Thanks again

Narelle Wardman
Teacher Support Unit, Canterbury Public

Library News

Welcome back to all students and a special welcome to those new to C.G.H.S.

We are looking forward to a positive and productive year in 2009 with many exciting changes and some sad farewells.

Mrs. Maureen Barker, who has been Library Assistant here since 1987 is retiring, our new Library Assistants will be Ms. D. Hebbard and Ms. M. Petriano.

Library opening hours are 8:00 am - 3:10 pm Monday to Friday and 8:00 am - 2:45 pm on Wednesdays (sports afternoon).

Year 7 2009 have had an initial lesson in the Library to teach them the basics, then will continue the Library Introduction Program covering information skills, research techniques and internet use, as well as the basics of logging onto the DET Portal and the internet, in week 6 following the completion of the Mentoring Program.

We now have an Interactive Whiteboard with Data Projector installed in the Library and connected to the school network and the internet via laptop. This will allow for demonstration of “My Library” - the online CGHS Library catalogue - and search techniques specifically related to curriculum topics being studied in class. The IWB will also allow for website demonstrations and interactive lessons with classroom teachers.

Parents and students should be aware that it is possible to consult the CGHS online catalogue via the DET Portal at home - instructions are below.

HOW TO ACCESS “My Library” WEB ENQUIRY:

(For Students)

1. You should use “My Library” to check the C.G.H.S. catalogue before searching anywhere else.

2. Logon to the computer with your username e.g. jbloggs and password.

3. Click on the Firefox or Safari icon to access the DET Portal using your Internet username e.g. jane.bloggs and password.

4. Click on the “My Library” link listed under Wikipedia in the Search Box on the left of your DET Portal homepage.
4. Search the catalogue to find books, articles, videos, DVDs, CD-ROMs and websites on your topic.

5. Click on the Title of an item for more details; click on the hotlinked URL for access to catalogued websites.

6. Ask Library staff for help with search strategy if you need it.

**HOW TO ACCESS “My Library” WEB ENQUIRY: (at home)**

1. Log in to the DET portal.
2. If you haven’t got the portal amongst your favourites/bookmarks at home – go to [www.google.com.au](http://www.google.com.au), type in - DET portal - as your search terms.
3. The DET Portal login site will be the first “hit” that appears.

4. Logon as you do at school with DET username and password.

5. Follow the usual steps for logging in to “My Library”

6. This means you can search the CGHS Library catalogue from home, including access to all catalogued websites and links.

**Advantages of using “My Library” rather than the WWW:**

- Resources chosen for the CGHS Library Collection are directly related to topics and curriculum studied in our classrooms; recreational resources and fiction material are chosen to suit our school community and support the user needs of adolescent girls.
- Websites are specifically chosen to support the needs and interests of our students.
- All catalogued websites are directly accessible through a hotlinked URL (website address) at the end of each item record.
- Less time is wasted scrolling through the millions of results provided by a Google search to find what is relevant and useful.
- It is easier for students to find information when they often have little idea of search strategy or the critical literacy skills to evaluate the results they get from a general WWW search.
- Students are referred to resources in a range of formats including texts, videos, DVDs, electronic resources and websites. They can choose the format they wish to use, or use a variety of sources.

**Year 7 students outside CGHS Library.**

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**Liz Manton, Teacher-Librarian**

**International Women’s Day 2009**

**Dabke Dance**

Come and Celebrate International Women’s Day with a FREE Multicultural Dance Event for Women and Children living in Canterbury

Come along and have fun, be active and meet new people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What: Dabke Dance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When: Monday 9th March 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time: 10am - 11am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Where: Lakemba Uniting Church</td>
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**CANTERBURY GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL APPEAL FOR VICTIMS OF BUSHFIRES**

We are collecting from all students and staff members. A trust account has been opened at the school.

Any family who wishes to support our appeal, please pay your donation to Office C.
YOUR STUDENT’S HEALTH

A reminder to parents to notify the school about your child’s health

We welcome information from parents about your child’s health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last twelve months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing to the principal. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and wellbeing.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughter's health needs or as otherwise required by law.

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to all those students who have got straight into the activities on offer at CGHS.

5 Dance groups have been filled for the year, including 2 Dance Ensembles, a Year 7 Ensemble, a Fusion group and Sport Dance. Well Done Dancers!

Choir has started with a rush with 10 singers being involved in the Region’s Launch of the year - rehearsals are well underway.

The Band has already had 2 rehearsals and welcome to all the new members and Ms Jacky King, the new band director.

Trials for Grade Sport have been completed and 17 teams will be entered in the Summer competition. We were ranked second to Blakehurst HS, in the Grade competition last year and our aim is to topple them in 2009.

DO NOT FORGET
PHOTO DAY 27/2/09