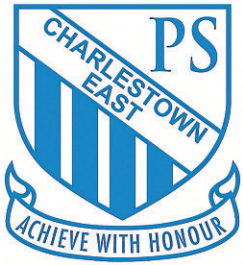
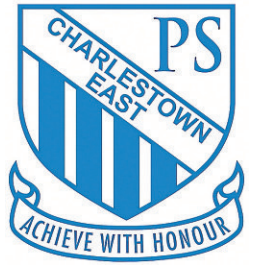


Primary entry #31: Charlestown East Primary School



Charlestown Easterly



JUMP TO IT: Coco Hubber trains for long jump prior to the zone carnival. Picture: Abby Cook

Sport is still important to schooling life

By RORY ARCHIBALD and JACK BURNS

A HEALTHY mind needs a healthy body and to achieve that goal students from Charlestown East Public play regular Friday afternoon sport during school hours with boys and girls playing netball and soccer.

The students also trained hard for the athletics carnival, which was postponed several times because of rain until the grounds finally dried.

Those postponements then created the need for intensive training for those selected for the zone athletics carnival.

The MLC Hot Shots tennis coaching program was introduced this term under well-known Newcastle coach Keith Williams, and has proved popular.

The teacher in charge of the netball, Ms Harris, said three teams were playing in the senior competition and one in the junior competition.

"There are two boys showing great potential in the game," Ms Harris said. "Zac Pascoe is showing great skills as a goal shooter while Sonny Bootland was showing potential as a mid-court player."

Soccer coach, Mr Janetzki, said one girl, Callie Thomas, stood out.

"Callie has only just turned 10 but she is outstanding," Mr Janetzki said. "She has no fear and is already playing in the junior boys A grade team."

By HAYLEE WILSON and CHEYNE BRYANT

TWO years ago Charlestown East Public mounted a campaign for safer streets in front of the school to guard against tragedy, and while nothing has yet happened there is just a glimmer of hope.

The school is asking for a supervisor at the existing James Street crossing and a zebra crossing on Bula Street.

The Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) said the school had now reached the minimum criteria for a supervisor to be provided.

An RMS spokesperson said the criteria takes into account traffic volumes and the number of children who are unaccompanied on their way to or from school.

The spokesperson said the latest count, in early June, showed fewer than 50 unaccompanied school children in the morning and afternoon peaks and 300 vehicles per hour.

However there was no promise of a crossing supervisor despite the minimum criteria being reached.

The RMS said a pedestrian crossing on Bula Street was the responsibility of Lake Macquarie City Council.

A request was sent to council for a comment but has not been answered.

School principal, Neil Sneddon



RISKY: Students Olivia Robinson, Willow Bignall and Cheyne Bryant prepare to cross busy Bula Street with no zebra crossing to protect them. Picture: Rachel Tuohy

and the school staff are concerned about the safety of children entering and leaving the school at the Bula Street entrance.

"Traffic on Bula Street gets very busy and with cars parked on both sides of the road, it is difficult to cross safely to and from the school," Mr Sneddon said.

"The student's view can often be blocked while drivers have trouble

seeing the students.

"We have spent a lot of time educating the students about how to safely cross Bula Street but accidents can happen and we don't want one of our students to be a victim.

"The situation has become even more urgent now that we have the after hours school care with children arriving and leaving from

Bula Street," Mr Sneddon said.

He said a large number of students also crossed Bula Street early every Friday afternoon for sport at the nearby Charlestown netball courts.

"In this case teachers are having to place themselves on the road to shepherd the students across safely," he said.

"It is hardly an ideal situation."



GREEN THUMBS: Year-two students enjoy time in the vegetable gardens. Picture: Rachel Tuohy

Garden of growth, trees of value

By WILLOW BIGNALL and OLIVIA ROBINSON

GROWTH is important at Charlestown East Public, either through values and responsibilities or through the extensive school garden.

The school has a special tree called the tree of values, built and erected by the P and C Association.

On that tree there are leaves and roots that set the

boundaries for excellence, democracy, fairness, responsibility, co-operation, participation, care, integrity, respect, confidence, persistence, organisation, getting along and resilience.

The school's vegetable garden consists of eight raised beds, one for each class.

Charlestown East's gardening teacher, Mrs Timbrell, said students

enjoyed their time looking after the large range of vegetables.

"Students are involved with every stage from planting to harvesting with each class concentrating on one or two varieties," Mrs Timbrell said.

"This ensures that we have enough to make the sale of our produce sustainable and you can sense the pride the students feel."

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