From the Principal

Over the next two weeks our school will undertake the annual Education Queensland School Opinion Survey. Each year EQ asks all staff and some parents and students to give their opinions about their school. The surveys are anonymous and the information is used by schools to see how well they are going and to help plan future initiatives. Students in years 5 and 7 will be asked to do the survey along with a random sample of parents. The parents are selected by a department generated number on our alphabetical list of enrolments, by this method the school has no say in which families are chosen. Selected parents will find their survey included with today’s newsletter. If you are sent a survey, please try and take the time to fill it in and return it to the school, as your feedback is important to us and will help us set next year’s direction. I thank you for your input.

The P&C is also seeking feedback from parents, students and staff in regards to updating the school polo shirt uniform. Our Quadrennial School Review surveys last year showed that the old polo shirt was an area many people wanted addressed. As a result of this the P&C passed a motion to begin the consultation process and are looking to introduce a new polo shirt. An example of the new shirt is on display outside the office and any feedback will be welcome through the tuckshop. (Children in Stage 2 and 3 have been given the opportunity to vote in class.) The proposed change is only for the polo shirt and there will be a phase in period during which both the old and new shirts will be accepted. Families will not be expected to buy the new shirts straight away.

The flu season is once again upon us and student absences are increasing. Please note that we have a 24hr absent line which you can use to let us know if your child is away from school. The number is 3489 2260 and using this number assists us in reducing the number of chase up calls we have to make for unexplained absences. There is a requirement for parents to advise the school of reasons for student absence and this can be done by using the above number or by a written note. If you are using our absent line please leave the date of absence, your child’s name and class.

I will be out of the school Monday and Tuesday of next week at a Regional School Leaders Conference on the Gold Coast. In my absence, Stephen Josey and our Head of Curriculum, Olivia Wells will be looking after the school. Please contact them if you have any urgent issues while I am away; for any issues that can wait I will be happy to talk to you on my return on Wednesday.

There will be no interschool sport tomorrow due to the unavailability of some fields due to prior bookings for council events. This situation was factored into our 12 weeks season and will not shorten the number of games played this season. Round 3 of interschool sport will continue next Friday.

**Prep Enrolments for 2013 Now Open**

We are now taking Prep (and all other year level) enrolments for next year. Our Open Day/Prep Information Sessions will be held on Wednesday 29 August at 9:00 - 10:00am in the school hall and 6:00 – 7:00pm in the school library. General school information will be given and interview times for formal enrolment into classes for 2013 will be organised at these sessions. Students eligible for Prep in 2013 **must be born between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008**. These dates are strictly enforced and parents will require a birth certificate before a Prep place and enrolment can be confirmed. While the majority of new enrolments are in prep (the talks will include a prep focus from a prep teacher), we are taking enrolments for all year levels. Please ring and let us know if you are attending a session so that we have a clear idea of numbers. If you know of any other prospective enrolments please ask the families to contact the office. We need to ensure our enrolments are as accurate as possible prior to the formation of classes for next year.

Thank you
Keith GRAHAM
Principal
From the Deputy

An event happened in my household this week that hasn’t happened for such a long time, in fact I cannot recall the last time that this occurred. My family received some personal letters in our post box. I get bills sent to me all of the time but these letters were in nice coloured envelopes and addressed to each of my children and one to my wife and I.

They were sent to us by my wife’s mum and it seemed that she had some time to jot down a few thoughts during a time waiting for her husband to come out of the doctors.

We opened up the letters and read them together. My children, to my surprise, absolutely beamed with enjoyment and excitement over these one page letters. This got me thinking, I can’t remember getting excited over an email or enthused over a text but the joy that was around the dinner table this week was something special.

Why did these pieces of paper bring so much joy? Well I believe there are two reasons. Firstly, someone cared enough about us to take the time to write down some encouraging words and secondly, we had something tangible to hold and to keep. Two things that emails, sms and twitter can’t do.

Technology has certainly made communication easier and more efficient but we must not lose that sense of community and personal touch.

DISCO and the Student Council

Thank you to all of the parents and students who supported the disco last Friday. It was another successful community event. Our last disco for the year is on the Friday of week 3 in Term 4, October 26.

I really appreciate the help from the teaching staff who give up their Friday nights to supervise and help run the disco. I was talking to Ms Thurlow on Friday night and she informed me that this was her 27th Friday nights to supervise and help run the disco. I was talking to Ms Cargill and she informed me that this was her 15th year of running discos at Chatswood Hills State School. They started in Block 4 and moved to the Groundsmen’s shed and then the under covered area before moving to the school hall. Thank you Ms Thurlow for your dedication over three decades.

Operation Christmas Child

Can you believe that I have written a sub heading with the word Christmas in it already? It is that time again when we look towards putting together some Christmas boxes for children overseas that would not otherwise receive a gift.

Ms Cargill is once again coordinating Operation Christmas Child. Families are encouraged to make up a shoe box (A4 size) of new toys, clothes or other items appropriate for young children to be sent overseas to children as a Christmas gift. In most cases the shoebox is the only new present that these children ever receive. Shoeboxes and or loose items can be handed into Ms Cargill or Mr Josey. Final Collection for Operation Christmas Child will be announced later on.

You can check out the website for more information and to get labels for your box. http://www.operationchristmaschild.org.au/

Packing your box

When packing your box remember the following points:

- Something to wear (t-shirts, shorts, cap, beanie, sandals)
- Something to love (teddy bear, doll, soft toy)
- Something special (carry bag, sun glasses, bangles, stickers, necklace)

*Something for school (exercise book, pencil case, pens/pencils, coloured pencils)
*Something to play with (tennis ball, toy cars, skipping rope, marbles, yo yo)
*Something for personal hygiene (soap, face washer, tooth brush, hair brush)

*These are needed most.

You can enclose a photo of yourself and a little note. Each box needs a donation of $9 for postage and handling and this can be made online at the above website.

Please do not include the following due to overseas customs and government regulations.

- Items that leak or melt (toothpaste, batteries)
- Food or lollies of any kind.
- Any used or damaged items.
- Any breakable items.
- Any item that could scare or harm a child.
- Any gambling related items (play money, playing cards dominoes, dice)
- Anything of a religious, racial or political nature.

Uniform

I had a couple of friendly conversations with some Year 4 students last week about their uniform, in particular their shoes. I was very happy to see that both students had taken the responsibility to solve the issue and came to school this week with the correct black shoes. They both looked fantastic.

Rochedale Challenge

Congratulations to all of our students who competed in the Rochedale Challenge. One of our teams came a strong second and two other teams came equal fourth. This is the best result that we have had in the Challenge in recent years. Thank you to all of parents for your support in getting notes back and taking the students there and picking them up.

LAIR (Lunchtime activities and imagination room)

The Lunchtime Activities and Imagination Room or the LAIR for short, runs most lunchtimes. This room has been resourced with table tennis, games and other items but we would appreciate some donations of any appropriate magazines or inspirational posters.

UNSW Competition

We had 23 students compete in the UNSW English test on Tuesday. We only have one competition to go, Maths scheduled for August 14. We should soon see some of the results come back in the coming weeks

Have a great weekend.

Stephen Josey
Deputy Principal

Principal Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards on assembly this week:

- Claire B for being an enthusiastic learner who always tries her best and listens very well in class.
- Alyssa B for a great improvement in writing and doing great sentences.
- Jack G for always working quietly, using his best manners and being an excellent listener in Prep.
Rory L for always being a caring class member who tries his best at all activities.
Piper B for wonderful knowledge of popcorn words which she now uses in her reading.
Ellora S for always putting in a fantastic effort towards all your work.
Montana A for having an excellent attitude to all subjects and for always using beautiful manners.
Tiana P for always doing her best and having beautiful manners in the classroom.
Cuba G for demonstrating a great attitude to work this term.
BJ T for always trying hard.
Keiran C for being an enthusiastic class member and putting his best effort into all work.
Koan P for working so hard in reading groups.
Livina E for enthusiastic participation and hard work in class.
Leah C for a great improvement in her attitude towards learning.
Taman H for listening attentively and making good contributions during class discussions.
Samantha P for always putting 100% effort into your work and behaviour.

Gotcha Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received gotchas on assembly for obeying the 4C’s in the playground:
Charlotte M, Aalisha A, Jessica R.

Around the Classes

Trevena Glen Farm Excursion.
At the farm I liked riding on the tractor. Zachary from Wallabies.
At the farm I liked having a chicken in my hand. Charlee from Geckoes.
We fed the lambs and we rode the horse. Then we rode the bull. Finally we went back to school. I liked it. Georgia from Platypus.
I went on a bull. It was black. I went on a tractor. I went around three times on a pony. I fed the sheep. I had fun. Grace from Bandicoots.
I rode a horse, milked a cow and held a chicken in my hand. I said YeHa! To the bull and the farmer. It was a good day. I had fun at the farm. Andrew from Bandicoots.

Athletics Congratulations
Well done to the following students who qualified to be members of the Logan District Athletics Team.
Sharni K – 1st discus, 2nd shotput
Kenneth W – 100m
Curtis F – 3rd discus
These students will now go on to compete at the Regional Titles in September.

Rugby League Clinic
All Monday PE students have been participating in a Rugby League Clinic for the past 3 weeks. Due to the students great behaviour and enthusiasm in activities, all participants received their own rugby league ball. A big thank you to our League Development Officers.

Jane Taylor
HPE Teacher

Lost Property
A pair of gold earrings were lost on the last day of Term 2. If you have found them please forward them to the office.
The following items have been handed in: wallet, a pair of earrings, a watch and a school bag.

P & C News
Email: pandc@chathillss.eq.edu.au

" School Banking Dollarmites Achievement Certificate, Bronze Certificate for 10 consecutive banking days are awarded to:
Georgia B, Jackson B ,Melody F, Sunny F, Britney H, Chloe H, Laura H, Destiny K , Dre K.

Dollarmites Achievement Certificate Classroom Award for most students in their class who bank are; Cassowaries, Geckoes, Goannas and Quolls

Loose Change Challenge
Well the collection is going great!!! Thanks for everyone's efforts again this week. Week two has raised $925.75. Wow!!! Well done everyone.
BANDICOOTS took out top honours again this week raising $93.10 well done In 2 weeks we have raised over $1600. Great job. This money is going towards lighting and curtains for our hall stage. We would like to have it all installed before the Christmas Carols. At this rate it looks like an achievable task so thank you.

Start filling those jars again for next week... Who will be the winning class next week?

Dogs
A reminder that dogs are NOT allowed onto the school grounds. This is for the safety of everyone. Thank you.

Parking
The P and C values the safety of all children at the school as a very important issue. Where you, as a parent, choose to park your car impacts not only on the safety of your child/ren, but also on the safety of others around you. Continually parents are illegally parking in NO STANDING ZONES, or DOUBLE PARKING in the Magellan Road car park -which blocks turning traffic who are doing the right thing. The example you set must be a legal one otherwise how can we expect our children to learn, and know the right and safe things to do, if they never see that safe option being shown to them. Please think of the kids and park in the correct parking spaces only.
Thank you