16th February, 2012

From the Principal

As reported in last week’s newsletter we were forced to restructure some classes across the school to ensure that all classes remain at or below our target size and to also create spaces in each year level for future enrolments. These changes were unavoidable and I would like to thank everyone involved for helping to make such a smooth transition between classes. From my walks around the school this week it appears that the students involved have settled into their new classes very well.

I would like to thank all of the parents and caregivers who took part in our information evening last night. It was wonderful to see many people in each classroom, meeting the teachers and finding out about the classroom routines and expectations. I firmly believe that close communication and relationships between school and home maximises the opportunity for positive outcomes for all students. I encourage you to stay in contact with your teachers throughout the year and maintain these links. Formal oral reporting for individual students in years 1-7 will take place at the end of this term to keep you informed of your child’s progress. Please look out for this specific information closer to the time. (Prep interviews will be held at the end of term 2).

Please be aware that school starts each day promptly at 8:30am and students should be ready to begin the day at this time. Some students have been arriving at school consistently late and missing out on vital learning time. Additionally we have had students away from school with repeated absences without an explanation. All unexplained absences are followed up with individual parents through the office and I would like to remind parents to please use our absent line or to provide a note when your child is away.

Every day at school is so important for student learning. Please help us support your children by ensuring their full and regular attendance so that we can give our maximum effort to every student in every lesson, every day.

It is now week 4 into our first term which means class programs are well underway. Thank you to the families in P-3 who have made payment to our resource scheme or who have provided their own resources for their student. These personal resources are vital for each student to participate fully in class lessons. If you in P-3 and are still planning to join our resource scheme then payments are due now. Parents/caregivers must make a decision as to whether they wish to take part in our resource scheme or to purchase their own resources. It will be presumed that parents in P-3 who do not pay into the scheme by the end of next week are electing to purchase the resources themselves, and a resource list will be sent home with these students.

The storm on Monday night caused our school to lose power and resulted in our P&C meeting being cancelled. The meeting has been rescheduled for this Monday 20 February at 6:30 in the Admin block. Sorry for any inconvenience caused by the change.

Thank you
Keith GRAHAM
Principal

From the Deputy

Reading is very important. The ability to read, communicate and spell correctly is essential to surviving in a complex modern world. Promoting a love for reading and an understanding of the purpose of reading are important when encouraging our children to engage with text.
Mem Fox, in her book “Reading Magic”, outlines several strategies that can be implemented at home in order to improve the reading skills of our children. She suggests that reading aloud two or three books a night or even a week can improve the skills and enjoyment of reading. An added benefit is spending family time together sharing and talking about stories.

If you would like to spread the love of reading beyond your family then why not consider completing the Ready Reader Training. You can nominate Chatswood Hills as your preferred school and assist us with reading in Prep to Year 3.

Ready Reader Volunteer Training Program

PARENT READY READER PROGRAM INVITATION to Parents and Carers of students Prep to Year 3

As your child’s first teacher you have a key role in the literacy and numeracy development of your child.

The Parent Ready Reader Program explores:
- the wide range of literacy experiences that happen daily and how these can provide opportunities for learning in natural and exciting ways
- the knowledge that effective readers use and
- ways to engage your child with reading.

Would you like to know more? Come along and learn how to support your child to become a confident reader.

If you are interested in this program please contact the school office on 3489 2222 to register. The training will be held at Chatswood Hills State School on Monday March 12 9am to 11am.

Have a great weekend.

Stephen Josey
Deputy Principal

Curriculum Corner

Following on from last week I thought we should take a brief look at The Australian Science Curriculum. The Australian Science Curriculum has three interrelated strands: Science Understanding, Science as a Human Endeavour and Science Inquiry Skills.

Science Understanding looks at the students appropriately selecting the science knowledge and applying it to different scientific elements. Science as a Human Endeavour acknowledges the ethical and social impacts that science had or will have on our society, as well as seeking to improve their understanding of the natural world. Science Inquiry Skills encompasses planning, conducting and reflecting on scientific investigations and then communicating their findings and evidence.

Just like The Australian Math Curriculum, the science curriculum also has sub-strands within them.

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<tr>
<th>Science Understanding</th>
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<td>Physical sciences</td>
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Mathletics

Thank you to everyone who returned their Mathletics form. I can now place the students in their correct classes and the students will have the correct access. Usernames and passwords will be sent home once the rollover has been completed.

Olivia Wells
Head of Curriculum.

Principal Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards on assembly on Monday.

Alannah F for being helpful and kind and packing up without being asked.
Jaesea B for being a kind friend.
Chloe W for being a caring and helpful class member and always doing your best.
Sam M for settling into prep so well.
Summer B for understanding and following the new routines in prep.
Madelyn M for always producing great pieces of writing.
Molly R for always trying her best with all tasks and for being a caring class member.
Jessica R for doing her best at all times.
Trey D for working hard and always doing your best work.
Angus M for excellent effort in reading and writing and always using good work habits.
Tabitha S for working beautifully during Maths.
Rebecca M for always being eager and willing to do your best.
Bethany L for great listening skills and effort put in her work.
Lily M for always displaying excellent behaviour and manners.
Sarah M for a fantastic start to the school year with excellent behaviour and a positive attitude towards learning.
Harrison S for being a cheerful, mature and hard working member of Emus class.

Library Award

Cassowaries for excellent listening to stories in the Library.

AFL Clinic

On Tuesdays Year 1 and Prep have been involved in an AFL clinic run by Hamish from the AFL Development team. Children have learnt the skills of kicking, hand passing and marking balls.

Interschool Sport
All payments for soccer and rugby league are due in at the end of this week. Cheerleading information sheets and permission notes were given to students this week. Sport commences in 2 weeks time - March 2nd.

**AFL**

Congratulations to Reagan S and Austin B for being selected in the Logan District AFL Team.

**Crosscountry/Fun Run**

During PE lessons students have begun training for our Annual School Crosscountry. This year our crosscountry will be a P&C fundraising event where students will gain sponsorship from friends, family and community members. Not only can students raise money for the school but also secure prizes for themselves if they raise at least $10. All information will be given to teachers and students in 2 weeks time.

**String News**

All string lessons have begun. Thanks to the students who have organised to bring all the required equipment to lessons on Thursdays. All beginners are going well and I'm hoping that families are enjoying the new sounds from our young musicians. The continuing students are moving forward very encouragingly also.

Reminder that all continuing students are members of the String Ensemble.

This rehearsal is on Thursday mornings from 7:40am in the music room. Thanks to all these families.

Reminder to all students - the 2012 Levy is now available to be paid through the school payment window.

Looking forward to working with all of these students for another great year of music making at Chatswood Hills.

Penny Williams (String Instructor)

**School Payments**

For those who choose to do internet banking please be aware that any payments to do with the P&C (uniforms, sports shorts, year 7 shirts, pizza days, fundraising etc) cannot be paid into the school account. Payments for P&C are done through the tuckshop.

**P & C News**

Email: pandc@chathillss.eq.edu.au

**A FAMILY SKILLS TRAINING COURSE**

Being a mum, dad, grandparent or carer is a rewarding but also challenging job. It is full of fun yet there are times when we may be at a loss. This programme offers parents and carers the opportunity to meet others in similar situations and explore options by sharing information and experiences in a safe and non judgmental atmosphere.

This programme is not lecture based and parents opinions are appreciated. Parents also choose topics that may be important to their unique family, these may include discipline, developmental stages, family relationships, communication, self esteem and self care for parents.

Joan and I are both parents and together have worked with children, adolescents and families for many years. Please note the Group is offered for parents only. Child minding is not available. If you wish to attend please call Jenny Hickey on Tel: 3489 2222 (Mondays & Tuesdays) or leave your expression of interest with the personnel in the office. Look forward to hearing from you.

Jenny Hickey (Guidance Officer)

**Helping with reading at home**

The Support-A-Reader training program is being conducted at school this term. It is designed to show parents, grandparents, carers, teacher-aides or any other interested people how to assist beginning readers or those experiencing difficulties with their reading. The program will give you the knowledge and confidence to enable you to help in the classroom and/or your own children at home. The program is not difficult and is free of charge. The sessions are informal and discussion and questioning are a major component. The program will be conducted for four weeks on the following days.

Wednesday 7 March
Wednesday 14 March
Wednesday 21 March
Wednesday 28 March

Time: 1:00pm – 2:30pm

If you are interested in attending, please contact the office on 3489 2222 with your details.

Liz Bundy
Key Teacher Year 2 Net

**Community News**

Spirit First Martial Arts is offering karate training for the whole family. Our new range of "Start-up" programs is now suitable for children from the earliest age. For more info visit: www.SpiritFirstMA.net or call 0431 907 414.

**Lost Property**

We seem to be acquiring a few lunchboxes at the moment. Please contact the office if your child has lost one.