From the Principal

Spring is in the air and the warmer weather is encouraging our wildlife to be on the move within our school grounds. While the native animals are a wonderful part of our school environment it is important to respect their habitat and give them space as animals can become very protective of their homes and young. Over the past two weeks there have been two reports of birds swooping students from the trees on Raleigh Street. These appear to be isolated incidents in two different locations, and a search of the trees has been unable to locate a nest, but it does serve to remind everyone to be aware of animal behaviour and to avoid encroaching into their areas.

Our school has just won another Environmental Award for our gardens reflecting the time and dedication our students put into caring for our natural environment. I would like to congratulate Ms Wendy Thurlow and the Project Club on receiving second place in the schools’ division of the Logan City Council’s Garden Competition. Your work around our school is much appreciated. Well done!

Thank you to the parents who have returned the Quadrennial School Review questionnaire. Your feedback is very important to us and it will be used to help set the strategic direction of our school for the next four years. If you still wish to complete your survey please do so and place it in the box located at the office by Monday.

One of the major tasks for the remainder of this term is preparing the classes and staffing for 2012. The staffing process is underway but will take a while to finalise. To this end it is not possible to give definite answers to which teacher will be on which class next year. While we should have a good indication of teacher placement before the end of the year, final staffing is never complete until day 8 of the following year when we know how many students have actually enrolled in the school.

In the meantime teachers will be asked to look over their current year level and make recommendations on student combinations and how these impact on learning. The current teachers will then construct the next year’s draft of classes taking into account; friendships, academic ability, social and emotional factors, behavioural considerations and any parent educational requests. To assist us with this process please let the school know through the office if your child(ren) are not returning to Chatswood Hills next year.

Whatever the class and whoever the teacher, our school’s focus will remain on improving literacy and numeracy
outcomes for all students by catering for individual
needs. Today’s education is not about all students
working from the same text and the same page every
lesson, every day. It is about different expectations
and supporting students who are having difficulty by
modifying work while extending the students who
understand specific concepts. Every lesson, every
day, every child should be catered for.

Thank you

Keith GRAHAM
Principal

From the Deputy

This week I had a conversation with a mother who
was struggling with the demands of being a parent.
She was concerned about a myriad of things ranging
from academic performance through to feeling guilty
over how much time she spent with her three
children. Her concerns recently came to the fore
when she was talking to another parent who claimed
that her child was perfect, enjoyed school etc.

I believe that being a good parent is one of the most
challenging aspects of life. Our wonderful little gifts
don’t come with manuals and even if they did I’m
sure mine would have several volumes. In fact I am
convinced that one of the manuals for my beautiful
daughter would be entitled “Your guess is as good as
mine”.

It seems some days that my wife and I just solve one
issue that another comes bounding along and
sometimes the problems appear in twos and threes! I
certainly don’t have all of the answers but what I do
know is that parenting is worth the fight and my
theory is as long as you’re moving forward (even if it
is at a slow rate) you are doing well.

So to all parents be encouraged, they will grow up
fast, so enjoy the ride.

Finally, don’t listen to anyone who says they have it
altogether or that their child is perfect, a gift yes, but
not perfect. Surround yourself with good friends who
share honestly and the next time someone comes and
shares with you that they are having a hard time,
listen and support them, don’t judge them.

Free Dress Day

The student council would like to run one more
fundraiser for the year in the form of a free dress day.
This day will be held on Thursday November 17. For
a gold coin donation, students can come to school in
appropriate free dress. Shoulders need to be covered,
safe shoes worn and broadbrimmed hats worn at play
time and PE.

Student Council

The Student Council is one step closer to organising a
mural for both the boys’ and girls’ senior toilets. The
same person looks like painting our friendship table.

School Disco

I would like to express my thanks to the school
community once again for supporting the Disco last
Friday night. Everyone looked as though they were
having a great time. Behaviour was once again at a
very high standard.

Have a great weekend.

Stephen Josey
Deputy Principal

Curriculum Corner

This week I have been in and out of the school going
to various professional developments and
conferences regarding curriculum and differentiation.
Yesterday I attended a wonderful professional
development on how to differentiate through the
vehicle of thinking skills.

When a teacher differentiates, they are altering the
delivery of the curriculum in order for each child to
experience success, regardless of learning styles and
abilities. Differentiation through thinking skills is a
fantastic way to teach children how to think or
process ideas at a level that extends their own ability.

I am looking forward to extending the children’s and
teachers thought processes, as mine was certainly
challenged yesterday. Have a great week!

Olivia Wells
Head of Curriculum
**Principal Awards Stage 1**

Congratulations to the following students who received an award on assembly on Monday.

**Sienna R** for an outstanding retell of the Story of Belinda.  
**Kaleb C** for trying very hard with his writing and producing some great work.  
**Charlotte M** for working hard to learn sight words and recognising them in her reading.  
**Justin B** for improved writing skills.  
**Luci D** for trying hard to improve his behaviour in the playground and classroom.  
**Joshua S** for working so hard in class and creating a very interesting narrative.  
**Maraeaa M** for working hard to make a great start at a new school.  
**Aaliyah M** for excellent effort in reading and writing.  
**Andre C** very pleasing effort in class and improved reading and writing effort.  
**Tarnya P** for greatly improved handwriting.  
**Jarryd T** for excellent improvement in reading.  
**Paige B** for great improvement in your reading and comprehension skills.  
**Summer-Rose B** for excellent reading and always trying her best.  
**Sharnti T** for making a great effort in class. Well done with your spelling.  
**Tom T** for using your best effort in class and having a cheerful attitude.

**Library Award**

**Emus** for always being on task in Library lessons.

**Gotcha Awards**

Congratulations to the following students who received gotchas on Monday for obeying the 4C’s in the playground: Anna C, Neven G, Christina R.

**From the Library**

Congratulations to the children who received their Premier’ Reading Challenge certificates on assembly last week and this week. Please encourage your children to continue to read every day independently or with a sibling and praise them for their efforts. As the holidays approach it is a good time to visit the local library and enjoy the membership privileges offered. A reminder that Stage One children need a library bag to borrow at school. Thank you for checking this on their borrowing day.

Lyndell Roberts  
Teacher Librarian

**Hip Hop**

On Wednesday next week our Chatswood Hills hip hop dancers will be performing in the hall at 1st eating break.

**Interschool Sport**

All interschool sport finishes this week. Good luck to teams in finals.

**P & C News**

Email: pandc@chathillss.eq.edu.au

**Lunchbox Fundraiser**

The Tupperware lunchbox and drink bottle fundraiser order forms are due back to the tuckshop by Fri 11th Nov. Please place correct money (no change given) and form in an envelope.

**First Aid Fundraiser**

Thanks to those who ordered first aid kits last term. They have arrived. Please contact Kirsty on 0413 202 325 to arrange collection.

**River City Spirit Cheerleading Auditions**

We are looking for talented cheerleaders to join our competitive cheerleading program for 2012. Experience is recommended for our advanced teams but novices are also welcome to join our level 1 and 2 teams.

**Auditions:**

- Tues 8 Nov and 15 Nov  
  - 4pm -5pm 10 years & under  
  - Chatswood Hills State School Hall  
  - 7.15pm – 915pm 11 years & over  
  - Sleeman Sports Complex Gym Hall

For more details phone Kylie Pocklington on 0412 530 798