Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Sitting here in Europe has given me a chance to realise that modern technology really does make the world a smaller place. It also makes me realise how much our children are growing up as citizens of a global community able to maintain instant access with anyone. Technology skills have allowed my children to keep in touch with their friends and relatives while overseas through Skype, maintain a travel blog (which my 5 year old is eager to update each day), and also for me to submit this final newsletter for the year. These technology skills are becoming just as important as the traditional reading and writing skills and are a vital part of today’s curriculum.

I am sure that all students are looking forward to the holidays and end of year and to the finishing off of class programs. Around this time students do enjoy a range of end of year activities in their classrooms. Please look out for individual notices coming from your child’s teachers with regards to these activities and class parties.

Sadly the end of the year will see us bid farewell to some staff members who will be moving on. Brenda Veenbaas has been transferred to Logan Reserve SS after serving time at Chatswood as a parent, Teacher Aide and Teacher. Brenda has been a passionate supporter of our school and our students and will be greatly missed. Chantelle Williams has also received a transfer and will be commencing at Woodridge SS from the beginning of next year. Chantelle has been a strong contributor to our Prep team ensuring our students get a solid foundation to their schooling. I know she will become a valuable asset at her new school. We are also saying goodbye to Anita Taylor who has been our music teacher while Gillian Lui has been on maternity leave. Anita’s enthusiasm for music is very infectious and the children have certainly appreciated her commitment to our music program particularly the extra curricula concerts and choirs. Our final three staff members leaving CHSS this year have only been with us a short while but their impact has been significant. Julie Carlson has helped students in all three stages with maths support and was fantastic addition to this program, while Kristen Butler took over Bibbies when Ms Cargill took leave ensuring a smooth transition and maintenance of a quality program for Term 4 and Marg Baker who has this year worked along side Chris Turner as our Learning Support Teacher. Thank you. I would like to wish all of these staff members the best for their new futures on behalf of the CHSS community.

Resource Scheme

Next year our Resources Scheme will only be offered to Stage One classes to assist parents in purchasing their child’s personal school resources. This scheme offers parents the chance to take advantage of the school bulk purchasing power and allows the school to purchase student equipment at generally cheaper rates. It also enables the teachers to buy exactly what they need and ensure all students have the same equipment. The price of this scheme does not include any profit for the school. All monies are passed onto the stage teachers to be spent on resources for the particular children in their classes. Parents who choose not to take part in the scheme can ask at the office for a list of resource requirements to purchase for themselves. Please note that there is no Resource Scheme for Stage 2 & 3 as they are given a booklist.
Some Dates to Note

Sunday 4 December – Xmas Carols Night
Wednesday 7 December – Year 7 Graduation evening.
Thursday 8 December - Academic Award Parade 8:45am and 2012 School Captains announced. Class lists and “Shuffle Up” session to meet 2012 class, teacher in new room. Report cards issued.
Friday 9 December - Children will be assisting with the final preparation of rooms for next year followed by pen/pencil and paper work under the supervision of teachers. (It may not necessarily be their own teacher as some of the teachers will have been reassigned other duties in preparation for 2012. Those children in attendance will be grouped appropriately and provided with school work under full supervision.)

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school community for their support and work this year. This school/home partnership is a very important factor which allows Chatswood Hills to provide the best education possible for all students. I would like to wish you all a happy and safe holiday, and look forward to working with you all in 2012. Have a good relaxing break and remember school will start for all students on Monday 23 January. Please ensure students are ready to start work at 8:30 from this first morning.

Thank you and Merry Xmas
Keith Graham
Principal

From the Deputy

The last two weeks of the school year are always a lot of fun, maybe not as much fun as skiing in the Swiss Alps, but fun nonetheless. As well as the normal maths and literacy lessons students engage in, there is the opportunity for some Christmas activities and end of year celebrations.

I am certainly looking forward to the Year 7 Graduation next Wednesday night, the Academic Parade Thursday morning and the end of year parties.

Irrespective of what we are doing it is important that safety is at the forefront of everyone’s mind. Whether at school or in the home, walking or travelling in our cars it is important to stay vigilant to ensure our safety and the safety of others.

As this is the final newsletter for the year I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, parents and students for their dedication and hard work. I would like to wish everyone a safe and restful Christmas and New Year.

This Sunday I am looking forward to celebrating Christmas with the community from 4:30pm at our annual Christmas Carol evening. See you there!

Year 7 Shirts

As in previous years Year 7 students are allowed to have their school shirts signed by friends and staff on the last Thursday of the term (December 8). This is provided that they are not wearing the shirt that is to be signed.

In other words students need to wear their uniform and bring along a spare shirt that can be signed.

Library Loans

We have a large number of library books still outstanding and would appreciate it if these books could be returned to the school library as soon as possible.

Have a great Xmas and Happy New Year
Stephen Josey
Deputy Principal

Principal Awards Stage 1

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

Tyler D for a big improvement in your behaviour and attitude this term.
Caesar G for being a responsible friend by showing the new prep children around our classroom.
Dion A for always trying his hardest and producing a consistent improvement throughout the year.
Makayla A for consistent hard work all year and trying her best at all times.
Jahkhy W for an excellent effort towards his Maths.
Filip G for outstanding construction work.
Kieran C for always doing the right thing.
Patrick B for improvement in handwriting.
Ryan W for being a wonderful student who always tries his best.
Cole F for excellent work in Maths.
Mitchel Y for working so well in Maths.
Danika S for always putting in your best effort to your work.

Library Award

Kangaroos thank you for hosting a wonderful morning tea and showing the same great manners you show in the library.

Gotcha Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received gotchas on Monday for obeying the 4C’s in the playground: Jessica H, Melody F, Annika M.

From the Library

The advantages of parents reading to children when they are young are well documented. Success in high school depends on it regardless of socio-economic background. Give your child a great start by joining the Logan Council Libraries, borrowing books and reading to them at bedtime or anytime. Holidays are always a great time to do this.
Some school library books are still outstanding for this year. Please encourage your child to find their books and return them to the library.
A very special thank you to parents who covered books during the year. Without your help we would not have as many books on our shelves.
Thank you for your support during 2011. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Lyndell Roberts
Teacher librarian.

Christmas Carols this Sunday - 5:30pm start in the Hall

Instrumental music and choir students are performing - please meet at the hall or area designated by your instructor/teacher. All stages have also been practising Christmas carols and it would be terrific to have big groups of singing students from all classes.

Thank you to all staff, students, parents and caregivers for your support with the music program in 2011. I have enjoyed my time teaching at Chatswood Hills and I will miss you all.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Anita Taylor
Music Teacher

Strings News

School Loan Instruments - all school loan instruments need to be returned by Monday, 5th Dec. Some instruments were collected on Monday as these students indicated that they wouldn't be attending the Carols Concert. The students with school loan instruments are also welcome to leave their instrument at school after the concert on Sunday. Please return to the Music Room. Thanks to all.

Christmas Concert - all String Groups will be performing at this concert. Please arrive at the hall by 5pm. The dress for this concert is Christmas Attire - please come with tinsel, Christmas hats, shirts, socks etc. It is free dress with the emphasis on Christmas! Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Thanks to all for a wonderful and busy year of string playing throughout 2011. It looks like another busy year for the students in 2012. Have a great Christmas and a relaxing holiday break.

Lost Glasses: There was a pair of children's glasses handed in after the String Day last Thursday. They are a green/blue colour. Please see Ms Williams on Monday if you may have lost these.

Penny Williams (String Instructor)

Lost Property

All lost property will be outside the office next week. Please check the box if you have lost any items. The items we have are all unnamed. We have also had an earring handed in.

P & C News

Email: pandc@chathillss.eq.edu.au

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE tickets home last week, 20 prizes being given away. 1st $150 saucepan set 2nd $80 school uniform shop voucher 3rd beer 4th wine 5th beer and 6-20 are mystery prizes !!! $1 per ticket. Please return with money to tuckshop by 9am Friday 2nd Dec. Drawn at the carols.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS Sunday 4th Dec 5.30 – 7.30pm in the hall. Sausage sizzle from 4.30pm. People bringing chairs to sit on are asked to sit to the side of the hall so as not to block anyone’s view of the children. Thank you

Thank you to all the P&C helpers during 2011, whether you have done lots, a little, been at school or after hours help, we would like to say THANK YOU. Without helpers we could not do the things we do. The old saying of “many hands makes work light” is sooooo true and without you all, the executive committee would defiantly be worn out a lot sooner in the year.

Looking forward to see many of you at the BBQ and carols this Sunday. Happy & safe holidays to you all and see you in 2012

BBQ Helpers

Helpers for the carols are needed this Sunday. From 4pm to help with the setting up lights, BBQ, drinks, chips, chocolates and Showbags. Please arrive at 4pm if you can help with set up otherwise helpers will also be needed for the back up at 7.30pm, so please hang around and lend a hand. Thankyou.

Uniform Shop News

The last Tuesday the uniform shop will be open is December 6th.

There are still plenty of uniforms in stock available to purchase now for next year - the only item currently unavailable are size 8 polo shirts.

For any uniform enquiries please email: PandCUniformshop@chathillss.eq.edu.au

News from OSHC

The year is coming to an end, but it is the busiest time for OSHC. Vacation care forms are available now, and booking forms for 2012 are available.

Get your vacation care forms in as soon as you can and we hope you all have a great holiday. We look forward to another busy year at OSHC and would like to thank the whole school community for supporting us in such a positive way.

See you all next year and please confirm your bookings for next year by the last day of school or during the vacation care break.

Wendy
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