Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to a new year, can I particularly extend a warm welcome to all our new students and families. Chatswood Hills is a great school and I am sure you will enjoy being part of our community.

It has been a very wet start to the school year, but thankfully not to the extent we experienced last year. I would like to thank our groundsman, Adam Lee, who has spent most of his work time (and time out of school hours) in the rain clearing gutters and unblocking drains to ensure that the water drains away from our buildings, and doesn’t pool and enter classrooms.

New Staff for 2012

I would also like to welcome back Lynda Kwaitkowski and Gillian Liu who are returning to work after maternity leave; and to Lynne Cargill who is returning after a term’s leave.

We are still awaiting the appointment of a second Learning Support Teacher.

It has been a wonderful first week of school. As I walked around the classes I was so pleased to see our students in uniform, with their equipment and ready to be engaged in learning. I don’t believe in having a ‘warm-up week’ for school. Everyday counts, and class programs which have been carefully prepared by teachers over the holiday break begin on the bell on the first day. Please help us to help your children by ensuring they are ready for school each day, on time so that they don’t miss out on any valuable learning time. I was also very pleased to see how well our 4 new prep classes started their first days of school life. Prep is a very exciting time for both students and parents and something I am experiencing first hand this year as my son also began school in prep on Monday. We have 96 prep students who commenced school this year at CHSS and they and their teachers have had a very busy and productive first few days of school. All four prep classes seemed very settled when I visited and the students were eagerly engaged in their class activities.

Our school numbers have been fluctuating and on paper there is a possibility of our school increasing in size by one class this year after final numbers are determined next Thursday. Final staffing and class arrangements are not completed until after day 8 (Feb 2) and some changes to classes may occur. We will aim to minimise any disruptions to students if class changes are deemed necessary.

At the commencement of a new year parking can be an issue at the start and end of the school day as the streets and carparks become busy. For the safety of your children and all other students, please only park in the designated parking bays and in a safe and legal manner. As I walked around the streets yesterday observing the parking I thought to myself; what message are our children receiving when adults model to them a disregard for rules and disrespect for the law by parking wherever they wish, and how does this teach children to do the right thing?

Having to wait or walk an extra five minutes by parking correctly is surely a cheap price to pay to ensure the safety of our students and to instil in our children a sense of responsibility.
If you did not receive your child’s report card at the end of last year due to student absence, they can be collected from the office any time over the next two weeks.

I look forward to working with you all this year and encourage you to maintain communication with the school to solve any issues which may arise. My experience is that the earlier a problem is addressed the easier it is to solve and move forward. Additionally full communication gives a clearer picture of an issue and often a different perspective.

I am looking forward to a very rewarding and productive 2012 school year where we can make a positive difference to every student at Chatswood Hills.

Thank you
Keith GRAHAM
Principal

From the Deputy

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all families starting with us in 2012, a special welcome also to our new families in Prep and other areas of the school. I have been involved in quite a few enrolments over the last two weeks and have enjoyed telling the new families about all of the wonderful things that make this school so great. Most people respond by saying that they already know how great Chatswood Hills State School is.

Clearly it is word of mouth that brings many of our families to the school and the great people that keep them here.

Australia Day

I hope everyone had a wonderful Australia Day, a day to reflect on how blessed we are to live in a most wonderful democratic country. This year should see democracy at work as we have a local and state election.

Ready Reader Volunteer Training Program

Our school currently has 3 trained Ready Readers. If you would like to join the program please read the following message:

The Ready Reader Volunteer Training Program, coordinated by Education Queensland’s Community Participation Officers, recruits and trains community volunteers and parents to support young readers in the classroom.

The trained volunteers are placed in a school of their choice to assist individual children in grades Prep to Year 3. They engage with each child, building their reading confidence so that they enjoy books and the art of reading.

Parents and community members are invited to become Ready Readers and make a difference in a young reader’s life in the classroom or at home. Both principals and volunteers are reporting great progress with the children being engaged.

Would you like to hear more about the program? Do you think you would like to be involved?

The following training sessions are being offered. You are welcome to attend the session that is most convenient for you from the dates and venues outlined below and to bring along a friend or family member who may also be interested in volunteering.

Registration is essential as sessions with little response will be cancelled.

To register please contact the school listed for the session you would like to attend.
For further information contact Lynn Lloyd on 5562 4826

**Hilliard**  Thursday 16th February  9:30 – 2:30
Hilliard State School, Cnr Alexandra Cct & Hanover Dr
Alexandra Hills  3820 1666

**Ormeau**  Monday 27th February  9:30 – 2:30
Ormeau State School  83 Halfway Drive Ormeau
5549 4222

**Shailer Park**  Tuesday 13th March  9:15 to 2:15
Shailer Park State School  Bulwarra Street  Shailer Park
3440 8333

**Park Ridge**  Thursday 22nd March  9:30 to 2:30
Park Ridge State School  3776 Mt Lindsay Highway
Park Ridge  3380 4333

Student Council

Just before students returned this week Jay Christensen finished painting two murals just inside the senior toilets. The cost of this was covered by the Student Council with the fundraising over 2011, money will also go towards a new sound system in the school hall. I would like to thank families for supporting the fundraising and the students for their hard work. Our fundraising will begin again soon.

Behaviour

The start to the New Year has been good, can I just remind students to refrain from picking up rocks and sticks and follow our school rules and expectations. We still get a lot of enrolments due to word of mouth and I believe this is because we have a safe and supportive environment. Behaviour is everyone’s responsibility. Remember all students are on Phase one and will receive an award at the end of the term provided that they stay on phase one.

Have a great weekend.

Stephen Josey
Deputy Principal

Curriculum Corner

Mathletics Permission Note.

This year Chatswood Hills State School will again be using the Mathletics Program. A permission note will be sent home with your newsletter today, it is important that every student returns the note by Friday the 10th of February. Please note that no money is required for your child to gain access to the program for 2012, just parental/carer permission. Please return your permission letters to your child’s classroom teacher. Thank you.

Olivia Wells
Head of Curriculum.

Interschool Sport

Students in years 5, 6 & 7 have been given the option of signing up for Friday afternoon sport. Interschool sports include; boys league & soccer, girls netball & touch, hip hop dance & cheerleading. Social sport is also available. Permission forms will be distributed shortly for those sports that have been filled by student nominations. Sport commences in Week 6 March 2nd. Please be aware that there is a cost involved with interschool sport.

Jane Taylor
HPE Teacher
Chatswood Fun Run

Our school crosscountry for Prep- yr7 will be a fundraising event this year sponsored by Adidas and held on the 20th March.

Instrumental Music 2012

Hi Everyone - Mr Thompson & Ms Williams welcome all musicians back for another year. Lessons for woodwind, brass and percussion will be on Tuesday's and all string lessons on Thursday's. String lessons will start in Wk 2 with Ms Williams (Thursday, Feb 2). Mr Thompson will start in Wk 3 (Tuesday, Feb 7). Temporary timetables will be given to class teachers for their first lesson.

All students are reminded to bring required equipment to lessons ie tutor books, instrument and homework book.

Remember that all forms given to students who are interested in starting lessons in 2012 need to be returned to the school office asap.

We look forward to another full year of music making at Chatswood Hills SS.

Instrumental Music Staff.

P & C News

Email: pandc@chathillss.eq.edu.au

P & C Meeting

The next P & C meeting will be held on Monday 13th February in the staffroom at 6.30pm. All welcome to attend.

The P & C would like to welcome back all families and new families for 2012.

Book Club

Book Club catalogues will be arriving this week and I will be needing some helpers to collate and hand out catalogues to classes. If you have helped before, I would love to have you back this year! It only takes an hour or so at night, once a month, while watching telly so your help would be most appreciated. Contact Lisa on 041 719 4580 for further details. Thanks.

If you are waiting on backorders from last year, please ring Lisa 041 719 4580. Thanks.

Tuckshop

The tuckshop is now open for business. The new tuckshop list is being sent home today. If you would like to volunteer some time in the tuckshop this year please see Sophie at the tuckshop. Any help is greatly appreciated.

New items are: Gluten Free fried rice- no egg, gourmet lite burgers (are reduced fat-approved by the heart foundation).

2nd & 3rd Term only: savoury mince rolls, anzac biscuits.

Uniforms Shop News!

Firstly I would like to thank all the wonderful helpers who volunteered their time to help with the pick- up days last Friday & Saturday. I could not of done it without them. Marg, Tammy, Amanda & Michelle – thank-you so much.

Secondly, a huge thank-you to all the parents who patiently waited in line (especially on Friday ! ) we tried to help everyone as quickly as possible but unfortunately the waiting was unavoidable.

Currently we are still out of stock for girls ties. As soon as they arrive if prepaid for they will go straight to your child’s class.

Any pre-orders not collected last weekend or this week will be put back into stock as of today.

Hats are available to purchase at tuckshop on days the uniform shop is closed. You will need to have the correct money ($10) as no change is available.

Year 7 Shirts

Keep a look out for order forms for the year 7 shirts. They will be going home soon!

Pauls Collect-a-Cap – We have filled the collection box for the first time at the end of last year and hope we can do this over & over again as Pauls will contribute 10c per cap for every cap collected. So the more caps you collect, the bigger the contribution. This promotion will continue in 2012! (Please do us a favour by rinsing your caps before sending them to school). Collection box for caps is located at the office!

Emailed Newsletters

We are looking at cutting down the number of newsletters printed each week. We would like to encourage families to now receive the newsletter by email. Please contact the office with your email address. If you were receiving the newsletter by email last year there is no need to re-register. The emailed newsletter is received the same day as the printed one.

News from OSHC

Welcome back for 2012 to all our returning families and to our new families. A reminder children must be signed in to before school care. Breakfast is provided from 6.30am till 7.45 am. Year ones and preps will be escorted to class at 8.15. Preps will be collected from their class rooms and year ones will be escorted to the room in the afternoon. Afternoon tea is provided and then children are grouped into activity areas. If you would like your child or children to attend before or after school care please come and visit us in the room or call the numbers below. Places are limited but vacancies are still available.

Wendy
Chatswood Hills State School
0488444161
32081610
oshcchatswoodhills@bigpond.com

Helping Hands Network Pty Ltd