10th May, 2012

**From the Principal**

It has been a disturbing end to the week with the news of the serious attack of one student by another at a school on the Sunshine Coast yesterday. What this news also highlights is that no matter how safe a school seems and how well standards and rules are enforced and articulated, it is impossible to anticipate the actions of every individual. School rules are important for students, as they teach students to exist in a social context and to deal with problems in an appropriate way avoiding escalations such as what was seen at Caboolture. At times students (and some parents) have questioned me about standards we set here at Chatswood Hills and have asked why a rule should be enforced or even exist. My response is always the same and I make no apologies for setting a high standard; rules ensure everyone at school can go about their business in a safe and supportive way and most importantly teach students how to cope and deal with adversity in an appropriate way which will help them be able to take a positive functioning place in society in later life. The disturbing events of this week have demonstrated what can happen when young people do not learn how to deal with their emotions, or learn how to best cope with set-backs in life. What we teach children and enforce today will undoubtedly help them with their future tomorrow.

Thank you to all families who have made this term’s payment to our resource scheme. If you are paying the resource scheme term by term, please note that term 2 payments are now due and can be made at the office window any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning. Parents who elect to no longer take part in our scheme will be given a list of personal resources to buy to ensure that their child has the appropriate equipment for the rest of the year. Our school does not keep a ready supply of books and pencils etc to give out to students as our curriculum money is put into areas of the school which are not a parent’s responsibility. If school monies have to be diverted to cover these basic personal equipment costs then other programs and initiatives will suffer. Parents who choose not to take part in our resource scheme and then do not provide their child’s equipment forcing us to divert committed funds will not be additionally burdened by the school with offers for extra-curricular, non-compulsory activities which incur a cost. This policy has been endorsed and has the full support of the CHSS P&C Association.

Next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday students in years 3, 5 and 7 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests. The
NAPLAN tests are a formal measure of how students are performing, however, it is important to remember that they are a point in time test and only one aspect of the school’s assessment and reporting process. We expect that the test results will be sent to our school in September this year, and an individual NAPLAN report for each student will be sent home around this time. These confidential reports will show your child’s results against key national information in each year level. Our school will use the information in a number of ways, primarily to better identify students requiring additional support, and to identify strengths and improvement areas in our teaching programs. We will endeavour to make these tests as stress free and supportive for all students as possible and to this end I have found that students take comfort in doing them together with their peers, so where possible please try to ensure your child is present at school on time for these tests. Students who are absent are required to sit makeup tests on Friday.

Thank you to our P&C volunteers who organised our Mother’s Day stall for this week, in particular Marie G. Students who wished to buy a present were able to visit the stall during class time today and buy their mum a special gift. The stall will still be operating tomorrow morning for anyone who wishes to visit. As well as providing presents for mums on their special day the stall is also an annual fundraiser for our P&C. Thank you to all in the CHSS community for supporting our school through this stall.

Happy Mother’s Day to all the mums, I hope you have a great weekend.

Thank you
Keith GRAHAM
Principal

From the Deputy

How wonderful is Chatswood Hills State School? Not only do we have great staff, students and parents but we have something that not every school can boast about and that is our environment.

Every morning I say hello to our resident Bush Turkeys, many birds and the odd lizard but my favourite experience by far is coming close to a Koala. The experience of saying goodbye to families at the end of the day and then watching a Koala climb down a tree, walk in front of me and climb another tree is priceless. This has happened at least four times since I have started working at Chatty and last week’s experience was the best to date, the Koala didn’t seem to want to go. You can’t buy this experience. What a great school!

Naplan

Preparations have been underway for some time now getting students and the school ready for NAPLAN. The tests will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday May 15, 16 and 17 next week. It is important to note that Friday May 18 is a catch up day. Any students away during the Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday will have to sit the assessments on the Friday.

While these tests are important they are one assessment item in a myriad of tools used to measure student performance.

UNSW Competition

It is that time of the year again for the UNSW competitions. These assessments are open to anyone who would like to participate. Please be aware that there is a cost associated with the tests. More details are available in the newsletter regarding payment. Over recent years the school has performed well in these assessments and I would like to encourage our students to be involved.

The dates for the UNSW tests are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Sitting Date</th>
<th>Closing Date for Payment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Wednesday June 6</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Monday June 18</td>
<td>Tuesday May 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Tuesday June 19</td>
<td>Tuesday May 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Tuesday July 31</td>
<td>Tuesday June 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Tuesday August 14</td>
<td>Tuesday July 10</td>
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Mabel Park Brain Day and Springwood Storm Cup

Chatswood Hills State School will be entering teams in the Mabel Park High Brain Day for year 6 and 7 students and the Springwood High Storm Cup for year 4 and 5 students again this year. Mabel Park is on May 22 and Springwood May 29. Permission notes will go home to students selected to participate in the next week or so.

Have a great weekend.

Stephen Josey
Deputy Principal

From the Library

The 2012 Premiers’ Reading Challenge has been launched. The Premier is challenging Prep to Year 2 students to read or experience 20 books. This will be done in Library lessons. Years 3-4 are challenged to read 20 books while students in Years 5-7 are challenged to read 15 books. Please encourage your children to meet the challenge between 22 May and 7 September. Each child who meets the challenge will be rewarded with a certificate.

Lyndell Roberts
Teacher Librarian

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 23 May

Wednesday 30 May

Wednesday 6 June

Wednesday 13 June

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

1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching Parent Course

Learn to manage difficult behaviour in children 2-12 yrs old.
A three-session program for parents and carers at Springwood Rd State School
94-120 Springwood Rd Springwood
23 May, 30 May & 6 June at 9-11.30am

Registration:
Cost is $10 to cover the cost of workbook and materials. To register contact Julie Westlake at Springwood Rd SS on 3457 8333 by Wednesday 16 May 2012.

Flyer at office for more information or ring Kylie on 3457 8333 or 3489 2222.

Kylie Bruce
Behaviour Advisory Teacher

Lost Property

The following items have been handed into the office:
Girls bracelet
Umbrella (left at Uniform Shop)
Gift bag with present inside
A girl’s school shoe
I pair of black school shoes

P & C News

Email: pandc@chathillss.eq.edu.au