From the Principal

Yesterday marked the halfway point of Term One and what a wet start to the year it has been. While good rain is always welcome, teachers and students are certainly looking forward to extended periods of sun and the chance to get out of the rooms during breaks. At least we can be thankful that this is our only complaint and our school and community have not been damaged by flood water as in other parts of the state.

Our Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) and 2013 school budget were completed this week and submitted to our Regional Office for endorsement. These documents set out our school’s strategic direction and spending for the year based on an analysis of our data. Our school goals for this year are to continue to improve the outcomes for all students with a specific emphasis in the areas of: P-2 phonics, middle to upper years reading comprehension and middle years maths. On my arrival to Chatswood Hills in mid 2008, six of the 15 areas tested in NAPLAN indicated our students were achieving below the national minimum standard. In 2009 we began a process of renewal in the school and redesigned our curriculum plan to better cater for all students. As a result, our NAPLAN results continue to show steady improvement and since 2011 all areas tested have achieved at or above the national minimum standard each year and are equal to the national average. Additionally the improvement in our student cohort’s results as they progress through our school is significantly greater than other schools in the state. These results demonstrate that the programs and lesson delivery we have here at CHSS are having a positive effect on student outcomes and are helping our school improve outcomes for all students. By setting targets and looking for areas to highlight for 2013 we aim to continue the rate of improvement and assist our students to attain their best; every lesson, every day.

Interschool sport begins tomorrow (weather permitting) for upper school students and will continue for a twelve week season. Please note that all permission forms and payments must be received by tomorrow morning for children to leave the school grounds and that students’ continued participation in our school sport program is dependent on them continuing to display the behaviours and standards expected at our school. Thank you.

It appears that several parents are using the staff entrance and carpark in the mornings and afternoons. This practice is dangerous and risks the safety of all students. Could I please remind parents that these areas are for staff and day care vehicles only and are not to be used for private pick-ups and drop-offs. For the safety of all students it is important that parents/caregivers observe all parking rules and do not use the staff entrance. I thank you for your co-operation.

I will be attending a state wide principal’s conference today and tomorrow in Brisbane and will also be out of the school on Monday at a meeting. In my absence please direct any issues to Stephen Josey who will be acting Principal.

In closing my newsletter this week I would like to take this opportunity to thank our community for their support last week in helping our school come to terms with Helen Streatfeild’s passing. I wish to particularly express my appreciation to those in our community who offered to help supervise students or picked up students early last Friday to ensure maximum staff attendance at Helen’s memorial service. I would also like to
Students in Years P to 3 are invited to attend the “Ditto Show” that Bravehearts puts on each year. The show has been well received by parents, teachers and students over the last four years. The cost for the show is $4 and I would like to encourage all students to attend. This is a Personal Safety Education Program that provides children with the basic principles of personal safety and the tools to stay safe. The show will be held on **Wednesday March 20** in the hall. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the office. Notes went out this week. Payment and permission forms need to be submitted by March 14.

**Kid’s Club**

Chappy Karen will be running Kid’s Club at lunchtimes on Thursdays for any Year 4 to 7 students interested in participating in RE activities. Students during this time will engage in fun activities including games, bible stories and art activities.

Students must have a permission form to be able to participate in the Kid’s Club. Permission forms can be obtained from Chappy Karen or through the office. Once the 4-7 club is up and running we may look at running a Year 1 to 3 group.

Easter Camps

As I reflect on my childhood experiences as a primary aged child, some of my most vivid and pleasant memories were forged on family holidays and also camps that I attended. Scripture Union has been running camps over many years and each holiday break there are camps that are offered. This Easter School holiday period there are camps for students who are in Grades 5 to 12 although the camps are focussed on specific age groups. There are camps which will appeal to students who enjoy creative arts, adventure, sporting activities and technology. Here are the camps for Primary aged children but more details can be viewed on the Scripture Union website or on the school noticeboard.

**Girls Camp** – Grades 5-7  1/04/13 – 5/04/13
**Gents Ignition 2013** – Grades 5-7  2/04/13 – 6/04/13
**Ilfracombe Outback Adventure** - Grades 5-7  2/04/13 – 6/04/13
**Mapleton Easter Adventure Camp** – Grades 5-7  8/04/13 - 2/04/13
**UbertweakNanobyte** – Grades 5-7  2/04/13 – 6/04/13

All camps will have a part of the day which is about God. Also if you are eligible for a vacation care rebate then after the camp you may be able to claim a rebate as Scripture Union are approved care providers for holiday programs. Don’t hesitate to contact me if your child is interested in attending an Easter Camp.

Chappy Karen

**From the Guidance Officer**

Since the beginning of the school term 2013 there has been a number of happenings that some children may find difficult to cope with eg. the recent floods, the continuing downpour of rain and the recent passing of a beloved teacher- Helen Streatfeild. I have left at the office with the lovely ladies two handouts which you may find useful on “Grief and Loss” and “Helping Your Child Cope With Disasters”. Please let me know if there are any continuing concerns on these matters.

Jenny Hickey- Guidance Officer (Mondays, Tuesdays and 2nd Thursdays)

**Principal Awards Year 4-7**

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

**Melody F** for outstanding attitude to school work and homework.
**Oscar S** for outstanding behaviour and for always putting in your best effort.
**Caleb A** for excellent participation in lesson on Natural Disasters.
**Kaitlyn K** for being a conscientious student who displays initiative and kindness to others everyday.
**Christian P** for working hard and achieving great things in literacy.
**Will H** for being focussed on his school work and working well.
**Harry S** for showing compassion and kindness towards his class mates.
Brandon P for outstanding effort in "The Arts".
Chaneya B for always giving 100%
Charlotte L for showing beautiful manners and behaviour in class.
Nikhat B for consistently being a model student to her fellow classmates having the enthusiasm needed to her goals.

Library Award

Emus for being very quiet workers and producing beautiful maps.

Bank Payment

We have had an amount of $80 deposited into our bank account via the internet with no name attached. The payment was made on 18th Feb. If you think it might be yours please contact the office with proof of deposit.

Instrumental Music Fees

All invoices for this program have now been given to the students. Please settle this account as soon as possible.

Chatswood Hills Fun Run- P & C Fundraiser

When: 21st March Whole School
Lots of prizes to be won.
- All students will receive a sponsorship form on Monday. Once sponsorship form is complete, return form and money collected, to the box( NOT THE CASH WINDOW) in the office before school.
- Raise at least $10 and you will receive a prize.
- Highest fundraiser in the school wins a 2GB MP3 player.
- Surprise party for highest fundraising class.
- Family discount vouchers valued at $140 (Baskin Robbins, Stefan Hair Salon, Pixi Foto) if you raise $10 or more.
- One family will win a weekend to SeaWorld Nara Resort for raising at least $10.
- Every student will receive a certificate and Berri Juice Stick.

Jane Taylor
HPE Teacher

Borrowed Clothing

If your child borrows a change of clothes from the office please return them washed as soon as possible to keep our supply from running out.

P & C News
Email: pandc@chathillss.eq.edu.au

Thank you to all families for your support last Friday, it was appreciated.

AGM & General Meeting

Monday 11 March @ 6.30pm. Executive nominations close Friday 8th @ 2.30pm. Extra nomination forms available from the office. Be an important part of your child's school, join the P&C!!

Hot X Bun’s

Forms went home last week on the back of the P@C newsletter. Orders and money due back to the Tuckshop by Wednesday 20th March. Delivery is the following Wednesday direct to your child's class.

Easter Raffle

Tickets will go home next week 1st prize is a carton of beer & prawn/seafood voucher. 2nd & 3rd prizes are Easter baskets filled with yummy goodies. We are asking for donations of Easter eggs etc to help fill our Easter baskets. Please leave any donations at the office with our awesome admin staff. Thank you.

Mothers Day Stall

Keep making those craft items, we love home made things on our stall. All donations to the office would be greatly appreciated. We are looking for a new volunteer to help on the stall this year who may be interested in being the stall coordinator next year. Is this you? Please email the P&C if you are interested. You will be helped and supported by our P&C volunteers along the way. Even if you can only help with one event each year, could the mothers day stall be your event?

School Banking

As you may not be aware the School Banking Rewards for your children who participate has changed. Some rewards from last year are no longer available. However if your child has ordered a reward from last year that is not available their tokens have been re-credited.

At present those students that have missed out I have contacted the respective parent/caregiver/guardian.

I would like to thank all the students that had not banked last year who have started to re-activate their School Banking to participate in the School Rewards Program.

Don't forget the more that bank not only will you receive an award so will your classroom.

From your Happy Banker

Terry Hodges
School Bank Co-ord.