FROM THE PRINCIPAL
I was away with the Year 6 students on their camp last week so once again I would like to say welcome back to everyone and a special big welcome to all our new families. It has certainly been a very smooth start to the new school year with all grades being really settled, into their daily routines and already started on their work requirements. This is especially so for our new Preps who, even though it has been a hot and muggy beginning, have started off the year so well.

The weekly school newsletter is a very important avenue of communication between the school and home. Each week there is significant information that is passed on to families via this publication as well as reports of upcoming events and activities that have been happening around the school. It is essential that parents make sure that they read the newsletter every Thursday and note the upcoming events and essential information.

FUNDRAISING MONEY
In 2006 the school community decided to form a Cooperative and borrow $200,000 to help pay for extra store rooms in the hall, the entrance foyer and toilets and extensive landscaping outside. This was done with the idea that the school community who would be using these facilities into the future should be the ones to help pay for this loan. Each year, our fundraising target is to raise at least $28,000 to cover the repayments of this loan. We have 4 years left of this 10 year loan. Any excess funds raised over the year are put back into the school. Thanks to the wonderful efforts of our Parent’s Club in 2012 we were able to cover all of our commitments for our loan repayments while still being able to direct some of the excess funds to purchase a set of new iPads. 15 new iPads have been imaged and applications installed for use by our students in the Prep to Year 2 classrooms.

Parent’s Club have also allocated some funds to purchase a new community noticeboard. Thank you to the whole school community for all of your efforts in 2012. Our big fund raising effort for this year is only 15 days away. The school fair is certainly our biggest fund raising effort over our 2 year cycle of events. It’s great success is due to the fact that it draws on people from outside of our school community, but for this day to be such a great success, we need every Chatham family’s support. If you haven’t already done so, please make sure that you volunteer your time to help set up for the day or to look after a stall for part of the day or to help clean up everything after the big event. The fair certainly is a whole school event, it brings the whole school community together for a great day of fun for everyone. Please support our school on this big day.

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS
These information sessions have been conducted this week. Due to the Union’s industrial action around work to rule requirements these have taken place each afternoon from 3:45 to 4:15. I hope that parents have found these sessions useful.

These Information Sessions will be followed by Parent/ Teacher interviews which are scheduled to take place across different days next week. The return slips for preferences were due at school yesterday and family’s times are due to be sent home tomorrow. These initial interviews last for 10 minutes and are primarily for parents to discuss their child with the class teacher – their children’s strengths and weaknesses, their likes and dislikes, interests and hobbies, etc. Please keep to the 10 minute allocated times so that the timetable across the school can be maintained. These interviews will take place each afternoon with particular year levels being timetabled on different days. The students will have all of their specialist lessons during this time so that teachers can conduct these interviews.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...
SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS – 2013
Each year we need to hold elections for half of our School Council membership. More detailed information will follow in next week’s newsletter calling for nominations and the timeline for our school council elections.

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
There are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

A mandated elected DEECD employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category. Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider standing for election as a member of the school council encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember
Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.
Consider standing for election to council this year.
Be sure to vote in the elections.

Parents are most welcome to attend any School Council meeting as observers with the next meeting for the current School Council members to be held on Monday 27th February.

Contact the principal for further information.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3...
YEAR 5 WORKING BEE
The next working bee is scheduled for all Year 5 parents on Saturday 23rd February. Please put this date in your diary and come along to help us prepare our school for the upcoming fair on the following weekend. More information will be sent home shortly.

YEAR 6 CAMP
A very tired but happy group of Year 6 students returned from their camp on the Gippsland Lakes last Friday. The weather was very kind to us enabling everyone to enjoy all of our planned activities which included canoeing, doming, hut building, ropes and initiatives courses, raft making, stand up paddling and sailing. A big thank you to the teachers who accompanied these children and helped ensure that our year 6 students all had a positive and rewarding camping experience.
Even though the Union have urged teachers to work to rule and not to attend camps, the teachers at our school have volunteered their time to continue to take our students on camp. By making these decisions, they have demonstrated the high regard that they hold for our camping program and the experiences and challenges that they offer our students.

2012 LEADERSHIP POSITIONS
Our Year 6 students have certainly had a busy start to their school year. This week they have started the process for selecting all of the leadership positions for 2013. They will be nominating, delivering speeches and voting for the school leadership positions for 2013. We are proud of the leadership program that we offer our students. Each Thursday afternoon we hold leadership sessions where each of our student leadership teams work with various staff on different projects.
All of our 60 Year 6 students will play a very important role as school leaders at Chatham Primary School. This year we will have the positions of School Captains, Vice Captains, House Captains, Peer Support Leaders, Junior School Councillors, Art, Music, LOTE, Heritage, Environment and Library Leaders. We hope to be able to announce these positions at our next school assembly on February 22nd.

CURRICULUM DAYS
We held our first 2 curriculum days at the start of the year where all staff were involved in the following:
Tuesday– we held a full staff meeting in the morning where teachers reflected on the protocols and procedures around school operations. We discussed the big picture of the Department’s priorities and changes that have occurred in the Region as well reviewing some of our own data and discussing our own targets and goals for the year. We had a session on Global Education, and how we can include this important topic in a variety of curriculum areas to better prepare our students for their future in a global world. This staff meeting was also used to outline the administrative protocols and expectations that operate in the school. Teachers spent some time talking with last year’s teachers about their new students. The afternoon was used for teacher meetings, moving of furniture, collection of materials and resources as well as classroom preparations.

Wednesday – the morning was used to cover the necessary professional development that we need to maintain our first aid training. Thank you to one of our ex-parents, Tony Armour, for delivering the instructions and information around the issues of epipens/ anaphylaxis, diabetes, asthma, epilepsy and the use of a defibrillator. The rest of the morning had teachers looking at our new Literacy room and discussing our assessment timetable for the year. The rest of the day was spent in level teams planning for this term’s units of work as well as preparing their classrooms in readiness for the first day of school.

There will be 2 more student free curriculum days this year. More details on these dates will be published later.

CANTEEN
A reminder that the school’s canteen will commence operations after the fair, during the week of March 4th. Please make sure that you put your names down on the roster. If you are able to help out in the canteen in any way then please contact Steph Reid (Yr 6) who is just starting in her role as our Canteen Manager for 2013.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4....
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

FRONT DOOR ENTRANCE
A reminder to everyone about the use of the front door entrance of the school. We would prefer that students and parents do not use the front door to enter the school in the morning or to use it to leave the school at the end of the day. We have instructed students that they may use this entrance during the day if they need to come to the school office or sick bay with an urgent matter, otherwise they must walk around the school at either end of the building. If parents also do not use this entrance, then it will help cut down on the congestion around the school office during these busy times of the day.

CHATHAM’S SUPPORT STAFF
As part of the Boroondara Network of Schools we have the services of some support staff at Chatham. Margaret Naughton is our Guidance Officer and will be working at our school for ½ a day a fortnight this year. Fiona Biss is our Department Speech Therapist and will also be working at Chatham once a fortnight. Both staff members work part time and have a number of other schools in the network to service as well as Chatham. Please contact your class teacher or Bronwyn Orr if you have any concerns and would like to access one of these services.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES
Our first assembly for the year will take place tomorrow, Friday 15th February. In term 4 last year, we trialled holding our assemblies on a Friday afternoon. This change of times provided the teachers with an hour of optimum learning time at the beginning of the week when the students are at their best to learn. Teachers very rarely have “free time” or catch up sessions anymore that regularly occurred in the last hour on a Friday. Holding the assembly at the end of the week also allows us to celebrate the events and achievement that have occurred over that week. I would encourage parents, if time permits, to come along to our assemblies on a Friday afternoon commencing at 2:40.

STEPHEN ROTHWELL
PRINCIPAL

CHATHAM SUMMER FAIR SILENT AUCTION

We have some fabulous items for our ‘Silent Auction’ - stay tuned for details on how to bid for:

- Professionally signed and framed current 2013 Collingwood guernsey valued at $1100 reserve $450
- Professionally signed and framed current 2013 Hawthorn Guernsey valued at $1100 reserve $450
- Signed by some players 2012 Richmond guernsey valued at $650 reserve $300
- Professionally signed and framed current 2013 Carlton guernsey valued at $1100 reserve $450
- Halcyon Lake Rugs 100% Pure Wool Rug Hand Knotted Reversible (200 x 300) valued at $1200 reserve $450
- AFL Clinic Run By Darren Jolly at your child’s birthday party, 1Hour for maximum 25 children (subject to player’s availability) reserve $250
- 2 x Maxwell Williams Fine Bone China Cashmere 20pc Dinner Set valued at $300 each reserve $80
- Maxwell Williams Cosmopolitan 58pc Cutlery Set valued at $340 reserve $120
- Andrew Whyte Landscape Design for a consultation and concept garden design to the value of $2200 reserve $550
- On-site Design Consolation from Ian Barker Gardens to the value of $300 reserve $100
CHATHAM’S GOT TALENT
SCHOOL FAIR ENTERTAINMENT
Thanks to all those students who signed up to perform at the school fair on Saturday 2 March 2013. I hope you have all been rehearsing over the holiday break! We will be having lunchtime rehearsals over the next few weeks to assist those who may need some help with their item. Could all acts please come along, even if they are ready to go - you will not need to stay for the whole lunchtime! Please remember to bring along to rehearsals your ipod, ipod dock and any other things you need for your item. Don't forget to start to think about what you will be wearing for the act as well, but no need to bring that along to rehearsals.
Rehearsals will be at lunchtime, in the school hall, as follows:
Monday 11th February - Prep - Year 3
Monday 18th February - Year 4 - 6
Thanks to those who have contacted me regarding certain times your child is not available on the day of the fair. If anyone has a request as to what time your child performs, please let me know this week. After this week the timetable will be set for the day and not able to be changed.

Thanks for your support - we have some amazing acts!
Andrea Barker
andreabarker@iprimus.com.au

DATES FOR THE DIARY

FRIDAY 15TH FEBRUARY
INTERSCHOOL SPORT—YEAR 6
DISTRICT SWIMMING—BOROONDARA POOL 12.30PM

MONDAY 18TH FEBRUARY
CHATHAM’S GOT TALENT REHEARSALS AT LUNCHTIME
SCHOOL COUNCIL 7PM
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS COMMENCE

WEDNESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY
YEAR 5 GOLD INCURSION 11.30AM TO 1.30PM
FAIR STALL HOLDERS MEETING 7.30PM STAFF ROOM

FRIDAY 22ND FEBRUARY
YEAR 6 INTERSCHOOL SPORT ST JOSEPHS 9.00AM

SATURDAY 23RD FEBRUARY
YEAR 5 WORKING BEE

TUESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY
YEAR 6 CAMP TO MALDON

FRIDAY 1ST MARCH
YEAR 6 INTERSCHOOL SPORT BALWYN PS 9.00AM

SATURDAY 2ND MARCH
SCHOOL FAIR COMMENCING 1.00PM

MONDAY 4TH MARCH
CANTEEN OPENS
CRE COMMENCES

WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH
SCHOOL PHOTOS

THURSDAY 7TH MARCH
YEAR 1 EXCURSION TO RICKETTS POINT 9AM TO 12.30PM

FRIDAY 8TH MARCH
YEAR 6 INTERSCHOOL SPORT CANTERBURY 9.00AM

WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH
YEAR 3 EXCURSION TO CERES

THURSDAY 14TH MARCH
YEAR 4 EXCURSION TO CERES
YEAR 2 EXCURSION TO RICKETTS POINT 9AM TO 12.30PM

FRIDAY 15TH MARCH
YEAR 6 INTERSCHOOL SPORT AUBURN SOUTH 9.00AM

LOST
ON TUESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY, A WHITE IPOD TOUCH WITH A JELLY BEAN COVER. IPOD WAS LOST IN 6ZB. IF FOUND PLEASE RETURN TO MR BARRY OR TO THE OFFICE. THANK YOU SO MUCH.
WANTED: BAKERS
Do you have a cake or slice recipe that all your family and friends rave about? I am looking for people to make a one-off cake or slice that is a bit special to sell at this year’s Fair at the Cafe. It could be a scrumptious “Nigella” cake, or your Nana’s secret family recipe. Our only requirement is that it is freshly baked and requires no refrigeration and is slightly impressive to look at! To all you bakers out there, please email me with your mouth-watering ideas so that we can make the Cafe look and taste spectacular!
Email Susan on sj_wilding@hotmail.com
Thankyou! Susan

WANTED: SCONE BAKERS
As part of the Cafe at the Fair, we would like to offer delicious Devonshire Teas. If you are one of those exceptional people who can bake light, fluffy, delicious scones, I would love to hear from you!! Email Susan on : sj_wilding@hotmail.com

Cake Stall
Calling all Chatham Families to get out your most loved recipes for cakes, slices and biscuits. As in past years, the Cake stall is asking for all families to provide 2 plates of your wonderful recipes to sell at the school fair.

So start thinking of what you can make. Chocolate cakes, brownies, cupcakes and all types of slices all are popular and sell well.

Plates, labels and more information will be sent home on Thursday 21st February.

Thankyou
Cate Sharp and Nicole Powne (Stall Co-ordinators)

Chatham Primary School Trash and Treasure Donations

Drop offs every Wed afternoon until Fair Day, 3-3.30pm at the Banool Rd portable - just look for the colourful bunting. We will happily accept new and pre loved items of any kind, household goods, furniture, bikes, toys etc including clothing and accessories (please no electrical goods).

Please ensure items are clean and in working order.

Strong bags of paper or plastic all shapes and sizes are required.

Thank you to the families who donated such wonderful items last year, we look forward to Chatham’s fabulous fair. Evanne & Margaret.

For enquiries call Evanne on 0432 443 801.
PAYMENT ENVELOPES
As many parents are using direct debit etc to make school payments we have decided not to send envelopes home to every family this year. If you would like a supply of payment envelopes please collect them from the office or send me an email and I’ll send some home with your child.

Sue Doherty

1LM PARENT GET TOGETHER
Thursday 7th March
8pm
Please BYO drinks & a small plate of nibbles
Address: 17 Thornton Ave, Surrey Hills
(Bianca & Matt's House)

GRADE 3 NETBALL PLAYERS WANTED
NETTA PROGRAM - MODIFIED RULES
10 week skills clinic followed by 6 x weeks matches (non competitive) = 16 sessions

VENUE: Boroondara Netball Centre, Macleay Park, Belmore Rd, Nth Balwyn
TIME: Friday afternoons, 4.00pm to 5.00pm (outdoor courts)
DATES: April 19 - August 30 (no sessions long weekends or school holidays)
COST: $180 (includes State Membership/Insurance + Participant Pack)

Please contact Vicki Hamilton if your daughter is interested. Mobile: 0438661049
Email: rvsmhamilton@bigpond.com

LUCKY DIP STALL
WE ARE IN URGENT NEED OF DONATIONS FOR THE LUCKY DIPS. WE WILL HAPPILY ACCEPT ANY SMALL OBJECTS SUITABLE FOR GIRLS OR BOYS. LOLLIES, PENCILS, HAIR CLIPS, TOYS, JEWELLERY ETC.

PLEASE LEAVE DONATIONS AT THE OFFICE.
MANY THANKS

WANTED - 3 MANNEQUINS
The Silent Auction Stall requires 3 mannequins, please contact Bianca Hunt on bianca-hunt76@gmail.com if you can help us with this request.

HAMPER ITEMS FOR SCHOOL FAIR
Just a reminder that we need the following Hamper Items by next Wednesday 20th February.
Thank You!!!!

Prep SM  Picnic ware products
Prep MB  First Aid Kit items - plasters, bandages etc
Prep MO  Kid's Books - new, not second hand please
Grade 1MC  Adult Books - new, not second hand please
Grade 1SN  Gourmet Beer
Grade 1HM  Wine - White/Red/Sparkling (no clean skin labels please)
Grade 2KM  BBQ Items
Grade 2FH  Boy's/Girl's Birthday Party for 20 kids (could include decorations as well as party ware)
Grade 2JB  Gardening Items
Grade 3HM  Gourmet Food
Grade 3SM  Chocolate - blocks or boxes
Grade 3TC  Car Cleaning Products
Grade 4SR  Kid's Sports
Grade 4JW  Kitchenware - cooking items
Grade 4CO  Kid's games
Grade 5NC  Stationary products (adults)
Grade 5YC  Cleaning products - cloths, mops etc
Grade 6CC  Lollies
Grade 6KG  Arts, Crafts or Stationary products (kids)
Grade 6ZB  Baby products
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP EARN $2000 IN EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES FOR CHATHAM?

In 2012, Chatham received over $1000 in school supplies and over $800 in new books for the library from Scholastic book club.

To help Chatham get bonus school supplies, all you need to do is order books through Scholastic Bookclub.

In 2013, Scholastic will again be offering an excellent range of books at discount prices. Catalogues will be sent home twice a term with each child (each child gets their own set of brochures, as some brochures are age specific). All orders will generate points that then translate into new educational supplies for the school.

In addition to helping the school, you get to own discounted books for your home libraries, or those of friends and family. It’s a win-win situation!

To order your book club books, please ensure you write your child’s **name and class** on the top of each form. There are 3 payment options:
- Cash
- Cheque (made payable to Scholastic Australia)
- Credit card - follow the instructions on the brochures and write the receipt number on the form.

Once brochures are distributed, you have until Friday of the following week to place your orders. The due date will be advertised in the newsletter.

When the orders arrive (usually within 2 weeks of orders closing), they will be delivered to your child’s classroom.

If ever you have a ‘surprise’ order (eg for birthdays or Christmas), please write a note on the top of each order form ‘Hold at office’, and the orders will be held at the office for collection.

If you have any questions, please give Karen a call on 9836-2612.

Karen Winch and Kathy Magoutis  Book Club Coordinators 2013
Education Maintenance Allowance

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:

The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013, the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (Years 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive $250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013 and added to the EMA. As a result, parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of $200 and $350 respectively in these years.

From 2013, schools will no longer receive EMA payments on behalf of parents. However, $82 million over four years will be redirected to the State’s most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Package to be allocated at the local level.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

• be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and

• be an eligible beneficiary of a Carer’s Pension, Allowance or Benefit under the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans’ Affairs (TPV) Pensioner or be a Temporary Foster Parent.

* i.e. the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

Eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

The EMA application form must be submitted to the school by 28 February 2013.

Payment Amounts - 2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Years 1-6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8 &amp; Age 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instalment One</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instalment Two</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis.

You can receive the EMA by direct deposit into your nominated bank account or by individual cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

Contact: School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application.
TENNIS COACHING
GROUP
or
PRIVATE LESSONS

AT ST COLUMBAS
TENNIS CLUB
(400 Meters from School - 37 Banool Rd)

with ALAN EDGE (Reg TCAV)

FORMER NEWCOMBE / ROCHE COACH
(COACH OF HEWITT)

GROUPS OF 3 MAX.

Phone 9851 - 6425
Mobile 0407 049 855

Racquet Sales, Racquet Restrugging and
genral tennis enquiries invited
SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 2013
11AM - 4PM

CARNIVAL OF COLOURS

BALWYN PRIMARY SCHOOL
BALWYN ROAD, BALWYN

AMUSEMENT RIDES
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
FOOD & DRINKS
STALLS GALORE
FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
FREE ADMISSION

OUR SUPPORTING PLATINUM SPONSOR:

SES

OUR SUPPORTING GOLD SPONSORS:

WWW.BALWYNPS.VIC.EDU.AU
French Fête

Sunday 17th March 2013
10am-4pm

Like us on Facebook to stay up to date with French Fête news!
www.facebook.com/FrenchFete