FROM THE PRINCIPAL

STAFFING NEWS

Each year I am provided with a Global Budget from the Education Department which is based on our projected student enrolments. This Global Budget determines the number of staff I can employ. The staffing profile of these teachers and support staff then determines the class structure that I can put into place each year. With our current numbers at Chatham, we are extremely lucky with our mix of staff in that our profile of teachers range from graduates through to the more experienced staff members. We are also fortunate to have a good mix of male and female staff, as well as Leading Teachers at the top of the scale, dedicated part-time staff, quality specialist programs and a full time Assistant Principal role. This mix includes the majority of teachers on permanent ongoing rights and some employed on a contractual basis for short and long terms. These arrangements allow for some flexibility as well as taking in future enrolment predictions and work force planning.

In line with this, throughout the year, we have teachers who retire, take leave, seek promotion or move to other locations for personal or professional reasons. There will be some changes to our staffing profile for 2015.

- Amanda Hume has been granted 12 months leave as she intends to take extensive travel overseas with her family.
- Fiona Henderson is due to have her baby in January and will be starting her family leave next year.
- Nikkii Cordia has accepted a position at Beacon Hills College which is an area where she and her husband are intending to build their next family home.
- Daniel Hunt has always had a passion for open plan learning environments so he will also be leaving us to take up a position with a multi-age and open plan school.

We wish all of these teachers all the best in their futures, whether it be in the next few months, the next 12 months or beyond. Thank you for all your outstanding contributions to our school.

We are currently finalising our staffing profile for 2015 and beyond. Each year, I also like to make some changes with our staffing in moving teachers into different levels across the school, as well as attempting to maintain the exemplary specialist programs that we currently offer at Chatham.

I would like to welcome some new teachers to our school for 2015. Katherine Geake, Kirstie Briggs and Siobhan Johnson have all had an association with the school over the last 12 months & Jennifer Tran has been teaching at a nearby primary school. They will all be taking up classroom positions across the school and I know that we will make them feel welcome into our school community. I will be interviewing for the last classroom position early next week so will keep everyone informed with news of the last of our new teachers for next year.

STUDENT END OF YEAR REPORTS

Your child’s report will be sent home on Wednesday 17th December. Along with their Learning Journal, this plays the major part of our end of year reporting requirements where students are assessed against the Australian Curriculum and the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (AusVels).

A reminder to everyone on exactly what the A – E ratings means

- A “C” rating means that a child is at the standard expected at the time of reporting and that his or her learning is on track.
- A “B” rating means that a child is above the standard expected for their year level at the time of reporting.
- An “A” rating means a child is well above the standard expected for their year level at the time of reporting.
- A “D” rating means a child is below the standard expected.
- An “E” rating means that the child is well below the standard expected for their year level at the time of reporting.

This means that a “C” rating does not mean achievement is “just adequate,” It indicates that a child has met the state-wide standard expected of children of their age at the time of reporting and that their learning is firmly on track.

These reports will clearly indicate via the graph the progress made and current areas of achievement at, above or below the expected standard against Vels and AusVels.

Not all students will make significant progress or meet all of the standards expected for their year level all of the time. It is not unusual for students to make better progress in some areas than in others or to “plateau” in their learning over some stages of their schooling. Some students may not be achieving at the standard yet but have made significant progress since the previous year. It is important that parents and students relate these December reports against the student Learning Journals and remember that learning for us all is a continuous and ongoing journey.

Continued on Page 2....
FROM THE PRINCIPAL
GRADE STRUCTURE FOR 2015
We started off the year on census day in February with a student enrolment figure of 423. We now have 446 students with student numbers for 2015 predicted to be close to this figure. We will be moving from two Grade 6 classes to three Grade 6 classes in 2015. This will give us 21 grades.
The proposed grade structure for 2015 will be;
- Preps – 3 grades – 63 students
- Year 1 – 3 grades – 61 students
- Year 2 – 3 grades – 63 students
- Year 3 – 3 grades – 62 students
- Year 4 – 3 grades – 63 students
- Year 5 – 3 grades – 70 students
- Year 6 – 3 grades – 63 students
This will give us 21 grades with a class average of around 21.2. At Chatham we endeavour to keep class sizes as small as our staffing profile allows, always with the aim of maintaining our exemplary specialist programs and student support.
Last year we trialled an all boys grade in Year 5 as there was a small number of girls in this cohort. The feedback from the boys, their parents and the teachers has been very positive so we are intending to continue with this structure for next year.
Student’s grades and new teachers will be announced via a note accompanying the student reports that are being sent home on Wednesday next week.
A great deal of time and effort by staff has gone into the formation of these grades for next year. Please remember that your class teacher is a professional educator who has been with your child for the last 12 months and when all the available information is considered, we will certainly try our very best to accommodate all issues with the aim of making the best possible decision in the best grade placement for your child.
I would ask that you support these decisions and remain positive about your child’s grade placement and new teacher for 2015.

BOOK COLLECTION
The fee schedule for 2015 was sent home a few weeks ago with all returning students. Payments for these fees can be made now. There are some options for making payments; cash/cheques, payment at the bank, internet banking and the use of our EFTPOS. It is essential that after making the payment that we receive the payment option form for each child so that these payments can be allocated to each child’s account accordingly. This form and a copy of the transfer of funds notice should be handed to the business manager, Bev Gardiner when collecting your student supplies on Wednesday 28th January. These supplies can be collected from the school library between 10:00am and 2:00pm on this day.

YEAR 6 AWARDS
Each year as part of the Year 6 Graduation Ceremony we present some special awards to selected students. The teachers have input into the nominations for these awards and Mr Grummet and Mr Thornton usually attend the evening to present these awards to the students personally. We will announce these awards to the school community at our last assembly next week.

The Grummet Award is presented by Mr Grummet who is an ex-student of Chatham having graduated as Dux of the school in 1938. Over the past 19 years he and his sister have kindly presented the Grummet Award at our Year 6 Graduations in memory of their mother and father. This award is presented to a boy and a girl in Year 6 who have shown outstanding academic achievements in all areas of the curriculum.

The Thornton Award is presented by Mr Keith Thornton, another of our valued ex-students who was Dux of the school in 1937. He places some of the responsibility for his wonderful successes in business and life to the opportunities given to him by the Chatham School Community over 70 years ago. Over the last few years he has been a very generous supporter of our school and has established this award for students who have displayed talent in certain areas of the curriculum, determination to succeed, resilience and a keen spirit for school.

The Principal’s Award is presented by me. The students selected for this award have demonstrated overall excellence in all areas of the school life, especially in the areas of citizenship, achievement and caring for others. The recipients of this award have consistently demonstrated the values of the school of Learning, Respect, Resilience, Partnership, Honesty and Responsibility and have been outstanding role models to all students.

Continued Page 3...
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MORNING TEA CELEBRATION
The partnership between the school and home is a very strong feature at Chatham and on Wednesday morning we put on a morning tea to celebrate a great year and say thank you to all parents who have helped out at the school. Many of the school’s programs and activities could not operate without the fantastic support of our parents. Whether it be helping in the classroom, canteen, Book Club, sick bay, with excursions, covering books, working bees, on committees, etc, etc, etc. your work is much appreciated by all the staff so we would like to thank you.

SCHOOL DISCO
The Parents’ Association has organised the School Disco for today, Friday 12th December. This is a great way for all students to celebrate the end of the year and promises to be an enjoyable night for all students.

This year’s disco has a theme and kicks off with the:

- Preps from 2:30 – 3:30
- Years 1 & 2 - 4:15 – 5:30
- Years 3 & 4 - 5:45 – 7:15
- Year 5 – 7:30 – 9:30
- Year 6 – 8:00 – 10:00

A reminder to all students that they should dress appropriately and sensibly in their gear for dancing and that this event is only organised for current Chatham school students. For security reason it is important that all children are signed in at arrival and signed out again at the end of their session.

This year all students will be entering the hall from the sports room entrance at the back of the hall and leaving at the end of the night by the foyer entrance of the hall. Please make sure that you have your child’s name marked off before you take them away. They will be held in the foyer until a responsible person is there to take them home.

I hope that everyone has a great night. Thank you to all the parents for organising this event and for helping out on the food stalls, decorations, clean up and security.

YEAR 6 WORKING BEE
The first working bee for the 2015 year takes place on Thursday 29th January. This working bee is for all of next year’s Year 6 families and helps to prepare the school in readiness for the student's arrival on the following day, Friday 30th January. This is a twilight session with work due to commence at 5:00. Please put this in your diary for next year.

YEAR 4 WORKING BEE
Thank you to the hard working band of parents and students who were able to find some time in a busy season to come along to school for a couple of hours last Saturday morning. We had a good clean up in preparation for the upcoming holidays.

FRONT ENTRANCE
Over the last few days we have had the entrance to the front of the school re-painted. Thank you to Jaqi Douglass, one of our current parents for doing all the painting work for us. It looks fantastic.

RETURNS
A reminder that all library books and take home books should have been returned to the library or classroom. If students have any books still at home can they please be returned as soon as possible.

All sports uniforms, including all basketball singlets and the Year 6 sports tops should also be returned as soon as possible please to Mr Doyle.

LAST DAY ASSEMBLY DETAILS
We held our last whole school assembly yesterday at 2:30 as the hall will be filled with dancing Preps at their disco this afternoon. I would like to congratulate all our Year 6 students on the wonderful job they have done each week in running our assemblies throughout the year. They have all been fantastic Masters of Ceremony and presenters.

Our last assembly for the year will be held on Friday next week starting at 12:30. On this day we make a number of presentations to staff and students and say goodbye to this year’s Year 6s. The following is the proposed timetable for the assembly:

- Welcome
- Musical Items
- Farewell to staff and students who are leaving Chatham
- Year 6 Graduation Awards
- Musical item
- Roll call of Year 6 students
- Year 6 “silly song”
- Song of Farewell
- Ringing of the school bell and walk through the Guard of Honour
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

LAST DAY ASSEMBLY DETAILS CONTINUED....

It is the tradition each year that our Year 6 students ring the school bell from the S.S. Edina, which is located near the office. I would ask that parents not block this area. It is important that this area remains clear so that the students can walk freely through the hallway, out the front door and through the student Guard of Honour.

Parents and students are quite welcome to return to the bell at the end of the day to ring it again whilst photos are taken without the crush from others.

This year we are also going to reserve the front row of seats for Year 6 parents. This last assembly is always a crowded affair so please consider others when finding a space to be a part of this important event. We are hoping for good weather so that we can finish off the year with a happy send off for our wonderful Year 6 students.

END OF YEAR EVENTS
We certainly have a busy 6 days to go until the end of the year. Please note the following happenings:

Friday 12th Dec    School Disco
Monday 15th Dec    School Council meeting
Tuesday 16th Dec    Class Parties
                      Year 6 Big Day Out
Wednesday 17th Dec  Students meet their 2015 teachers & visit their new classrooms
                      Student Reports & Learning Journals sent home
Thursday 18th Dec   Class moving day
                      Year 6 Graduation
Friday 19th Dec     Last Assembly 12:30 – 1:30 dismissal

A reminder that the last day of school is next Friday the 19th December when students will be dismissed at 1:30pm

The first day of school for Year 1 to 6 students is Friday 30th of January with new Preps starting on Monday the 2nd of February

STEPHEN ROTHWELL
PRINCIPAL

Last Wednesday evening I once again had the privilege of attending the End of Year Instrumental Soiree where the audience and I were treated to a night of wonderful instrumental playing. We have some very talented students right across the school and it was lovely to see the excitement of our musicians in performing in front of their family and friends. Congratulations to all the students and music teachers for their hard work over the year in preparing and sharing their musical items, and a special Thank You to Sue Doherty for her exceptional co-ordination of the Instrumental Program.

Bronwyn Orr

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Grade 3 and 4 students go all Arty
On Monday the Year 3 and 4 students visited Koonung Secondary Collage to view an art exhibition including art works from Chatham. We enjoyed a wonderful morning surrounded by art works from our school and other local primary schools. There were some inspiring art works from the secondary students including woodwork, photography, textiles and drawing. There were musical performances and Justin received the award for the best piece from Chatham.
**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER**
- Vocal ensemble performing at Evergreen Centre
- School disco

**SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER**
- Chatham Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Box hill

**MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER**
- School council 7pm

**TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER**
- Year 6 ‘big day out’
- Class parties

**WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER**
- Reports sent home and students to visit 2015 grades

**THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER**
- Year 6 Graduation

**FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER**
- Last day of school—1:30pm Finish

**2015**

**WEDNESDAY 28TH JANUARY**
- Teachers back to school and book collection day

**THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY**
- Curriculum day—no students

**FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY**
- Year 1 to Year 6 students return to school

**MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY**
- Prep students commence school
- Year 6 camp

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**You May have Noticed…….**

The Chatham school signage on Banool and Weybridge St is looking pretty flash!!!
Go and check them out!!

We would like to send a special thank you to Kristy McIlvenna and Seamus Lynch (Rafferty Lynch PrepMB) for lending their expertise, and making this happen.

We are so lucky to have such great resources within our Chatham community and even luckier when the school benefits!!

So thanks heaps for stepping forward, Kristy and Seamus, it’s a 110% improvement on what they were.

Forever grateful….

Parents’ Club

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If you think the Bike Shed looks, and works a treat…..there are some fabulous people behind that as well!

Firstly, Belinda Dalton and Sharon Grosvenor, the driving force behind this project, which began back in June with the fabulous Night Market. The funds from which were used to refurbish the bike shed.

Thanks to some other other fabulous Chatham parents such as Rod Devlin, who provided the structural works on the space, and Jaqi Douglass, who painted and freshened up the interior (as well as painting the Chatham signs!!)

For all those who contributed big and small.......Thanks
What a team! We now have a fully functional bike shed....Yay!

Parents’ Club
Calling all Green Thumbs and “Would Be” Green Thumbs:
the 2015 Fair Plant Stall needs your plant donations! Over the next few months while you are gardening; dividing up those clumping plants, buying potted colour, sowing seeds, dividing your succulents and striking new herbs, think of keeping extras aside and potting them up for sale at the Fair.

Keep any pots you may have left over from purchases past or future too as I am happy to collect them for other Chatham family and friends who have plants to donate but may not have pots for them.

If you have a suggestion or a query about something linked to the Plant Stall or generally about something you would like to donate to the Plant Stall, don’t hesitate to email Sue at deanandsue@optusnet.com.au

Sue Tresidder & Fiona Vlahos - Plant Stall Co-ordinators (Both C/O Grade 3TC & 1LM)

BARISTAS NEEDED FOR THE FAIR

If you have had a little experience with a coffee machine and would like to do a two hour shift at the Cafe for the Fair, please contact Susan on sj_wilding@hotmail.com

Trash and Treasure....

Needs your STUFF!
Why not have a good clear out before Santa arrives...?
Please donate your unwanted toys, games, puzzles, arts and crafts, material, household goods, small furniture items, jewellery, sports equipment, baby goods, garden utensils, cutlery, platters, vases, bric a brac ...(anything that is clean and unbroken please). All money raised is donated to the school!

We collect and sort donations on Fridays at 8.45 – 9.15am or 3 – 3.30pm. However if this time does not suit you then just call Evanne on 0432 443 801 to arrange an alternative time.

Thank you!

DO YOU LOVE MAKING HOMEMADE SWEETS AND TREATS?
If so, the Chatham fair 2015 lolly stall needs your help! Each year to date the lolly stall has had a wonderful array of homemade sweets and treats such as fudge, coconut ice, toffees etc etc. This has only been possible because people have willingly volunteered to make these goods. If you would be interested in making a batch or so of these sorts of treats or one of your favourites please call Kyla on 0411058449 to discuss.

Thank you!

SEEKING DONATIONS FOR THE CHATHAM FAIR 2015!

We are seeking donations of plain white ceramic crockery - plates, mugs & bowls, simple in design, undamaged, looking brand new, so that they can be painted at the Chatham Fair craft stall. Any leftovers will be either used for subsequent Fairs, or will be donated to charity. So please check your cupboards, or think of us when you walk through Target, Big W or KMart! Also, we would love donations of new sharpies textas in any colour for decorating the crockery, and new/used bubble wrap for packaging. All donations will help us raise some great funds for the school, whilst giving children and adults a wonderfully creative opportunity in 2015. Drop off your donations to the office, or email: jodieinmelbourne@hotmail.com.

Jodie Harris (Bella-2KM), Craft Stall Co-ordinator.
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Balwyn Leisure Centre
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Enchanted Adventure Garden
BMW
Betty McDowell, Hawthorn
Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre
Murphy Brothers
Susan Wilding
Endota Spa, Balwyn
Billy Lids
Dunyazad Lebanese Restaurant
Doug Allen—The Blind Man

Panache Flowers (Glenferrie Rd)
Crabapple Kitchen(Glenferrie Rd)
Kew Recreation Centre
Yarra Bend Golf Club
Dance Fitness Victoria
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ENROLMENTS OPEN!!

Lunchtime & Saturday
Dance Fitness @ Chatham PS

Dance Fitness Victoria conducts an existing and popular dance program for all ages and abilities where students learn everything dance has to offer in a fun and friendly environment.

GREAT PHYSICAL WORKOUT
Increased FLEXIBILITY & corrected POSTURE
Enhanced CORE STABILITY and STRENGTH
CONFIDENCE Building
Improved CO-ORDINATION, MEMORY & CREATIVITY
And... MORE FUN THAN YOU'D IMAGINE!

When & Where:

Wednesday: Lunchtime - School Hall
NEW CLASS - Grade 2 & 3 - 1:15 - 2:00

Saturdays - School Hall
9:30 - 10:00 - Noodle Ballet (3-4 yrs)
10:00 - 10:45 - Jnr Ballet (Prep and Grade 1)
10:45 - 11:30 - Jnr Jazz (Prep and Grade 1)
11:30 - 12:15 - Intermediate Funk/hip Hop (Grade 3 - 6)
Tuition Fees: $145 per term

Annual Concert:
Annual Performance at The Madeleine Centre (Kew) in October
- No costume making. Costume Hire Fee of $25 x 2 costumes added to term 3 fees
- Only one rehearsal on performance day
- No separate photo day - photos taken on concert night

www.dancefitnessvictoria.com.au

Please contact Ella at ella@dancefitnessvictoria.com.au
or on 0405 133 591 to book your place

Class sizes are limited so please don't miss out!
Balwyn Cricket Camp
22nd & 23rd December

Balwyn Park
Cherry Road
Balwyn 3103

- Cricket Program
- 9am – 3pm / morning & afternoon tea provided
- For children aged 5 – 12
- Prizes & giveaways

Cricket Camps Australia Ambassador
Glenn Maxwell

To register call 1300 562 571 or www.communitycamps.com.au

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- School age • Squad • Adults
- Access & Inclusion

Group or Private Lessons available!

Bookings NOW OPEN for:
- Holiday Intensives
  (weeks of 5th, 12th & 19th Jan 2015)
AND • Term 1 Weekly Classes
  (Jan-Mar 2015).

Phone 9895 2300
to enrol.

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Mont Albert North
Phone 9895 2300
Chatham Parents and Carers Please Consider

A number of roles on the Parents’ Club Committee have become available for 2015. The Parents’ Club is a very important group in our school community – co-ordinating our fundraising and social activities across the year as well as providing a vital communication link between families and the school. Due to people in executive positions leaving the school or stepping down, we are able to offer the opportunity for YOU to take up one of these important roles. We are attempting to be a bit more proactive in seeking Expressions of Interest for the executive positions for 2015 so that we can have everything in place before the March AGM.

All activities for 2015 are already organised with most having their coordinators already in place. Parents Club coordinates the Class Reps and looks after many events on behalf of the school including, Grandparent’s Morning Tea, School Disco, welcoming new families into the school, hiring of crockery and glassware for social events, first aid room linen roster, etc. I would strongly encourage you to consider supporting and joining this very important group by nominating for one of the executive positions that are now vacant.

These Roles are available for 2015
- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer

If you are interested in nominating for one of these or any other role, I encourage you to review the job descriptions on the website (under ‘Parents’) or speak to the current role holders about their experience to gain an understanding of what is involved. In the past many of these roles have been successfully shared between 2 people and this may be an option for you to consider.

We urge you to support this very important group in our school. The expectation is that you make these roles work for you and in doing so, help to maintain the events that make Chatham special. If the feedback from parents who are or have been involved is anything to go by, you will find it very rewarding AND your children will appreciate it.

* Please fill in and return this slip to the office. Thankyou

Yes, I/we ________________________________ (names) would like to nominate for the following position on the Parents Committee for 2015
Please indicate one

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Vice President</th>
<th>Treasurer</th>
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Email Contact ____________________________________________