FROM THE PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL CONCERT

I think that everyone would have to agree that this year’s concert was one of the very best. Thank you once again to everyone involved and a special Well Done goes out to our wonderful students. They worked really hard to bring you their very best performances on the big night. They all get very excited and full of awe when performing in front of such a large audience and in such an impressive auditorium. It is hard to steady the nerves, remember all of those words, dance steps and stage movements, and then remain focussed after their act in readiness for the whole school song at the end of the night.

Like the School Fair this is a whole school event that involves so many members of our school community. Once again I would like to make a special mention to certain people. The Costume committee have been working tirelessly for many months to put together all the wonderful costumes that our students wore on the night. They have been magnificent in recycling, redesigning and restoring old costumes and being so inventive with some new ones. Lead by Leanne Reichmann, this year we have had a large group of parents who have put together such things as dinosaurs, disco clothes, pirates costumes, jazz outfits and clothes from outer space. The children looked fantastic up on stage.

Thank you also goes to the wonderful staff at Chatham. They have also worked tirelessly in rehearsing all the students for their big performance. A special mention to Gemma Belfrage, who has been working hard over the past 18 months to bring her vision for the night together. Mandy Hume has helped manage all logistics and behind the scenes planning. Tim Clarke put all the music together and worked up in the control room on the night of the concert assisting with the projection and audio. Lisa Gilbert, with lots of student helpers, coordinated all the props and backdrop scenery. Amanda Lennon wrote, produced and directed the Year 5 & 6 play ‘Camp Chaos.’ This was a mammoth task but the students rose to the occasion and put on a wonderful performance around experiences at a school camp. Last of all is Sue Doherty, who does so much more extra work away from her role as office manager. She has printed the tickets, organised the seating arrangements, produced the program and answered endless questions. She does a wonderful job.

A big thank you also goes to the students who assisted with the prop and scenery making. Thanks to our Year 5 & 6 students who worked with the Preps to Year 4s as choreographers for their dance moves and to all our actors, singers and speakers. It is a great effort to be able to get over 440 students up on stage performing across the night. Many schools do not even attempt this, leaving it to the senior grades or selected students to perform. We are proud of our whole school concert and the way that all students are provided with the opportunity to perform. As teachers, it is wonderful to see those students ‘stepping up’, taking risks and challenging themselves even though they may not have ever done this before. Many students ‘shine’ in this situation and grow in confidence thanks to the opportunities and experiences that are provided them as part of this concert. Well done to everyone…it was a great night and certainly a highlight of the year.

APOLOGIES

No matter how smooth the actual concert ran there were obviously some problems with parking and management. With well over 300 cars arriving at much the same time it will always be busy and chaotic to get into the venue and to find a parking spot.

The Centre Management made apologies to me in regards to miscommunication around the parking at the Besen Centre. The “irate” security guard provided incorrect information about the closing time of the extra car park and apparently the bar staff were informing everybody of the need to pay $4 to enable the exiting of the car park. This cost had been absorbed in each ticket price where we pay the Centre a set fee to ensure the boom gates stay up at the end of the night.

I have also been informed that it was very hot for all those people sitting upstairs. I am sorry if this took away from your enjoyment of the night.

This is a great venue and provided our students with a wonderful concert hall experience but I will certainly be communicating all of these issues to the Centre Management.

Continued on Page 2....
TRANSITION

In a few weeks the Year 6 students and their families find out which Government secondary school they will be heading off to in 2015. This can be a stressful time for families as they move onto the next phase of their education.

Transition in a school is not all about the move from Kindergarten to Preps or from Year 6 into Year 7 though. Transition in a school setting is also about the move from one year level to the next or in some cases helping new students and their families settle into our school community.

At Chatham we attempt to make these transitions as smooth as possible by supporting students and their families, setting them up with positive and welcoming experiences, as well as providing them with useful and relevant information.

New Prep students and their families attend three transition days in November where they visit the school, meet their Year 5 buddies and get involved in some specialist programs and classroom activities. We also conduct a Prep Parent Information evening where we provide families with a great deal of information about the daily operations at our school. Parents and their children are encouraged to visit the school on the weekends and holidays to explore the school grounds. Our Prep teachers keep in regular contact with our feeder kindergartens and once enrolments have been confirmed, liaise with the kindergarten teachers about each student coming to our school. These teachers are also invited to come up to our school to observe a Prep class in action. For the last few years we have been able to organise a time where some of our Year 6 students visit our local kindergartens for story time where they read their favourite picture books to the kindergarten students. The Transition booklet that is passed from families and their kindergarten teachers to our Prep teachers also provides us with useful information on our new Preps.

The new Preps receive a letter from their teacher over the summer holidays welcoming them into their class and their families into the Chatham community. The Preps commencement is staggered at the start of each year to help with their transition into the busy life of a school setting.

Across the whole school, we start the school year with Parent Information sessions to outline the routine and expectations for your child’s class for that year. Parent/teacher interviews are conducted soon after this and each term parents receive at least one grade newsletter outlining the term’s programs and activities. Each student’s class placement into their next class is worked on by teachers with great diligence to ensure that students needs are met and that new class structures operate smoothly. At the end of the year students are told about their new class. They get to meet next year’s teacher, be with their new classmates and visit the classroom for next year. Student work files are passed onto the new teacher at the end of the year, for them to look through in readiness for the new school year. At the beginning of each year, teachers also sit with last year’s teachers & specialists to discuss each student’s strengths and weaknesses. In the first few weeks of each year, teachers undertake a series of assessments to gather an accurate picture of a student’s level of achievement.

Students get to know other teachers well and visit all specialist teachers and programs. Thanks to a strong focus on a differentiated curriculum, our students are often involved in work above their expected level and all students are supported and ready for their move to the next stage in their learning. Across the year, we always have number of activities where students are mixed with other students from Prep to Year 6 to work together on specific projects. Our Buddy and Peer Support programs strengthen the links of older students working with younger students and their teachers.

Teachers visit other classrooms, take peer observational visits and hold joint level meetings so that teachers have a better understanding of the level of work that occurs before and after their own current level of teaching.

New families into the school receive some written information about the school and are contacted by the Parents’ Club parent liaison officer, as well as the parent class representative to welcome them into our school community.

Year 6 students are provided with information sessions by our Year 6 teachers around what to expect in their move to secondary school. They undertake a visit to their new school next term as part of a Transition Day program. For the last few years we have held a Year 6 Conference that is facilitated by an outside consultant. The daylong session focuses on transition into secondary school with the aim of preparing our students for this next big move. A number of secondary schools also send current Year 7 students and/or teachers to meet the students from our school who will be moving into Year 7 next year. Finally our Year 6 teachers also liaise with Year 7 coordinators to assist with class placements.

At Chatham, we believe that our students are well and truly ready for all transitions in their learning. They are resilient and equipped to meet new challenges with confidence.
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

OUR STAR FOOTBALL TEAM
Our school football team have certainly had a busy few days. Just over a week ago they played in the District football final and then found out late, last Thursday that we needed to play the Division round robin on Tuesday morning...at the same time that the Year 5 & 6 students we rehearsing at the Besen Centre. With the help of parents, we were able to get the team to the the ground. We had to forfeit the first game but won the next two which enabled the team to play in the Grand Final which they won. To our great surprise, we were then informed that the next round of matches was happening the next day which was yesterday. So after a big night at the concert the players had to get up early and travel to Blackburn North. They played two other games, winning both fairly easily but had a very hard match to play for the last game of the round robin games. There was a strong wind blowing which meant it was hard work to score from the other end. We were kicking with the wind for the last quarter, but were unable to register a score. They boys tried hard and played really well over these last two days but ran out of legs in the last quarter and ended up losing by two goals. Well done to all the players who have played in the team over the last term and these past few weeks.

THE NED SHOW
As part of our commitment to hosting the free NED show we are obliged to sell the yo-yos as seen in their promotion. The concert preparations have got in the way of these sales so we have put this off until next week. So every day next week we will be selling the yo-yos and extras to the students.

The NED products on sale are:-
- **The NED yo-yo** - $9 is ideal for beginners with a glow in the dark face and hitched for a quick return
- **The Boomerang** - $15 has an inbuilt axel that enables it to spin and return. If you throw it softly you can do most tricks while a hard throw will make it spin for a long time.
- **The Cosmic Spin** - $20 – is a professional ball bearing yo-yo and spins longer for string tricks.
- Extra yo-yo strings - $5
- A yo-yo holster to keep your yo-yo - $5
- A DVD demonstrating how to do 30 great tricks - $5
- A DVD with children demonstrating some amazing yo-yo tricks - $5

PARENT SURVEY
Each year we conduct a number of surveys across the year. Our Year 5 & 6 students are surveyed around their attitudes to school, all staff undertake a survey around their working conditions and each year we seek feedback from parents as part of an annual survey. All of the data from these surveys is presented to School Council and form part of our accountability procedures in our Annual Report and School Review process.

Around 60 randomly selected families will be shortly receiving a parent survey form. Please answer the questions on this form in relation to the name of your child that is written on the outside of the envelope. The completed survey should be returned to the school office in the enclosed envelope by the due date. These surveys are collected by an independent company with all answers remaining confidential. All collated results are sent back to the school next term. This feedback from parents is important to us in helping us to identify our strengths and areas for further improvement.

HOUSE ATHLETIC SPORTS
Our Annual House Athletic Sports is happening on Thursday the 7th of August. All students in Years 3 to 6 will be travelling to the Box Hill Athletics Track to compete in the Standard Athletics Day. On this day students compete against themselves and the standards for their age group across a number of athletic events. Students are awarded 1, 2 or 3 points towards their House depending on the standards that they reach in each event. Points are also awarded to each House for their sportsmanship and behaviour during the day with the winning House being awarded the Annual Athletics Cup. Parents are most welcome to attend and we always require plenty of assistance at each event in measuring, timing and recording. Please see Mr Doyle if you can assist us during the day.

STEPHEN ROTHWELL
PRINCIPAL

THANKS TO PATRICK IN PREP SM FOR THIS WEEKS UNDER THE SEA INSPIRED MAST HEAD.
DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 7th August  
House Athletics Years 3 to 6 only — Box Hill

Friday 8th August  
Year 6 Leadership, Band etc Photo Order Forms due back

Monday 11th August  
Specialist Open week

Wednesday 13th August  
Hockey 7’s — Year 6 Students only  
Education Committee Meeting 3:45pm in the Library

Thursday 14th August  
Pie Drive Forms due back

Monday 18th August  
Prep Excursion to Scienceworks  
School Council

Tuesday 19th August  
Year 6 Excursion to A.C.M.I.

Thursday 21st August  
Book Week Incursion

Friday 22nd August  
Year 6 Excursion to the Shrine

Tuesday 26th August  
Junior HoopTime — Nunawading Stadium

Wednesday 3rd September  
Japanese Study Tour departs

Tuesday 2nd September  
Senior HoopTime — Nunawading Stadium

Thursday 4th September  
Year 2 ‘Hands on Science’ Incursion

Friday 5th September  
District Athletics

Monday 8th September  
Intensive Swimming Program commences — Prep to Year 4  
Life Education Van arrives

Sunday 14th September  
Japanese Study Tour arrives Home

Monday 15th September  
School Council 7pm

Thursday 18th September  
Swimming Program ends

Friday 19th September  
Last Day of Term 3 — 2.30pm Finish

Monday 6th October  
Term 4 commences

Wednesday 8th October  
Chess Clubs starts this week — Beginners and Advanced Classes

Tuesday 14th October  
Prep Excursion to Chesterfield Farm

Monday 3rd November  
Curriculum Day

Tuesday 4th November  
Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday — No School Today

Friday 7th November  
Art Show — Details to come

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

When:  Wednesday 13th August

At:  3:45 in the Library

Focus:  Chatham House System....

Visitors to the School Policy (on school website)

Final Draft of Updated Privacy Policy

If you feel you have something to contribute or are interested in the agenda items for this month’s meeting, then we would love to see and/or hear from you. Remember attending this meeting doesn’t mean you have to attend all future meetings. A small afternoon tea will also be provided for students of parents that attend.

Bronwyn Orr  
Assistant Principal
Can you Help Upgrade the Chatham Bike Shed?

After the success of the Night Market last term (thanks again for all the support from the Chatham community), it is now time to turn the money raised into a great bike/scooter/skateboard shed for the school.

We are calling out for members of the Chatham Community who have skills/work in the following industries (building, carpenters, painters, bikes etc) to help with advice/planning/organising the upgrade of the bike shed.

If you can offer some expert assistance to help upgrade the shed, we would love to hear from you!!!

OR if you have any contacts of people who sell bike/scooter/skateboard racks or are upgrading their bike shop so would have 2nd hand bike racks, please contact us!

Please contact Belinda Dalton at belindadalton@me.com by the end of July to indicate how you can help upgrade the bike shed. We will then develop a Parents’ Club subcommittee to steer this project and improve the bike shed. We appreciate your support.

Sharon and Belinda
The Drama School
At CHATHAM PRIMARY

It’s an absolute pleasure to be a part of the learning community at Chatham Primary School and to offer your children the opportunity to enjoy the many benefits of our excellent drama program.

People are often confused and unclear about drama and what it’s all about. Did you know that at VCE level there are two performing Arts subjects; Theatre Studies and Drama? The first focuses on the actor while Drama explores the processes integral to shaping theatre.

The Drama School is committed to providing students with performance skills so they have the option to study Theatre Arts; however, at primary level we are concerned with the development of the whole of the child and our focus is geared toward the methodology of the subject. Through our drama sessions we focus on confidence, collaboration, communication, creativity and self-awareness. These personal skills are critical to both personal and professional success in children’s futures. If our students are embedding these attributes into their lives, acquiring dramatic skill, making friends and leaving happy then we feel that we have done our job.

We still have vacancies in both groups!

Monday: 3.45 to 4.45 – 6 to 8 years

4.45 to 5.45 9 – 12 years

Check out our website:
www.thedramaschool.com.au

Or email us:
dramaco@optusnet.com.au

We encourage you to get in touch with us if you have any queries at all.

Kind Regards

Carla Gilzean: 0413 405 936 and Sharon Foley: 0401 902 886
We had a sound turnout of parents for the Parents’ Club monthly meeting on Tuesday the 22nd July. We were updated on the progress of different Parents’ Club events that are coming up, including the School Concert, Cyber Safety Night 2014, Fathers’ Day Brekky, Fathers’ Day Stall, and the 2015 Fair. All of these are progressing well and it looks like there will be some exciting events coming up. We spoke about communication of Parents’ Club events via the Chatham Primary Parents Club Facebook page and also a new Parents’ Club noticeboard – keep a look out for it! For more information please refer to the full minutes, emailed separately to all parents of children at the school. The next Parents’ Club meeting will be held on Tuesday the 26th August at 7:30 pm in the Staff Room. All warmly invited to attend.

BOOK CLUB
ORDERS DUE IN TOMORROW FRIDAY 1ST AUGUST
YEAR 6 LEADERSHIP, VOCAL ENSEMBLE AND BAND PHOTO ORDER FORMS ARE DUE BACK NEXT FRIDAY 8TH AUGUST
SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION (SRI) FORMS ARE DUE BACK NOW PLEASE,
KOONUNG CELEBRATES 50 YEARS
29th – 31st August

Friday 29th August
Koonung Day for all current students
8:30am – 3:30pm
Free Music Concert
Past and current students performing
Gigs on the Scooter Fitch.
Bring your picnic rug, hot food and drinks available.
FIREWORKS 9PM

Saturday 30th August
Open Day 10am – 4pm
Walk around the school and look at all the displays and photos.
Enjoy souvenirs, music and great food.

Saturday Night Reunion
Cocktail event from 7pm in the Senior Centre
$10 per head. Drinks at bar prices.
Semi-formal dress code. Tickets from
http://www.trybooking.com/UKM

Sunday 31st August
Displays in the Library open 10am-4pm

Inquiries
98990662 | 50th@koonung.vic.edu.au | www.koonung.vic.edu.au

---

Don't forget!

Book Club orders are due:
Friday, 1st August

---

Financial Assistance - Information for Parents

---

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

- If you have a child under 18, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.
- The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as, school fees, excursions, textbooks, and stationery.
- You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:
  - Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account;
  - Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or
  - Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:
- $888 for prep students (incidental fees $40, incidental fees $83);
- $1195 for students in years 1 – 6 (incidental fees $110, incidental fees $85);
- $1893 for year 7 students (incidental fees $210, incidental fees $89);
- $2291 for students in years 8 – 12 (incidental fees $175, incidental fees $76).
- *A principal amount is payable for students leaving in year 14.

How to Apply:
Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 1 August 2014.

**Parents who received the first instalment EMA payment through this school do not need to lodge another EMA application form to receive the second instalment payment.

For more information about the EMA, see http://www.education.vic.edu.au/schools/parents/finance/financeaid/specialaid.page