From The Principal

There have been many activities which our students have been involved in over the past two weeks. We are delighted to be able to provide so many enriching experiences.

**HARMONY DAY**
Our students really enjoyed the activities & speakers at Harmony Day last Thursday. Our students wore orange coloured clothing which reflected the unity of all peoples across our world. At CHNPS there are students from many different nations but we are all part of Australian society. There were visiting speakers from our community who brought stories and activities from different countries, who spoke about life in the “olden days”, who demonstrated how a spinning wheel works and others who demonstrated art and craft activities. Our students played games from other countries & even learnt to do Indian dancing. We really appreciate the support our visitors gave for this great day.

**SWIMMING SCHEME**
This special swimming scheme has started & is held each day at Birrong Swimming Pool for our students who are not competent swimmers. All students are making good progress and are very proud of their efforts. I encourage all parents to continue swimming lessons for their children throughout the year so that all children are safe in the water. Each year we hear of children of all ages who drown in backyard swimming pools or in rivers, lakes and the ocean. We thank the teachers who have been supporting our students in this program.

**SCHOOL PHOTOS**
School Photo Day was on 11 March and as in past years we are expecting wonderful photos of our students. The process of developing all the photos & preparing the photo books & packages takes some weeks. We expect the photos to be at school by the middle of Term 2.

**NEW CARPET**
The school library has had new carpet laid last week. This is part of the Library upgrade which started last year when the library was painted, new window blinds were installed and new computer tables were purchased. The next part of the upgrade will be the purchase of new tables and chairs and storage bins for some of the library books. Please come to visit the library to see the great improvements which are happening.

**STAFFING**
We welcome Mr Lord who will teach 6W for the remainder of 2013. Mrs Wilson, one of our Assistant Principals, will be working with our teachers to ensure the very best teaching and learning is happening in the classrooms. She is part of the Teacher Coaching Program at the school which is funded through the Australian Government and called “National Partnerships”. The other coaches are Mrs Philips working with ICT, Mrs Chandra working with Numeracy and Miss West working with Literacy.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

We are delighted that so many parents and community members are taking part in the many activities being offered at the school. You may be interested to know that Parent English classes are held each Monday from 9-12 at no cost. Child minding is also available. Two playgroups are held in the Kindergarten playroom with one on Tuesday and one on Friday. Parents can assist in classes with the reading program.

Parents can help by covering library books with contact.
Parents are needed to look after our “vegie patch”. There is a position for a Community Liaison.
Officer [Arabic] to support the CLO program which now operates. EOI s for this position close this Thursday on 28 March.
The Easter holidays are from Friday 29 March which is Good Friday to Monday 1 April which is Easter Monday. Students return to school on Tuesday 2 April.

Regards

Miss H. D. Colquhoun
Principal

Chaplain’s Chat

Some ideas on Keeping Your Children Safe.

Keeping children safe is never about fear. It does require you to do some simple and effective things that will empower your child and you.

· Make the time to get to know what is happening in your child’s world. And try to see life from his or her point of view. You can create opportunities to talk to your child in a relaxed way by doing activities together. Choose activities your child will enjoy.

· If you need help to start the conversation, try asking: What was the best part of your day? What was the worst part?

· Be available and willing to listen when your child wants to talk. This can be difficult when you’re busy but remember: you’re building relationship that will safeguard your child for the future.

· Be interested in what they are telling you and try to control your own responses. That can be hard if they say something you don’t like, but your aim is to help them feel safe in talking to you. This will build trust between the two of you. See yourself as creating a safety net for your child, both for now and the future.

· Having someone they can talk to will help both of you. You will know more about your child’s life and that gives you information about potential problems.

Sport Report

Friday saw our PSSA teams play their second game this term. Student’s skills have improved due to training and the exposure to the games on Fridays. Our Mod Cricket team were successful this week in a nail biting game winning by only 4 runs. Congratulations to all teams on a great afternoon of PSSA. Just a reminder that due to Good Friday there will be no games this week. Next week will be a home group and is also the last game for term 1 PSSA. Senior cricket, mod cricket, T-ball and softball season will resume in term 4.

Miss B Jones and Miss N Bennett
Sports Coordinators

TERM 2
Monday 29.4.13
School Development Day
Tuesday 30.4.13
School Development Day
Wednesday 1.5.13
Students Return

They will have someone they can confide in.

Susan Alexander
School Chaplain

PLAY EQUIPMENT

Children who play on the play equipment after school need close supervision for safety sake. Just a reminder that parents need to be standing next to the play equipment to supervise their children when they play.

Holiday Fun

Our school Tennis Courts are for hire at just $10 an hour.

There is a special deal for school holidays. Remember court hire money goes back to the school. Phone 9644 1619 for bookings.

Fundraising for 2013 Equipment for Classrooms

$20,000 - target

Cake Day $355
BBQ Day $283

$638
P & C Report

I’m pleased to report that our Cake Day raised $355 for our school community. Thank you to the parents who came along and helped at this event. I’m sure they’ll agree that it’s a fun, social morning and the kids definitely enjoy the day. If you’d like to help at our Fruit Breakfast on 4th April, please see one of the P&C ladies for details.

Our next P&C meeting for the year is WEDNESDAY 27th March 2013. We’ll be talking about ways to improve our school community so please join us in the PLAY ROOM (in between the kindy rooms). We meet for coffee from 9am, with the meeting starting at 9.15am. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Our FREE TAFE ENGLISH CLASSES have started. If you know someone who would like to join this class please meet outside the office on Monday at 9am. The class will run every Monday from 9am to 12noon.

Thank you to the parents who came along to our recent ‘Parent Helpers Information Session’. If you are interested in helping around the school, please see either myself or Mrs Cooper for more information.

Upcoming parent information sessions and meetings…
Playgroup every FRIDAY and School readiness program every TUESDAY. On the 26th March, the School Readiness program has a guest speaker from the Department of Education and Communities who will be speaking about Behaviour Management. All are welcome.

NAPLAN Parent Information Session on Wednesday 3rd April – look out for the flyer with details Fruit Breakfast on 4th April.

Have any questions? You’re welcome to join Susan Alexander (Our School Chaplain) and myself every Tuesday for afternoon tea in the school playground. Pop by and say Hi.

Toni Reynolds
Community Liaison Officer

CLO Report

Transition to High School

There are many factors to consider when the time comes to make that big decision about the right secondary school for your child.

- Visit schools. Get a feel for the way the school runs. This may need several visits. Visit on days other than open days and information times.
- Remember to keep your options open. Consider more than one school.
- Talk to parents who have children going to the various schools. Talk to the actual children who attend the schools.
- Start early! Start checking out schools in your child’s fifth year at school. Do not wait until their last year at primary school.
- Find out if schools you are interested in have restricted enrolments.
- The talents and needs of your child have to be taken into account. Different schools suit different kids.
- What languages are offered?
- Find out what special programs the school has to help Year 7s settle in.

Consider your child’s friendship needs.
- How will your child be travelling to this school? What is the public transport access? How long will it take for your child to travel to school everyday? What will be the costs of such travel (be sure to find out about half-yearly and yearly concession tickets)?
- Consider the cost of things such as fees, uniforms, books. These do vary from school to school. Are there any scholarships you can apply for?
- What extra help is available for your child if they need it?

Taken from BUSY PARENTS’ GUIDE to literacy and Numeracy no 3.