



CHALCOT WEEKLY

NEWSLETTER No 1- 5th February

Growing a Supportive Community of Active Learners

Welcome to our 2016 Preps

Last Monday, there were no more sleeps left and it was, at last, time for our new Prep students to commence their primary school life. They looked very smart and cute in their brand new uniforms and were very proud to show off their new shoes. It was smiles all around as they were taken for a grand tour of the school and introduced to their new learning environment!!!



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Communicating with our Community

Just a reminder to all families, that the Chalcot Weekly newsletter will now only be available through tiqbiz or online, at our website www.chalcotps.vic.edu.au This is the final hard copy for 2016. Starting from next week, no hardcopy notices will be distributed. Excursion and invisit notices, newsletters, reminders, diary dates, absences and updates will all be delivered via tiqbiz and payments for all school activities received via Qkr.

Hoax Calls to Victorian Schools

I would like to reassure all our families that Chalcot Lodge has not received any threatening calls. Like all schools, we have an Emergency Management Plan in place for situations like this, and we practise it throughout the year.

Those schools which did receive a threatening call successfully enacted their Emergency Management Plans. The safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority.

2016 Student Leaders

School Captains: Priyanka Suji Rani & Marko Kovac

School Vice Captains: Catharina Truong & Tyron Huon

2016 House Captains

Bluegum Captains: Emily McPhail & Andy Di Pascale

Bluegum Vice Captains: Justyna Komar & Jake Pellowe

Eucalypt Captains: Chanell Sampson-Kite & Tyrone Huon

Eucalypt Vice Captains: Cherie Hann & Jordon Leveque

Banksia Captains: Ella Ryan & Noah Mraz

Banksia Vice Captains: Jelena Peric & Mert Baydemir

Acacia Captains: Ashleigh Barnes & Campbell Newton

Acacia Vice Captains: Maleisha Fernando & Mashood Ahmed

ICT Leaders

Priyanka Suji Rani

Campbell Newton

Tyrone Huon

Cherie Hann

Andy Di Pascale

Jackson Hamilton

Ashleigh Barnes

Navkaran Sahni

Marko Kovac

Janet Ross

Diyana Nagahawatta

Jake Pellowe

Jordan Leveque

James Ozols

The Green Team Leaders

Diyana Nagahawatta

Catherina Truong

Caitlyn Elliott

Noah Mraz

The Green Team Friends

Olivia Ashby

Jelena Peric

Jemilla Simpson

Casey Fullard

Troy Kanapathy

Justyna Komar

Emily McPhail

2016 Art Monitors

Izabella Hernandez

Jelena Peric

Natasha Anselmi

Sarah O'Callaghan

Amy Williams

Deeya Reddy

Michael De Rossi

Garden Monitors 2016

Jackson Hamilton

Caitlyn Elliott

Jelena Peric

Leah Starecki

Latif Naderi

Badges will be presented to these student leaders during two special assemblies to be held on Tuesday 16th February and Tuesday 23th February, both assemblies commencing at 2.35pm. Special lunch time celebrations will be organised for these student leaders during the designated weeks.

School Captains, House Captains and Green Team Leaders & Friends will be presented with their badges on Tuesday 16th February. Junior School Councillors (who will be elected by the peers next week), ICT Leaders, Art and Garden Monitors will be presented with their badges on Tuesday 23th February.

Mr David Evans will again be coordinating the Peer Mediation Program and Peer Mediators for 2016 will be selected and trained over the coming weeks. A separate badge presentation assembly for these students will be held on Tuesday 8th March at 2.35pm. The names of the Peer Mediators will be published in the coming weeks.

Scratch, Scratch, Scratch.....HEAD LICE!

During this week we have had a few reported cases of head lice in the junior area. We would urge all parents to check their children's and their own hair. Lice do not just infect children's hair! It is essential that hair is treated with an appropriate shampoo and that the hair is sectioned off for thorough combing with a special fine toothed comb to remove eggs sticking to the hair. Simply washing with your normal shampoo will not help. Students with long hair should wear it tied back while at school.

Parent Cookery Helpers Information Session

On Thursday 11th February, Mrs Felton and Mr Poliviou will hold an information session for parents who are interested in volunteering to help with our Cookery Program. The session will be held in the Cookery & Etiquette Room from 9am until 10am. If you wish to attend, please ensure that you complete the return slip on the notice that was distributed to all students earlier this week.

Parent Club

The Parent Club are holding their first meeting for the year next **Monday 8th February at 6.30pm** in the staffroom.

The Parent Club is made up of a group of wonderful people from our school community who assist with whole school activities and organise fund raising events.

Joining the Parent Club provides a wonderful opportunity to get to know other parents within our school community and make new friends. We would love to welcome new people to our Parent Club crew! I hope to see you there on **Monday 8th February**.

School Council Membership

In next week's newsletter, I will be calling for nominations for membership of the Chalcot Lodge School Council. I have included some information about the composition and role of School Council and of the election process.

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 Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school, as long as they are not employed at the school.

A mandated elected DET 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 appointed by a decision of the Council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET 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.

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 or 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?

As Principal, I am responsible to issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of term 1 each year. All School Council elections must be completed by the 17th 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.

DET 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

Nomination forms will be available from the office. 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.

Please consider joining our School Council. I am happy to answer any questions.

Student Accident Insurance Arrangements

The Department of Education and Training does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs.

Student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers. The Department cannot advise parents/guardians on whether to purchase a student accident policy or which policy to purchase. It is recommended that parents / guardians seek assistance in this matter with their insurance broker or find a suitable personal accident insurer in the Yellow Pages or online.

Monica Ghirxi
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back everyone, and a very special warm welcome to all our new prep students, other new students across the school and to our new staff members. I'm looking forward to an exciting and fun filled year. A few things to look forward to include: yummy food that the students will make in the Kitchen; our film festival night (I wonder what this year's theme will be??); sports carnivals; family fun nights; Hawthorn going back to back to back to back and this is just a few! I know you are in for one GREAT YEAR!!!!

Road Safety Issues

Parents are requested to be mindful of student safety before and after school in relation to traffic:

- The Staff Car Park is not to be used for drop off and pick up purposes.
- Please do not double park in Primrose Hill Close or Haverstock Hill Drive when dropping off or picking up your child.
- Do not park in the No Standing Zones in Primrose Hill Close.
- As Primrose Hill Close is narrow and easily congested before and after school, enter it from the north (senior playground end) to avoid impasses.
- U Turns in Primrose Hill Close and Haverstock Hill Drive should be avoided.
- Discuss with your child the need to alight from your car from the curb side only, never the road side.
- If your child walks to school, discuss with them the importance of being alert to traffic, listening and looking both ways before crossing.
- If your child crosses Heatherton or Power Roads, discuss with them the correct way to use the crossings.
- Please obey all traffic and parking signs outside the school.
- The speed limit is 40kph adjacent to our school, however, drivers may need to drive even slower depending on the circumstances.
- Drives and pedestrians both need to be alert during drop off and pick up times to ensure the safety of our children.

Parking inspectors patrol school zones and will issue fines for non-compliance of road rules and parking signs. For the sake of our children's safety, your co-operation in these areas will be greatly appreciated.

Coping with Hot Days

Just a reminder that, as part of our Sun smart Policy, students must wear their Chalcot school hat during Terms 1 and 4. Parents may also choose to apply sunscreen to their children prior to coming to school. All students need to have a water bottle (no glass please) and are allowed to have these easily accessible for use throughout the day. All of our classrooms are air conditioned and students have recess in classrooms on days of extreme heat.

Instrumental Music Program

One of our many extra curriculum programs is Instrumental Music. Students have the wonderful opportunity to be taught how to play a tuned musical instrument by Roy Condeza from Grace Notes Music School. Students may learn piano, keyboard, guitar or voice and lessons are held during the school day each Tuesday. Please feel free to contact myself further information.

Every Day Counts

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind. Absenteeism has an effect on your child's academic performance and social development. What can your child learn if they are not at school? Some absences are entirely valid, sickness is the most obvious reason, but to give your child the best chance of success and to give them more choices in life, they must attend as regularly as possible. One absent day a fortnight equates to 20 days a school year, that equates to one whole year of schooling by the time your child reaches year 10. I have attached an article on the importance of regular school attendance.

Assistant Principal
Paul Poliviou

In primary school, some students **miss** on average **3 weeks** of school per year. That's **half a year** of school by the end of **year 6.**



EVERY DAY COUNTS

Primary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx



CANTEEN IS OPEN FOR LUNCH ORDERS AND COUNTER SALES ON WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS
CLOSED MONDAY, TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS



DIARY DATES

Monday	8 th	February	Parent Club	6.30pm – Staffroom
Tuesday	9 th	February	Swimming Trials	9am – 11am North Lodge
Thursday	11 th	February	Cooking Info Session	9am – 10am Cookery Room
Monday	15 th	February	Cooking Begins	
Tuesday	16 th	February	Assembly – Badge Ceremony	2.35 – Hall
Wednesday	17 th	February	School Council	7.00 – Staffroom
Tuesday	23 rd	February	Assembly – Badge Ceremony	2.35 – Hall
Wednesday	24 th	February	District Swimming	
Thursday	25 th	February	Parent Information Evening	
Sunday	6 th	March	Environmental Bunnings BBQ	8am – 4pm
Friday	11 th	March	School Photos	

Chalcot's New Uniform



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ENDEAVOUR SPORTING CLUB

James Cook Junior Football Club



PLAYERS WANTED

Player Registrations 2016

If you are a soccer player and would to join a successful club, we are seeking new players to join immediately.



Senior and Junior Players

For further details and more information please contact

Jalil: 0421 931 747 or Jim: 0413 979 480

Email: endeavoursportingclub@gmail.com

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate available for all families.

Morning: 7.00am – 8.45am Monday to Friday during school term, excluding all Victorian Public Holidays.
Permanent/casual: \$ 15.00.

Breakfast is provided until 8.30am.

Afternoon: 3.30pm – 6.00pm Monday to Friday during school term, excluding all Victorian Public Holidays.

Afternoon snack and drink provided.

Permanent/casual: \$ 19.00.

Welcome to another exciting week of before and after school care;

This week activities include:

- Dramatic play, Play dough
- Glitter paint, String paint
- Recycle art, Sand art
- Indoor games

If you have any concerns please feel free to speak to Shani on 0400 194 859 during session times or come in and have a chat!

Y.L.V Team

UNIFORM SALES

School uniform items can be purchased directly from the Beleza School Uniform Store at shop 7, 151 – 159 Princess Hwy, Hallam, phone 9702 3181. Mastercard and Visa are accepted.

Beleza order forms are also available at the school office. When placing your order you will need to make payment to the school either by cash or by completing your credit card details on the order form. Beleza staff will then deliver your order to the school.



SCHOOL BANKING

Don't forget that EVERY FRIDAY is School Banking day and students should bring in their weekly deposit.

IMPORTANT DATES:

12/2/16 First day for ordering rewards
24/3/16 **School Banking on Thursday** (last day of Term 1) due to Friday being a Public Holiday (Good Friday)

AUSTRALIA ZOO COMPETITION: Students who make a minimum of 15 deposits by the end of Term 3 will automatically go in the running to win a family trip for up to 2 adults and 3 children to explore Australia Zoo and meet Bindi and Robert Irwin! A promotional leaflet with further details is included in the pack labeled 'For Parents'.

Ingrid Williams
School Banking Coordinator



COMMUNITY NEWS

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