Note from the Principal…
Welcome back for the start of Term Two. I hope everyone had time for some rest and relaxation over the Easter break. This term we have so many activities happening that it will be very important for everyone to keep reading the newsletter.

On Wednesday we had a visit from the RSPCA mobile Unit. The students enjoyed learning about animal welfare and each class spent a full hour participating in the interactive activities. Thanks to the P&C for providing half of the funds for this event so all students were able to attend for free.

At the P&C meeting on Tuesday, the parents and I worked through quite an extensive list of ways in which we will work together to enhance the learning and development of all students in the school. Between school funding and P&C funds, we are extending Teacher Aide time (by 10 hours) to better support the learning needs of our children. We are also subsiding the upcoming school camp for Years 5, 6 & 7 to make it accessible for all students. The P&C are also paying the full costs of the bus to the Arts Council at Ma Ma Creek hall next week. They have also generously offered to cover the nomination fees of $5/student for the forthcoming Cross Country event. Currently, we are in the process of organising HRE lessons across the school using the services of Family Planning QLD. (More information next time)

Our school has typically had strong parent-community engagement so I encourage everyone to continue to support the P&C because their fundraising efforts help every child in the school. Even if you can’t make meetings, it is always a big help to volunteer for the things such as the Gatton Show strawberry stall, or participating in some of the smaller events. As the old saying goes “It takes a whole village to raise a child” or in this case, “it takes a whole school community to raise our children.” Together we can all make a difference.

Congratulations to our ‘Buddies for the month of March.’ All of the above students maintained ‘green’ level on the Behaviour wall every day for March. These students demonstrated behaviours that consistently meet our school expectations and require very little support. Well done students!
SCHOOL NEWS...

ARTS COUNCIL
The next Arts Council performance is on Monday 22nd April at Ma Ma Creek Hall. Cost is $6/students. Envelopes have already been sent home and need to be returned to school before Monday. Students who have not paid will not attend and will be supervised here at school.

ANZAC DAY
Our school will be marching in the ANZAC parade in Gatton next Thursday 25th April. As many students as possible are encouraged to join us. Please meet at 10.00am (for a 10.30 start) in North Street Gatton, adjacent to the council office. The march will lead to Littleton Park for the service.

Our school will also receive an address from an RSL representative on Monday 22nd April at 2.30pm.

PEER MENTORING SKILLS
On Friday 19 and Friday 26 April the year 7 students from Ma Ma Creek, Mount Sylvia and Tent Hill Lower State Schools will be participating in a Peer Skills Program. This program will be run by your school chaplain Margaret Thorpe together with Mrs Cecilia Anderson, guidance officer. Peer Skills is designed to enable young people to be better able to help their peers. Parents and teachers know and research has proven that teenagers and young people will turn to their peers before they talk to their parents or a trusted adult for help if they have a worry.

The skills they will develop are around understanding values, listening, problem solving; also self-care. Students are not being trained to be counsellors or problem solvers for their friends. They will learn how to listen to a peer, how to question to allow both of them a greater understanding of the particular worry; and then help their peer explore the options possible to help deal with the issue. As you can see these are useful skills for leadership and for life. School staff will support our school leaders in their exploration of this role. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or email me at margarett@chappy.org.au.  

Marg Thorpe,

CROSS COUNTRY
Students in Year 4–7 will participate in the Cross Country on Friday 10th May at Lake Apex in Gatton.

They are currently training for this event with Mr Donaldson (our PE teacher). As the P&C are covering the cost of the nomination fee, I will need to know if there are any students who cannot attend for medical/other reasons. Please either ring the office or send a note to school, advising us if your child will not be going before Tuesday 7th May. All other students will require transport to Lake Apex for 10.45 am on the day.

BOOK FAIR
Our next Book Fair will be held from Thursday 9th May to Tuesday 14th May. The theme is ‘All Stars’. General opening times are 8.15—8.45 am and 3.00pm—3.30 pm. Thursday 9th—also open until 4.00pm. Friday 10th—morning only. There will be a special visit from ‘Geronimo Stilton’ the clever detective. There will be prizes galore. Students can gain and entry into a special draw if they are caught in the act of reading a book.

All sales go towards new books for our library.

DATE CLAIMERS:

NAPLAN TEST FOR YEARS 5, 6, & 7

In May each year, students from all state and non-state schools across Australia participate in testing under the National Assessment Program–Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN).

The national tests assess the skills of all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. This year the test will be held on Tuesday May 14th, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th and all students in Years 3, 5 & 7 are expected to participate. Please do not make any prior appointments for these dates. Attached is an information brochure for parents. Some parents may have further concerns around their child/ren doing these tests, so please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

EMU GULLY CAMP

Parents are being given advance notice of the upcoming Emu Gully camp at Helidon on Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th May 2013 for Years 5, 6 & 7. This camp is being subsidised from both the P&C and school budget reducing the cost by two-thirds. The remaining cost per student will therefore be $50 each. There is no need to take any action at this time. Camp information and payments details will be forthcoming in the near future.
The P&C Welcome’s you all to term, let the fun begin!

At our meeting on Tuesday it was agreed by all members present the P&C contribute to the following:

- Bus Expense’s for Arts Council
- 1/3 of costs associated with school camps/excursions
- Funding for extra teacher aide time across all class rooms
- HRE
- RSPCA Visit
- Nomination fees for each student for Cross Country

All of the funds to cover these costs, (which is in excess of $5000) are raised through FUNDRAISING.

Please support your P&C as it supports EACH child attending this school.

GATTON SHOW 19 & 20 JULY:
With our BIGGEST fundraiser coming up we NEED EVERY FAMILYS help to make it work. For those family’s new to the school we run the Strawberries/ Fruit Salad with Cream & Ice-cream stall at the show over the 2days! The coordinator for this event is Kym Samuelson. We need YOU to volunteer your time to help make this event the success it has been, we raise approximately $3000 + from this one event.

Please earmark it in your calendar and consider what time would suit you best for the roster.

Roster times are:  FRIDAY: 9am -1:30pm, 1:30 – 5:30pm & 5:30 – Close, SATURDAY: 7:30am- 11:30, 11:30 – pack up & extra’s to help pack up

A copy is in the office foyer to add your name.

Thanks in advance & remember: MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!!

Mother’s day fundraiser SHOPPING TRIP 11th MAY:
Due to circumstances beyond our control we have to postpone this fundraiser until later in the year. Our apologies to those who have pre-organised people to come along and support the P&C however we will keep you updated when the rescheduled date will be.

Tenthill Hotel Meat Tray Raffles:
We have 3 more meat tray raffles and the dates are 31/5, 9/8 & 18/10. Any help with selling the tickets on the night is appreciated. Come along, bring the family and have a meal!

Head Lice
Just some quick information regarding, Head Lice in the school. We have been researching and found some interesting facts. Did you know that 1 adult head lice can produce 200-300 eggs!!!! No wonder they are so hard to get rid of! Conditioner and comb method every 2days when there is an outbreak is found to be the best way to get them under control and once a week as a precaution. The life cycle of the lice below is for everyone’s information.