From the Principal

In the past week the talents of our students have shone. Emmanuel L was selected to sing the national anthem at the Public Education Concert on Friday 2nd August. This is a great honour to be selected from all the students in the Minchinbury/Mt Druitt Area to perform solo. We also were delighted by our aspiring poets Abigail Keith-Wheatley, Chris C, Rachael D and the picture book stories created by Athmarr A, Taylor B and Shade H. These were all performed at the Literacy Assembly to celebrate Literacy /Numeracy Week as well as Education Week. Numeracy was not forgotten- students were provided the opportunity to participate in numeracy games and activities throughout the week. This affirmed to students that learning can be fun and that their talents and skills are appreciated by others.

All students were given a flyer on Tuesday 6th August inviting all parents and carers to Chifley Chats to be held on the 13th August at 12p.m. in the Common Room. This is an important meeting as it gives you the opportunity to meet teachers, voice your views and become aware of some of the programs operating in the school. We are presently developing the next two year plan for the school and we need parent input e.g. do you think that the Premiers’ Volunteer program should continue? What about LEAPS program? How can we have greater links with primary schools? Are there any suggestions you would like to propose? Please consider coming to Chifley Chats and have the opportunity to present your views, listen to others and ensure that Mt Druitt Campus is meeting the needs of your son/daughter.

Cathy Anderson
Principal

Homework Centre is available for all students. This great resource runs on Monday afternoons. Please see Mrs Coid in Teaching and Learning for a permission note.

Did you know that students must wear enclosed shoes with a solid upper. This is a WH&S requirement. If you have any questions please see the TAS staffroom. Your child may be asked to change shoes or electives if they are unwilling to do so. Subject fees are now overdue, these are used to buy the materials for practical classes. Thankyou
In year 7 this year, students studied Poetry in Term 3. Students learnt about and composed a variety of poems including Haikus. A Haiku is a Japanese poem usually about nature or seasons, with three unrhymed lines containing five, seven and five syllables. Abigail from 7I wrote an outstanding Haiku poem last term in English. She presented this poem in front of the school at the Education Week Assembly.

**WINTER**
Cold and wet grey skies
A sheet of snow falls on me
Explosion of ice
The Year 10 Formal for 2013 will be held at 6:00-10:00pm on Thursday 12th December 2013 at the Rooty Hill RSL Club complex at a cost of $85 per student. The cost of the ticket will cover 4 hour room hire, a 2 course meal, 4 hours of unlimited soft drink, table centrepieces, decorations, DJ hire, security and various lucky door prizes.

To be eligible to attend the Formal students must follow the school’s Code of Conduct (ARCS). Specifically, students must:

- Attend classes on time
- Attend school in full uniform
- Maintain a satisfactory level of academic achievement

Students must also pay school fees and return all resources. This includes returning library books and ensuring their DER laptop is checked and in working order.

An account has been set up in the office for students to begin paying for their formal ticket. The total amount must be paid for by the end of term 3 (Friday 20th September 2013).

Year 10 have begun fundraising for the school formal. The Fundraising Committee of students will be selling cans of drink and chocolate bars for $1.50 during lunchtimes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday throughout Term 3. Students and teachers are encouraged to support Year 10.

Only plain navy or school hats and jumpers are allowed! Students must attend school in uniform to be eligible to attend excursions and reward activities (including the school formal). A list of students who have lost their eligibility to attend excursions/ reward activities is updated and placed in the year 10 noticeboard on a weekly basis.

Congratulations to the following students who have received multiple positive commendations from their classroom teachers so far this term:

Angel, Mitchell, Deepak, Christine, Siaosi, Riley, Kabah, Dean, Daniel and Kim.
Helping your child in Year 7 with Literacy

High school classroom reading

In high school, classroom reading involves:

- reading widely to gain information, e.g. in visual arts, using a variety of sources to find out about an artist and their work
- reading for specific detail, e.g. in history, locate details about where and when an event occurred
- reading in a questioning way, considering any hidden messages in texts such as stereotyping or bias, e.g. how a particular group is represented in an advertisement will affect people’s opinions about that group
- reading a wide range of texts and reading texts closely for critical analysis, enjoyment and pleasure.

What can you do at home?

In high school, your son or daughter will need to read widely for different purposes across subject areas. Students have to be able to work out what is being said and read between the lines to work out what is not directly stated. Effective readers need to make judgements about information and ideas included in texts, the way the ideas are presented and what information has been left out.
Helping your child in Year 7 with Literacy

Before reading

• Ask your son or daughter to explain their reason for reading, e.g. for enjoyment, to find specific information, to be able to make or do something.

• Ask your son or daughter to tell you what might be included in the text. This helps them to think about the topic before they read.

After reading

• Ask if it is the most useful thing to read. What else could be used? Is it helpful?

• Talk to your son or daughter about what information can be found directly in what they are reading. What information can be worked out from what they read, but is not directly stated?

• Ask your son or daughter to tell you about the information presented in graphs, diagrams or images. Why is this information presented in this way?
Last week on Thursday 1st August 2013 the Literacy team celebrated ‘Education week. The students and teachers made us proud through their on and off stage performances. Their achievements and co-operation allowed us to continue illustrating the variety of approaches taken by our students in reading, writing and performing.

**Storybird Awards:** *Storybird Provides Visual Inspiration for Creative Writing.* *Storybird* complements the writing process by providing themed artwork which helps develop ideas into story lines. Our year 8 students demonstrated their creative writing skills through the creation of their own storybird (picture book) for young readers. We were proud to publish and award the top three finalists – Athmarr, Taylor and Shade in the Literacy Assembly with their published work, excellence certificate and medal.

**Athmarr**

**Taylor**

**Shade**

*One of the stories read by Mr Egan to Year 7 students.*

Ms Dhillon, English Faculty (Literacy Team)
Whilst studying the novel, ‘Boyz ‘r’ Us’ by Scott Monk in year 10 English, 10EN L adapted a part of the novel into a script, designed the set and character’s costumes and acted the scene in front of a camera to be edited and showcased at the Literacy assembly in the hall.

The class set up the classroom to look like Central Station and performed a scene from the book where the Trolley Man gets stabbed by the leader of the Marrickville Thunder-jets. From the reaction of the audience and the effort of the actors to get the job done, do not be surprised if you were to see these names lighting up the Hollywood screens in the future. Well done to Evander, William, Mitchell, Blake, Dudley and Brayden.
“CHIFLEY CHATS”

CHIFLEY CHATS is a forum to provide information/professional learning on areas requested by the community, to raise any issues or concerns and discuss future strategies to improve student learning at Chifley College, Mt Druitt Campus.

CHIFLEY CHATS for Term 3 will be held on TUESDAY, 13th August from 12.00pm -1.00pm. The forum will be held in the SCHOOL COMMON ROOM.

The topics that will be presented by teachers at this forum will be:

- Schools A-Z (Practical help for primary and high school parents)
- Strategies to support students with their learning
- Mathematical vocabulary and basic mathematical skills
- Mathematical APPS
- Parents’ Guide to the HSC

The presentations will be brief and there will be time for group discussion. Your input, ideas, comments and questions are really welcome as they will assist us with our forward planning.

You will be provided with a FREE SHOW BAG with resources that will assist your child with getting ahead.

Children are welcome, and light refreshments will be served.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Ms Anderson  Miss Healy
(Principal)  (Leading and Learning Team)
Free Graduated Licensing Scheme Workshops for Learner Driver Parents in the Blacktown City area

Young drivers are three times more likely to be involved in casualty crashes. That's why the Roads and Maritime Services has introduced a new licensing scheme, with more supervised driving practice for learner drivers.

To help parents in supervising learner drivers, the Roads and Maritime Services has set up a FREE 2 hour workshop for parents that offers practical advice on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers.

A FREE parents' workshop will be conducted by David Riches and hosted by Blacktown City Council on Monday September 9th at Blacktown City Council Offices from 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm.

Early bookings are essential, by phoning David on 0434 964764 now to reserve your place, or email parentworkshop@optusnet.com.au
While high school has changed greatly over the years some things never change! Adolescents still struggle to “fit in”, deal with peer pressure, friendship issues and passing their exams. Sometimes just talking about these issues with someone who is not family or school related can help the situation.

This term Headspace visited Chifley College Mount Druitt Campus to speak with year 8 about their organisation and the resources on offer.

Headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation. Carla, a Headspace representative, explained “We help young people aged 12 to 25, who are going through a tough time.”

Carla explained to year 8 that Headspace centres are a place you can go to talk to someone about any of the following issues:

- feeling down, stressed or can't stop worrying
- haven't felt like yourself for a long time
- can't deal with school or finding it difficult to concentrate
- feeling sick or worried about your health
- having difficulties with friendships
- being bullied, hurt or harassed
- worried about study

Students participated in role playing activities, group discussions, a music/listening activity then had an opportunity to ask questions. The presentation was well received by students and gave them some insight into mental illness.
Liven’ Deadly is a program that runs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at CCMD each week. This year our talented participants have had their efforts filmed to create the Liven’ Deadly Documentary!

The documentary will be launched on Wednesday 14th August in the school hall at 10am. All parents, carers and families are welcome to join in on the fun!

If you would like to attend it would be greatly appreciated if you could RSVP to Ms Kavanagh by calling the school on 9625 9750.

We look forward to seeing you!