

Extra-Curricular Programs

The following are Extra-Curricular Programs and activities that Chatham offers in addition to providing the core curriculum. Many of the extra-curricular activities and programs that we offer are designed to enrich core learning, sometimes across year levels or for individuals, as well as to broaden experiences in other learning areas and foster interests and talents so we are able to develop and provide for the whole child.

- Buddy Program. Program begins in Pre-Prep year, November, and continues across the next two years. Initially orients new Prep students to school environment and provides a Yr 5 buddy to help them socialise and integrate with other students while developing a cross-age Partnership. Highlights of the program include Teddy Bears Picnic, shared reading, Buddies' Olympics... It is also a precursor for Yr 5s for the Leadership Program in Yr 6.



- Yr 6 Leadership Program co-ordinated by Year 6 teachers. Chatham is quite unique in that it allows a leadership role for every Yr 6 student. The Program is given priority by operating every Thursday afternoon for one hour, as well as having assemblies run by the Yr 6 student body. The program aims to develop leadership and public speaking skills.
- Peer Support Program. This is a cross-age mentoring and social skills program that aims to develop in students a sense of self, resilience, connectedness and a sense of possibility. It involves a group of Yr 6 leaders and all Yr 3 students. The Yr 6 Peer Support Leaders initially participate in an induction day and then ongoing training every alternate week they are not working directly with their assigned group of Yr 3 students. Sessions are once a week every Thursday afternoon during the Leadership hour.



- Junior School Council. This Program involves a group of Yr 6 Councillors who look at and determine how Chatham can give back or support charities or organisations through whole school fundraising and theme days e.g. 40 Hour Famine. This also includes managing the ongoing commitment to our World Vision sponsor child.
- Yr 5 Speaking with Confidence Program co-ordinated by Yr 5 teachers. This program was introduced in 2007 to enrich the Speaking and Listening, and Communication learning domains for all students in Yr 5. Students prepare a variety of speeches over a term, as well as look at the etiquette of public speaking and a variety of roles associated with public speaking competitions. The Program culminates in a 'Speech Night' where students display their skills in public speaking, including presenting impromptu speeches and providing feedback. It is once again a precursor to preparing the students for the Leadership role in Yr 6 and running of school assemblies.

- Yr 6 Rotary Public Speaking Competition co-ordinated by Yr 6 teachers. For the last eleven years, the school has also been involved in the above competition which involves all students in Yr 6 preparing a speech which is then presented to their class, judged by their peers against agreed criteria and then a short list created for the next round of in-school voting. This group of students then present their speeches to the Yr 5 and 6 student body where the School Principal and teachers make a final decision to select 2 students to represent the school. On the night a variety of independent and state schools are involved and placings are awarded to the most effective public speakers. In previous years Chatham has taken out 1st and 2nd placings.
- Maths Extension Program. In Terms 2, 3 and 4, Maths Extension Groups operate once a week for a select number of students in Yrs 4, 5 and 6, who have been assessed by their class teacher as operating well above the expected Level in Mathematics. Students are provided problems, activities or projects that extend their mathematical skills and understandings. (Remaining students are then grouped and provided with a program that also meets their needs). Yr 5 and 6 students also participate in the Maths Olympiad Competition which involves sitting a number of 'tests' across the year which are sent to an external body assessed and aggregated. Students then receive Award Certificates that reflect their overall achievement against other competitors in Australia and neighbouring countries.
- Kathy Walker Investigations Program - Prep and Year 1. This program currently operating in the Prep classrooms for the past five years was taken up into the Year 1 curriculum in 2013. Several mornings a week children are involved in this program that has been developed around child centred, developmental play and learning while also laying the foundations for oral language development, co-operative and collaborative learning, as well as the development of problem-solving skills.
- Excursions and Incursions co-ordinated by classroom teachers. Teachers in levels choose programs that are designed to either introduce a topic, consolidate learned understandings and/or extend learning done in the classroom.
- School's Sustainability Program co-ordinated by various class teachers and Sue Doherty. As a leading Sustainable School in the Boroondara area, grade levels have an assigned responsibility for being Chicken /Compost Monitors etc. as well as having Yr 6 Environment Leaders who continually look for ways to educate the student body and school community on how to be more sustainable.
- WiseONES is a gifted extension program that is offered on-site during school hours. It is an hour week program over 8 weeks. It is an opt-in program and students must meet criteria after an initial assessment.
- Chess Program. Program operates in Term 3 or 4 for a number of students across Yr 2-6. There are two sessions, one for Beginners and one Advanced that each run once a week over a lunchtime, for eight weeks. It is run by an outside group. Limited number of places.



- Science Fair. Open to all students in Prep – 6. Students are encouraged to investigate aspects of science of interest to them outside of school, which may or may not be related to the Science that is happening in the classroom. Students then set up an experiment or display information projects or posters to show the school community what they have learnt about Science and to teach others. It is primarily a home-based project, although there are some class entries. Purpose is to broaden the Science Program and promote inquiry and open-ended learning while fostering a fascination with the concepts of Science.

- Instrumental Music Program operated by High Voltage School of Rock. An opt-in program by parents, for students from Yr 2-6 (Ukulele is offered Yr 1-6). Music teachers come into the school to teach a variety of string and wind instruments, on the premises during the school day. Weekly lessons can be individual or as part of a small group. Program also features Instrumental Evenings to showcase new skills and perform in front of an audience, as well as opportunity to 'sit' for AMEB exams.



- Vocal Ensemble. Students in Years 4, 5 and 6 are auditioned at the beginning of the year for pitch and vocal quality and then offered a place in the Vocal Ensemble for that year. Contracts are signed by the students committing themselves to the group. Practices are held every Wednesday afternoon for one hour. The group prepares a variety of works both in unison and part singing to perform at festivals, Open Days, musical evenings and school concerts. Junior Vocal Ensemble also operates for all Year 3 students for half an hour each week, if the timetable permits.
- Bi-annual School Concerts. Every two years, students across the school participate in a school concert. Each grade prepares a song and dance (choreographed and taught by a Yr 5/6 student) as part of a year Level theme. Students in Yr 5 and 6 prepare a mini-musical melodrama which involves singing, dancing and acting. Opportunities for acting parts are secured through an audition process. There are also speaking parts as part of the Junior School Concert with teachers selecting students. The Concert also provides opportunities for pairs of Year 5 and 6 students to take responsibility for choreographing and teaching a junior grade a dance routine.
- Extension Art. Each term a select number of students across Years 5 and 6 are offered places in a Special Art program, while a number of students from across Years 3 and 4 have the opportunity to participate in a four week program on a Friday afternoon if the timetable permits. The program aims to extend the base Art curriculum and develop artistic skills and techniques for those students who have shown extra interest or abilities in Art. Appendix 1b
- Camps. Students have the opportunity to attend an activities camp in Warburton (3 days), bike camp in Maldon (4 days) and a water based camp in Gippsland Lakes (5 days) in Year 4 to 6 respectively. The school camp program endeavours to develop independence and resilience in children to try new things in an environment in which they are unfamiliar, as well as further developing skills of co-operation and problem solving.



- Bike Education Program. Students in Year 4 undertake a Bike Education Program in readiness for the Bike camp in Year 5.
- HoopTime. This is a one-day basketball tournament (round robin style competition) open to all Year 3 – 6 students. A variety of teams are created across a year level according to experience. Focus is on working as a team and having fun whilst playing competition sport. Winning on the day means further possibility of going onto Regional and State finals.
- Jump Rope for Heart. All students Prep-6 participate in this program as part of the Physical Education Program which culminates in a 'Jump-off,' as well as showcase of skills by some students in front of the whole school in the afternoon. Also has a sponsorship/fundraising component for students who are interested and thank-you rewards. Aim of program is to encourage exercise for a healthy heart.
- Interschool Sport. All Year 6 students play a summer and a winter sport respectively in Terms 1 & 2 against a number of neighbouring schools each Friday morning.
- Premier's Reading Challenge. All students from Prep to 6 are encouraged to participate in this program.



- Japanese Study Tour. In 2012, for the first time, 16 Year 5 & 6 students embarked on an 11 day study tour to Japan (under supervision!) where they visited our penpal school, as well as Kyoto, Hiroshima and Osaka. Induction into the program involves a selection process which includes a written application by students which is weighted against criteria. Students also commit to attending a lunchtime workshop every week, prior to the trip, to familiar themselves on a particular aspect of Japanese culture, etiquette, language, currency etc. for the group while travelling overseas. Another Japanese Study Tour is planned for September 2018.