Welcome to a new year

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the school year for 2013.

Our Level 3 team members for this year are:

- Elmar Lumpreiks MD-L
- Deb Karanzoulis MD-K
- Libby Browning MD-B
- Robyn Twining MD-T
- Vanessa Urmston Md-U
- Dale McInerney Support

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Our Specialist teachers for this year are:

- Miss Claudia Michielin Visual Arts
- Mrs Noreen McMenaman Physical Education
- Mrs Kathryn Lane Music

CURRICULUM – VELS LEVEL 3

The Victorian Essential Learning Standards (The VELS) describe what students are expected to know and be able to do at this level, and how well they should know and be able to do it.

The VELS identifies what is important for students to achieve at different stages of their schooling and includes standards for those achievements.

In Years 3 and 4 students continue to build on the knowledge and skills developed in earlier years. They develop a deeper understanding of the relationships between school, home and the community. They are becoming more capable of concentrating on tasks for longer periods of time. Students are encouraged to be confident in discussing ideas, expressing opinions and listening to others at home and in the classroom. They understand that they need to work with others and be part of their class and school.

In Years 3 and 4 standards are set in twelve areas of learning. The table below shows areas in which standards are set for assessment and reporting in these years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical, Personal &amp; Social Learning</th>
<th>Discipline-based Learning</th>
<th>Interdisciplinary Learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health and Physical Education</td>
<td>The Arts</td>
<td>Design, Creativity and Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal Development</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Information and Communications Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Learning</td>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>Thinking Processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civics and Citizenship</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PARTNERSHIPS

Good partnerships between students, teachers, and parents are vital to success and the key to working successfully together is effective and respectful communication between all parties.

If there is a concern, please let us know so that we can address the issue (academic or social) as soon as possible. You may choose to write a note, email or phone for an appointment. Please be aware that due to meeting commitments, we are not always available without notice. A message to arrange an appointment is necessary to avoid disappointment.
HOMEWORK - Please refer to our school’s Homework Policy

All students have regular homework requirements. A daily home reading program using texts from a range of sources including personal library, class literature, school or regional libraries is to be maintained. The learning of number facts/tables is another ongoing requirement. Please help us by discussing with your child the homework expectations and sign the weekly homework grid and reading log.

During the course of the year the students may be asked to research topics, prepare and write reports, projects and talks. This may need your guidance, suggestions and assistance. We appreciate your interest and encourage your support.

INTEGRATED CURRICULUM

An Integrated Curriculum allows students to extend and apply knowledge, skills and values they have developed about the world around them. The Thinking Curriculum will also have a major focus here. An effective Integrated Curriculum is one that not only considers the learning made across the learning areas but also the way in which children learn.

In Level 3 we operate on a two-year cycle. This year we will be exploring the following topics based on the inquiry theory of learning that acknowledges the role of the student in setting directions and actively participating in shared investigations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Learning to Learn / Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Flight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Let Us Entertain You</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Wetlands Wading</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ROTATIONS

In order to take advantage of the experience and range of expertise of the teachers in Level 3 this year we will be operating a rotation system whereby the students participate in the following activities:

ICT— with Mrs Urmston
Library / Literacy— Mr Lumpreiks
LOTE—Mrs Browning
Science – Miss Twining
Maths Problem Strategies – Mrs Karanzoulis

ENGLISH - Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening

The Early Years Literacy Program is specifically designed for students in their first three years of schooling, and to meet the specific needs of students in the next two years of schooling. The Level 3 program emphasises the use of a variety of instructional approaches to teach your child to develop, consolidate and extend his/her reading, writing, speaking and listening understanding and skills. During the Literacy hour, we will work with small groups of children as well as independently on a variety of Literacy tasks.

READING - Your child will be grouped according to his/her abilities, which allows us to focus on particular skills. During Literacy Rotations, your child will participate in small group Guided Reading and Reciprocal Teaching sessions. He/She will also be involved in a range of reading activities such as comprehension tasks, word analysis, research activities, shared reading, listening posts, book reviews, CD ROMs and the Internet.

WRITING - During writing, we will model different elements of the writing process, depending on the focus of the session and the needs of your child. Through shared and guided writing, your child will be experimenting with strategies for planning, reviewing and proof reading his/her own writing.

SPELLING/PUNCTUATION - Your child will be studying spelling strategies based on visual, auditory, kinaesthetic and memory games and activities. We focus on spelling rules as well as personal words.

GRAMMAR -Your child will be concentrating on:
• using appropriate tense to suit the purpose of the writing.
• examining basic sentence structure and variation of sentence beginnings.
• extending basic punctuation skills.

HANDWRITING - Your child will continue to consolidate his/her Victorian Modern Cursive script.

SPEAKING & LISTENING activities are incorporated in all English sessions - Your child will be regularly encouraged to participate in a variety of class discussions and oral activities.

MATHEMATICS - The Early Years Numeracy program uses grouping as a way of ensuring all students are being taught at their level. The groups vary according to the needs of the students and the focus of the session. Your child will be involved in whole class and small group activities. Our aim is to further develop student understandings of the number system leading to the ability to perform accurately the basic mathematical operations, to calculate, estimate, measure and to use these skills in everyday problem solving situations. Automatic recall of the multiplication tables is a top priority. Relevant computer activities and number games are a part of our math program.
WATER IN THE CLASSROOM / BRAIN FOOD

Drinking plenty of water is essential for keeping minds alert. We encourage children to have a water bottle on hand to sip from during the day. Children may eat ‘brain food’ i.e. fruit or vegetables which can be eaten without interrupting work, during class time (at approximately 10 and 12.00).

CLOTHING & UNIFORM Please ensure that your child has the correct school uniform. (A copy of our uniform policy is available on request). A note is required to cover a temporary situation. Sun smart policy applies to free dress days and camps between Sept 1 until the end of April. PLEASE NAME EVERYTHING!

NAPLAN YEAR 3

In Year 3 students participate in the national NAPLAN tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy. These national tests provide information on how students are progressing, support improvements in teaching and learning, and provide a framework to compare student performance around Australia. This will occur in May. Don’t stress! This is only one indicator of your child’s progress. Your child’s class work over the course of the year gives a more complete picture of achievement.

IMPORTANT DATES

Middle Information Evening            Feb 19 (Tues 7pm)
School Fair                             March 23
NAPLAN      Yr 3 only                     May 14,15 & 16
Year 3 Camp                             May 8,9 & 10
Year 4 Camp                             Sept 9,10 & 11
Middle Production                       August 21 & 22

BUDDIES

Over the course of the year, Middle School students will have a fantastic opportunity to help make the new Early Learning students feel more welcomed into the school and assist them with their work through the ‘Buddies’ program. Each Middle School class will be paired up with an Early Learning class and undertake activities that aim to not only assist the younger students with their learning and development, but provide a chance for the older students to take on the role of the teacher to help improve leadership skills and give them additional responsibilities. The Middle School students love working with the younger kids and have already thoroughly enjoyed meeting their Buddies over the first few weeks of term! It is an extremely worthwhile program for both levels to improve relationships throughout the school and simply have a bit of fun in a different environment!

CAMPS

The Year 3 Camp will again be run this year at Mt Evelyn. At CHPS we are most fortunate to be able to offer a school camp at this level each year; with willing and daring teachers, supportive parents and a proven, successful camp program for this year level. Our Year Three Camp program has proven very successful over a number of years, being a relatively short distance from home yet in a wonderful bushland setting, with great facilities, yummy food and many fun learning activities to keep everyone busy. The Middle School teachers will be inviting a small number of parents to assist with the smooth running of the camp - both “Dayers” (8am - 3pm) and “Stayers” (the really brave). Further information will be available late Term 1 (a deposit will be required – approx. $100) and early Term 2. Meanwhile, ask your child to start saving their pennies, find their Teddy and learn how to brush their teeth without your supervision!

In Term 3, Year 4 students have the opportunity to attend Camp Manyung, which is situated near Mt Eliza, just over an hour from Croydon Hills. The program, facilities and equipment of this accredited campsite, are provided by the YMCA and Sport & Recreation, Victoria. The wide range of challenging activities offered at Camp Manyung build on the wonderful experiences provided by the CHPS Camping Program. Some of the activities the students may be involved in throughout the week are beach education and surf life saving games, fishing, canoeing, high & low ropes, vertical challenge, giant swing and initiative and environmental activities. The activities we will participate in will be dependent on our choice and the weather at the time. Qualified Camp Manyung instructors will assist with the program throughout the week. More information including a detailed outline of the program and medical forms will be sent home later.

CIRCLES

The ‘Circles’ program aims to foster relational learning plus develop the leadership skills of our students. Our ‘Circles’ groups will meet fortnightly on Monday after lunch. Our ‘Circles’ program supports the Physical, Personal and Social Learning Strand of VELS. If we can create good relationships between students within the school environment and an ethos of caring amongst school members, the foundations for creating a healthy learning environment are established. In ‘Circles’ students are involved in a variety of activities. These activities help students to speak confidently, listen to others with understanding and empathy and respond to others verbally and non-verbally in an appropriate manner.
FROM THE SPECIALISTS

MUSIC from Mrs Lane

CHOIR

I would strongly encourage all middle school children to join the choir. We have some fabulous singers amongst this cohort and it would be great to see a really big choir this year. Come and join in the fun during half of lunchtime on a Monday and before school on Thursday.

If you are a new member to choir for 2013 you will need to fill in an enrolment form. These have been distributed but you can collect one from the music office if you missed out and return it to me at our first rehearsal next Monday. Existing members don’t need to re-enrol unless your contact details have changed. I expect that children who were in choir last year would continue in 2013. Choir is open to all boys and girls in years 3-6 that enjoy singing and would like the opportunity to perform with a large group at lots of different events. We have a performance coming up at Eastland and at the fair. Rehearsals are Monday lunchtimes and Thursday mornings at 8 a.m. in the Performing Arts Centre (P.A.C.)

UKULELE / IPAD / MARIMBA BAND

This ensemble is open to students that have some skill on these instruments and would like to be extended and perform in an ensemble. If you play another instrument and would like to join, come and see me in the music office and I will write you some instrumental parts so that you can join in as well. Rehearsals are in the P.A.C. each Thursday lunchtime.

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Enrolment forms have been distributed already, however if you didn’t receive one and would like to learn an instrument, they are available from the music office. We have tuition available in guitar, drums, singing, keyboard, piano, violin, flute, saxophone and clarinet.

I’m looking forward to making great music with the children in middle school. Please drop in and see me or give me a call if you have any queries about the Performing Arts program.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The focus for students in the Middle School this term is Bouncing and Striking.

We have started the year already with learning and re-visiting Rounders. This is a complicated game and students will learn the technique of batting, tactics associated with fielding and practising the rules.

Basketball is the next topic with a visit from the Kilsyth Cobras.

We finish the term off with some Bat Tennis and Badminton where students learn to direct the ball over a net.

This term we also have the District Swimming, which is open to children in years 3 and 4. This is being held on Monday 18th February.

VISUAL ARTS from Miss Michielin

This year is the Art Show year and I have gone for a theme for the show – Multicultural Art! In light of this students will be investigating and making art works from Bali, Native North America, Africa and Asia cultures. We will be creating works both of a two and three dimensional, and looking to extend their prior art knowledge and language.

All students will be required to have a smock to protect their clothing.

Due to it’s success last year, Art Academy will be running again as a lunchtime program for keen students.

HOOPTIME

Once again we are hoping to enter teams in the McDonald’s Hoop Time Competition. Hoop Time is a really fun day and caters for all ability levels. It also encourages children who have never played basketball before to have a go.

Rookies teams are for our beginners who have never played basketball and are mixed teams.

Future Stars are for our players who have some experience, (play B Grade domestic or lower or any grade in After School Basketball), and are also mixed teams. All Stars are for children who play at a high level of basketball, (‘A’ grade domestic and / or representative basketball), and these are either all boys or all girls teams.

WEEKLY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Please visit www.croydonhps.vic.edu.au to subscribe to the Croydon Hills weekly newsletter.

Regards,

The Level 3 Middle School Team

Debra Karanzoulis, Libby Browning, Robyn Twining, Vanessa Urmston, Elmar Lumpreiks & Dale McInerney
Middle School Rotations
Maths
Middle School Rotations
Maths
Middle School Rotations
Maths