Welcome to a new year

Our team members for this year are:

- Neil Butler – SRB
- David Moreland – SRM
- Andrew Den Elzen – SRD
- Felicity Puckey – SRP
- Liam Sommers – SRS
- Dale McInerney – Student Support

IPADS

Our Year 5 students have been excitedly taking their first steps into managing their personal devices. It is a very exciting time for all of our students. Please remember that a very important step in being a responsible technology user is backing up your device on a weekly basis.

BE SMART ONLINE

Croydon Hills is taking steps to become an ‘eSmart school’. eSmart is an evidence-based and tested system that will provide a framework to assist us with the implementation of a whole school culture relevant to the smart, safe and responsible use of digital technologies. More information will follow shortly.

SENIOR SCHOOL

The Middle Years of Schooling focuses on the Years 5-9 and the specific needs of students in this area. It looks at the importance of student engagement, connectedness to school and foundational skills in literacy and numeracy.

The Middle Years understands the importance of thinking skills across the curriculum, effective teaching and learning strategies and the need for students to develop skills that will enable them to be lifelong learners. Throughout the year we will be encouraging our students to:

- develop the core values of respect, responsibility, honesty, tolerance & inclusion, compassion and fairness
- be able to work independently
- be confident
- develop organisational skills
- develop people skills and meaningful relationships

RESILIENCE

‘Prepare the child for the road, not the road for the child’.

Resilience means the ability to ‘bounce back’ from difficult experiences. Being resilient means being able to cope, deal with changes and carry on with life. Resilience involves behaviours, thoughts and actions that can be learned and developed in anyone. Psychologists recommend the following for building resilience:

- Having and being a friend
- Being realistic
- Looking at problems as detours, not roadblocks
- Believing in yourself and what you can do
- Taking charge of your behaviour and actions
- Being optimistic
- Setting new goals and making plans to reach them
- Taking care of yourself
- Realising when you need help outside family and friends

Developing and encouraging resilience is an important part of our senior school program.
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 (social or academic) as soon as possible. You may choose to write a note, use the student diary (ipad) 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. If you need to contact a member of the senior team email can often be the most convenient:

butler.neil.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
puckey.felicity.f@edumail.vic.gov.au
denelzen.andrew.a1@edumail.vic.gov.au
sommers.liam.d@edumail.vic.gov.au
moreland.david.c@edumail.vic.gov.au

Please refer to the school’s policy on raising parent concerns/complaints.

HOMEWORK
All students have regular homework requirements that aim to build skills and develop a routine/habit. Homework is usually distributed on Monday via the senior school wiki: l4chps.wikispaces.com to be completed by Friday. Ongoing requirements include:

- 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
- spelling practice

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, suggestion and assistance. We appreciate your interest and encourage your support.

Ways to Help:

- Proof reading especially final drafts— (correct spelling)
- Finding resources at the local library, internet etc.
- Helping to understand the meaning of passages when researching so that your child can rephrase in their own words.
- Encourage neat presentation of all work.
- Show interest and encourage efforts.

Please refrain from taking over and inform us should your child be experiencing any undue difficulty.

Homework is monitored and feedback is given in a range of forms. Parents will be notified if homework requirements are not being met.

ENGLISH

Speaking and Listening
Students participate in formal and informal activities in which they plan, rehearse and think about the way they speak and listen. They learn to listen actively and critically to others and consider how tone, volume, pace, vocabulary and non-verbal cues contribute to meaning.

Writing
Students write a variety of texts developing competence in the selection of ideas and information and the use of language to express these clearly and effectively.

Spelling/Word Study
Students are given strategies to become accurate spellers using topic and personal words as a focus.

Reading
Students read, discuss and analyse texts and construct responses by referring to the text and their own knowledge and experiences. They examine the common characteristics of texts and discuss the organisational structures and grammatical features of different genres.

MATHEMATICS
At this level, the students are developing skills and understandings in the area of Number, Space, Measurement, Chance and Data, Working Mathematically and Structure.

INQUIRY LEARNING
Inquiry Learning 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 and apply their learning.
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:

- Learning to Learn/Team Building
- Indigenous Studies/Government
- Natural Disasters
- Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies/SEPEP

Team Building —TRIBES, RELATIONAL LEARNING,
The Thinking Curriculum is a collaboration of a range of teaching and learning philosophies. Its aim is to develop and foster thinking skills that empower individual students and develop responsible and autonomous learners.

- It encourages thinking
- It provides tools to encourage thinking
- It provides opportunities to think
- It is engaging
- It makes thinking and learning, interesting and purposeful
- It helps to manage the diversity of thinking and learning styles
- It provides opportunities for negotiation of tasks and curriculum content relevant to individual needs
- It is developing responsible, lifelong learners through:
  1. Motivation/engagement
  2. Skill development
  3. Confidence
  4. Reflection

CIRCLES
The ‘Circles’ program aims to foster relational learning plus develop the leadership skills of our senior students. Most children will remain in the same group as last year (minor changes have been made). Our ‘Circles’ groups will meet fortnightly on Monday from 1:50 until 2:40. Senior school students, Year 6 in particular, take on leadership responsibilities in all Circles sessions.

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL – JSC
Our JSC representatives have now been elected in our classes an we congratulate those who have been appointed to the position. JSC is a great way to allow our students to have a voice within our school and provides a platform for them to express their thoughts. JSC are responsible for organising many thing around the school and also represent other classes lower down the school. We have some really keen members of JSC this year and we look forward to seeing their work.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP
Our senior school members are relied upon to lead our school community in a number of areas. While the expectation is that all our Year 5 and 6 students are providing a positive role model for the rest of the school some of our students have been elected into specific roles. Our sports captains facilitate the borrowing of sports equipment at recess and lunchtimes, assist Mrs Mac with sporting events around the school and represent a House at the athletic sports and cross country. Our Art and Music captains promote these areas throughout the school, at assemblies, and assist Mrs Lane and Miss Michielin with projects around the school. Our Circles and JSC leaders assist with running programs on a whole school level. This year our School Captains and Vice Captains will be taking over the microphone at assemblies, being ambassadors for our school in public, taking tours of the school with visitors and many other roles. Lastly, our Environmental Captains assist Mr Burch in the running of our environment program.

FLOAT YOUR BOAT
As the culminating event to our Team Building work this term the students will be designing and constructing a boat out of plastic bottles. It is a great event for our students to focus their work on and also provides a great opportunity to work as a team. Closer to the time we will provide parents with information about the event which will also allow parents to attend the races and cheer for their team!

CLOTHING AND 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 camp. Art smocks must be provided. PLEASE NAME EVERYTHING.

NAPLAN TESTING (YEAR 5)
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.
ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

Reports will be sent home in June and December.

CAMP COONAWARRA – Year 5 – Bush setting – October 28th – November 1st

CAMPBERRA– Year 6 – May 6th – 10th

Cost includes buses with seat belts, qualified camp instructors and activities. Further details will follow.

TRANSITION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

Our transition program, which aims to assist the smooth transition of each student into secondary school, begins in year 5. Students are given the opportunity to visit local secondary schools and participate in a variety of activities. Many secondary schools have Open Nights – watch our newsletter for dates. It is wise to commence looking at schools when your child is in year 5. Year 6 parents should carefully read the newsletter and transition information that will be sent home early in the year.

HOOPTIME

Notices will be sent home this term for those children who wish to participate in the Hoop Time Basketball Day. Beginners, intermediate and experienced teams may be entered.

ROTATIONS

In order to take advantage of the experience and range of expertise of the teaching staff at this level and to assist in preparing the students for high school, we will be operating a rotation system whereby the students participate in the following activities:

- ICT—Mr Moreland
- Library – Mr Sommers
- Science – Miss Puckey
- LOTE – Mr Butler
- Maths – Mr Den Elzen

This program also helps prepare students for Secondary School where they work with several teachers and need to have materials ready for each session.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT

During Term 1 and 2 our Year 6 student will be participating in Interschool Sports. We require some of our year 5 students to join teams as well in a range of sports. Expressions of interest have been called for and places will be decided shortly. Year 5s not included, will participate in non-competitive sport activities at the same time that Interschool Sport operates. During Term 1 the students may come to school in their sports uniforms but must change into school uniform after sport.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- School Photos— Thursday February 21st. The Year 6 graduation photo will also be taken on this day, so please make sure your child is wearing their blue polo shirt.
- Labour Day—Monday 11th March
- School Fair—Saturday 23rd March
- Float Your Boat – Wednesday 27th March
- Term 1 ends—Thursday 28th March
- Curriculum Day—Monday 15th April (no students at school)
- Term 2 begins for students—Tuesday 16th April

We look forward to a happy and productive year,
The Senior Team