Term 2, 2013
Dear Parents,

We hope that you and your family had a great Easter break. It’s wonderful to see the students back refreshed and ready to learn.

It may be time for a re-label! There seems to be a lot of lost property around so please ensure you check the labels on your child’s clothing.

Term 2 Topic
This term our integrated topic is Australian Animals.
During our unit we will look at the following Science based understandings:
• Living things have a variety of external features
• Living things live in different places where their needs are met
• Living things grow, change and have offspring similar to themselves

As part of this unit we will be visiting Healesville Sanctuary.
For this excursion students will need to bring in a small backpack or bag:
• Clearly labelled healthy snack and lunch
• Drink bottle
• Wet weather clothes (coat)
As this is in May hats will not be expected.

Permission notices and parent help request forms have been sent home and need to be returned ASAP.

Maths
In Mathematics this term, the students will learn concepts via a ‘hands on’ approach. We will look at number (addition and subtraction strategies and place value), data collection, graphing, shapes and location. Students will explore measurement using a range of informal units.
At home you can assist your child further develop his/her understanding of mathematics by participating in activities such as: board, card and strategy games, cooking together, allowing him/her to help with the shopping and telling the time.
We also encourage the students to use Mathletics, an Internet program designed to reinforce mathematical concepts in a fun and engaging way. Please see your classroom teacher if you need another copy of the password.
Literacy
After a very informative curriculum day last Monday, writing will be a major focus in Term 2 throughout the school. Expect to see great examples of work written and published by the students. You can assist by discussing with your child things they may be writing about or things they may like to write about in the future.

Speaking and Listening
All classes have been practising good audience etiquette: body language, looking at the speaker and listening to what has been said so that interesting questions can be asked. We have also been practising good speaking skills including: looking at the audience, speaking at an appropriate volume and pace. Thankyou to those who helped their child prepare for the ‘something special to me’ task.

Reading Eggs
Reading eggs is an engaging and interactive online reading program with great reading games and activities which students can progress through at their own level. This program does not take over from the valuable home reading that you have been doing but acts as an additional resource to help children with their reading.

Healthy Eating at School
We strongly encourage the continued use of brain food, which should include small chopped up pieces of fresh fruit and vegetables. Brain food should be brought to school in a separate container from snack and lunch. To help compliment the effectiveness of brain food we encourage each child to have a healthy, nutritious breakfast, snack and lunch avoiding processed foods high in sugar and preservatives.

Homework
As part of Croydon Hills Primary School’s homework policy, it is expected that students in the Junior School complete 30 minutes of homework each night. Junior School homework activities include: reading and discussing a ‘Take Home’ book and practising sight words. It may also include other simple tasks such as organising a presentation for the classroom. The blue satchels with reading books, sight words and reading logs should come to school everyday. Each night the reading log should be filled in. Your child can complete the reading reflection face.
Library Borrowing
In Library, we aim to develop a love of reading and want children to borrow books that they will enjoy, however we are concerned that some students are coming to the library and telling us that they have to borrow ‘chapter books’ i.e. books that are far too difficult for them. If these ‘chapter books’ are for parents, older brothers or sisters or grandparents to read to and with the child, this is fine but please do not try to force your child to borrow and read a book beyond his/her capabilities. Children already have their ‘take-home’ books that are aimed at their level.
In their library session they are encouraged to borrow books that they can take home and share, whether they are picture storybooks or non-fiction books. Some of the non-fiction books can be quite difficult and involve concepts that are hard for the students to understand. In this case we encourage you to look at and discuss the pictures together. At this level it is important that children are read to and that sharing books is an enjoyable experience. This can develop an interest in books and reading which if nurtured will improve your child’s reading and spelling in the long term without the added pressure that seems to be placed on some children.
Sue Offer (Library) and Junior School Team

Visual Art
Students will explore both two and three-dimensional techniques to create a variety of artworks based on their Investigative Learning topic: Australian Animals. Students will develop further Mosaic, clay and watercolour techniques while always expanding their creative imagination.
Students will also participate in the CHPS biennial Art Show.
Thank you
Claudia Michielin
Visual Arts Teacher

CALENDAR DATES FOR TERM 2
Indoor Assembly - Monday 29th April,
Monday 27th May
Healesville Sanctuary – Tues 7th May
Brainology follow up – Wed 8th May
Reports sent home – Fri 21st June
Three way conferences – Week beginning 24th June
Last day of Term 2 – Fri 28th June