Welcome to a new year

We trust that all of our Senior School families had a restful and enjoyable break. Taking time to relax is an important thing for everyone, especially our students.

Our team members for this year are:

- Andrew Den Elzen – SRD
- Jacinta Moyes - SRM
- Felicity Puckey – SRP
- David Slater - SRSL
- Liam Sommers – SRSO

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.

Just a couple of reminders:

- Please ensure that the iPads come to school charged (we do not charge them at school)
- Check the wiki regularly (this site will be changing shortly and we will update parents and students when this takes place)
- iPads should not be kept in student bedrooms
- Parents and students should have access to our iTunesU course which provides up to date information on our one2one iPad program

Note – We will be running an information night on Wednesday 11th February at 6:30pm for parents requiring support with setting restrictions on student iPads. Notices have been distributed and are available on Compass for further information.

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 road blocks
- 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, email, use COMPASS 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:

denelzen.andrew.a1@edumail.vic.gov.au
puckey.felicity.f@edumail.vic.gov.au
moyes.jacinta.p@edumail.vic.gov.au
slater.david.p@edumail.vic.gov.au
sommers.liam.d@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: 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 using words taken from students work (3-5 words)
- A task from the homework grid (the grid will be placed on the wiki beginning from week 2)
During the course of the year the students may be asked to research topics, prepare and write reports, projects and speeches. 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 and/or on the 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. Students will continue to make use of their writer’s notebook to generate ideas for their writing. Students will be focusing on narrative and persuasive writing genres in preparation for NAPLAN in term 2.

Spelling
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, students will participate in senior maths groups, where lessons are designed to target specific areas of need. Student learning in these groups will be supported by regular classroom-based work which will further explore the areas covered through problem solving and open ended tasks.

Number and Algebra
Students apply number sense and strategies for counting and representing numbers. They will build on their understanding of the number system to describe relationships, recognise patterns and solve equations. Students will apply their number and algebra skills to conduct investigations, solve problems and communicate their reasoning.

Measurement and Geometry
Students will continue to develop their understanding of size, shape, relative position and movement of two-dimensional and three-dimensional objects in space, and associated angles. They will investigate real life problems and apply their understanding of a range of units of measurement, such as area, speed, time and capacity.

Statistics and Probability
Students will recognise, collect, represent and analyse data, and draw their own inferences. They will
undertake meaningful statistical investigations. Students will assess likelihood and assign probabilities to chance events, and develop an increasingly sophisticated ability to critically evaluate data and make reasoned and logical judgments.

**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. 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 units 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
- Studies of Asia
- Natural Disasters
- CHPS Film Festival

**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 2:30 until 3:15. Senior school students, Year 6 in particular, take on leadership responsibilities in all Circles sessions.

**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 assist Mrs Mac with sporting events throughout the school year. Our Art, LOTE and Music captains promote these areas throughout the school, at assemblies, and assist Mrs Lane and Miss Michielin and Bu with projects around the school. Our Circles and JSC leaders assist with running programs on a whole school level. This year our School 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 Eco Leaders assist Miss Puckey 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 more 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 made available on COMPASS in June and December.

CAMP COONAWARRA – Year 5 – Bush setting – November 9th – November 13th

CANBERRA– Year 6 – November 9th – 13th

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

TRANSITION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL
Year 6 parents should read the transition information carefully when it is sent home soon. If you have any questions about the Year 6-7 transition process please contact Felicity Puckey, our transition coordinator.

Year 5 – There are many Secondary Schools holding Open Nights at the moment. It is a good opportunity to acquaint yourself with the programs offered by the schools you may be considering for your child in year 7. Watch the newsletter and flyers for dates.

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 Den Elzen
- Personal Development – Mr Slater
- Science – Miss Puckey
- Crime and Punishment – Mr Sommers
- Speech Making – Miss Moyes

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

PE
Physical Education in Term 1 covers some of the Major Games played in Interschool Sports. We go through all the intricate rules and practise our skills. Interschool Sport commences on Friday 13th February, so we will be training at lunchtime on Thursdays. The notice for this will be loaded onto Compass shortly when the teams have been selected. Please make sure all permission notices have been seen and signed as well as the money being paid either through Compass or directly to the office. Students, who have not paid, will not be participating until payment has been made. We do require parents to assist with Hot Shots Tennis and Girls Rounders as we don’t have enough staff for these games. If your child is selected in one of these teams and you are interested and able to help out, please let us know ASAP so we can get these teams up and running.
We are also doing Huff ‘N’ Puff at the beginning of each PE lesson, weather permitting. We did see a drop in the children’s fitness levels when they were not doing their weekly running, so we hope to be a little fitter and lock running into the memory cells for later in life. All students are expected to wear runners to PE classes and girls to wear their polo shirt and shorts/skorts or tracksuit pants, not only for comfort, but also for safety reasons. Please do not wear a dress on your PE day.

ART
This term students will explore the Chinese New Year - Year of the Goat, their traits and characteristics to create a Zentangle art piece.

Keeping with the Zentangle theme, students will have time to design and create a decorative letter, using coloured markers and Zentangle pattern works. Their letters can be medieval, cursive, pop art or modern text etc.

Based on the Crime and Punishment Inquiry unit, students will investigate and recreate the paintings of the Ned Kelly series completed by Australian artist Sidney Nolan.

Students will require a smock each week; an old t-shirt or jumper will be enough to cover their school uniform.

LOCAL LANDSCAPES – National Gallery of Victoria
We have signed up for the National Gallery of Victoria Local Landscapes Program again. We had great success last year and I will be sending out expression of interest notices to any student who would love to participate.

We can only take 20 students into the program, which is stipulated by the gallery.

The program is terrific and involves students heading to the gallery for an excursion, tour and talk about landscapes and in particular the Australian Impressionists with one of the galleries experienced education officers.

Each student receives a canvas board to paint a landscape back at school.

This canvas is then returned to the gallery for display and presentation day.

To refresh your memories the paintings that were on display in the foyer last term, were completed by the Local Landscape group of 2014.

The program is open to students who did not participate last year, however if there are spaces then I will open it up to last years painting group.

The program is $35 per student, which covers the excursion, bus, painting equipment and presentation day.

If your child is interesting in participating they can come and see me to collect information and an expression of interest form.

WAKAKIRRI
Wakakirri is a story dance Eisteddfod where a story is told on stage in an imaginative way using music, dance, dance/movement, and acting. (similar to Rock Eisteddfod) Groups of 20 – 130 children perform in front of a panel of judges, and of course an audience of family and friends at a venue to be confirmed (in August) against other schools in Victoria. After this performance the best schools compete in a Premiere in September. Croydon Hills has been involved since 1999, and it has always
been enjoyable and exciting for the students and all involved. The emphasis is not on dancingability, or the extravagance of sets and props but upon fun, recycling and resourcefulness.

Wakakirri practices are totally outside of school hours. They will be on a THURSDAY night from 3.30pm – 4.45pm in the CHPS Performing Arts Centre. Practises will commence second term.

Students will receive an expression of interest notice on Thursday 5th February to be brought back by Tuesday 23rd February. Once these have been received, payment forms will be available via Compass.

PERFORMING ARTS
Classroom music: Students will continue to create music using their voices, ukeleles, xylophones, untuned percussion, boomwhackers and the other many and varied classroom instruments. They will dance, play games, listen to and discuss various styles of music and continue to learn to read notation. Where possible, we will use music technology to compose music and consolidate theory and aural training. Please make sure that your child has the full version of garageband as we use this app regularly in music classes and that they have headphones.

Choir: Rehearsals take place every Monday lunchtime and Thursdays before school (8 a.m.) Choir Contracts have been distributed to interested students and those students who are eligible to participate in the Victorian State Schools Spectacular have also been given a notice. This event is open to highly committed senior choir members.

Ukelele/iPad/Marimba Band: This group rehearses in the P.A.C. every Tuesday lunchtime and is open to all students from Years 3 - 6. It provides children with an opportunity to play in an ensemble without necessarily learning an instrument formally.

Junior Rockers Instrumental Lessons: Our instrumental program is growing (75 students) and we currently have students learning drums, guitar, piano/keyboard, clarinet and singing. If you want to start or continue learning an instrument you need to collect an enrolment form from the P.A.C. or go to www.juniorrockers.com and enroll online.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- iPad information night – Wednesday 11th February
- School Photos— Thursday February 12th. The Year 6 graduation photo will also be taken on this day, so please make sure your child is wearing their blue polo shirt.
- Meet the Teacher – Wednesday 18th February
- Labour Day—Monday 9th March
- Curriculum Day – Tuesday 10th March
- School Fair—Sunday 15th March
- Float Your Boat – Wednesday 25th March
- Term 1 ends—Friday 27th March

We look forward to a happy and productive year,

The Senior Team