Welcome to a new year
We hope that all of our Senior School families had a relaxing and enjoyable break. Taking time to relax is an important thing for everyone, especially for our students.

Our team members for this year are:

- Andrew Den Elzen – SDE
- David Slater - SDS
- Kali Fraser – SKF
- Leigh Dixon - SLD
- Laura Kitching – SLK

IPADS
Our Year 5 students have been eagerly taking their first steps into using their personal devices. It is a very exciting time for all of our students.

Just a couple of important reminders:

- Ensure that you and your child have read and signed the acceptable use agreements.
- Regularly check your child’s iPad and make sure you are aware of what is on the device
- Please ensure that the iPad comes to school fully charged (we do not charge them at school)
- Check the Senior School Google Site regularly: [https://sites.google.com/a/croydonhps.vic.edu.au/seniorschool/](https://sites.google.com/a/croydonhps.vic.edu.au/seniorschool/)
- iPads should not be used in student bedrooms and only in shared family areas.
- Parents and students should have access to our iTunes U course which provides up to date information on our one2one iPad program: [https://itunesu.itunes.apple.com/audit/CODHDDMJAAE1GC3G](https://itunesu.itunes.apple.com/audit/CODHDDMJAAE1GC3G)

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 understand 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, gratitude and fairness
- be able to work independently
- be confident
develop organisational skills
- develop people skills and meaningful relationships

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

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

The school in partnership with the Resilience Project will be running seminars during term 1 for parents and students. These seminars (10th and 17th of March for students and 21st March at 7pm for parents) will be part of our whole school approach to developing student’s resilience, mindfulness, empathy and gratitude.

PARTNERSHIPS
Effective partnerships between students, teachers, and parents are vital to success and the key to working successfully together is ongoing 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
slater.david.p@edumail.vic.gov.au
fraser.kali.k@edumail.vic.gov.au
dixon.leighton.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
kitching.laura.e@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 Google Site (https://sites.google.com/a/croydonhps.vic.edu.au/seniorschool/) to be completed by Friday. Weekend extensions can be granted if discussed with the classroom teacher prior to the due date.
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 (30 minutes each night)
- The ongoing practice of mathematics skills and problem solving.
- Spelling practice using words taken from students’ work (3–5 words)
- A task from the homework grid (the grid will be placed on the Google Site 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;

- Showing an active interest in your child’s work
- 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.

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. Students are required to attend homework club during lunchtimes to complete outstanding tasks 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 recount, 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. This term our units will focus on the concepts of place value, the operations (addition, subtraction,
multiplication and division) and symmetry. Throughout the year our units will be based on the following areas of the curriculum:

**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. An effective Integrated Curriculum is one that not only considers the learning made across all 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 a range of topics based on the inquiry theory of learning that acknowledges the role of the student in setting directions and actively participating in shared investigations:

- Sustainability
- Night of Notables
- Antarctica
- SEPEP

**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 2:40 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, 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 continue to present at assemblies, be ambassadors for our school in public, take tours of the school with visitors and many other roles. Our eSmart leaders will help Mr Dixon to
promote cybersafety and digital citizenship throughout the school. Lastly, our Eco Leaders will assist Mrs Kitching in the running of our sustainability program.

SUSTAINABILITY FAIR
As the culminating event to our Sustainability unit this term the students will be designing and constructing pieces of work to present at our Sustainability fair. It is a great event for our students to focus their work on and share their knowledge and understanding with other students within the school. The fair will run on Wednesday 23rd of March and more information will be provided to parents later this term.

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 LABEL EVERYTHING WITH YOUR CHILD’S FULL NAME.

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 classwork over the course of the year gives a more complete picture of achievement.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING
Reports will made available on COMPASS in June and December.

YEAR 5 CAMP AT COONAWARRA – November 7th - 11th
YEAR 6 CAMP TO CANBERRA – November 7th - 11th
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 Kali Fraser, 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:

● eSmart—Mr Dixon
● Personal Development – Mr Slater
● Science – Mrs Kitching
● History – Mr Den Elzen
● Australian Icons – Miss Fraser
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 12th February, so we will be training at lunchtime on Thursdays. All Year 6 students are expected to participate in Interschool Sport and there will be many places available this year for the Year 5’s to fill in after the Year 6’s have had their choice. Not all Year 5’s will have the opportunity to play sport as we can’t cater for all the students, but the children who do not participate, will be playing some sport with Mr Dixon this term, whilst the others are competing. Students, who have not paid, will not be participating until payment has been made. If parents would like to assist with any of the sports, please send back the notice, which is attached to Compass. 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 and I would also really like to see all girls have their hair tied back for safety reasons. I am looking forward to having another great year with the Senior students.

Noreen McMenaman

Sport / PE

ART

Students will continue to create art works using a variety of materials, techniques and skills that will assist in their creative development. Students will be expected to bring to each session their iPad (charged) and their pencil cases.

This term students will explore the Chinese New Year - Year of the Monkey developing a Zentangle Monkey 3D piece.

Thanks to technology though iPads, students will investigate photography, how to take and what tricks/tips that can help them with taking that interesting shot. Students will look at a theme when photographing and develop a collage of their best nine images.

From our photography session, students will select their favourite one that will be transferred onto a calico bag that will be used as their Art bag. Students will be able to add additional, personal touches to their bag that will hold their iPad and pencil case when coming to school

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

Claudia Michellin

Visual Arts

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 dancing ability, or the
extravagance of sets and props but upon fun, recycling and resourcefulness. Last year our students made the state finals and were privileged to be able to perform at Hamer Hall in the city.

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

Students will receive an expression of interest notice shortly and are to be brought back by the due date. 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 will also been given a notice soon. This event is open to highly committed senior choir members. Our first choir rehearsal will be on Thursday the 11th of February at 8 a.m.

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 enrol online.

LOTE

In 2016, Senior students will have a 50 minute Indonesian lesson weekly. They will revise the Indonesian they know for talking about themselves and learn some new language to talk about sport in Australia and Indonesia. All students have been asked to download the new Languages online app. This new app is excellent for practising Indonesian both at home and at school. It will be a very useful addition to the learning technology we use already in Indonesian.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Meet the Teacher – Wednesday 17th February
- Edendale farm excursion - Monday 29th February
- Edendale farm excursion - Tuesday 1st March
- Labour Day—Monday 14th March
- School Fair—Sunday 20th March
- The Resilience Project Parent Seminar —Monday 21st March
- Sustainability Fair – Wednesday 23rd March
- Term 1 ends— Thursday 24th March

We look forward to a happy and productive year,

The Senior Team