Dear Parents,
Welcome to 2017!
Each term our team will provide you with a newsletter to keep you updated with what has been happening, special events and any other events relevant to the Junior school.

School Times
School Starts 9:00am
Brainfood
Recess 11:30 am
Lunch 1:40pm
School Dismissal 3:30pm

Please be advised that the school yard is not supervised after 3:45pm, so students who are still in the yard will have to go to the office or after school care.

Brainfood and Lunch Orders
Each morning the students will have an opportunity to have “brainfood”, a healthy mid-morning snack. Brainfood should only be fruit and/or vegetables and should be in a separate container from the rest of the students’ school lunch. Please ensure that students come to school with both brainfood and Snack food on days when they have a lunch order, as it is a long time before they get a chance to eat otherwise. Note: Lunch orders are ONLY available through the online portal on Mondays. Tuesday-Friday orders are able to be placed in the classroom tubs.

Specialists
Visual Arts- Claudia Michielin
Music- Amana Tweedie
Physical education-Noreen McMenaman
LOTE- Dave Slater
Science- Laura Kitching

Junior Team
Liam Sommers JLS (On the hill)
Kristy Sotiropoulos JKS (On the hill)
Jessie Cassidy JJC (block F)
Marc Purcell JMP (block F)
Bree Jennings JBJ (block F)
Kelly Lawrence JKL (block F)
Sian Yallop JSY (block B)
Jaclyn Osborne JJO (block B)
Tania Chirnside JTC (block B)

Literacy support
Jacinta Moyes
Deb Letson

Hats and Sunscreen
Hats are mandatory for outside play in Term 1 and Term 4. Any students without a hat are required to play undercover. During Summer, please ensure your child puts sunscreen on in the morning before school.
Platoon
As part of the physical education program students will participate in skills based activities once a week with a Junior school teacher. Please ensure students wear appropriate footwear (runners).

Wednesday: JSY, JTC, JBJ, JMP, JKS
Thursday: JLS, JJO, JKL, JJC

Student Absences
It is essential that students attend school regularly and with minimal absences. Research shows that failure to do so severely impacts their learning. In the event that a student has a large number of absences, we will touch base with families to discuss the situation. Please ensure that you put all student absences onto Compass.

Home Reading
Our Homework Policy requires that junior school students read for at least 10-15 minutes per night. Reading to your children, even if they are already competent readers, also has a positive effect on their reading ability. Regular reading is the single best thing you can do to improve your child’s literacy ability. If you need any suggestions for books to engage your child, please don’t hesitate to speak to your child’s teacher.

Resilience Incursion
Throughout the year, a representative from the Resilience Project will visit the school to conduct student talks (confirmed dates to come)

A parent information night will be held on March 1st

Playgrounds
Year 1 & 2 students are NOT allowed on the prep playground or in the sandpit before or after school.

Resilience Project
Over the past year, Croydon Hills has been participating in the Resilience Project. In the Junior School, this program is our major Integrated Studies focus throughout the first term. Students will take part in regular lessons each week that aim to improve their understanding of resilience (ability to ‘bounce back’), empathy, gratitude, mindfulness and emotional literacy. Positive mental health and wellbeing is a vital aspect to your child’s education and they will learn strategies to assist them in a range of academic and social situations. Our students love this program and they are already reaping the rewards!
Speaking and Listening
This term students will be practising their speaking and listening skills by sharing with the class their “Favourite Things”. Each student will have a day where they can bring in 4-5 things that are special to them to share with the class. Developing students’ speaking and listening skills are an essential part of literacy development. As noted by educational researchers, “Reading and writing float on a sea of talk”, so it is important to give students a chance to develop their skills. You will receive a letter informing you when it is your child’s turn to share with the class.

Literacy in the junior school

Writing
Writing sessions in junior classrooms consist of teachers modelling specific writing skills in whole class instruction, followed by students working individually or collaboratively on their own writing. Finally, the class is brought back together so that students can share and celebrate their work, as well as receive peer and teacher feedback for future improvements. Our students are taught to engage in the full writing process; planning (brainstorming), drafting, revising and editing and publishing. Each week, we have a specific focus for spelling (e.g. a particular letter-sound pattern, plurals, compound words, simple spelling rules). Junior students will also participate in formal handwriting lessons designed to teach correct letter formation, size, slope and correct pencil grip. All children are required to write using Victorian Modern Cursive.

Reading
It is extremely important that reading skills are practised daily. Students will be encouraged to choose books to take home from particular reading levels to share with parents or other adults. Sharing includes having the chosen books read to them, reading themselves or reading with someone else to consolidate the vocabulary and comprehension skills that are being taught at school. Reading at home should aim to develop confidence, fluency and enjoyment of reading. Therefore, the books being brought home should be easy for your child to read. We encourage parents to extend and expand their child’s love of reading, by reading a wide range of materials from home, school and local libraries. Please record your child’s daily reading into their yellow reading log, which is kept in their satchel. This allows teachers to monitor and maintain communication about reading progress on a regular basis. Reading Log is a useful method for recording your child’s daily reading. You can further support your child’s reading by helping them learn the common sight words. This is further explained in the “Take-home reading” note you will have received from your teacher and is also available on Compass. In classrooms, a typical reading session will involve shared or modelled reading as a whole class, flowed by independent reading or literacy work. During this time the teacher will also work with individual or small groups to target particular needs.
In maths throughout term 1, we will continue to have a strong focus on building students’ problem solving skills and understanding of strategies to assist them in solving mathematical (and life!) problems with increasing independence.

Students will revise key problem solving strategies and they will constantly be challenged to reason, rationalise, justify and explain their mathematical thinking.

In class, we will focus heavily on Number and Algebra, including concepts such as number recognition and sequences, place value, and using the four operations. We will also be looking at Measurement and Geometry concepts such as length and time, and our Statistics and Probability focus will centre around data collection and representation.

Students will be exposed to a range of open-ended problems to provide meaningful tasks that aim to extend and/or support each student at their particular point of need.
We are very excited to begin our Investigative Learning (IL)! These sessions give our students the opportunity to follow their own interests and learn through hands-on experiences.

It is a research-based approach, which increases student motivation and engagement dramatically. Students are able to choose from a range of learning experiences in which they can apply, develop and practise key literacy and numeracy concepts. Examples of the learning experiences include block or box construction, dramatic role-play (e.g. the class cafe, puppet theatre or a veterinary clinic), art and collage, working at the writing centre or a science station. The teacher creates a learning environment that supports academic development, while also nurturing physical, social and emotional development. The skills developed during Investigative Learning help our students to become effective, life-long learners and successful citizens in the 21st century. These skills include the ability to:

- Make decisions
- Solve problems
- Persist
- Be resilient
- Work co-operatively with others
- Communicate effectively
Science in the Junior school

This term in the Junior school, the students will be studying Earth and Space Sciences in a unit called “Up, Down and All Around”. Throughout this unit, the students will learn about changes in our environment over different periods of time and why these changes occur. They will also discuss changes which we can and cannot control and also if these changes are good or bad for our environment. Students in the Junior school will study one Semester of Science and will swap over to study Indonesian in Semester 2 (or vice versa). See the table below which outlines which Semester your child will study Science. If you would like to know which topics are being covered in Term 2, the posters are displayed on the outside window of the Science room and also in the Eco tunnel.

Semester 1  JSY, JBJ, JJC, JKL, JTC
Semester 2  JMP, JJO, JKS, JLS

Laura Kitching

Music

This Term in Music, Junior School students will create and perform music using their voices, body percussion, tuned and un-tuned percussion and the other many and varied classroom instruments. They will dance, play games, perform basic ostinatos, listen to and discuss various styles of music and begin to read and write notation. Where possible, we will use music technology to compose music and consolidate theory and aural training. All students will have their own workbook, year 2s re-using last year’s, where they will keep the year’s work. We will be doing drama activities that will tie in with the classroom integrated topic where possible. For those students wishing to learn an instrument you can go online and enroll directly at www.juniorrockers.com. Lessons are offered in drums, guitar, piano/keyboard, flute, clarinet, strings and singing. I’m looking forward to my first year with Croydon Hills Primary School and want to thank all the Junior School students for making me feel so welcome. If you have any queries don’t hesitate to contact me.

Amana Tweedie

LOTE

Indonesian for the Junior School is on Monday. We have a 50 minute session each week. The students have begun the year very confidently and are enjoying the new Indonesian room which is located in the Birches. In Term 1 the students will be revising the basic Indonesian needed to give their name, age, introduce someone, talk about their family, count to twenty and name colours. At school we will be using the Languages online app on our Indonesian iPads. If you wish students can install this app on their personal iPads for extra practice at home. We are planning to have lots of fun as we learn Indonesian this year!

David Slater
**ART**

A warm welcome back and I am looking forward to another creative year. In term 1, students will investigate the Year of the Rooster as our Studies of Asia unit. Using paint and plastic folks, students will explore mark making of a different sort to develop ruffled feathers. Students will develop a front cover for their Visual Diary displaying their drawing skills. Students will investigate the works of Spanish artist Joan Miro to create an interesting collaborative mural incorporating Primary Colours.

We have our Biennial Art Show later in Term 4, which I hope your looking forward to as much as I am.

It is a requirement in art that all students have an art smock. This does not need to be a store bought smock, an old jumper or t-shirt will suffice, as its main purpose is to protect student’s clothes from paint.

Claudia Michielin
Visual Arts Teacher

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**PE**

PE this term in the Junior school will consist of hitting / striking sports such as Tennis and Volleyball. Mrs Yorke and myself will be the PE teachers again this year. We team share and usually start the lessons together. Sometimes we stay together as a large group and other times, we split up after the instructional stage of the lesson. This week we started to test the children’s fitness levels by getting them to run 50m, 500m and do a standing jump. Half way through the year we will re-test them with the same tests and compare their results. Could we please remind parents to make sure all girls have their sports uniforms on and runners on Tuesday, not dresses and to also make sure that all children have their water bottle at school. With the extreme weather conditions we have, the children need to constantly hydrate. We are both looking forward to an exciting year once again in the Junior School.

Noreen McMenaman
Sport /PE
Liam Sommers

**Info:** I have been a teacher at CHPS for eight years and love it! I have two awesome and very cheeky kids (Xander - 3 years and Tillie - 1 year old).

**Hobbies:** Sport (golf, footy, many more!), learning about history, just being outside.

**Unique / interesting facts:** I can’t leave the volume level (TV, radio, etc.) on a prime number and I talk in my sleep!

Bree Jennings

**Info:** This is my fourth year teaching at CHPS. I live with my husband, Dale and I have an adorable pet cat, called Nellie.

**Hobbies:** Playing tennis, watching footy, dancing and reading LOTS of books!

**Unique / interesting facts:** I was born on New Year’s Day!!

Jaclyn Osborne

**Info:** I have been at CHPS for 7 years and I am very excited to be teaching in the Junior School. I have a little dog called Indy and barrack for the mighty Tigers!

**Hobbies:** Walking, reading and cooking.

**Unique / interesting facts:** I have travelled to South America and trekked to Machu Picchu!

Jessie Cassidy

**Info:** This is my fourth year teaching at CHPS. I have two cute fur babies Nat & Tilley (my cats).

**Hobbies:** I enjoy going out for brunch, reading, watching the footy and camping with my friends.

**Unique / interesting facts:** I enjoy doing home renovations.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Info</th>
<th>Hobbies</th>
<th>Unique / interesting facts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Lawrence</td>
<td>I have been at CHPS for 1 year and love being a part of this wonderful community!</td>
<td>Reading, doing crosswords, musical theatre, going to the beach.</td>
<td>I have never worn odd socks and my dog is 16 years old!</td>
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<td>Kristy Sotiropoulos</td>
<td>It is my third year teaching at Croydon Hills this year. I have 1 older sister named Bec and 1 younger sister named Cass.</td>
<td>Playing the piano, cooking and sewing! I also love playing with my CRAZY puppy Winston.</td>
<td>I can complete a rubix cube and I love the Harry Potter books and movies!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marc Purcell</td>
<td>This is my 2nd year of teaching and I absolutely love it. I am married to the greatest woman in the world who is conveniently also a Year 1/2 teacher.</td>
<td>Basketball, running and travelling.</td>
<td>I used to run a medical recruitment agency… but I am actually terrified of needles and faint every time I have one.</td>
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<td>Sian Yallop</td>
<td>This is my 4th year teaching at CHPS. Before this I have travelled to lots of different countries and lived in Canada for one year.</td>
<td>Horse riding, netball, snowboarding, reading</td>
<td>I have a cat named Hugo who is very naughty and is always getting into trouble!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tania Chirnside</td>
<td>This is my first year at CHPS. Thank you to everyone that has helped make me feel so welcome! I have 4 gorgeous kids of my own - 2 sons and 2 daughters.</td>
<td>I enjoy AFL (Go Essendon!), basketball and watching my daughter’s cheerleading. I also love reading and travelling.</td>
<td>My favourite author is Bryce Courtenay.</td>
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We are all looking forward to working closely with you and your children throughout 2017 to help them become the best they can be!