Dear Parents,

Welcome back for the final term of 2016! It’s crazy to think how fast the year has gone and that we only have one term left! We trust that you all had a wonderful holidays (Go Doggies!) and it’s great to see the students back at school and very excited about term 4.

This term, all Junior classes will be strongly promoting learning environments that aim to improve resilience, initiative and independence. Looking ahead to 2017, half of our level are close to moving up to Year 3 and the Middle School, and the other half are soon to become our Year 2 ‘leaders’ of the Junior School, so it is important that levels of independence and the ability to solve problems by themselves continue to grow.

Please take the time to read through the Junior School newsletter, the weekly school newsletters and also regularly check Compass, as they all contain important information of what we have planned for a great final term of 2016!

Thank you.

Junior School teachers.

Reminders

SunSmart
All students must wear hats whenever they are outside. Students without hats are to play under the cover outside the library.

Student belongings
Please ensure all student belongings are clearly labeled, and encourage your child to be responsible.

Rubbish Free Lunch
We ask that all students endeavour to reduce the amount of rubbish they bring to school, particularly on Mondays which is our Rubbish Free Lunch day.

Christmas Activities
Leading up to the holiday period, we will be incorporating Christmas themed activities as part of our regular classwork. If, for religious or other reasons, you do not wish your child to participate in these activities, please speak to your classroom teacher as soon as possible.
Mathematics
Junior classes will be using term 4 to practise and improve known strategies and skills using subtraction and addition, working with money and identifying simple fractions. Students will continue working on place value and counting, measurement tasks, using formal and informal units of length, mass, capacity and time, working with 2D and 3D shapes, mapping and location. They will also review learning related to chance or probability of events occurring, collecting and interpreting data.

Throughout the year, we have continued to develop and consolidate our understanding of the 10 problem solving strategies, and implement a whole-school focus based on Rob Vingerhoets’ open-ended approach to maths.

Writing
In writing we have already been working on some great recounts of our holidays, using sequential language and focussing on including lots of interesting detail to engage the reader.

We will also concentrate on writing persuasive texts and some different types of poetry this term, in addition to our usual free choice writing program.

Reading
This term we will continue to focus on the 6 main reading comprehension strategies; predicting, visualising, asking questions, summarising, looking at text structure and thinking aloud.

Specific text types we are working on are: information reports, persuasive texts, procedural texts and narratives. Please continue to discuss the books you read with your child, asking them questions while they are reading and encouraging them to make predictions about the story.

Speaking & Listening
We are continuing to focus on our speaking and listening skills through asking thoughtful questions and showing whole body listening. This term we will also do a short spoken presentation on a topic of our choice in our ‘I am an expert...’ presentations.
**Junior School Homework Policy**

Reading take home books and practising Magic Words every night is an expectation for Junior Students at Croydon Hills P.S and this task should only take 20 – 30 minutes.

Your child should be bringing home levelled texts as directed by their teacher and these books should be relatively easy and enjoyable for your child to read. When reading together, be patient and talk about the text with your child. Reading Eggs and Mathletics are excellent tools to help your child further their learning at home.

More formalised homework begins in Year 3, so building positive and supportive home learning routines at this age would be beneficial to future attitudes towards homework.

---

**“The Great Outdoors”**

This term the Junior School is learning about The Great Outdoors. We will be extending our gaze not only to the observable sky but to what lies beyond, investigating the planet we live on, the sun, the moon and the planets that make up our solar system. We will be asking lots of questions such as, ‘Where exactly is the sun in the sky?’ and ‘Why do we only see one side of the moon from earth?’, and we’re looking forward to finding some interesting answers.

As part of our unit, we will also have an extremely fun and engaging excursion to Scienceworks!

---

**Student Uniform**

Just a reminder that all students are required to be in correct school uniform. Many students are coming to school wearing tights with their summer dresses or alternative colour shorts. Please also ensure that your child is dressed for the expected weather each day – many students are not wearing jumpers even though the forecast is cold. The CHPS Uniform Policy can be found through the school website.

---

**Key dates for term 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14th: Year 2 Sleepover</td>
<td>1st: Melbourne Cup Day</td>
<td>12th: House Sports Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th: House Cross Country</td>
<td>(public holiday)</td>
<td>13th: School Christmas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th: Presentation Assembly</td>
<td>2nd: Cup Day Special Lunch</td>
<td>Carols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31st: Curriculum Day (no students at school)</td>
<td>10th: Scienceworks Excursion</td>
<td>14th: Parent Helpers Morning Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14th: Christmas Pantomime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20th: Soapbox Derby (last day of school)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Parent Helpers
A big THANK YOU to all the parents that have volunteered in the Junior School during Term 3!
With another busy term coming up we would appreciate any help you can offer. As each teacher requires assistance at different times and ways, please speak with your child’s teacher for more information. To help commemorate the time, assistance and positive contribution parents make to our school community, we will be inviting parent helpers to our Parent Volunteer Morning Tea, which will be held on Wednesday, December 14th.

Christmas Pantomime
During December the Junior school will embrace the silly season and participate in a Christmas Pantomime in the PAC. More details regarding cost and permission will be available through Compass.
From the Specialists...

**PE**
The Junior House Cross Country is being held this term on Tuesday 18th October. All children are expected to participate in this event. Boys and girls in Year 1 & 2 will be running in separate races. Children can wear their house colours. We will require the assistance of parents on corners around the school so that children know where to go. The information has been loaded onto Compass with a form for parents to return if they are able to assist. Please return this to your classroom teacher if you are able to spare a couple of hours on the Tuesday morning.

During the term, the Juniors will also have a Cricket Clinic conducted by Cricket Victoria with possibly the assistance of members of the Warrandyte South Cricket Club.

The Junior House Sports are being held once again this year on the oval on Monday 12th December. Children can also wear their house colours to this event. There is a charge of $3.50 per child to cover the cost of the coaches and the running of the House Sports by Kelly Sports.

Just a reminder to parents that it is advisable for girls to wear their polo shirt and shorts, skorts or pants to P.E. lessons, as it can be a safety issue as well as a hindrance during sporting activities.

**Music**
Classroom Music: During term 4, students will continue to create music using their voices, xylophones, metallophones, untuned percussion, boomwhackers and steel drums. We will be singing songs about planets, as well as a number of songs from the ‘Science Rocks’ book that ties in with the Junior levels’ inquiry unit. Students will continue with the RedEd dance program and will participate in some drama activities and music games.

Junior Christmas Choir: ‘Tryouts’ for the interested students in Year 1 and 2 will be held early in November. The idea of the tryout is to make sure your child is really clear about what a choir is and the kinds of things that they will be doing during rehearsals and at their big Christmas gig at 7pm on Tuesday 14th December. If your child decides that they would like to join, I will give them a notice to bring home. It is really important that you talk to them about their commitment because this is a team activity and we rely on regular, dedicated students to make the choir a worthwhile and valued ensemble. This is a great opportunity for students who love to sing and would like to join an ensemble and it is also very rewarding and lots of fun. Current Year 2 students will be given the opportunity to join the School Choir next year.
**LOTE**

This term we are using Indonesian to learn about plants and animals. We will look at how we classify living and non-living things. We will learn the names of some parts of a plant and the features of animals (body coverings, body parts).

As always, we will have fun singing and playing games to practise our new language.

---

**Music Count Us In**

All students will take part in this initiative whereby around 200,000 students from Australia and Australasia sing the same song at the same time on the same day. The song is “Let It Play”, the time is 12:30pm and the day is Thursday 3rd of November. The event is live streamed from 12 noon and you can tune in from wherever you are to watch and listen to what’s happening all around Australia. Here are a couple of links - one with the lyrics and mp3 of the song, and the second one is an animation.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMJgxt_kxbo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMJgxt_kxbo)
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zr5zghEGvU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zr5zghEGvU)

**Victorian State Schools Spectacular**

A number of our senior choir children were involved in this events and it will be broadcast on Channel 7 on Saturday 3rd December at 7pm.

---

**Visual Arts**

This term, students will be investigating stars in the form of string art. Students will use graph paper first until they have a design they are happy with, followed by the use of yarn to create the final string art piece. Students will explore the mediums of painting, weaving and drawing through this process. Sticking with the theme of space, students will investigate the use of sun on ‘sun sensitive’ material to create monograms.

Students will have the opportunity to discuss their artwork in a friendly environment. They will require an art smock each week; an old t-shirt or jumper will be enough to cover their school uniform.

**Paint Storm - Whole School Incursion, Monday 28th November**

I am very excited to have Paint Storm back at Croydon Hills Primary School. Phil Doncon is a dynamic and unique performance that features huge images being painted before your very eyes - on a huge 10m wide canvas. Done in concert with an eclectic and dynamic soundtrack, the choreographed painting 'wows' audiences with its speed and precision. In a matter of minutes, images appear and dissolve.

Phil’s performances explore the themes of resilience, how to bounce back and Paint Storm uses a unique and powerful painting and music performance to help students engage with art in a totally new way, while experiencing 5 Key Elements of Resilience.

1. Being proactive (calming down and diffusing conflict)
2. Persevering (not giving up)
3. Being assertive (strong and kind)
4. Self acceptance
5. Learning from, and being empowered by failure

The incursion does have a cost of $7 per student and will be on Compass.