Dear Parents,

Welcome to the school year for 2015.

Our Middles School team members for this year are:

- Leigh Dixon    MD-D
- Briony Janson and Vanity Urmston MD-JU
- Deb Karanzoulis MD-K
- Geoff Lamble   MD-L
- Robyn Twining  MD-T
- Jonathon Wilsoni MD-W

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Our Specialist teachers for this year are:

- Claudia Michielin   Visual Arts
- Noreen McMenaman   Physical Education
- Kathryn Lane       Music
- Libby Browning    LOTE (Indonesian)

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 (academic or social) as soon as possible. You may choose to write a note, email 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.

CURRICULUM – AUSVELS Year 3 and Year 4

AusVELS is the Foundation to Year 10 curriculum that provides a single, coherent and comprehensive set of prescribed content and common achievement standards, which schools use to plan student learning programs, assess student progress and report to parents.

AusVELS identifies what is important for students to achieve at different stages of their schooling and includes standards for those achievements.

In Years 3 and 4, students continue to build on the knowledge and skills developed in earlier years. They develop a deeper understanding of the relationships between school, home and the community. They are becoming more capable of concentrating on tasks for longer periods of time.

Students are encouraged to be confident in discussing ideas, expressing opinions and listening to others at home and in the classroom. They understand that they need to work with others and be part of their class and school.

In Years 3 and 4 standards are set into the following areas of learning. The table below shows which standards are set for assessment and reporting in these years.

In Years 3 and 4 standards are set in twelve areas of learning. The table following shows areas in which standards are set for assessment and reporting in these years.
**Reminders**

Sun Smart - All students must wear hats for all outside activities this term. Students without hats are to play under the cover outside the library.

Student Belongings - Please ensure all student belongings are clearly labelled and encourage your child to be responsible for them.

Rubbish Free Lunches - We encourage students to have rubbish free lunches whenever possible - but especially on Mondays.

Reading Logs - These are a great tool to encourage your child to read regularly and to record their efforts. Please read with your child at least four nights a week and together, complete their reading log.

Compass - If you need any assistance with logging on, please ask at the office for assistance. Please record any absences for your child on Compass. All student absences must by law, be approved by parents. We also use Compass to facilitate payment and permission for many school activities.

Water in the Classroom - Drinking plenty of water is essential for keeping minds alert. We encourage children to have a water bottle on hand to sip from during the day. We would prefer that children used a water bottle with a pop top or similar.

Clothing and Uniform
Please ensure that your child has the correct school uniform. A note is required to cover a temporary situation. Sun smart policy applies to free dress days and camps. PLEASE REMEMBER TO NAME EVERYTHING!

**Homework**

Please also refer to our school’s Homework Policy

All students have regular homework requirements. 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 is another ongoing requirement. Please help us by discussing with your child the homework expectations and sign the weekly homework grid and reading log. Homework is usually distributed on a Monday and shared and discussed on a Friday. If this is a problem at any time, please discuss an alternative arrangement with your child’s teacher.

As your child develops confidence as a reader, they will start to approach their home reading with greater independence. While such habits are an encouraging sign of growing maturity, it is still important to remember that home reading is something that should be shared regularly. Celebrate independent reading habits, but also make time to share books together and discuss what your child is reading. This will help further develop important comprehensive and critical thinking skills and shows the children that you value their reading.

During the course of the year the students may be asked to research topics, prepare and write reports, projects and talks. This may need your guidance, suggestions and assistance. We appreciate your interest and encourage your support.

**INTEGRATED CURRICULUM**

An Integrated Curriculum 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 here. 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.
INTEGRATED CURRICULUM continued

In the Middle School, we operate 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Australia - (Emblems and Symbols)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Our Earth</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Let Us Entertain You</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Wetlands and Lifecycles</td>
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ROTATIONS

In order to take advantage of the experience and range of expertise of the teachers in the Middle School this year we will be operating a rotation system whereby the students participate in the following activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>MdK, MdJU, MdW</th>
<th>MdD, MdL, MdT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Mrs Janson</td>
<td>Mr Lamble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Mrs Karanzoulis</td>
<td>Mr Dixon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Mr Wilisoni</td>
<td>Miss Twining</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please ensure that your children have their library books and library bags on their library day.

ENGLISH - Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening

The Early Years Literacy Program is specifically designed for students in their first three years of schooling, and to meet the specific needs of students in the next two years of schooling. The Year 3 and Year 4 program emphasises the use of a variety of instructional approaches to teach your child to develop, consolidate and extend his/her reading, writing, speaking and listening understanding and skills.

During the Literacy hour, we will work with small groups of children as well as independently on a variety of Literacy tasks.

READING - Your child will be grouped according to his/her abilities, which allows us to focus on particular skills. During Literacy Rotations, your child will participate in small group Guided Reading and Reciprocal Teaching sessions. He/She will also be involved in a range of reading activities such as comprehension tasks, word analysis, research activities, shared reading, listening posts, book reviews and the internet.

WRITING - During writing, we will model different elements of the writing process, depending on the focus of the session and the needs of your child. Through shared and guided writing, your child will be experimenting with strategies for planning, reviewing and proof reading his/her own writing.

SPELLING/PUNCTUATION - Your child will be studying spelling strategies based on visual, auditory, kinaesthetic and memory games and activities. We look at spelling rules as well as focus on personal words, with each child endeavouring to learn three personal words each week and add them to his/her ‘forever’ words.

GRAMMAR - Your child will be concentrating on:
- using appropriate tense to suit the purpose of the writing.
- examining basic sentence structure and variation of sentence beginnings.
- consolidating and extending basic punctuation skills.

HANDWRITING - Your child will continue to consolidate his/her Victorian Modern Cursive script.

SPEAKING & LISTENING activities are incorporated in all English sessions - Your child will be regularly encouraged to participate in a variety of class discussions and oral activities.

MATHEMATICS - The Numeracy program uses grouping as a way of ensuring all students are being taught at their level. The groups vary according to the needs of the students and the focus of the session. Your child will be involved in whole class and small group activities. Our aim is to further develop student understandings of the number system leading to the ability to perform accurately the basic mathematical operations, to calculate, estimate, measure and to use these skills in everyday problem solving situations. Automatic recall of number facts using all the processes is a top priority. Relevant computer activities and number games are a part of our maths program.
**NAPLAN Year 3**

In Year 3 students participate in the national NAPLAN tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy. These national tests provide information on how students are progressing, support improvements in teaching and learning, and provide a framework to compare student performance around Australia. 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.

**Buddies**

Over the course of the year the Middle School students have the opportunity to be the ‘big buddy’ of a student starting their first year of school in Foundation. Following the Alannah and Madeline Better Buddies Program the Middle School children play an important role in helping their Foundation Buddy feel welcome at Croydon Hills and settled within the new school community. The program also offers the Middle School students the opportunity to develop their leadership skills as they mentor their buddy across the course of the year. The activities focus largely on friendship and how to build relationships and treat others with kindness.

**Circles**

The Circles program aims to foster relational learning and develop the leadership skills of our students. Our Circles groups will meet fortnightly on Monday after lunch. In Circles students are involved in a variety of fun activities and games that have a social and emotional focus. These activities help students learn about values and develop their understanding of themselves as an individual and as a member of the wider school community. Working within a multi age group they will learn to speak with confidence, listen to others with empathy and build relationships with a range of students from across the school.

**CAMPS**

**YEAR 3 CAMP**

**Wednesday - Friday, April 29 - May 1**

This year we have our Year 3 camp in Term 2 and once again it will be at Mt Evelyn. This is a fantastic camp to ease our students into their first camping experience away from home! At CHPS we are most fortunate to be able to offer a school camp at this level each year; with willing and daring teachers, supportive parents and a proven, successful camp program for this year level.

Our Year Three Camp program has proven very successful over a number of years, being a relatively short distance from home yet in a wonderful bush land setting, with great facilities, yummy food and many fun learning activities to keep everyone busy.

The Middle School teachers will be inviting a small number of parents to assist with the smooth running of the camp - both “Dayers” (8am - 3pm) and “Stayers” (the really brave). Further information will be available closer to the date.

**YEAR 4 CAMP**

**Monday - Wednesday, October 19-21(Term 4)**

Please note: This is different to what is on the school calendar.

In Term 4, Year 4 students have the opportunity to attend Camp Manyung, which is situated near Mt Eliza, just over an hour from Croydon Hills. The program, facilities and equipment of this accredited campsite, are provided by the YMCA and Sport & Recreation, Victoria.

The wide range of challenging activities offered at Camp Manyung build on the wonderful experiences provided by the CHPS Camping Program. Some of the activities the students may be involved in throughout the week are beach education and surf life saving games, rock pooling, high & low ropes, vertical challenge, giant swing and initiative and environmental activities.

The activities we will participate in will be dependent on our choice and the weather at the time. Qualified Camp Manyung instructors will assist with the program throughout our stay. More information including a detailed outline of the program and medical forms will be sent home later in the year.
Performing Arts
Kathryn Lane

Classroom music: Students will continue to create music using their voices, ukuleles, xylophones, untuned percussion, boomwhackers, steel drums 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. All students will have their own music workbook where they will keep the years work. Choir: Rehearsals will take place every Monday lunchtime and Thursdays before school (8 a.m.) in the P.A.C. Our first gig will be leading the anthem and school song at our first indoor assembly on Friday the 20th of February. The choir will also sing at the School Fair on the 15th of March. Ensembles practice: This rehearsal slot will be for groups such as ukulele/marimba/iPad band and rock band. These groups will run during Tuesday lunchtimes once the Junior Rockers program is up and running and the nature of the groups become more apparent. Keep your eyes on the school newsletter for more details in the next few weeks. Junior Rockers: We welcome our new instrumental program provider to CHPS and are confident that our growing program will flourish even further with their assistance. Enrolment forms are available from the office for those children wishing to learn an instrument or you can go online and enroll directly at www.juniorrockers.com. Lessons are offered on drums, guitar, piano/keyboard, flute, clarinet, strings and singing. Middle School Production: Auditions and rehearsals will commence in term 2 for our middle school production. All students are involved in this wonderful event that will take place at the Karralyka Theatre on the 20th and 21st of August. We will be sending lots more details home at the start of term 2, however it is important to note that if your child is hoping to have a lead role in production they need to commit to every rehearsal in 2nd and 3rd term. In fairness to the cast, your child will not be considered for a major role if you intend taking a family holiday during this time. I’m really looking forward to another busy and fun year working with your children. Don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Physical Education
Noreen McMenaman

The focus for students in the Middle School this term is bouncing and striking. We have started the year already with learning and revisiting Rounders. This is a complicated game and students will learn the technique of batting tactics associated with fielding and practising the rules.

It would be great to see the girls in their sports uniforms again this year. Last year the girls were asked to wear their polo shirt and shorts (skorts) and this worked really well. I believe that the girls who forgot to wear their sports uniforms on their PE days may have found it a little restricting, so I hope that they can again wear their comfortable sports gear. It would also be better for all boys to wear runners to PE rather than school shoes as this can be dangerous when running on slippery surfaces and they are also a bit heavier than runner. With the timetable the way it is, it may be a good idea to have a reminder with the dates of PE on the fridge at home so that the children don’t forget their uniform.

This term we also have the District Swimming, which is open to children in years 3 and 4. This is being held on Monday 16th February. If your child is a competent swimmer and can swim 50 metres in any of the strokes, please let me know immediately so that we can see what times they have and they may even qualify for the District Swimming Sports.

Visual Arts
Claudia Michielin

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

Based on the classroom unit on Australia, middle students will investigate the symbols, elements and cultural understandings behind our Coat of Arms. This will assist students to design and develop a unique Coat of Arms for the school, developing strong design ideas through colour, shapes and line work.

Students will require a smock each week; an old t-shirt or jumper will be enough to cover their school uniform.
LOTE
LIBBY BROWNING
Indonesian for the Middle School is on Mondays. We have a 40 minute session each week. The students have begun the year very confidently and are enjoying the new Indonesian room which is located in the Senior block. In Term 1 the students will be revising the Indonesian needed to talk about themselves: giving their name, age, class and talking about likes and dislikes. At school we will be using the new 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!

WEEKLY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
Please visit [www.croydonhps.vic.edu.au](http://www.croydonhps.vic.edu.au) to subscribe to the Croydon Hills weekly newsletter.

To ensure you are informed about what is going on, please read the newsletter every week.

We are looking forward to a fun and exciting year with your children.

Regards,

The Middle School Team

Leigh Dixon, Geoff Lamble, Robyn Twining, Jonathon Wilisoni, Briony Janson, Vanessa Urmston and Debra Karanzoulis,

HOOPTIME
Once again we are hoping to enter teams in the McDonald’s Hoop Time Competition. Hoop Time is a really fun day and caters for all ability levels. It also encourages children who have never played basketball before to have a go.

Rookies teams are for our beginners who have never played basketball and are mixed teams. Future Stars are for our players who have some experience, (play B Grade domestic or lower or any grade in After School Basketball), and are also mixed teams. All Stars are for children who play at a high level of basketball, (‘A’ grade domestic and / or representative basketball), and these are either all boys or all girls teams.

Notices will be distributed to those children wishing to express an interest in participating. Please consider this carefully, as we use this information to submit team numbers. Notices will be distributed in February.

As we try and keep the teams as small as possible to encourage maximum participation, it creates problems if children change their minds.
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Meet the Middle School Teachers</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Leigh Dixon</strong></td>
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<td>This is my second year at Croydon Hills and I’m really looking forward to another great year in the Middle School, particularly with all the fun things coming up like camps and the production. For those of you who don’t know, I’m a big Bombers fan and I also love watching the V8 Supercars (GO FORD!). Last year I was lucky enough to visit my favourite place in the world, Indonesia, and had a great time. The food there is absolutely amazing and the people are so friendly. I’m hoping that my next trip might be to somewhere exciting like Egypt or Nepal.</td>
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<td><strong>Geoff Lamble</strong></td>
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<td>I’m so pleased to have joined the staff of CHPS. Outside of school I love to do group exercise classes. I also listen to and play music when I can and enjoy catching up with my friends and family as often as I can. My favourite travel destination is the USA. I went there in 2009 and was blown away by the warmth of the people, the amazing, diverse cities and how big everything was. I hope to return someday soon, but not before I get to Europe.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Deb Karanzoulis</strong></td>
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<td>I have taught at Croydon Hills for many years. I love teaching all subjects but my favourites are Maths, ICT and Reading. I also enjoy organising Hoop Time each year. I love going to the beach in Summer, especially the surf and I love to go snow skiing in Winter. I enjoy fishing, kayaking, surfing, bike riding and watching most sports. I am a passionate Saints member and love to watch them play at every opportunity. Our family also enjoys caravanning. My favourite holiday destination is anywhere with my family but I do have special memories of Ningaloo Reef, Sorrento, Falls Creek and Merimbula. I also loved travelling to Europe and New Zealand.</td>
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<td><strong>Robyn Twining</strong></td>
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<td>I have been at Croydon Hills Primary for a few years now. This year will be my third year in the Middle School. At school my favourite subjects to teach are Science and Writing, because they are the subjects where you get to have the most fun! Last year I started a rocket club at lunchtime and we really enjoyed building and creating our own rockets. When I am not at school my hobbies include travelling, going to the movies and going out to restaurants. I also enjoy travelling and my favourite travel destinations would have to be Egypt and anywhere in Europe, but I particularly enjoyed Belgium for its numerous chocolate shops and chocolate fountains.</td>
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<td><strong>Vanessa Urmston</strong></td>
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<td>I have a 9 month old son who keeps me busy most days! When I am not taking him to the park or looking for the birds outside I enjoy playing netball and doing projects around the house. I love to paint rooms and renovate things. My favourite holiday destination is Western Australia. My husband and I absolutely adore the coastline, marine life and weather which the West Coast has to offer. We have enjoyed 4 holidays there visiting Perth, Exmouth and Monkey Mia. During our holidays we have experienced some of the most astounding encounters with marine life, including swimming with the Manta Rays and sharks to feeding dolphins and swimming along side sea turtles and dugongs!</td>
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<td><strong>Briony Janson</strong></td>
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<td>Some you of may better know me as 'Miss Hart' but last year I had the busiest year of my life. I had my daughter Samantha in February and she is turning one on Friday! I also got married in October and have now become Mrs Janson. I am very excited to be back at Croydon Hills and am looking forward to the fabulous year we have in store for us in the Middle School. In the little spare time I have I like to go for walks, catching up with my mothers group friends and baking. Before Samantha came along we did lots of travelling and my two favourite places to visit are Hawaii and Egypt. Although I was surprised as the Sphinx wasn't as big as I was expecting. I can't wait until Samantha is a bit older and we can take her travelling as well.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jonathon Wilsoni</strong></td>
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<td>I started teaching at Croydon Hills Primary School in Term Two of 2014 and absolutely loved it! As a graduate teacher, I enjoyed having my own class in a fantastic school, after previously working as an Integration Aide. I enjoy all sports and I am a keen surfer and rugby player. I support the Gold Coast Suns and Titans. I have been so lucky to travel to many places in Europe and across the Pacific but my favorite place would have to be Fiji. I grew up there and it is where I learnt to surf, sail, dive, swim and play rugby. The islands are beautiful, the water is clear and the people are very down to earth and relaxed. My family always looks forward to going back for a holiday when we can.</td>
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