Dear Parents,

Welcome to the school year for 2016.

Our Middles School team members for this year are:

- Paul Brock  
  MPB
- Ben Burch  
  MBB
- Aaron Halstead  
  MAH
- Kelly Lawrence  
  MKL
- Deb Karanzoulis  
  MKU
- Felicity Puckey  
  MFP
- Jordan Tate  
  MJT
- Robyn Twining  
  MRT
- Vanessa Urmston  
  MKU

**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.

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

- **Special Assembly - Korean visitors**  
  Monday February 15 2.30 p.m.
- **Meet the Teacher Sessions**  
  Wednesday, February 17
- **Presentation Assembly**  
  Friday, February 19
- **Presentation Assembly**  
  Friday, March 11
- **Labour Day Holiday**  
  Monday March 14
- **School Fair**  
  Sunday March 20
- **Resilience Project Parent Session**  
  Monday March 21
- **Last Day Term 1**  
  Thursday, March 24
- **First Day Term 2**  
  Monday, April 11
- **NAPLAN (Year 3 only)**  
  Tuesday - Thursday, May 10, 11, 12

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**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 items.

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.

Brain Food - Children may eat ‘brain food’ i.e. fruit or vegetables which can be eaten without interrupting work, during class time.

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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical, Personal &amp; Social Learning</th>
<th>Discipline-based Learning</th>
<th>Interdisciplinary Learning</th>
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<tr>
<td>Civics and Citizenship</td>
<td>The Arts</td>
<td>Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Physical Education</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Design, Creativity and Technology</td>
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<td>Interpersonal Development</td>
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<td>Personal Learning</td>
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**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>
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<td>Our Country and Our Neighbours</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3Rs – Reduce, Re-use, Recycle</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow and the Olympics</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>What’s the Matter? Solids, Liquids, Gases</td>
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LIBRARY

Please ensure that your child has their library books and library bags on their library day.

ENGLISH

- Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening
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, Children will work in small groups as well as independently, on a variety of Literacy tasks.

- READING - 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 researching using 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, kinesthetic 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. Open ended and problem solving activities will be used to encourage children to develop their problem solving strategies and skills using Mathematics in real-life situations.

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 also a 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 will 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 to 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**

Camp 1 - Monday - Wednesday, 30/5 - 01/06
Camp 2 - Wednesday - Friday, 01/06 - 03/06

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.

Four Middle School classes (Year 3s only) will attend each camp. The classes attending each camp will be confirmed in the next few weeks.

**YEAR 4 CAMP**

Monday - Wednesday, October 3-5 (Term 4)

Please note: This is the first week of Term 4

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.
From the Specialists

Performing Arts
Kathryn Lane

Classroom music: Students will continue to create music using their voices, ukeleles, 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 year’s 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 19th of February. The choir will also sing at the School Fair on the Sunday 20th 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. Keep your eyes on the school newsletter for more details in the next few weeks.

Junior Rockers: Enrolment forms are available from the office for those children wishing to learn an instrument or you can go online and enrol directly at www.juniorrockers.com. Lessons are offered on drums, guitar, piano/keyboard, flute, clarinet, strings and singing.

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 re-visiting 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 (or 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 runners. 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 who are turning 9 or 10 years old this year. This is being held on Monday 22nd 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

Students will continue to create art work using a variety of materials, techniques and skills, and exploring a number of artists along the way.

This term students will explore the Chinese New Year - Year of the Monkey, their traits and characteristics to develop a soft pastel drawing. Students will investigate the art movements of Op and Pop Art, looking at the artworks of Bridget Riley and Andy Warhol, exploring repetition, colour, optical illusions and one-point perspective.

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

Art Academy will be running again during lunchtime. Students will have the opportunity to explore creative ideas in both group and individual group settings.
LOTE
Libby Browning
The Middle School will have one 50 minute session a week of Indonesian, on Mondays or Tuesdays, depending on their class. Language Study has two dimensions; Communicating in the Language and Intercultural knowledge and language awareness. During this term we will learn some Indonesian language and practise it in small group work, songs and role plays. We will revise our greetings for different times of day, extend this to take part in simple conversations and extend our knowledge of basic vocabulary such as numbers, colours and classroom commands. We will look at the geography of Australia and Indonesia, discussing similarities and differences in land forms, climate and culture.

Class activities will be supplemented by the use of the “Languages on Line” app on the data panel and class iPads. If students have access to this app at home it would be great for extra language practice. Selamat belajar, Bu

WEEKLY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
Please visit 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

Aaron, Vanessa, Robyn, Kelly, Ben, Felicity, Jordan, Paul and Deb

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 some who play A grade), and are also mixed teams. All Stars are for children who play at a high level of basketball, (some ‘A’ grade domestic and all children who play 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 Term 1.

As we try and keep the teams as small as possible to encourage maximum participation, it creates problems if children change their minds.
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aaron Halstead</td>
<td>Meet the Middle School Teachers: I am excited about beginning here at Croydon Hills PS. I love playing with my son, Callum, and also Jedi, my Border Collie. I enjoy playing and watching most sports, and coach a junior basketball team on a Saturday. I have a keen interest in music and enjoy playing the guitar. I've been fortunate enough to have travelled to many countries around the world. Two cities I really want to return to and explore more would be London and Berlin. Both have such rich histories and the week I spent in each just wasn't long enough!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly Lawrence</td>
<td>Meet the Middle School Teachers: I am thrilled to have joined the staff in my graduate year of teaching at CHPS. It is very exciting to have my own class and officially begin the wonderful profession of teaching! I love reading books of all genres, and relish the moments I get to read for leisure. I love musical theatre and have performed in various theatre productions in my spare time. Every summer, I relax in Phillip Island and spend countless hours down at beach with family and friends. My dream holiday destinations include New York City to experience Broadway, and Paris, as it seems like such a beautiful city full of culture, life and love.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deb Karanzoulis</td>
<td>Meet the Middle School Teachers: I have been at Croydon Hills Primary for many years now and although I love teaching all subjects, my favourites are Maths, ICT and Reading. 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. My favourite holiday destination is anywhere with my family but I do have special memories of Ningaloo Reef, Sorrento, Falls Creek and Merimbula. I have also loved travelling all around Europe and New Zealand.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robyn Twining</td>
<td>Meet the Middle School Teachers: I have been at Croydon Hills Primary for eight years now and I am looking forward to another exciting year in Middle School. I also really enjoy teaching Rocket Club, which I run later in the year at lunchtime. When I am not at school my hobbies include travelling, going to the movies and I have just finished renovating my new house, which has been a really exciting project. I am lucky enough to have done lots of travelling and next on my travel list is Alaska. I think it would be an incredible place to visit and I would love to explore the national parks there and try and see some Giant Alaskan Grizzly Bears!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vanessa Urmston</td>
<td>Meet the Middle School Teachers: I have been teaching at Croydon Hills for many years now. I have taught previously in the Senior School as well as the Middle School. I love the Middle School because we get to enjoy some very exciting events together. I have a one year old son, Benjamin who keeps me very busy at home and when I’m not playing trucks and helicopters with him I am either working or creating things. I love craft and enjoy making things. My favourite holiday destination is Western Australia. My husband and I have travelled the west coast together and we just adore the marine life and pristine beaches Western Australia has to offer! We can not wait until Benjamin is a little bit older so we can take him with us again.</td>
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<td>Jordan Tate</td>
<td>Meet the Middle School Teachers: I love to do as many things outdoors as I can. I love to go swimming, surfing and scuba diving at the beach, if I'm not at the beach I try to jump on my mountain bike or go for a hike and camp. When it's too cold I watch the Richmond Tigers winning on the TV! I always try to travel during the school holidays. In 2015 I was very lucky and was able to go to 4 new countries, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia and Nepal. When I was in Nepal I got to hike to Mount Everest Base camp which took 16 days of fun and exhaustion!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Brock</td>
<td>Meet the Middle School Teachers: This is my fifth Year at CHPS and I am really pleased to be teaching my first year in the Middle School for 2016! Outside of school I enjoy spending time with my little 12-week-old daughter Zara, playing sports such as soccer, tennis and surfing or drawing/painting. I also enjoy traveling and my best trip to date was when I spent three months in South America with a highlight being a 4-day trek up the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in Peru, it was incredible!</td>
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<td>Ben Burch</td>
<td>Meet the Middle School Teachers: I enjoy lots of activities and particularly enjoy being in the outdoors. I like to ride my bikes, both my mountain bike and my motorbike. I also like to go camping and fishing. My favourite type of fishing is in freshwater because it takes you to many lovely places in nature. My favourite holiday was to Cairns and the tropical north of Queensland. I haven’t been overseas before but am hoping to go and explore some parts of Asia in the future and then who knows where else!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felicity Puckey</td>
<td>Meet the Middle School Teachers: I enjoy running with my dogs, cooking, spending time at the beach, painting, listening to live music, reading and spending time with my friends and family as often as possible. I love to travel and have been to many different countries. One of my favourite experiences was when I went on a road trip through almost all of the states of America. The people were so friendly and each state was so different from the next.</td>
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