



Middle School Newsletter

Term 1, 2017

IMPORTANT DATES

General Assembly	Friday February 10
School Photo Day	Thursday, February 16
Getting to Know You Interviews	Wednesday, February 22
Resilience Project - student talks	Thursday February 23
Presentation Assembly	Friday, February 24 2.20 p.m.
Canteen Pancake Day	Tuesday, February 28
General Assembly	Friday, March 10
Labour Day Holiday	Monday March 13
Presentation Assembly	Friday, March 24 2.20 p.m.
Canteen - Hot Cross Bun Day	Tuesday, March 28
Last Day Term 1	Friday, March 31 1.30 p.m.
First Day Term 2	Tuesday, April 18
NAPLAN (Year 3 only)	Tuesday - Thursday, May 9, 10, 11
Middle School Production	Tuesday - Wednesday August 8, 9
Y4 Camp	Wednesday - Friday, October 11 - 13
Y3 Camp	Wednesday - Friday, October 18 - 20

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the school year for 2017.

Our Middle School team members this year are:

- Paul Brock MPB
- Ben Burch MBB
- Tamara Cooke MTC
- Danny Gamble MDG
- Deb Karanzoulis MKU
- Jacinta MacKenzie MJM
- Amy Prior MAP
- Felicity Puckey MFP
- Robyn Twining MRT
- Vanessa Urmston MKU

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Our Specialist teachers for this year are:

- Claudia Michielin Visual Arts
- Noreen McMenaman Physical Education
- Amana Tweedie Music
- David Slater LOTE (Indonesian)
- Laura Kitching Science

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.

VICTORIAN CURRICULUM Year 3 and Year 4

The Victorian Curriculum F–10 sets out what every student should learn during their first eleven years of schooling. The curriculum is the common set of knowledge and skills required by students for life-long learning, social development and active and informed citizenship.

The Victorian Curriculum F–10 sets out a single, coherent and comprehensive set of content descriptions and associated achievement standards to enable teachers to plan, monitor, assess and report on the learning achievement of every student.

Resilience - Respect – Responsibility – Integrity - Care & Compassion

In Years 3 and 4, students have the opportunity to fully engage with all learning areas and capabilities, with a focus on English, Mathematics, Science.

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.

Brain Food - Children may eat 'brain food' i.e. **small pieces of 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!**

LEARNING AREAS	CAPABILITIES
The Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance • Drama • Media Arts • Music • Visual Arts • Visual Communication Design English Health and Physical Education The Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civics and Citizenship • Economics and Business • Geography • History Languages Mathematics Science Technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and Technologies • Digital Technologies 	Critical and Creative Thinking Ethical Intercultural Personal and Social

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.

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.

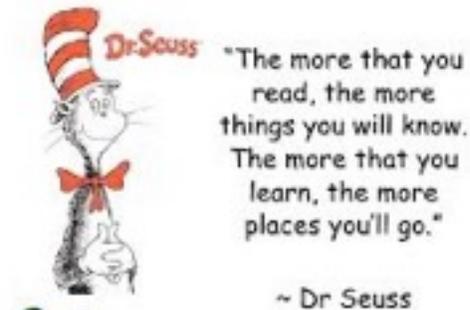
Our Term 3 topic is 'Let Us Entertain You' and culminates with an amazing production.

This year we have applied to to 'The Little Mermaid'. It has many lead roles, great roles for both boys and girls, some fabulous catchy music and the opportunity for some amazing and colourful costumes. It will be great to perform a Disney Production, (modified for Primary School children.)



So we are hoping that you will dive on in and get involved later this year!

Term	Topic
1	Learning to Learn and Australia
2	Our Earth
3	Let Us Entertain You / Production
4	Wetlands and Life Cycles



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.

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

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.

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.

LIBRARY

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

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.

It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer.

~Albert Einstein



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

HOMEWORK

Please also refer to our school's Homework Policy

All students have regular homework requirements. Homework should be completed in their homework books using a greylead. Pages should be ruled up and work set out neatly.

Please assist your child to develop some good homework routines and provide the appropriate equipment.

Also please complete the grid in the front of your child's homework book and initial it when their homework is complete.

There are three components:

Reading

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 Reading Log book is to be filled in and returned to school to be checked and monitored by the classroom teacher.

Maths

Quick Maths

Children are to complete one column of quick maths problems. If your child would like to challenge themselves or would like some extra work, they may choose to complete two or three of the columns.

Problem Solving

We learn many strategies for solving problems in the classroom. Some of these are: guess and check, act it out, make a model, use simpler numbers, make a list, make a table, look for a pattern, draw a diagram. Children should neatly record their working out, in their homework book.

Spelling

Children are to practise their three personal words using one or some of the suggested activities.

CAMPS

YEAR 3 CAMP

Wednesday - Friday, October 18 - 20

This year we have our Year 3 camp in Term 4 and it will be at a new venue, at Camp Toolangi (www.camptoolangi.com.au) Located only 40 minutes drive from school, Camp Toolangi is set on 12 acres of natural bushland adjoining the Toolangi State Forest.

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.

For many many years we have been going to Mt Evelyn but recently have found the dates at the end of Autumn or the beginning of Winter not suitable. We have been able to secure a time we want and are looking forward to experiencing something new and exciting.

More information will be provided later in the year.

YEAR 4 CAMP

Wednesday - Friday, October 11 - 13

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 Amana Tweedie



In the classroom: Students will continue to create music using their voices, ukuleles, xylophones, un-tuned percussion and the other many and varied classroom instruments. They will dance, play games, perform ostinatos, listen to and discuss various styles of music and continue to learn notation.

Where possible, we will use music technology to compose music and consolidate theory and aural training. All students will have their own workbook, many re-using last years, where they will keep the year's work.

Students will be doing drama activities each week, which will tie into the classroom integrated topic where possible.

Choir: Rehearsals will take place every Wednesday lunchtime and Thursdays before school (8.a.m) in the P.A.C.

Ensemble practice: The iPad, marimba, ukulele, steel drum band will be renamed using the acronym iMUS and will run Thursday lunchtimes.

Rock Band will run on Tuesday lunchtimes.

Both are running in the P.A.C.

For students interested in joining the choir or an ensemble they will be committing for the entire year. If students miss two rehearsals in a row due to unexplained absences, they will be removed from the group.

Instrumental Music: For those students wishing to learn an instrument you can go online and enrol directly at www.juniorrockers.com. Lessons are offered in 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 and we will be sending a lot more details home at the beginning of Term 2. However, it is important to note that if your child is hoping to have a lead role in the production they need to commit to every rehearsal in Term 2 and Term 3. In fairness to the cast, your child will not be considered for a major role if you intend on taking a family holiday during this time.

I'm looking forward to my first year with Croydon Hills Primary School and want to thank all the Middle School students for making me feel so welcome. If you have any queries don't hesitate to contact me.

Physical Education Noreen McMenaman

The focus for students in the Middle School this term is bouncing and striking.

We have started the year with Tennis lessons from our local coaches, Sue Saliba from the Parkwood Tennis Club and Grant Kendall from Croydon Tennis Club. We have received a grant from the Federal Government to have Sue and Grant conduct Tennis lessons over 4 weeks.

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 20th 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

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. Students will explore drawing and pattern making through Zentangles, to create their rooster drawings.

Students will develop a front cover for their Visual Diary displaying their drawing skills.

Students will explore paper collaging techniques and skills taking inspiration from French artist Henri Matisse.

We have our Biennial Art Show late 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 students' clothes from paint.

LOTE David Slater

Indonesian for the Middle School is on Tuesday or Wednesday. 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 Indonesian needed to talk about themselves: giving their name, age, class and talking about likes and dislikes.

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!
Selamat belajar!

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.

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.

Science Laura Kitching

This term in the Middle school, the students will be studying a Chemical Science unit called "Material World". Throughout this unit, the students will learn about why we use different materials for different purposes and what types of properties they have. The students will also be learning about manmade versus natural materials and also how long different materials take to break down.

Throughout the year, the students will cover the four areas of Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physical Science and Earth and Space Sciences. If you would like to know which topics are being covered, the posters are displayed on the outside window of the Science room and also in the Eco tunnel.

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

Regards,

The Middle School Team

Amy, Vanessa, Robyn, Danny, Ben, Felicity, Jacinta, Tamara, Paul and Deb

Meet the Middle School Teachers



Amy Prior

I am excited to be teaching at Croydon Hills Primary School this year. I have come from Malvern Central School where I was teaching for the past seven years and prior to that I taught in London for two years. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my friends and family, playing basketball and reading. I have travelled through many countries in Europe and Asia. Last year I went to Vietnam, the highlights of the trip included learning about their history, exploring the Old Town of Hoi An and sailing through Ha Long Bay.



Danny Gamble

I am really excited to join Croydon Hills PS this year and am looking forward to a fantastic year. I have a passion for learning, particularly reading and Maths. When I'm not at school, I love spending time with my young family, (Harry, 7 and Willow, 5), who keep me nice and busy! I also love the outdoors and enjoy all sports. I try to stay active through mountain bike riding, running and in the last few years, I have coached junior basketball. Our family recently discovered the joys of caravanning and now regularly set up at one of Victoria's beaches during the holidays



Deb Karanzoulis

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.



Robyn Twining

I have been at Croydon Hills Primary for nine 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!



Vanessa Urmston

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 two 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 cannot wait until Benjamin is a little bit older so we can take him with us again.



Jacinta Mackenzie

I grew up in Croydon Hills. This is my fifth year at CHPS but my first in Middle school. I love seeing all those familiar faces around that I taught in junior school! Last year I got married and travelled to the South Pacific, Croatia and the Greek Islands so I was lucky to miss most of our Winter. In my spare time I enjoy walking my dogs Sasha and Zia and spending time with my friends.



Paul Brock

This is my fifth Year at CHPS and I am really pleased to be teaching in the Middle School again for 2017! Outside of school I enjoy spending time with my little one year 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!



Ben Burch

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!



Felicity Puckey

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.



Tamara Cooke

This will be my fifth year teaching at CHPS but this will be my first year in the Middle School. I am so excited to be working in a new team and teaching some of the students I had in Prep! In my spare time I love spending time with my friends and family, walking our two dogs, going away camping, waterskiing at Lake Eildon and racing my Rover Scout Motorsport race car called Angry Bird! I got married early last year and can't wait to go on our belated honeymoon to Vietnam over the Easter holidays.