



Middle School Newsletter

Term 1, 2018

IMPORTANT DATES

Getting to Know You Interviews	Wednesday, February 21
Presentation Assembly	Friday, February 23
Cricket Road Show	Wednesday, March 7
General Assembly	Friday, March 9
Labour Day Holiday	Monday, March 12
Curriculum Day	Tuesday, March 13
The Resilience Project Parent Night	Monday, March 19
Presentation Assembly	Friday, March 23
School Fair	Saturday, March 24
Canteen - Hot Cross Bun Day	Thursday, March 29
Last Day Term 1	Thursday, March 29 1.30 p.m.
First Day Term 2	Monday, April 16
NAPLAN (Year 3 only)	Tuesday - Thursday, May 15, 16, 17
Y3 Camp	Wednesday - Friday, October 24 - 26
Y4 Camp	Wednesday - Friday, November 14 - 16

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the school year for 2018.

Our Middle School team members this year are:

- Paul Brock MPB
- Bree Jennings MBJ
- Tamara Cooke MTC
- Danny Gamble MDG
- Deb Karanzoulis MKU
- Shane Holloway MSH
- Amy Prior MAP
- Felicity Puckey MFP
- Vanessa Urmston MKU

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Our Specialist teachers for this year are:

- Claudia Michielin Visual Arts
- Noreen McMenaman Physical Education
- Amana Temple Music
- Michelle Collins LOTE (Indonesian)
- Ben Burch 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.

CURRICULUM – 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 achievement standards to enable teachers to plan, monitor, assess and report on the learning achievement of every student.

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.

Resilience – Respect – Responsibility – Integrity - Care & Compassion

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 - students are required to have rubbish free lunches. Any rubbish brought to school will be taken home.

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!**

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.

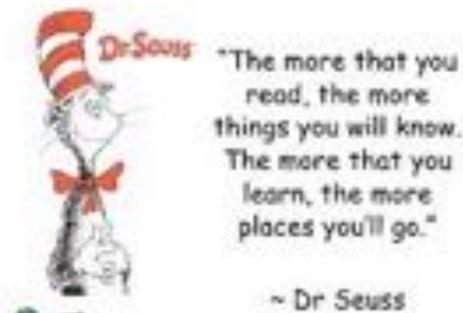
LEARNING AREAS	CAPABILITIES
The Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance • Drama • Media Arts • Music • Visual Arts • Visual Communication Design English Health and Physical Education The Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civics and Citizenship • Economics and Business • Geography • 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 different 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.

Term	Topic
1	Our Country, Our Leaders
2	Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
3	Sustainability
4	Intercultural Studies



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 Literacy, children will work in small groups as well as independently, on a variety of tasks.

READING - This year your child will be learning comprehension strategies that will help them engage deeply with texts and develop as independent readers. During reading sessions, he/she will have the opportunity to work one-on-one with the teacher in reading conferences, to address his/her individual learning needs, as well as working in small groups to target specific skills and strategies. Your child will also be involved in a range of reading experiences, including shared reading, guided reading, literature circles, word study, vocabulary development, research activities, listening posts and book reviews.

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.

It's not that I'm so smart; it's just that I stay with problems longer.
~Albert Einstein



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.

ICT

ICT remains a big focus in the Middle School for 2018 and this term our students will be focusing on:

- Building their touch-typing skills using <https://www.typingclub.com/>
- Solving design problems through digital programs, such as <https://www.canva.com/>
- Building an understanding of the Google Suite, such as Drive and Docs.
- Developing a greater awareness of Cybersafety and Esmart practices.

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 look, say, name, cover, write, check and complete one of the suggested activities.

CAMPS

YEAR 3 CAMP

Wednesday - Friday, October 24 - 26

This year we have our Year 3 camp in Term 4 and it will be taking place 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.

The students will have the opportunity to participate in wide range of activities including rock climbing, hut building, flying fox and an obstacle course.

More information will be provided later in the year.



YEAR 4 CAMP

Wednesday - Friday, November 14 - 16

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, 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 Temple



In the classroom:

Students will continue to create music using their voices, ukuleles, xylophones, un-tuned percussion and the other classroom instruments. They will dance, play games, perform ostinatos, listen to and discuss various styles of music and continue to learn notation. Students will be learning about instrument families and how instruments work.

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.

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 and singing.

School Fair, Talent Show and Stagestruck

This year there are two performance opportunities coming very soon.

The Talent Show at the school fair, which is Saturday March 24th the last weekend before Term 1 finishes.

Stagestruck this year will be held on Tuesday the 24th of April, the second week of Term 2.

If you would like to perform at one of these events **auditions for both the talent show and Stagestruck will be held at the same time.**

There will be a meeting at lunchtime on WEDNESDAY the 28th of February in the PAC for all students interested in auditioning. Auditions will start on THURSDAY the 1st of March and will continue on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday lunchtimes until all students have auditioned.

Whether students can perform at only one or both events will depend on the number of auditions. If you do not audition you cannot perform at these events.

Choir – choir contracts have been distributed for those students interested. Rehearsals will be MONDAY lunchtimes and THURSDAY before school beginning at 8am. All rehearsals are in the PAC and the first rehearsal will be held Monday the 12th of February.

The choir will be performing at both the School Fair and Stagestruck.

Physical Education Noreen McMenaman

The focus for students in the Middle School this term is Basketball and Netball. Children will be involved in learning how to pass and shoot as well as learning the rules of these games.

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.

Runners are also a requirement for PE lessons rather than school shoes, as this can be dangerous when running on slippery surfaces and they are also 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 19th 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 as 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.

Students will continue to create art works 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 Dog, and develop a number of dog drawings. Students will develop a front cover for their Visual Diary displaying their drawing skills. Students will be investigating collage and mixed media techniques to create a mosaic collage of turtles.

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 and other materials.

LOTE Michelle Collins

The Middle School will have one 50 minute session a week of Indonesian, on Mondays or Thursdays, 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 and classroom commands.

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 Collins

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 Ben Burch

This term in the Middle school, the students will be studying a Biology unit called 'Plants in Action'. Throughout this unit, the students will learn about plants and their life cycles. Students will learn about the different stages of a plant's life and how plants reproduce. They will examine the different parts of a plant and how each part helps the growth of the plant during its life cycle. Students will grow their own plants and examine them at their different stages of growth and will be recording what they observe. 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.

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

Regards,

The Middle School Team

Amy, Vanessa, Bree, Danny, Shane, Felicity, Tamara, Paul and Deb

Meet the Middle School Teachers



Amy Prior

2018 will be my second year teaching at Croydon Hills Primary School, however I have taught in various locations throughout my career including 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. This year I am looking forward to visiting New Zealand over Easter. Over the Summer holidays I spent a couple of weeks in Marlo - in East Gippsland. It was an active holiday involving bike riding, kayaking, swimming, walking and wake boarding, I finished the holiday by completing a team triathlon.



Danny Gamble

This is my second year at Croydon Hills and I am looking forward to another fantastic year in the Middle School. I have a passion for all aspects of learning and enjoy helping students develop their own love of learning. When I'm not at school, I love spending time with my young family, Harry (8) and Willow (6), 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 coach junior basketball and soccer. Our family loves caravanning and we often spend our holidays by one of Victoria's beautiful beaches.



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.



Bree Jennings

After teaching in prep and juniors since beginning at Croydon Hills Primary, I am very excited to be joining the Middle School this year! I look forward to embracing new challenges along with my students. Over the holidays, I have enjoyed spending time with my new niece, Ada, who was visiting from Brisbane, staying at the beach with friends and relaxing at home with my husband, Dale. My favourite hobbies are playing tennis, watching AFL (go Cats!), going to the movies and reading, reading and more reading! I also love to travel and my absolute favourite destination is Italy- I love the amazing sights, the language, the culture and the delicious food! Dale and I are planning a trip to New Zealand later this year, which I am really looking forward to- it looks like a beautiful country.



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 three year old son, Ben, 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 destinations are Western Australia and Tocumwal on the Murray River. I have been holidaying at Tocumwal since I was 2 years old, I love the hot weather, playing in the river and sometimes going on the boat.



Paul Brock

This is my seventh Year at CHPS and I am really pleased to be teaching in the Middle School again for 2018! Outside of school my two-year-old daughter Zara keeps me pretty busy but I also enjoy 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!



Shane Holloway

I can't begin to tell you how excited I am to teach in the Middle school this year! I have been a teacher at CHPS in Prep for the last 5 years and a year in Juniors before that. I am looking forward to all the new challenges that will come with the level change. Luckily for me, I get to teach many new faces, unluckily for some... you need to put up with me again. If I am not at school you will find me with a basketball in hand, playing in one of my four teams! I love taking my dog Marvel for walks, listening to music and audio books, playing board games with friends and spending time with my family. I am looking forward to this year and can't wait to share the new experiences with you all.



Felicity Puckey

This is my sixth year at Croydon Hills Primary and I am looking forward to another exciting year in Middle School. I enjoy running with my dogs, 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 to Japan. The people were so friendly and the food was delicious!



Tamara Cooke

This will be my sixth year teaching at CHPS and my second year in the Middle School. I am so excited to be a Middle School teacher again as we get to do so many fun things in and out of the classroom. I love teaching all subjects but my special favourites are reading, writing and ICT. In my spare time I love spending time with my friends and family. I have a dog called Hunter who I love to walk and take to the beach. My husband and I like to go away camping and 4WD as often as we can and during summer we spend a lot of time waterskiing at Lake Eildon. We recently bought our first home together so I am looking forward to doing lots of painting, renovating and gardening this year!