**Middle School Newsletter**

**Term 3, 2016**

### IMPORTANT DATES

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>General Assembly</td>
<td>Friday 15 July</td>
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<td>House Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Tree Day</td>
<td>Friday 29 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation Assembly</td>
<td>Friday 29 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olympic Games Begin</td>
<td>Friday 5 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Assembly</td>
<td>Friday 12 August</td>
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<td>Olympic Games end</td>
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<td>Book Week Parade-</td>
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<td>Theme - Australia</td>
<td>Tuesday 23 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Hoop Time Middle School</td>
<td>Wednesday 24 August</td>
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<td>- (some students)</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Assembly</td>
<td>Friday 26 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>District Athletics (some students)</td>
<td>Tuesday 30 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFL Roadshow Footy Activities</td>
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<td>Presentation Assembly</td>
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<td>Last Day of Term 3 - 1.30pm finish</td>
<td>Friday 16 September</td>
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<td>TERM 4 begins</td>
<td>Monday 3 October</td>
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<td>Year 4 Camp</td>
<td>Monday - Wednesday, 3 - 5 October</td>
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Dear Parents and Students,

Semester 2 is upon us way too fast and it has been wonderful to see everyone again after the holidays.

This term promises to be an exciting one with many fun activities and lots of learning ahead.

A reminder that Year 4 camp payments will be due throughout the term.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

It was a valuable chance late last term to share your child’s learning in our three way conferences. We hope that it was a positive experience for you and your child. 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 are ever any concerns, 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.

Parent support is always welcomed and encouraged. Please make sure you are aware of any important dates that are coming up, respond to any notices and read the newsletters each week and ensure that homework is being completed.

Campaspe Drive, Croydon Hills 3136 Phone: 9725 1206 Fax: 9723 4310 Email: croydon.hills.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au Web: www.croydonhps.vic.edu.au
Reminders

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.

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.

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 be recorded by the child’s parent or guardian. We also use Compass to facilitate payment and permission for many school activities.

Clothing and Uniform

Please ensure that your child has the correct school uniform. A note is required to cover a temporary situation.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO NAME EVERYTHING!

Supervision

PLEASE NOTE:
Students are not supervised before 8.45am and after 3.45pm.
Middle School students should not be playing on the Foundation and Junior playgrounds at anytime.

CURRICULUM

Integrated Studies
This term our topic is ‘Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow’. The focus is on events and aspects of the past that have significance in the present. The major focus will be on Australia, in particular, early exploration and settlement. We will also have a focus on the history, sports, competing countries and athletes of the 2016 Olympics in Rio, culminating in our own Middle School Mini-Olympics.

English

Reading
We will continue to develop a variety of reading strategies throughout the term. There will be a focus on comprehension, specifically; sequencing, summarising, predicting and comparing and contrasting. Reading is always encouraged and a great way to involve yourself is to read what your child is reading. This allows for fantastic discussion as well as improving comprehension in your children. Remember that Reading Eggs is a great resource, with many books available to read on-line. There are also some great comprehension activities available on this site.

Writing will focus on a variety of structures including: recounts, biographies, letter writing, instructional texts, dreamtime stories and poetry. The children will also continue to work on ‘choice writing’. A focus on correct use of basic punctuation will be maintained, whilst also developing a greater understanding of maintaining a consistent tense.

In Spelling, children will focus on learning words from their own personal list, which is developed from their writing. In class, we also look at spelling rules and patterns.

Mathematics
We will continue to develop the students’ understanding of place value and problem solving. Some of the main areas we will focus on during the term are: revision of the algorithms used to solve all four processes, common fractions, equivalent fractions, decimals, angles, length, time and simple graphing.

We are also continuing to develop the students’ skills in problem solving, developing their knowledge of the strategies and applying them to a variety of problems. Mathletics should continue to be a useful resource to use at home. There are many lessons available and a lot of skill practice is available in the Rainforest Maths section, where you can select the topic and level to work at. Also, please encourage your child to develop automatic number facts and play games that involve number, using dice, dominoes or playing cards.

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CAMPS - YEAR 4
Monday - Wednesday, October 3 - 5
(First Week of Term 4)

Early next term, Year 4 students will have the opportunity to attend Camp Manyung. The camp is situated near Mt Eliza, just 1½ hours from Croydon Hills, and is provided by the YMCA. The wide range of challenging activities offered at Camp Manyung build on the fantastic experiences provided through the CHPS Camping Program.

Today you have received a notification through Compass with suggested installment dates for camp, with the final payment due by Thursday, 1st September.

Installment Dates:
Deposit of $100 paid Thursday, 4th August - $60
Thursday, 18th August - $60
Thursday, 1st September - $60
or full payment of $180 by Thursday, 1st September

Further information, including medical forms, will be sent home in the first few weeks of the term. Please return these promptly in the plastic pocket provided.

Asthma forms will be sent home in this package but only need to be completed by children who have asthma. If your child’s asthma is moderate or severe, the asthma plan will need to be completed and signed by a doctor.

Please take the time to ensure you include information about your child’s tetanus immunisation and complete all required sections of the medical and the permission forms.

Following is the Camp Manyung website if you would like further information.

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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. There are three main components to the homework.

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.

Olympics
During the Olympics there will be some different homework activities which will be related to the Olympic Games.

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.

Encourage your child to look over the homework early in the week and talk to their teacher if they are unsure of a task. This will help to foster their independence and develop good habits for the future.

If this is a problem at any time, please discuss an alternative arrangement with your child’s teacher.
Performing Arts
Kathryn Lane

Classroom music:
We will continue to dance, sing and play our way through Term Three. Children will do a unit of work on “Music History” – researching musical genres (Baroque, Classical, Romantic and 20th Century) and composers. Students will also listen to and talk about contemporary music and compose their own “futuristic” music. This fits in nicely with the Middle School inquiry Unit – “Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow”.

Choir:
Rehearsals will again be every Monday lunchtime and Thursday before school (8 a.m.). New members are welcome to join at the start of each term. It is imperative that all choir members attend every rehearsal and performance throughout the year.

Mr John Gerrard will be taking over from me in third term during my Long Service Leave vacation to the U.K. and Europe. He will continue with the music program, including choir and I will see you all in 4th term.

LOTE
Libby Browning

It’s hard to believe it is third term already. Students in the Middle School have recently used a checklist to review their learning for the year and were quite surprised how many of their learning goals they have achieved already. I’m not surprised because they are a great group of learners.

This term we will be discussing our local area and some of our key vocabulary will include weather, transport and public places. There is a new free app called Rasa Bahasa which is good for practice of vocabulary. If students have access to it at home for some revision that would be wonderful. We are looking forward to a very hard working term in LOTE.

Premiers Reading Challenge
This is the last term to read and enter your books for the Premiers Reading Challenge. If you have entered please be sure to enter your books using your user name and password. Don’t leave it till the last minute! It’s still not too late to join. See Mr Burch or Bu for a form.

Physical Education
Noreen McMenaman

PE in Term 3 involves the House Athletics. These were on Tuesday 19th July. We had our fun day at a new track this year. We went to the Mt Evelyn Athletics Track as we had outgrown the Croydon track. This is a much bigger place, which is new and also has an undercover area. Thank you to those parents who came to assist with marshalling, timing, supervision etc.

The focus of the PE lessons this term will be on Athletics. Children will learn the techniques of High Jump, Long Jump, Triple Jump, Shot Put and Discus. They will also participate in trials for Cross Ball, Tunnel Ball and Shuttle Relay.

The District Athletics Sports is on Tuesday 30th August, with the back up day on Thursday 1st September. The Athletics is being held at the Bill Stewart, East Burwood Athletics track.

Visual Arts
Claudia Michielin

Students will begin the term by exploring the mediums of collage, drawing, painting and mixed media.

The Amazon has amazing wildlife and students will develop a paper mosaic collage of an animal found in the Amazon jungle. Students will investigate the artworks of Brazilian artist Romero Britto in lead up to the Rio Olympics in August. Students will develop their own ‘Britto’ style art piece looking at bright colours and pattern development in the process.

Based on the landscape paintings of Australian artist John Olsen, students will recreate an abstract outback watercolour painting. We will explore a variety of watercolour techniques that will then be incorporated into our paintings.
**HOOPTIME**  
*Wednesday, 24th August*  
*Maroondah Rings Stadium*

Notices asking for an expression of interest to attend Hooptime, were sent home last term.

Final notices were put onto Compass last week and notices sent home requesting grading information and assistance. When all notices have been returned, students will be allocated to teams.

Remember that **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.

As we try to keep the teams as small as possible, to encourage maximum participation, it creates problems if children change their minds. Please ensure that your child has committed to participating in Hooptime if they returned the notice last term.

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**Bottle for Botol**

This term, as part of our participation in the 2016 *'Bottle for Botol' program*, children will have the opportunity to create their very own bottle label. One of these Middle School designs will be selected to represent our school’s entry in the overall competition. Fingers crossed that our CHPS design is selected! If it is, it will be used in the following years on water bottles which will be on sale all over the world!

Throughout the year our Middle School students will have an opportunity to investigate the devastating environmental issues Indonesia and the rest of the world faces as a result of plastic pollution. They will be become aware of what is causing the problem, what people are doing to try and help and will be encouraged to make a difference themselves!

The program also encourages students and the community to purchase a stainless steel water bottle for $20.  
**For every bottle purchased:**
- $1 identical *botol* is donated to a student in Indonesia.
- Money goes towards purchasing water dispensers for school canteens.
- A student takes part in an eight-week education program.

There are 4 different water bottle designs to choose from; each has been designed by Australian and Indonesian Students.

These bottles are being sold at the office for $20 and will be available until stock runs out.

For more information about the program, please have a look at the following website: [http://www.bottleforbotol.org](http://www.bottleforbotol.org).

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

Regards,

The Middle School Team

Aaron Halstead, Jordan Tate, Robyn Twining, Kelly Lawrence, Ben Burch, Felicity Puckey, Paul Brock

Vanessa Urmston and Debra Karanzoulis.
Term 2 Integrated Expo
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Refuse
Year 3 Camp

2016
Year 3 Camp
2016
Year 3 Camp

2016