Dear parents,

We hope that you and your family had a great Easter break. It’s wonderful to see the students back refreshed and ready to learn!

There seems to be a lot of lost property around so please ensure you check the labels on your child’s clothing, lunch boxes and other items. It may be time for a re-label!

**Term 2 Integrated Topic**

This term our integrated topic is ‘Back in the Day.’ During our unit we will look at the following History based understandings:

- Who the people in our family are, where they were born and raised and how they are related to each other.
- Distinguishing between the past, present and future.
- Identifying and comparing features of objects from the past and present.
- How we, our families and friends commemorate past events that are important to us.

**Mont De Lancy Excursion**

This week the junior students attended a full day excursion at Mont de Lancy Historic Homestead in Wandin. Students dressed up in clothes from “Back in the Day” and participated in some fantastic activities such as damper making, billy-cart racing, rope making and some old school games. Students also attended an old schoolhouse mastered by the very rigid; Sir. Kids were lucky to not receive the cane! The excursion tied in perfectly with our integrated topic and we look forward to exploring it further in weeks to come.
In Mathematics this term, students are learning to solve problems via a ‘hands on’ approach. We are investigating various strategies to help us with problem solving including table making, writing lists, solving simpler problems and identifying patterns.

In number, we will look at addition and subtraction strategies, place value and fractions. We'll also learn more about mass, capacity and shapes in our measurement sessions this term. Students will continue to explore measurement using a range of both formal and informal units.

**Maths at home**

At home you can assist your child further and develop his/her understanding of mathematics by participating in activities such as: boardgames, card and strategy games, cooking together, allowing him/her to help with the shopping and telling the time.

We also encourage the students to use **Mathletics** which is an online program designed to reinforce mathematical concepts in a fun and engaging way. Please see your classroom teacher if you need another copy of the password.
LITERACY

This term in reading, students are working on developing their comprehension skills by working on a range of strategies including thinking aloud, determining the author’s meaning, asking questions throughout the reading process, making connections with the text and using text features. We are exploring some great texts in our shared reading sessions that are engaging our students and encouraging a love for reading.

In writing, students have been writing some fantastic recounts remembering to include all the important details such as who, when, where, what and why. We will soon shift our focus to transactional texts by looking at letters and emails and how they are structured. Student will have lots of opportunities to write letters to one another and we’ll even be having some class posties to deliver the mail!

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

All classes have been practising good audience etiquette: body language, looking at the speaker and listening to what has been said so that interesting questions can be asked. We have also been practising good speaking skills including: looking at the audience, speaking at an appropriate volume and pace.

In the coming weeks students will be presenting a short talk to the class on something from the past as part of our ‘Back in the Day’ integrated unit of study.
Healthy Eating at School
We strongly encourage the continued use of brain food, which should include small chopped up pieces of fresh fruit or vegetables. Brain food should be brought to school in a separate container from snack and lunch. To help compliment the effectiveness of brain food we encourage each child to have a healthy, nutritious breakfast, snack and lunch avoiding processed foods high in sugar and preservatives.

Library Borrowing
At CHPS we are fortunate to have access to such a well stocked library, with a fantastic range of genres and interest areas. In the Junior School we aim to develop a love of reading and want children to borrow books from the library that they will enjoy. Students are told they must take at least one picture storybook home to share with parents or siblings. Please encourage your child to find books that they will enjoy and be interested in reading, rather than focusing on the difficulty of the text.

"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."

INDONESIAN
This term in Indonesian we will be exploring numbers. Numbers are so important and we use them all the time. Of course we will be playing our favourite Pacman and Mean Buzz games to revise our numbers and will be using Languages on Line to revise as well. In the second half of the term we will be using Indonesian to talk about our pets, including words to describe their size, colour and what they eat.

Libby Browning, LOTE teacher

PREMIERS’ READING CHALLENGE
Once again our school is encouraging students to take part in the Challenge. We all know the importance of reading at home and this is a way to recognise and celebrate the students’ achievements. Forms are available from Ms Jennings or are attached to the weekly newsletter.

Visual Arts
Based on their Inquiry unit “Olden Days,” students will explore how to make paper and flower pressing that will be used in a mixed media collage. Students will explore fabric dyes and from their preliminary works create a simplistic doll. Students will investigate techniques and skills in weaving to develop a basket using raffia. Students will be participating in an art incursion based on Indigenous Australian Art.

Claudia Michielin, Visual Arts Teacher
Junior School Music

**Classroom Music:** Students in the junior level will continue to learn dance routines and participate in drama activities. They will also continue to consolidate their knowledge of beat and rhythm this term, and continue playing the boomwhackers and untuned percussion instruments, whilst consolidating their reading of traditional and non-traditional notation. Junior students will be playing, singing and listening to music in a variety of different “styles” or “genres” to fit in with the class inquiry unit.

**Junior Rockers Instrumental Lessons:** Lessons take place every Tuesday and we have a large number of students involved again this year. It is important to check the timetable each week as lesson times do change from time to time. If you have any queries don’t hesitate to call Junior Rockers on 1300 GO ROCK (1300 46 7625) or email them at info@juniorrockers.com

**Stagestruck Tuesday 24th of May:** This is our annual concert celebrating the talents of our Performing Arts students. Those children who learn an instrument, dance, sing or have a talent that they would like to showcase for an audience will need to see Mrs Lane and collect a notice in early May. Items are to be a maximum of 2 minutes long so that we can have lots of participants. It is important that the children are practising regularly and have something very polished if they want to be involved in this concert. Rehearsals for this event will begin in early May and children learning instruments with Junior Rockers are strongly encouraged to be involved.

*Thank you, Kathryn Lane*

As you may have heard, this year we are implementing the “Resilience Project” across all year levels at Croydon Hills. As teachers, we are very excited about this wonderful new program, which supports positive mental health strategies and students’ social and emotional well-being. During term 1, we listened to special guest speakers from the “Resilience Project” team, who introduced us to the main concepts. During term 2 and 3, students will be involved in weekly classroom lessons that address four key areas; empathy, gratitude, mindfulness and emotional literacy, more deeply. For more information visit [http://theresilienceproject.com.au/about-us/](http://theresilienceproject.com.au/about-us/)
Supporting Your Child’s Learning at Home

The best way to support your child’s learning at school is to read to and with your child for at least 20 minutes every day, as well as listening to them read to you. Please continue to fill out the yellow reading log book every night and ensure your child brings their satchel to school everyday. Alongside their take-home reading books from school, it is important for children to share a range of reading materials with adults, including picture books from home or the library, poems and rhymes and simple non-fiction texts. At this stage of their learning, developing quick recognition of sight words greatly supports reading confidence and fluency. If your child has a “magic word” book, please continue to help your child practice these words every night.


**IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 2**

- **Presentation Assembly dates** - Friday May 13 and Friday June 10
- **ANZAC day** - Monday April 25
- **Curriculum Day (student free day)** - Tuesday April 26
- **Walk to School Day** - Friday May 20
- **School Open Afternoon/Evening** – Tuesday May 17
- **Queens Birthday** - Monday June 13
- **Reports on Compass** - Tuesday June 17
- **Three way conferences** - Wednesday June 22
- **Last day of Term 2** - Friday June 24

This year CHPS has been selected as one of the schools in Victoria to be a part of the 2016 Bottle for Botol Program. Our school is selling water bottles to support communities in Indonesia in creating sustainable, healthy futures. For every bottle purchased here at CHPS, a child in Indonesia receives a free, identical bottle and will participate in an 8 week education program. Money raised also goes towards purchasing water dispensers for Indonesian school canteens.

Please support our efforts by purchasing a bottle at the office for $20. There are three designs available, and remember; it’s much more than just a bottle.