Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back! We hope you were able to have a wonderful break and enjoy some special time with your families over Easter.

We have a few exciting things to look forward to this Term – Our dance program, House Cross Country, our excursion to CERES and of course NAPLAN!!! Again it will be a busy term in the Middle School at Croydon Hills.

Please ensure you know what is happening by reading the Croydon Hills’ weekly newsletter and checking Compass.

Term 1 saw all classes getting to each know each other and adjusting to life as either a Year 3 student or a Year 4 student, as well as getting to know their teachers!

CURRICULUM – Middle School

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.

Reading and Viewing
Students will be looking at a variety of text structures, the language features. They will identify literal and implied meaning connecting ideas in different parts of a text. They will select information, ideas and events in texts that relate to their own lives and to other texts.

Writing
Students will learn how to write persuasively, using emotive language and some supporting evidence to express their opinion. They will continue to develop their understanding of grammar, use of accurate spelling and punctuation and how to edit their work to improve meaning. They will continue to look at spelling patterns and endeavour to learn personal spelling words from their own writing.
**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 by law, be approved by parents. 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. Sun smart policy applies to free dress days and camps. 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 during the day.

**Speaking and Listening**

Speaking and listening is an integral part of our literacy program. In Writing sessions, during Author’s Chair times, students are encouraged to develop their speaking and listening skills. To practise persuasive language, students will be involved in both formal and informal debates. The expo at the end of the term will showcase their Inquiry task and will also require the students to make a formal presentation to their class and other members of the school community.

**Mathematics**

We will continue to develop the students’ recall of number facts using all four processes. Some of the main areas we will focus on during the term are; Multiplication and division; including the use of algorithms to solve problems with larger numbers, fractions and decimals, 2D and 3D shapes and area.

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.

**Integrated Studies**

**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse**

Recycling is important and can keep the Earth clean for future generations. We will further investigate why recycling is good, reusing is better and reducing is best. People’s actions can have a positive or negative effect on our environment and we can make an impact on local and global sustainability.

Some of the essential questions we will be investigating are: What is waste? Why is recycling important? How can recycling keep the Earth clean for future generations? What can be recycled? The unit will culminate with the children creating their own advertising campaign to make people more aware of some aspects of caring for our environment.

**Term Two - Excursion to CERES.**

On Friday the 20th of May, Middle students will be going on an excursion to Ceres Community Environmental Park. CERES – Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies, is an award winning, not-for-profit, sustainability centre located on 4.5 hectares on the Merri Creek in East Brunswick, Melbourne.

Students will be participating in a variety of activities. Some possible activities are; a Merri Creek Walk, paper making, learning about worms and minibeasts and a waste timeline that will promote learning in our Inquiry topic for term 2, The 4Rs - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Refuse.

It should be a great day of activities and learning. Please remember to have your child dressed appropriately for the weather on the day. See Compass for event details.

**Library**

Please ensure that your children have their library books and library bags on their library day.

**ICT**

The focus in computer sessions this term is on the use of iMovie as a publishing tool. The students will be creating a mini movie on life at Croydon Hills Primary using photos, text and audio.
CAMPS - YEAR 3
Camp A Monday May 30 - Wednesday June 1
MAH, MKU, MRT, MPB

Camp B Wednesday June 1 - Friday June 3
MBB, MFP, MJT, MKL

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 about the camps will be going home today.

CAMPS - YEAR 4
Wednesday - Friday, October 5 - 7 (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, marine discovery, bike ed, low ropes, 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.
Performing Arts
Kathryn Lane

Classroom music: Students will continue to create music using their voices, ukuleles, xylophones, untuned percussion, boomwhackers 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. This term we will be focusing on songs, dance and drama activities focusing on the theme - “Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle”.

Choir: We now have 84 very talented and committed members of the school choir who rehearse every Monday lunchtime and Thursday before school (8am). Choir members will be performing at Yarrunga on Wednesday 11th May as part of the senior citizens AGM. We will also be performing on "Open Night" on Tuesday 17th May at 7:30 in the P.A.C. It is imperative that all choir members continue to attend every rehearsal and performance throughout the year to maintain that great quality and team effort that we are currently enjoying. If your child is unable to attend a rehearsal, please let Mrs Lane know via compass.

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 do not 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. The Choir and Rock Band will also be performing on this night.

Physical Education
Noreen McMenaman

The focus for students in the Middle School this term is learning the skills and rules associated with Winter Sports being Football and Soccer.

On, Thursday 5th May, we have our House Cross Country, which all students are expected to participate in. The top 10 participants will qualify for the District Cross Country on Tuesday 24th May in Park Orchards. There is a consent form on Compass for parents to sign so that the students can practise and run the cross country course through Yarrunga, during their PE sessions at the beginning of the term. Could parents please make sure this has been done as soon as possible so that no child misses out on seeing where the course is run. It also provides permission for the children to run the course on the 5th May. We will also need the assistance of many parents on this morning. If you are able to help out for a couple of hours with supervision please fill in the form which is also attached to Compass.

Visual Arts
Claudia Michielin

Working through a design to the end product, students will explore the art medium of textiles, from batik and tie dying to simple running stitch and sewing buttons to create a pirate ship. Based on the Inquiry unit, “Reduce Re-Use Recycle” and the art works of glass artist Dale Chihuly, students will develop a class ‘chandelier’ using plastic bottles.

Students will be participating in an art incursion based on Indigenous Australian Art.

LOTE
Libby Browning

This term in Indonesian we will be exploring numbers. We will find that you only need to learn fourteen words to be able to make numbers to a thousand! Numbers are very important and need to be revised regularly. Of course we will be playing our favourite Pacman game 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 looking at the issues of recycling in Indonesia to support the ‘Bottle for Botol’ program and the Middle Years unit on Recycling.
eSmart Practices
Technology is great but every time you use it, you leave a trace of yourself. It could be in an email, a text or an uploaded image so take care with these simple hints.
Almost everything you do with technology leaves a trace: something called a digital footprint. Digital footprints are very hard, in fact almost impossible, to erase.
Text messages and emails can be saved by the person you sent them to, and forwarded to many more people than you ever intended.
Technology is great, but you do need to take some care about how you use it.

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 the students’ achievements.
Forms are available from Mr Burch or are attached to the weekly newsletter.

Bottle for Botol
We are happy to announce that Croydon Hills Primary have been selected as one of the schools in Victoria who will take part in the 2016 ‘Bottle for Botol’ program.

During the program our Middle School students will be investigating 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:
¥ One 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. Later in the year every child will be given the opportunity to create a new design to go in the competition, and hopefully be chosen to have their very own design printed on the following years water bottles which will be on sale all over the world!
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.

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 1- Inquiry Learning - Asia
Term 1- Inquiry Learning - Asia
Term 2 - Dancing Program - Week 1