Dear Parents,

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

Please remember to ensure that your child’s belongings are still clearly labelled to ensure they can be returned when lost.

**Term 2 Integrated & Rotations Topics**
This term, the Seniors will continue to work through a range of integrated topics both in their classrooms and through weekly rotations. The integrated unit for this term will focus on Australian History from colonisation through to federation. This unit will culminate with the ‘Night of Notables’ celebration night towards the end of the term. Students will spend much of the term researching and creating presentations of a selected ‘notable’ person for this night.

Students will also continue to undertake some subject specific studies in their weekly rotations classes. This terms’ rotation topics are:

- Orienteering/Geocaching - Mr. Dixon
- Filming Techniques - Mr. Slater
- Chemical Science - Mrs. Kitching
- Studies of Asia (Indonesia) - Miss. Fraser
- Indigenous History - Mr. Den Elzen

**Absences**
Just a reminder: If your child is absent from school, please provide reasons either directly through the Compass system or by a written note to teachers.

If you have planned a holiday let the teacher know in advance when your child will not be attending school. Please remember that even if you have discussed an absence with your child’s teacher we still require a reason in writing or online by logging into Compass. It is a legal requirement that parents provide reasons for their children’s absences from school.

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**iPads**
As our students continue to investigate and develop their use of their iPads as learning tools throughout the year, we continue to ask you to work with them to ensure they are using their devices as responsible digital citizens.

Just a couple of important reminders:
- Regularly check your child’s iPad and make sure you are aware of what is on the device
- Please ensure that the iPad comes to school fully charged (we do not charge them at school)
- Check the Senior School Google Site regularly [https://sites.google.com/a/croydonhps.vic.edu.au/senior school/](https://sites.google.com/a/croydonhps.vic.edu.au/senior school/)
- iPads should not be used in student bedrooms and only in shared family areas.
- Parents and students should have access to our iTunes U course which provides up to date information on our one2one iPad program [https://itunesu.itunes.apple.com/audit/CODHDDMJAAE1GC3G](https://itunesu.itunes.apple.com/audit/CODHDDMJAAE1GC3G)

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**Calendar Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19th April</td>
<td>Maths Information Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th April</td>
<td>ANZAC DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th April</td>
<td>Curriculum Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th May</td>
<td>Mother’s Day stall</td>
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<td>5th May</td>
<td>House Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th May</td>
<td>NAPLAN Writing &amp; Language Conventions</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th May</td>
<td>NAPLAN Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th May</td>
<td>NAPLAN Numeracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th May</td>
<td>Book Fair week</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th May</td>
<td>Open Night - Resilience Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd May</td>
<td>Reporting Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th May</td>
<td>Stagestruck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th June</td>
<td>QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY &amp; Planning Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th June</td>
<td>Reports live to Compass</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd June</td>
<td>3-way Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th June</td>
<td>LAST DAY TERM 2!</td>
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Homework
All students have regular homework requirements that aim to build skills and develop a routine/habit. Homework is usually distributed on Monday via the Senior School Google Site (https://sites.google.com/a/croydonhps.vic.edu.au/seniorschool) to be completed by Friday. Weekend extensions can be granted if discussed with the classroom teacher prior to the due date.

Ongoing requirements include:

- 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 (30 minutes each night)
- The ongoing practise of mathematics skills and problem solving.
- Spelling practice using words taken from students’ work (3-5 words)
- A task from the homework grid (Night of Notables for Term 2)

During the course of the year the students may be asked to research topics, prepare and write reports, projects and speeches. This may need your guidance, suggestion and assistance. We appreciate your interest and encourage your support.

Ways to help;

- Showing an active interest in your child’s work
- Proof reading especially final drafts—(correct spelling)
- Finding resources at the local library and/or on the internet.
- Helping to understand the meaning of passages when researching so that your child can rephrase in their own words.
- Encourage neat presentation of all work.

Please refrain from taking over and inform us should your child be experiencing any undue difficulty.

Homework is monitored and feedback is given in a range of forms. Students are required to attend homework club during lunchtimes to complete outstanding tasks if homework requirements are not being met.

Reports
As in 2015, Reports will be available online through Compass. More information will be provided in the school newsletter towards the end of term.

After school reports have been made available, times will be offered for parents to attend a Three-Way Conference to be hosted by their child. We find that having the opportunity for students to take charge is an excellent way for them to share and reflect on their achievements, as well as be a part of the conversation about developing their goals for future learning.

NAPLAN (Year 5)
All Year 5 students across Australia take part in the nation wide NAPLAN testing this term on May 10, 11 & 12

Please remember, that this is only one indicator of your child’s progress, it is not necessary to stress about this process. Your child’s classwork over the course of the year gives a more complete picture of achievement.

Should you or your child have any questions about the process or the testing, please see your child’s classroom teacher.

Transition to Secondary School
Towards the end of Term 1 and over the next few weeks this term, the Senior School will be visited by a number of different past students and Secondary Schools in the area to provide students with information regarding their local Secondary options. These sessions will enable students to ask questions and gather more information so your family can make more informed decisions for their future schooling.

Some upcoming school open nights/tours:

Ringwood Secondary College - 16th & 27th April
Norwood Secondary College - 4th May
Melba Secondary College - 2nd May
Lilydale Heights Secondary College - 3rd May
Aquinas College - 19th April, 27th May, 17th June
Tintern Grammar - 5th & 28th May
Blackburn Secondary College - 27th April
Billanook Secondary College - 17th May (night)
Mullauna College - 26th April (night)

Tours of other local schools can be organised by contacting the school directly.
Mathematics
In Mathematics this term, the students will continue to learn in a ‘hands on’ and ‘open-ended’ manner. The Senior students will also continue to participate in targeted focus groups to support the learning they are doing in their classrooms. This term we will be looking at fractions, decimals and percentages, length, volume, capacity, area and perimeter, 2D & 3D shapes, data, graphing and statistics.

At home you can assist your child to further develop their understanding of mathematics by participating in activities such as: board, card and strategy games, cooking together, practicing their multiplication facts, having them add up some financial transactions and encouraging them to practice reading analogue (as well as digital) clocks.

Literacy
Throughout our reading sessions this term comprehension and discussion of the text continue to be a major focus, along with other reading strategies including; summarising, identifying author's purpose and recognising and commenting on text structure of a range of texts.

Comprehension of home reading can only be monitored through discussion of the text - as such, it is imperative that students are completing a reflection on ALL home reading in their Reading Logs.

Writing continues to be driven by students’ personal interests and ideas. Shared and modelled writing will continue to provide students with opportunities to participate in the writing of a wide range of genres and text types. This term the Senior School will focus on narratives, persuasive, information and biographical texts in preparation for NAPLAN and to complement our Night of Notables preparation.

This term students will continue to work on developing more accurate spelling approaches. Students are responsible for selecting 5 spelling words per week to practice during their homework and each day during class. These words are selected from both the students’ own writing as well as a targeted, teacher-provided list.

Students will continue to practise good audience etiquette: body language, meaningful responses and questions, as well as maintaining eye contact with the speaker. We will also continue practising good speaking skills including: varying tone, volume, pace, vocabulary and nonverbal cues to improve meaning and increase audience interest.
Term 1 Review
Throughout Term 1 the Senior students worked individually and in small groups to research and create a learning stand for the Sustainability Fair. Students from the rest of the school came through the Senior area and were educated by our Senior students on different sustainability issues our World faces.

The Senior teachers were all very impressed with the effort the students went to and the creativity they showed in their final projects.

Some of the topics students investigated included;

- The effect of single-use plastic water bottles on the ocean and marine life
- How solar panels can reduce air pollution
- The importance of biodiversity
- Food miles and their impact on the environment
Wakakirri
At the end of last term 51 very excited students began the Wakakirri journey again. Once again, the Senior students will be lucky enough to be working with Ros Lawrence along with; Miss Gray, Miss Osborne, Mrs Kitching and Miss Fraser. The group will be meeting every Thursday after school and until August when the performance will take place. It has already been fantastic to see the commitment and energy our Senior students are contributing to this event.

Premier’s 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 Dixon or are attached to the weekly newsletter.

Interschool Sport
Last term saw the beginning of Interschool Sport for the Senior students. It was great to see the student’s commitment to training on Thursday lunchtimes and their sportsmanship on game days. While we had some great results against top competition across each of the sports, our Tee-ball Girls team are to be particularly congratulated on their performance as they progress to represent Croydon Hills in the District Sports this term.

Art - Claudia Michielin
Students will explore, investigate and discuss the merits of Graffiti Art, what is the difference between Graffiti Art and Vandalism. Working from a design idea to the end product, students will extend their painting and printmaking through stencil work and drawing to develop an individual and unique skateboard, that is for display not skateboarding purposes. Students will further develop their drawing skills to create a unique character that will be represented in both 2D and 3D formats.

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

Indonesian - Libby Browning
This term in Indonesian we will be looking at the Indonesian coat of arms and the significance of the symbols it comprises. The significance of the elements of the Garuda are particularly interesting!. 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. This program is a wonderful initiative which encourages our students to think about environmental issues in Australia and Indonesia, and to take a practical approach to supporting students in Indonesia in their endeavours to reduce the use of plastic water bottles.

South Korea Exchange
The Senior team would like to congratulate the 18 students who have been accepted to join the South Korea school exchange which will take place in October this year. We still have very limited places left for this amazing experience however, all deposits must be received by the end of April. If you may be interested, contact Graeme or your class teacher.

Bottle for Botol
Croydon Hills has recently begun supporting the Bottle for Botol program which provides us with new links with Indonesian schools.

The Bottle for Botol program was founded by a group of surfers, divers and beach lovers who are working to protect our oceans and marine life by replacing single-use plastic cups with beautiful stainless steel and BPA-free water bottles. Each bottle is printed with a design chosen from hundreds of student entries from across Australia and Bali. Every time an Australian student buys a stainless steel bottle, an identical bottle is given to a student in Bali. Each bottle not only reduces the cost of water for a Balinese student, but also removes 30 plastic cups per month from ending up in the Indonesian waterways.

3 different designs of these special bottles are now available for purchase at the office.