

MIDDLE SCHOOL TERM 4 NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to Term 4



IMPORTANT DATES

Week 2

Crazy Sock Day (Fri 19th October)

Week 3

Year 3 Camp Toolangi (Wed 24th - Friday
26th October)

General Assembly (Fri 26th October)

Week 4

Hoop Time All Stars at Regional Finals

Music Count Us In (Thurs 1st November)

Week 5

Pupil Free Day (Mon 5th November)

Melbourne Cup Day (Tues 6th November)

Presentation Assembly (Fri 9th November)

Week 6

Science Incursion (Tues 13th November)

Year 4 Camp Manyung (Wed 14th - Friday
16th November)

Week 8

Colour Run (Thurs 29th November)

Presentation Assembly (Fri 30th November)

Week 10

Carols Night 7:00pm (Wed 12th December)

Meet the Teacher 2019 (Fr 14th December)

General Assembly (Fri 14th December)

DEAR PARENTS,

Where has the year gone? Can you believe that from the start of term, there are only 78 days until Christmas Day?!

It's difficult to believe that we are already into our last term of 2018. It is wonderful, during the final term, to look back and see how far the children have progressed since the start of the year.

The term is off to a very exciting start, with our Year 3's heading to Camp Toolangi in Week 3 and the Year 4's off to Camp Manyung in Week 6.

Term 4 is always extremely busy and action packed! Students will be involved in Music: Count Us In, the national music initiative that brings teachers, students and the Australian music industry together in celebration of music and education.

Please make sure that you are regularly logging on to COMPASS, reading the weekly whole school newsletter and checking for updates. There will be a number of events this term that require your consent and payment, so please make sure to do so when these activities become available.

Please visit www.croydonhps.vic.edu.au to subscribe to the Croydon Hills weekly newsletter. Alternatively, you can find a copy of the Newsletter on COMPASS sent out every Thursday. To ensure you are informed about what is going on, please read the newsletter every week.



WHAT'S GOING ON IN TERM 4?

A Summary of our Units

Solids, Liquids and Gases

For Inquiry Learning this term, the Middle School is exploring the topic 'Solids, Liquids and Gases'.

During the term the students will learn how to classify a range of materials such as solids, liquids and gases according to observable properties. They will participate in and conduct simple experiments to explore how temperature can cause a change of state. They will also look at and describe, reversible and non-reversible change in substances.

Reading

In Reading we are studying a number of genres, including poetry, nonfiction (explanation and procedures) and fiction. We will be reviewing all the comprehension strategies (e.g. questioning, predicting, inferring, summarising, visualising), and will continue to build our understanding of how we can apply these strategies to deepen our understanding of the texts we read. At the end of the term, all the middle classes will be engaged in a literature unit based on the novel "How to Eat Fried Worms".

As well as providing time and space for your child to read independently every day, we encourage parents to share a range of texts, across different genres, with students at home. Research shows that reading with children, even after they can read by themselves has huge benefits, as it fosters the development of listening skills, spelling, vocabulary and comprehension. Plus, it enhances engagement and enjoyment of texts and is a wonderful way to spend some quality time together! For more information, follow this link:

<http://theconversation.com/research-shows-the-importance-of-parents-reading-with-children-even-after-children-can-read-82756>



Writing

In Writing this term our focus will be on writing poetry (free verse and cinquain), explanations and procedures. We will continue to learn about the 6 +1 traits of writing (voice, organisation, ideas, word choice, sentence fluency and conventions + presentation) and how each can improve the quality of our writing. At the end of the term, students will be engaged in Passion Projects, in which they can choose a topic that is close to their heart and produce pieces of writing, across different genres, related to their passion. This will provide them with opportunities to engage in the writing process (planning, drafting, editing, revising and publishing) and practice specific writing skills under the teacher's guidance.



WHAT'S GOING ON IN TERM 4?

A Summary of our Units

Speaking & Listening

There will be many opportunities for students to engage in activities to strengthen their speaking and listening skills. These include sharing their writing on the author's chair, collaborating during our inquiry about Solids, Liquids & Gases and conducting peer interviews following camps.

Numeracy

Students will continue to revise basic number skills and place value concepts, which will include reading, writing and ordering larger numbers.

Students will have the opportunity to further develop their knowledge of whole numbers, fractions, decimals and percentages.

Using a range of resources, students will explore Area and Perimeter and all four processes. They will be encouraged to apply their knowledge of these concepts to solve real life problems.


A variety of activities have been planned to develop students understanding of Chance and Probability concepts, Data Representation and Interpretation and Mass and Capacity.

The children will complete several assessment tasks and revision will be related to their needs.

Digital Technology

Throughout Term 4, students will be working on their coding, problem solving, digital design and creativity skills to build their own interactive games.

Bloxels is an intuitive platform for creating video games. When students build games, they become the writers, artists, designers, and developers of their own interactive stories. Bloxels allows students to instantly turn their physical creations into a digital game. In the app, they can edit and customise everything - what it looks like and how elements interact and behave.





CHPS MIDDLE SCHOOL DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

BLOXELS

OUR STUDENTS HAVE HAD A BLAST LEARNING ABOUT VIDEO GAME DESIGN AND BUILDING THEIR PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS USING BLOXELS THIS TERM. BE SURE TO ASK THEM ABOUT THEIR FINAL GAME DESIGN TOWARDS THE END OF THE TERM!



Specialist Announcements

Art

In term 4 students will be taking inspiration from the children's storybook 'The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek' and applying paper mache techniques to create their own unique Bunyip sculpture. Students will explore the elements and principles such as form, shape, texture, colour and proportion to assist in their construction.

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.

Claudia Michielin

Music

In the classroom - Students will continue to create music using their voices, ukuleles, marimbas, un-tuned percussion and the other many and varied classroom instruments. They will dance, play games, perform and create ostinatos, listen to and discuss various styles of music and continue to learn rhythm and notation. Students will be continuing African drumming this term and learn Christmas carols for the concert on Wednesday the 12th of December. Where possible, we will use music technology to compose music and consolidate theory and aural training.

Choir - Rehearsals are Monday lunchtimes and Thursday before school beginning at 8.15am this term. All rehearsals are in the PAC. When dropping off students on Thursday mornings please do not use staff parking as it causes problems for staff that are arriving at this time and is potentially dangerous for all concerned.

We have an enthusiastic and committed group of choir members this year and families have been fabulous at letting me know about absences. It's important to keep this level of commitment going right up until the last rehearsal/performance. Students are expected to participate in the Christmas Concert on Wednesday 12th of December.

Music Count Us In - All students will take part in this initiative, whereby around 500,000 students from Australia and Australasia sing the same song, at the same time, on the same day. The song is called 'One Song' written and recorded by Australian students, the time is 12:30 and the day is Thursday 1st of November. The event is live-streamed from 12 noon and you can tune in from wherever you are, to watch and listen. Here is a link so that you can listen to this year's song and practise at home:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oIc-meOU-7U>

Amana Temple



Science

This term in Science the Middle School students will be studying a chemical sciences unit called 'Package it better'. Throughout this unit the students will be looking at packaging design. They will investigate the physical properties of a range of different materials and assess their suitability for particular purposes. They will investigate which shapes provide the strongest structure in products and use formal measurements to work out safe drop distances in an investigation. Students will also look at the environmental impact of different packaging materials. To finish it off, the students will work in collaborative teams to design and create their own suitable packaging for a delicate object.

Ben Burch

Indonesian

My name is Shannon Irwin and I am the new L.O.T.E teacher here at CHPS. I'm very excited to share my passion for the language and culture of Indonesia within our school community.

Indonesian for Middle School is held on Mondays and Thursdays. Classes consist of 50 minutes per week.

In term 4, students will be exploring both linguistic and cultural aspects of Indonesian Housing. Throughout the term students will compare and contrast Indonesian houses dependant on location and ethnicities in Indonesia. Students will also compare our housing here in Australia to those of Indonesia. We will be looking at houses from Bali, Sumatra and Sulawesi.

As an assessment task later in the term, students will be creating a diorama of an Indonesian house in class, therefore we ask in advance if parents and students could hopefully start collecting some resources to speed up the creation process. The foundation of the house will consist of a small cardboard box, so if parents and students could find one suitable for the project that would be fantastic. Students may do further research of Indonesian housing at home, if a device is available for use. Otherwise students are encouraged to practice vocabulary from the unit.

Shannon Irwin



P.E

Term 4 is an exciting term in PE as we do a variety of Major Games in preparation for the Year 4's moving into the Senior School, as well as giving the Year 3's a basic understanding of some of the more complex games and rules.

Volleyball is the major focus for the term. The same as last year, the plan is to enter a couple of Volleyball Teams into the State Volleyball Cup for Year 4's which will be a great experience. The students will also be taking part in fitness testing, which involves some fitness exercises and measuring their ability in endurance and comparing this against their scores at the beginning of the year. The results are then kept, so that in Year 6, when they leave Primary School, they will have a record of their fitness levels over 3 to 4 years. Parents can we please make sure that children have a water bottle for their lesson each week with their name on it as they do need a lot of water when doing physical activity?

Noreen McMenaman



MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS



YEAR 3 CAMP

Wednesday 24th October – Friday 26th October

Next week our Year 3 students will attend their first camp at Camp Toolangi. The camp adjoins Toolangi State Forest, just 45 minutes from Croydon Hills. The activities offered at Camp Toolangi include canoeing, rock climbing, flying fox, hut building, damper making, an obstacle course, and a photo trail.

Our Year Three Camp program has proven very successful, 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. We're all looking forward to it!

YEAR 4 CAMP

Wednesday 14th November – Friday 16th November

In week 6, our Year 4 students will have the opportunity to attend Camp Manyung, which is situated near Mt.Eliza, just over an hour from Croydon Hills.

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, high & low ropes, vertical challenge, giant swing and initiative and environmental activities.

Hooptime

A huge thank you to all the parents and siblings who assisted in so many ways at our Hoop Time competition last term. It was an exciting day and lots of fun was had by everyone.

We had 11 teams participating, including 4 rookie teams, who were well looked after and coached by our Year 6 students. It was wonderful to see their skills develop throughout the day.

Our All Stars team made it through to the Grand Final. The final game was by far their best team effort and in an absolute nail biter they were gallant in defeat, losing by only one point!

Congratulations to our All Star team, who will now participate in the Regional Finals at Nunawading on Tuesday, 30th October. We wish them good luck!

End of Year Activities

Our Middle School end of year lunch celebration will be coming up in December, where the students will all celebrate the year as a cohort.

There will be lunch, drinks and an icy-pole. A notice will go out via COMPASS in the coming weeks. We will also be asking for some parents to assist with serving on the day.

Also, stay tuned for some special craft activities we have planned for the last few weeks of the year.

Final Note

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

Regards,

The Middle School Team

Amy Prior, Shane Holloway, Felicity Puckey, Paul Brock, Lesley Wilson, Danny Gamble, Bree Jennings, Vanessa Urmston and Deb Karanzoulis.