



Neo-Ora

Newsletter of

Croydon Park Public School

www.croydonpk-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

6 December 2012

All at CPPS value respect, responsibility, caring, fairness and cooperation.

Dates for Your Diary

- **11 December** – Presentation Day
- **12 December** – 7pm P&C mtg.
- **14 December** – K-2 Concert 9.30am
- **17 December** – Year 6 Farewell
- **18 December** – School Picnic
- **19 December** – Students Last Day



2013

- **30 January** – students return to school
- **8 February** – Swimming Carnival yrs 3-6

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank You to Our Volunteers

On Tuesday a morning tea was held to acknowledge and thank all members of the community who have helped support the students of CPPS in so many different ways. We thank each and every volunteer for the giving of their valuable time to assist our students both in their learning and their development. The tremendous fundraising efforts of the P&C and our community who support events has meant that all our students can learn in air conditioned classrooms. Our scripture teachers have delivered religious education and our ethics teachers have challenged student thinking. Volunteers have locked and unlocked the school gates daily, keeping students safe. Every reader or library book covered by volunteers has meant students have quicker and longer access to new quality books to read. Every hour spent working in the uniform shop has meant students can come to school proudly wearing their uniform. Every minute spent in classrooms and on excursions has meant that students have been given valuable extra support with their learning. And for all of these things we are **all** truly grateful.

2013 Student Leader Elections

Congratulations to Keanu, Bianca, Georgia, Anthony, Claire, Rhiannon, Tatjana, Feauini, Kathleen, Casey, Evie, Niamh, Zahra and Seini, who recently presented their great speeches to our student body and staff. Our nominees were firstly interviewed by myself and each nominee confirmed for me that they are fine examples of emerging leaders in our community. Ballot papers have been distributed and voting has taken place. Our 2013 student leaders will be announced on Presentation Day on 11 December. Please join us.



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From the Principal's Desk con't

Safety Audit

Recently Burwood Council undertook a road safety audit of Seymour Street and Beresford Avenue, Croydon Park. The inspections were undertaken on 20 and 26 November at 9:00am and 3:00pm.

A report has been provided to the school with recommendations for council and community (parents) action. Burwood Council will be taking measures to improve signage as well as road markings and the pedestrian crossing.

Quite a number of frightening observations, supported by photographic evidence, regarding the behaviour of our community were made. The following is a summary of the observations made by the audit team that directly concern our community.

- Motorists are conducting U-turns and 3 point turns in the vicinity of the school zone, particularly near the Pick Up and Drop Off Zones in Seymour and Beresford Ave causing delays for other motorists.
- Parents are double parking to pick up and drop off students. This poses a safety risk as students are not able to be seen by other motorists as they exit the car.
- Parents are waiting in the Drop Off and Pick up zones longer than the permitted 2 minutes. Cars are also left unattended.
- Parents were observed crossing Beresford Ave with multiple children in peak time traffic and children were entering cars from the wrong side of the car.

This is not the first time I have informed the community about unsafe motorist's practices that are occurring during peak times at the school. I am concerned that it will take a serious accident to occur before behaviour changes. **Parents I urge you AGAIN to always consider safety over convenience when picking up or dropping off your children.**

End of Year Events

Our K-2 Concert, an event not to be missed will be held in the hall on 14 December. The concert commences at 9:30am. Student reports will be distributed on Monday 10 December and Presentation Day will take place on 11 December. We will be farewelling our Year 6 students on 18 December which is the same day as our end of year

picnic. Please join us for these events and be sure to make note of these dates so that you do not miss out.

Join us on 19 December, the last day of school at 2:50pm to form a guard of honour and clap out our Year 6 students as they leave CPPS for the last time.

Staffing

Sadly we are farewelling one of our valued staff members. Mrs Lorraine Stone our school counselor is retiring after 32 years of service to public education. Mrs Stone has played a pivotal role in supporting many students and families during her time at CPPS. She has been a great source of knowledge and always compassionate in her dealings with children and their families. We wish her all the very best in her retirement.

Mrs Findlay has completed her temporary engagement at CPPS. We thank her for her dedication to her students and expertise in music that she shared with the school community. We wish her well in future professional engagements.

Maintenance Work

The DEC has approved a number of small repairs to the school which will be completed by the end of the January holidays. Repairs will be made to the asphalt in two particular areas that have become trip hazards. Carpet will be placed in the reading recovery room. Repairs to the gutters and the painting of all external areas will occur to the bottom toilet block (block closest to the canteen). The external areas of the building occupied by Inner West Neighbour Aid will also be cleaned.

Safety at Home

As summer approaches, keeping your children healthy and physically active can be as easy as spending time in the backyard. At school we work hard to keep the grounds and buildings free of hazards. Here are some simple precautions you can take to make sure your backyard is a safe place for children to play.

Always supervise. An accident can occur in a matter of seconds. Unsupervised play is unsafe. An adult presence reduces risks and harm.

Remove dead tree branches and prune lower limbs. Branches that lend shade cover may be more dangerous than they look. Remove all dead limbs and trees on your property. If a dead or decaying

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tree is on a neighbour's property or you have a landlord, bring it to their attention. If you cannot remove the dead trees or branches, do not allow the child to play under or around the tree.

Beware of burns from metal play equipment. The sun can make surfaces hot enough to cause second or third degree burns in a matter of seconds. Check slides and other metal play equipment before allowing a child to play on them.

Insist on shoes. Shoes protect feet from hidden hazards like broken glass, cans, metal scrap, nails and wood splinters. Shoes also protect feet from hot surfaces and from insects in grass.

Cover the sandpit when not in use. Periodically rake the sand to make sure there aren't any unexpected surprises in there.

Keep kids away from fish ponds. Fish ponds can be intriguing to a curious toddler. To stay safe, teach children to not lean in for a closer look and treat larger ponds as you would a pool. Surround the pond with fencing and make sure there's a self-closing, self-latching gate.

Check your backyard for poisonous plants. Many popular backyard trees, shrubs, and plants have leaves and/or flowers that are poisonous. This is a partial list of common plants: azalea, rhododendron, daffodil, foxglove, holly, iris, lantana, lily-of-the-valley, morning glory, mountain laurel, peace lily, philodendron and yew. It is safest to remove these plants from areas where children play and to teach them not to put unfamiliar plants in their mouth.

Store dangerous gardening items inside. The best place to store your garden tools, plant food, pesticides and paints is in locked cabinets in your garage, out of your children's reach. Never store dangerous items so they are accessible on a shelf or in containers in the backyard, no matter how secure you think the containers might be. Never use containers that are labelled for food or drink. Put away garden tools.

Be cautious around the barbecue. Always lock up propane tanks, lighter fluid, barbecue lighters, matches and charcoal. If you have a gas grill, lock it

up. Keep children away from hot surfaces and implements.

Keep animals safe. Even placid dogs can react badly to strangers annoying them. Teach children how to behave safely and respectfully with animals. Bring animals inside if the play is boisterous and noisy.

Finally, this is the last newsletter for 2012. I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and to those families who do not celebrate Christmas a wonderful holiday. May you all stay safe and well and come back in 2013 renewed and refreshed ready to start the new year ahead. Remember staff return on 29 January 2013, students in Years 1-6 return on 30 January. Kindergarten students will be commencing school from on 4 February 2013.

Note: Should you be out and about near the school grounds during the Christmas vacation and see intruders on the premises I ask that you contact the school security unit on 1300 880 021 or Burwood Police on 9745 8499.

*As always, warmest regards
Sandra Angel*

Exodus Foundation Can Drive

Each year students from CPPS are given the opportunity to attend reading improvement courses run by the Exodus Foundation. The results are always very positive and the students have enhanced educational opportunities and self-worth as a result.

The Exodus Foundation also assists needy community members with a variety of services and packages, including food hampers.

As a Christmas gesture, CPPS is gladly working with Exodus Foundation to collect and distribute hampers to families and individuals in our local area, who may otherwise face a bleak Christmas. We are asking staff and students to help by bringing in non-perishable food items such as canned veggies, fruits, hams, fish and puddings, as well as UHT custard, milk and breakfast cereals, sweets, crackers and soft drinks. Personal care items like razors, shampoo, soaps also gratefully accepted. Please allow your child to bring in something to help with this worthwhile activity.

CPPS SRC Members

Co-operation – Pride – Success



Celebrate With Us

Well done to all our students who received awards!!!

Term 4 Week 7

K/1P Blake, James, Harrison
1B Ester, Thias
1/2VH Sophie, Annabelle, Jovan, Alex
2G Nicholas, Blake
2/3M Owen

Term 4 Week 8

KB Samiuela, Cassidy
KR Ruby, Joseph
K/1P Oliver, Annabella, Lauren, Simon
1B Ester, Imogen
1/2VH Caitlin, Jem
2G Emily, Greta
2/3M Kyle
3V Chin Hang, Hannah, Timothy
3/4T Jaxon, Ruby
4A Cholie, Levi
4F Louis, Christine
5/6C Jamie, Jasmine
5/6H Jasmine, Enrico
5/6R Bridgette, Roy

Term 4 Week 9

2/3M Samuel
3V Tiana, Rose
3/4T Ash
4A Niko, Jacobina
4F Madeline, Enoch
5/6C Keanu, Jasmine
5/6H Jasmine, Flora
5/6R Chris, Rebecca



FROM THE LIBRARY

2G Video Conference

Recently the students of 2G and I participated in a video conference with a class at Bondi Public School. Using our Connected Classroom with its video conferencing facilities, we chatted with a Year 2 class. We learned all about their school and were rather envious that they can see Bondi Beach and that they have school chooks. Our students shared lots of information about Croydon Park PS and we had a short Q&A session.

I was very proud of how well 2G listened and how calm and sensible they were right through the conference.

Return all books

There are still some school library books in homes. If you've got any in yours, please return them immediately. Students are asked to pay for lost books.

Spare Library bags

If you come across any of our spare library bags, send them in. They are used constantly and we seem to have less than half of what we started the year with.

Suggestion Board

Many thanks to all those students who contributed ideas to the suggestion board. Recently I read through them all and ordered a lot of the books requested. See me in the library if you'd like to find out if your suggested book has been purchased.

PRC SuperStars Celebration

Well done to the PRC SuperStars of Years 3-6!

Your eagerness and love of reading absolutely shone out as you listened to Paul MacDonald (Children's Bookshop, Beecroft) talk about what is happening in the world of books.

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Paul was most impressed with the range of books you have read and your delight as he discussed a wide range of books.

Thanks for the marvelous lunch provided by your families. If you are missing a food container – there are some in the library.

A Long Walk to Water

During this term I read a book about a boy who fled his home during the civil war in Sudan in the 1980s. Called A Long Walk to Water, it is a story of hope and courage. Year 5 and 6 students listened to Salva's and Nya's stories, hanging on right to the very last words (can't give away the story's ending). Read how our senior students responded to this story in two posts at An Open Book (dated [20 November](#) and [4 December](#)).

National Year of Reading

After enjoying many and various celebrations during the National Year of Reading, we're going slightly mad for our grand finale! Next week teachers will be wearing hats decorated to represent an author. Students are challenged to work out who the authors are and then place their entries in the Santa Sack in the library foyer.

Library monitors

Thanks to the Years 5 and 6 library monitors who trained our Year 4 students – you did a great job and we now have a large group eager and ready for library monitor duties in 2013.

Thank you also to the **parent volunteers** who have been covering books – your time is greatly appreciated by all our students.

Year 6 – good luck with high school and be sure to visit your new school's library and get to know the library staff. They will be glad to assist you in finding suitable books to read from their vast collections.

With another busy school year drawing to a close and summer holidays around the corner, I hope you enjoy the break and get to

enjoy a p-book (print book) or e-book (electronic book) curled up under a tree somewhere.

Seasons greetings

Ms Deirdre Ratcliffe
Teacher librarian (Monday-Thursday)
School Library Blog: [An Open Book](#)

STOP PRESS!!!

HUGE thanks once more to the Grandma of Nikolas in 3/4T. She has made an enormous number of spare library bags which will be so useful in 2013.

Students are asked to bring along their own library bags but, for the days when they forget, having these spare bags mean books may still be borrowed.

Leaving Croydon Park Public School at the end of 2012 Returning late to school in 2013

My son/daughter

_____ of class _____

Will be late returning to Croydon Park Public School
in 2013 His/her late return date is _____

The reason for his/her late return is

Signed: _____
Parent/Carer

OR

My son/daughter
_____ of class _____

Will not be returning to Croydon Park Public School
in 2012 and will require a transfer certificate to
_____.

Signed: _____
Parent/Carer



FREE fun program for kids to become fitter, healthier and happier!

**Do you have children 7-13 years old?
Do you think they may be above a healthy weight?**

The Go4Fun Program is an established healthy lifestyle program to improve health, fitness, self-esteem and confidence in children above their ideal weight.

What happens in the Go4Fun Program?

The program runs over one school term. There are 20 sessions (2 sessions/week, 2hrs/session). Sessions include: games, activities and swimming for kids; easy, effective ways to improve your child's self-esteem and confidence; demonstrations, games and tips on healthy foods, label reading and portion sizes; and a fun supermarket tour!

Sydney Local Health District has 15 FREE places available at your local programs: **Ashfield Aquatic Centre, corner of Frederick & Elizabeth Streets**, running on **Tuesdays & Thursdays 4.00-6.00pm in Term 1 2013, starting Tuesday 5th February**. Places are offered on a first come, first served basis. Children need to be 7-13 years old and above their ideal weight to attend. A parent or carer must accompany each child to every session.

To find out more contact **1800 780 900** or visit www.mendcentral.org and click on 'Australia & NZ'.



Volunteer Opportunities at CPPS

Volunteering at school is a great way to support our children. It's also a great way to make new friends with people who share a common goal, that is, to make school a great place for our kids. How much time you can spare and the level of involvement is up to you, every little bit helps! Here are two ideas:

Book Club –For many years Scholastic Australia have been selling books to kids at school. For every dollar spent the school is rewarded with “points”. These points or rewards are then used to buy resources for the school. Thanks to our generous school community this year we have collected hundreds of points and this has meant we have been able to buy many new, attractive and interesting books for the classroom, home readers, end-of-year prize books and books for the school library. If you would like to be involved in this initiative please let us know. Primarily the role is to distribute brochures, collect money and send off orders. Once the ordered items are sent to school they would then be distributed to children and teachers. There are eight issues per year. This job could be shared or done alone. Some of it can be done at home too. Comprehensive (and easy) training would be available.

Fundraising – Throughout 2012 we have managed to raise thousands of dollars for the benefit of our kids. We have equipped the classrooms with up-to-date technology which assists in catering for the different learning styles and interests of our children. We were also able to make their environment more comfortable by installing much needed air-conditioning in the Block A classrooms. We are looking for people to assist in the planning and running of activities throughout the year in 2013. Fundraising has the potential to make lots of money for the school and it requires the support of many volunteers. Whatever time you can spare would be appreciated. Your kids would love it too!

Please contact a P&C representative if you can help.

Kerrie Kiem (current Book Club organiser)
Email: kerriekiem@gmail.com