Where did all the time go?! One day we’re basking at the beach, the next we are getting our brains back into action as we ramp up for a new year in the Middle School. We extend a warm welcome to all students of the Middle School, especially our Year 3s (and their parents) who are now part of this exciting stage of school life.

Settling In
Our classroom focus for the first few weeks is geared towards helping students settle into their new class. We have been establishing routines, building relationships and developing our work expectations. Students will be asked to work independently and cooperatively using different materials, tools and technologies. Our first weeks of work are designed to support and familiarise students with these approaches. We are establishing our classroom norms – students are offering their ideas about how we can all work together in a happy and supportive environment where everyone can work to their full potential. Norms will be displayed in each room in support of our classroom community. We are also reinforcing the values of our RUIIn Program and using these characteristics as a basis for this term: Building the students’ Respect, Understanding and Integrity.

Staying Active
Students in the Middle School are required to participate in a minimum of 3 hours of physical activity each week whilst at school. To help our students meet this requirement, the Middle School teachers run Fundamental Motor Skills and 3/4 Sport sessions which assist the students to develop necessary skills whilst staying active and healthy. Middle School sports will take place on Wednesdays.

ICT News
This year we will be continuing the use of Edmodo in our Middle School classrooms. Edmodo is a closed online community where students can save work and post it whilst giving and receiving feedback from peers and teachers. This provides a tremendous forum for learning beyond the classroom. The Edmodo program will also support our ongoing cyber safety initiatives over the year.

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**FRESH FRUIT & WATER!**

WE ENCOURAGE ALL STUDENTS TO HAVE A WATER BOTTLE AND FRESH FRUIT TO MUNCH ON DURING THE DAY TO SUPPORT A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE.

**HOMEWORK**

HOMEWORK TASKS WILL START COMING HOME MONDAY 15TH FEBRUARY. IN THE MEANTIME, READING DAILY IS EXPECTED FOR ALL STUDENTS.
School Photos
Our school photos will take place on February 16th. There will be class, individual and family photos taken. An order pack will be sent home and will need to be returned by the day of the photos.

Swimming Program
The Middle School Swimming Program will be held in Term 1 from Friday 18th March until Thursday 24th March. Swimming will be held at Croydon Leisure Centre. Further information about costs will be sent home closer to the event.

3/4 Camp
This year’s Middle School camp is to Lady Northcote Camp. It will be held on the 8th – 10th August. The camp supports the work that will be happening in the classroom as well as providing outdoor adventure activities. Of course the camp experience will assist in promoting independence, interpersonal skills as well as RUIn.

Diaries
Every student has been provided with a diary to assist them prepare for homework tasks, home reading, spelling words, times table work, projects and a myriad of information that we can use in the classroom. Every student needs to take responsibility for ensuring that the diary is in their schoolbag every day and signed if required by their classroom teacher. Responsibility and organisation are very important personal learning skills and these skills will prepare students for transition into the Senior School.

Middle School Teachers
If you ever need to discuss an issue with us, our doors are always open before school (8.45am) and after school. We are happy to have a chat or, if needed, make appointments to spend time discussing any concerns. Please remember, that the sooner we know of a concern you or your child may have or perceive, the sooner we can resolve the problem and move on. So don’t be shy!

Katherine Darnell – Room 1
Anita Saliba (Team Leader) – Room 2
Andrew Tonkin – Room 3
Roseanne Parsons – Room 4
Alison McMenamin – Room 6

Tissues Please
Each class requires tissues for use in the room. We would appreciate a donation of two tissue boxes per child. Hopefully that will be enough to see us through winter!

Don’t forget Art Smocks!!!

MIDDLE SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENING
Tuesday, 16th Feb @ 7pm
This year instead of the traditional chat forum to kick off the year we intend to hold a series of learning sessions to simulate the types of approaches and work that the students will be experiencing so parents can feel more in tune with what is happening in the classroom. Please come along and try your hand at maths games, some shared writing or even a spelling challenge. We will be meeting in Rooms 1 & 2.

Classroom Assistance
We know how hard it can be to make a commitment to assist in the classroom. Never fear! You may be able to assist every week, once a fortnight or once a term during literacy or numeracy activities. There are also excursions, swimming programs, Class Rep, camp and other ways you can be involved. Each class will ask for assistance at different times so be on the lookout for forms or on the classroom window asking for help. Of course, many of you help in the canteen and this benefits everyone so don’t just think that working in the classroom is the only way you can help your

Gay and our Health Centre
Please remember to update any medical details with Gay at the Health Centre and ensure ventolin, preventers and spacers are renewed if necessary. It is important that student medication other than ventolin is logged into the office and distributed via Gay and not self-medicated by students from their bags in the room.
CAFE Reading is here.
Café is an acronym for: Comprehension Accuracy Fluency Expanding vocabulary
With the success last year of Café reading we will once again be focusing on our whole school approaches to the teaching of literacy and one of the tools we will be using to achieve this is the CAFÉ reading model.
Once again students will be asked to nominate topics that they are interested in to find articles, books, magazines, comics and online documents to read each day for a period of time. This will be accompanied by a range of activities to support their reading for pleasure and interest. Of course formal teaching and instruction will accompany this free reading and importantly a common set of language and understandings will be instilled in the children to enhance their participation in learning of core reading and comprehension strategies. For more information come along to our Information evening and get a taste first hand! See you there. Of course chat to one of us if you have any questions.

TIPS FOR CHOOSING THE PERFECT BOOK
Study the cover and title.
Read the back cover or the summary inside the book’s jacket.
Read the chapter headings or table of contents.
Browse through the photographs or illustrations.
Look for books about your hobbies, interests, or favourite sports.
Explore other books written by an author you enjoyed.
Ask friends, classmates, your teacher and the librarian for recommendations.

Our Edible Garden
Last year Kirsty Fox and her team of very able parents and friends created our wonderful edible garden situated in our courtyard next to the Art room. The ‘fruits’ of their labours are now developing and some are ready for picking. The produce ranges from zucchinis, snow peas and tomatoes to grafted apples and more exotic types of fruit, including raspberries. We have been lucky to help harvest some of the vegetables and have learnt about some interesting herbs as well. The students enjoyed the experience and this has inspired many to be part of the Greenology team.

Important Term 1 Dates

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 9th Feb</td>
<td>House Swimming Sports at Croydon Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 16th Feb</td>
<td>Middle School Information Evening @7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 16th Feb</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 22nd + Tue 23rd Feb</td>
<td>GTKY Interviews</td>
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<td>Mon 14th March</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 18th - Thurs 24th March</td>
<td>Middle School Swim Program at Croydon Leisure Centre</td>
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<td>Fri 18th March</td>
<td>National Day Of Action against Bullying</td>
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<td>Fri 24th March</td>
<td>Last day of term. Finish at 2.30 pm</td>
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