Principal’s Report – G. O’Neill

My thanks to the parents who attended the P&C meeting held on Wednesday. The P&C is an excellent forum for parents to find out about current school projects and initiatives and also for parents to ask questions, raise issues or gain clarification about what is occurring across our school.

Coming home with this newsletter is the Out of School Hours Start-up Survey. If you have yet to complete this survey, please complete and return to the office. This service, we believe, is keenly sought by our community and will add to the services the school already provides.

I remind parents that Term 1 is 11 weeks. Easter is not attached to the school holidays. The Easter break is from Friday 29 March (Good Friday) with Easter Monday being 1 April. Students return to school on Tuesday 2 April.

Parent/Teacher interview notes will come home this week. Teachers will endeavour to accommodate interview times to meet the demands of our busy lives. Parent/Teacher interviews are critically important and I would encourage all parents to be involved in this process.

Greg O’Neill
Principal

Assistant Principal’s Report – Ms Mila Evans

We have reached the half way mark of Term 1 and students are working hard in their classrooms.

Last week Mrs Taylor and I had the pleasure of attending the ‘WSR Gifted and Talented Conference’ in Parramatta. We were involved in a very detailed program which included Keynote speakers including Adam Liaw. The workshops were very interactive and examined technologies, classroom management practices, open ended tasks to explore how they can ignite students’ interests, knowledge of literacy and numeracy concepts and skills used within a differentiated curriculum to engage both academically gifted students and creatively gifted students and the challenges that may be faced.

The conference was looking at best practice and was a great opportunity to reflect on our own practices and challenged our future thinking and planning on vision, purpose and values.

We look forward to meeting as many parents as possible in a few weeks time for Parent/Teacher interviews. They will be conducted Wednesday afternoon of Week 10 and 11. Notes have already gone home for the interviews. They include time slots, in preferential order. Please return this note as soon as possible. The notes returned first will be more likely to get their first preference. These interviews are critically important meetings as they give parents an opportunity to learn about their children’s progress and for teachers to gain insights into their students. Parent perspectives on student strengths and needs, learning preferences and out-of-school learning can help teacher’s planning.
They also serve to discuss new strategies and allow the revision and setting of new goals for your child so that learning can be supported both at school and at home. Please take the opportunity to meet your teacher and discuss your stage based issues.

The teachers of Crawford P.S have a wealth of experience, knowledge and talent that will ensure students are being provided with:

- a curriculum that caters for the needs of active, self-directed learners;
- an environment for learning that ensures the protection, safety, self-esteem and welfare of all students;
- Values Education (recognising the importance of integrity, excellence, respect, responsibility, cooperation, participation, care, fairness and democracy.

Good school attendance leads to improved school results, better life chances and stronger peer relationships. It is important for parents to value education and support their children’s success at school by encouraging regular school attendance. If students miss as little as 8 days a term, by the end of Primary they have missed a year of school. Children with excessive absences in early school years often become High School truants because they have missed the basics. A reminder that NSW Department of Education and Communities requires parents and guardians to provide a written explanation for every absence from school on a day when school is open. This includes swimming carnivals, athletics carnivals and all excursions. The Education Reform Act requires a written explanation for each whole day and partial day absence. If an explanation has not been received within 7 days of the absence, the absence is recorded as unexplained.

Upcoming events for Crawford Public School include ‘School Photographs’ in Week 8 on Tuesday 19 March. All students are expected to come dressed in full school (summer) uniform.

Ms Mila Evans
Assistant Principal

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### Play Hockey
Register now

with Kings Langley Hockey Club for the 2013 winter season;

- 6 to 9 year old beginner programmes
- Junior competition for 10 to 17 year olds
- Open Age 4-a-side programme

Based at Cavanagh Reserve Tennis Courts Lalor Park

**For more information phone Lyn on 9674 2876**


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**NO FRESH FRUIT? NO WORRIES!**

Although fresh fruit or vegetables are the best choice for Crunch&Sip, your child can snack on canned fruit in natural juice or with no added sugar or dried fruit (DO NOT send fruit straps, bars or rolls).

To save money, buy a large can of fruit and send to school in reusable containers. Food for the environment too!
WE NEED YOU!

To Be Brave And
Shave Or Cool And
Colour!

Come along to the Dean Park Community
Development Project on Friday 15th March at 9
Yarramundi Drive Dean Park.

The event will commence at 10am and conclude at
12.30pm. Entry is by gold coin donation.

There will be a hairdresser available from 10am till 12.30pm to “shave
the brave” as well as a Colouring Station with a range of washable
coloured hairsprays for those who are “cool and colouring”.

Enjoy morning tea with us and check out a range of stalls from local
businesses.

Loads of lucky door prizes as well as a fantastic raffle.

Why not get together a group of friends or workmates and come and
join in the fun while helping to raise money for a great cause?

For more information about how you can be involved
please call Karen on 9626 5128
GOOD NUMBER SENSE

Maths is a numbers game but for some students - and parents - the figures don't add up. Here are some strategies to help kids to work out sums in their heads in a way that makes sense to them.


ESSAY PLANNING

Kids often rush headlong into essay writing tasks without thinking through what is required. Effective essay planning can involve brainstorming, mind-mapping, and organising notes depending on the question and type of response required. These factsheets explain everything.

The University of Western Sydney Observatory has developed an iPhone application to help bring the news of the universe to the palms of the community.

The app is titled ‘UWS Observatory’, is available now for free from the Apple iTunes Store, and, according to Associate Professor Miroslav Filipovic, Director of the UWS Observatory, is a great, hassle free way for the community to stay connected with their local observatory.

“The app is easy to use, provides the most essential information and encourages an interest in astronomical events within and beyond the UWS Observatory,” says Associate Professor Filipovic.

“Community members no longer need to ring us or check our website to find out what is coming up – they can have everything they need delivered to the palm of their hand.”

The UWS Observatory app provides an automatically updated calendar detailing both astronomical events, such as eclipses, meteor showers and moon phases, and a list of public astronomy programs being run at the observatory.

The ‘observatory calendar’ includes the scheduled date and time of each of these programs, the topic of the presentation, and a short description of the program theme. Users can also add the events to their personal iPhone calendars from within the app.

The UWS Observatory app also contains details about the observatory itself, including an interactive map showing directions to the facility, entry fees and contact details. Interested aspiring astronomers can download the app and read more about the UWS Observatory.

MT DRUITT DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Wednesday 27 February, we had several students represent our school and compete in the Mt Druitt District Swimming Carnival. The students tried their very best and displayed outstanding sportsmanship. Congratulations to the following students on their fantastic results:

9yrs Boys Freestyle- Shanyuth (2nd)
11yrs Boys Freestyle- Huon (3rd)
8-10yrs Boys Breaststroke- Shanyuth (2nd)
11yrs Boys Breaststroke- Huon (3rd)
11yrs Boys Backstroke- Huon (3rd)
12-13yrs Girls Backstroke- Shayla (3rd)
11yrs Boys Butterfly- Huon (3rd)

SYDNEY WEST TRIALS

Good luck to all of our students trialling for Sydney West teams this year. We have a number of students representing Crawford in many sports. We look forward to posting some good news soon!

Vanessa Stone
(Sports Coordinator)
SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS

Our school contributions for 2013 are now due.

$20.00 per student or $35 per family

Teachers are collecting money in the classrooms or the contributions can be given directly to the office.

These funds are collected from all families and form a vital part of our school budget. In order to provide for the quality and variety of opportunities at Crawford we need families to continue to support the Contribution Scheme.

We thank our families for their support.

SCHOOL CONTACT CARDS

School Contact Cards have been sent home for students in Years 1-6. Please ensure you complete a card for each child in your family and return to the school front office as soon as possible.

It is very important that the school has your correct address and telephone numbers in case of an emergency.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

The school’s front office will be attended Monday - Friday from 8:30am - 3:15pm only.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

The school premises is a Non Smoking Area Thank you for your cooperation.
Students in Kindergarten have settled well into their classes and have been working very hard to learn their sounds and sight words. Thank you for supporting your child in their learning, by ensuring they completed their first week of homework last week and by assisting them with their home reader. It is beneficial for your child to attempt their homework each week to consolidate the skills they are learning in their classroom.

Through all the safe, respectful learners we have within Kindergarten and K/1V, the teachers have decided to introduce the “Star of the Week Award.” Two (2) students will be selected each week by the teachers to be announced as the student of the week based on their general behaviour and attitude to learning. Students will be announced on Friday (starting this week) and will be awarded a special award to wear and keep. Their photo and information will be displayed in our wet room area for the duration of the week and they will receive a special treat. The teachers are busy looking to see who will be the first two students to be our “Star of the Week.” I wonder who it will be??

We trust that parents received the information handout about life in Kindergarten last week and we thank those parents who have brought in tissues, hand wash and paint shirts as requested. If you did not receive this note for whatever reason, please ask your child’s classroom teacher for a copy.

The classroom teachers have finalised your child’s best start assessment and we will be sending home a report from this soon.

You will have the opportunity to discuss your child’s progress in Weeks 10 and 11 at our Parent/Teacher interviews. A note regarding interview times will be going home next week, please make sure you arrange a convenient time to discuss your child’s progress with the classroom teacher as soon as possible.

Thank you to all the parents for ensuring that they are no longer entering the building during school time without attending the office first. The children have settled quickly into their learning. Your support in ensuring our students are safe and are working without disruption is greatly appreciated.

Leigh Alipate
Kindergarten/K/1V Assistant Principal

To all our families from Stage 1 time has definitely passed by very quickly this term. It is already the end of Week 6 and there is still much to do. Over the next week or two our classroom teachers will be sending home class information letters that give you some more detail into the teaching and learning in your child's classroom.

There will be three-way interviews conducted in the last two weeks of school this term. When you receive the information note regarding this, please make some time to arrange an interview time as it is vital that your input is part of your child's education.

Over the last couple of weeks I have collected student's belongings and placed them in the lost property bins near the inside hall doors of the office block. Many of these items did not have a name on them. If you can make sure that your child's belongings has a name on it then it makes it easier to return.

It has been pleasing to see so many of our students wearing their school uniform with pride. Well done Stage 1!
As all parents and guardians are aware teaching our children to be safe, respectful learners is of most importance especially during these early years as it builds a child's character and enhances their ability to make positive decisions.

If we can work as a team in being positive role models for our children then our children may become terrific role models themselves.

An Educational Survey will be coming home shortly to support the 3 way interviews being held in the last two weeks of this term. If parents could please complete the survey and return to your child's class teacher as soon as possible, this would be greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to make an appointment at the front office any time if you wish to discuss anything stage related with me.

Mr Lowing
Stage 1 Supervisor

Stage 2 students are all working hard in the classrooms to explore a variety of concepts. I had the privilege to look at the students handwriting books recently and was impressed by the standard of work being produced and the determination of the students to follow our book expectations. All classroom teachers and myself are proud of our students who are continuing to strive to be the best they can be. They are working hard to receive their critters for being ‘Safe Respectful Learners’ and many of the students across Stage 2 are heading for their first PBL certificate for 2013.

Just a reminder PSSA has commenced, all students in Stage 2 who have been selected for a team have signed the Crawford PSSA Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct outlines what the acceptable behaviour is for students, both at school and at the sporting fields. Students who are unable to meet the expectations and adhere to the code of conduct may be unable to attend the games.

If this is to occur a phone call from the coach or myself will be received. In addition to this some teams have large numbers, therefore coaches may need to work on a rotation basis to provide all students on the teams the opportunity to represent the school. Coaches, will keep students informed of this each week at training.

Important Dates for Stage 2

- Photo Day will held on Tuesday 19 March 2013, envelopes will be sent home this week and they are to be returned on the day of photos with the correct money. Specialised group photos will be taken on July 30. This includes sports teams, debating, choir etc.
- Parent/Teacher interviews will be held in Weeks 10 and 11. Notes outlining your child’s teacher’s availability for you to book a time will go home in Week 7.
- NAPLAN will be held in Term 2 on the 14-16 May 2013 information will be sent home soon.

Finally, we are aware that all children may become unwell, but it is extremely important that on the day of their return they bring a note explaining the reason for the absence. I also ask that if you have moved recently or changed your contact details that you update them with the office to ensure we can contact you easily in the case of your child becoming unwell at school.

Mrs Deanne Taylor
Assistant Principal –Stage 2
We are well and truly into the swing of things this term and our major focus in the classroom is literacy this semester. We are working hard to develop our children’s writing and reading with explicit teaching of strategies. We would ask all our parents to help with this. Research studies have shown that quality time spent by parents reading with their children every day increases a child’s social and emotional well-being. This in turn assists children to approach learning in a positive manner - persistence at a task, being organised, eagerness to learn, and improved attention span. When a child spends most of their day- learning how to read, it takes up a lot of energy. Once they are able to read they can then - read to learn. Reading is the key to life-long learning. Please encourage your child to read to you every day and take the time to read with your child every day.

It was fantastic to see so many Stage 3 students receiving Awards at our first assembly. Keep up the great work Stage 3!

On Monday 25 March our School Leaders will accompany Mrs Waugh and myself to attend the ‘2013 Young Leaders Day’ at the Sydney Entertainment Centre. The purpose of the day is to inspire our young leaders to make positive contributions to the school and to motivate and empower them to develop and demonstrate effective leadership skills that will allow them to be an influential member of our school community. School Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects must return the signed permission slip and money to me no later than Thursday 21 March.

Last week our Year 6 students were consulted about their public secondary school options and the enrolment process. Mr Begnell (Doonside Technology High School Principal) visited to discuss the transition into Year 7.

Each student was provided with a ‘Moving into Year 7 in a NSW Government School ‘Booklet. Each booklet includes the permanent residential address of our students and each student’s designated local secondary school on the basis of this address. All booklets must be completed with the EOI form that is inside returned NO LATER THAN 22 MARCH 2013. Even if your child is going to a non-government or interstate school or seeking a support class placement, they still need to be filled in and returned. Applicants for Year 7 placement in a selective high school in 2014 are required to take the Selective Placement Test which will be held from 9:00am to 1:15pm on Thursday 14 March 2013. The test centre for students at our school is Doonside High School. All parents involved in this were sent a letter advising them about the test centre and information needed.

Several students have been arriving late to school on a regular basis. Please assist your child in making a positive start to the day and maximising learning time by sending them to school before 9am. It is very important that students begin their day with breakfast, to assist concentration and memory.

“The likelihood of success in learning is strongly linked to regular attendance and appropriate participation in educational programs”.

It is crucial that students develop habits of regular attendance at an early age. Students who have poor patterns of attendance are at risk of not achieving their educational, social or psychological potential and are disadvantaged in the quality of choices they are able to make in later life situations.”

Ms Evans
Assistant Principal
We have had a wonderful start to the 2013 school year! It has been a very busy and exciting start but the students have demonstrated to me already what safe, respectful learners they can be. As a new teacher and Assistant Principal here at Crawford I have spent the past few weeks getting to know your children within the classroom and out on the playground. It has been a lovely experience and I am very much looking forward to the remainder of the school year. I am extremely fortunate this year to be working alongside two dynamic and dedicated teachers in:

- Mrs Ellen Sudario (K-6S)
- Mrs Preetisha Jain (K-6J)

We are all focused on providing your children with a quality, individualised and engaging education that will see them flourish in their learning. If you ever have any concerns at all, please make an appointment to speak with the classroom teacher or myself. We are always more than happy to discuss your child’s academic and social progress.

Our students have been reminded over the past weeks of Crawford Public School’s Expectations and the consequences that may apply if they do not adhere to these. These are conversations that you also may like to have with your child at home:

**Be Safe**
- Stay in bounds
- Walk indoors and on concrete areas
- Play fairly
- Keep hands and feet to yourself
- Use equipment appropriately.

**Be Respectful**
- Listen to others
- Follow teacher’s instructions
- Treat everyone fairly
- Speak politely

In order to get the most out of every school day, please remember to be *In line, on time, by 9.*

Later this term, I will be holding review meetings for our students who will be moving into Year 7 next year. It is important that we begin these discussions now so that we are able to place these students into the most suitable learning environment next year.

I look forward to meeting with you all very soon.

Ms Paige Matthews
Classroom Teacher – 3/6M
Assistant Principal – Special Education

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**WHEN KIDS ARE BULLIED**

We send our kids off to school each day to learn. In between lessons they go outside to play – but the learning doesn't stop. The playground can help prepare them for some of the social challenges they will face throughout their lifetime. Find out more:

This term the canteen is having a **Fun Lunch Day**!!!! You can choose between 3 great Meals for $4.00 each. We will also have Lolly Bags for $2.50 each full off all your favorites.

The Lunch can only be pre-ordered, the bags will be on sale during Lunch time on the day, or you can pre-order so you don’t miss out.

**AND THAT’S NOT ALL**

**Receive a FREE GIFT with every Lunch Order**

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<tr>
<th>Meal Offer 1</th>
<th>Meal Offer 2</th>
<th>Meal Offer 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sausage Roll</td>
<td>Beef Traveller Pie</td>
<td>Chicken Traveller Pie</td>
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<td>Pop Top Juice</td>
<td>Pop Top Juice</td>
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<td><strong>FREE GIFT</strong></td>
<td><strong>FREE GIFT</strong></td>
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If you would like to purchase the Fun Lunch and Lolly Bags for your child, please fill in the order form below and return to the school canteen.

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**Canteen Fun Lunch**

Please pre-order before Friday 22nd March 2013

Name: ___________________________ Class: ___________________________

Fun Lunch $4.00 each
Please circle which Meal you would like.

Meal Offer 1 Meal Offer 2 Meal Offer 3

Lolly Bag $2.50 each Qty: _____

Amount Enclosed $ ________________

Normal canteen menu will still be available on the day
Thank you for your support
Physical Culture (Physie) is a form of dance, incorporating marching, exercises, jazz dance, ballet and gymnastic movements. The choreography is designed to develop good posture, strength, flexibility, coordination and fitness.

Physie also has other benefits: Building self-confidence, enhancing musical understanding and making friends. Best of all physie is fun!

We provide a new syllabus and music every year and there are annual competitions for teams and individuals. Girls can choose to participate in individual or team performances or just enjoy coming to class.

Classes for girls and ladies resume from Monday 11 February, 2013. For new members your 1st lesson is free!

MONDAYS: Vardy’s Road Public School
Vardy’s Road, Kings Langley
Preschoolers: 3&4 yrs 4.00 - 4.30pm
Junior Girls 5&6 yrs 4.30 - 5.15pm
7&8 yrs 5.15 - 6.00pm
9,10,11,&12 yrs 6.00 - 7.30pm
Ladies: All ladies 7.30 - 8.30pm

THURSDAYS: Marayong Public School
Davis Road, Marayong
Preschoolers: 3&4 yrs 4.15 - 4.45pm
Junior Girls: 5&6 yrs 4.45 - 5.30pm
7&8 yrs 5.30 - 6.15pm
9,10,11&12 yrs 6.15 - 7.30pm

Enquiries please contact:
Robyn: 0414 983 189
Kelly: 0418 623 154
Pam: 9631 1068

TUESDAYS: Seven Hills High School
Johnson Avenue, Seven Hills
Senior Girls: 13,14,15yrs & 1st Year Seniors 5.30 - 6.30pm
2nd yr/Novice and Open Seniors 6.30 - 7.30pm

Reading with your child at home

When your kids see you reading and writing in everyday life – whether reading for pleasure, sharing a story with them or making a shopping list – it teaches them that they are useful skills. Here are some things you can do at home to help your kids with reading.

Find out more:

Removing head lice and nits

Mention head lice and most of us instantly develop an itch. While head lice and nits, (the eggs of head lice) are certainly annoying and persistent, they're not dangerous. Here's everything you need to know to rid your kids of head lice and nits.

Find out more:
Just a reminder that the school car park is not to be used by parents as a drop off/pick up area or a place to park before and after school.

The car park is for Crawford staff and Department of Education & Communities employees only.

**SCHOOL GATES**

For the safety of students and staff, the school gate near the carpark is locked between the hours of **9.15am to 2.55pm**.

The back gate (Asche Street) is locked between the hours of **9.15am to 2.55pm**. The gate will be promptly closed for the day at **3:15pm**.

**ENTRY** to the school during school hours is via the main pedestrian gates located at the pedestrian crossing. The gate will be **shut but not locked**.
Mad Hatter's Tea Party
and Easter Egg Hunt

Put on your best hat and Don’t be late!
for this very important date!
Join Alice and the Mad Hatter
in the enchanting surrounds of

The Historic Mamre House
181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills
Sunday 24 March, 2013
10.30am-12 noon
Cost $25 per person

For a delicious morning tea with charm and chatter
followed by a very egg-citing hunt around the gardens

for further information/Bookings Phone 02-96705321
Mission Australia

The Yellow Door opens

Come to a series of workshops and presentations about child and family mental health to launch Mission Australia’s Yellow Door Project for the communities of Blacktown Local Government Area

Friday 15 March, 3-5pm
Mount Druitt Community Hub
Ayres Grove, Mount Druitt

This is a free event, however bookings are essential
RSVP to (02) 8886 6300 or yellowdoor@missionaustralia.com.au

Yellow Door (Family Mental Health Support Service) is an Australian Government initiative, funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.
$30.50 per day

KIDZ KAPER

2013 School Holiday Program

Entertain the kids these school holidays at Blacktown Aquatic Centre.
Full day programs (8am – 5pm) for children aged 6 - 12 years
Water Confidence is a Must

Monday 15th April
Scooter Fun

Tuesday 16th April
Arts & Craft

Wednesday 17th April
Games Day

Thursday 18th April
Junior Master Chef day

Friday 19th April
Inflatable

Call Blacktown Aquatic Centre on 9622 2279
For more information or to register.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!