Principal’s Report - Greg O’Neill

Staffing update:

For the past seven & a half years it has been my honour and privilege to be the Principal of Crawford Public School.

I feel extremely proud of the many achievements of the students, staff & community.

I believe that together we have improved the life opportunities of many families.

Last week, following the Merit Selection process, I was offered the position of Principal at Colyton Public School. I have accepted the position and will commence at Colyton PS at the beginning of the 2015 school year.

I remain committed to leading Crawford Public School until the end of term 4 and ensuring:
- consistency and continuity of teaching and learning in classrooms;
- safety & security of students and staff by adhering to DEC policy and procedure;
- completion of all aspects of school management and organisation by the end of term.

I believe that we are well advanced in relation to the organisation and planning for term 4 and have a solid platform already being prepared to ensure a successful start to the 2015 school year.

Greg O’Neill
Principal
Deputy Principal’s Report - Mrs. D. Taylor

Check out the outstanding work of our student leaders in creating the 'Memorial Garden' near the hall. They worked so hard in designing, costing and creating this special reflection place. We would like to thank Mr Taylor (Mrs Taylor’s Husband) who in his own time, helped to remove plants, move the stone and paint the wall. It looks amazing.

School Planning for 2015-2017

We have begun the planning process to prepare the 2015-2017 school plan. This planning cycle will focus on the DEC new approach. The new approach to school planning brings together a variety of reforms to give NSW public schools greater control over their school and community needs, focus at a deeper level on improving the quality of teaching and learning to benefit students in reaching age appropriate outcomes and closing the gap. The new planning process asks schools to be more strategic by focusing on three key areas for development through consultation of our community to ensure ongoing growth and development of our school. This week families will receive a note asking them for some feedback on the school vision moving forward.

Attendance

Thank you to all our parents who are assuring their child/ren are at school on time and ready to learn. Can I please ask all parents to remember if your child is absent from school, they are required to provide a note outlining the date or dates of the absences and a satisfactory explanation for their child being absent. The Education Act 1990 requires your child to attend school each day that instruction is provided unless prevented from doing so by sickness or other good reason. The Act also requires you to explain your child’s absences within seven days of their occurrence. Failure to do so will result in an unjustified absence being recorded and large numbers of absences can result in legal action being sort. Explanation can be provided in writing as soon as possible or alternatively you may wish to contact the school via phone.
Uniform
Crawford Public School pride themselves on being sun safe. We ask to please make sure your child has their hat with them every day. On days where hats are forgotten they will be reminded to play in the shade.

Appointments
Just a reminder, if you would like to discuss or have any concerns relating to the curriculum, your child’s progress in their class or concerns relating to any other matter relating to your child you are required to make an appointment at the school office as it allows all parties to have time to convey information in a suitable forum. These meetings will be scheduled with the classroom teacher and supervisor.

MERIT SYSTEM

Awards
Students at Crawford Public School are able to proceed through an award hierarchy designed to reinforce the DET Core Values and school rules and acknowledge their adherence to these.
The hierarchy is structured as follows:

Merit Certificates (1 point)
Awarded by the classroom teacher in the weekly assembly.

AP’s Award (2 points)
Selected by the classroom teacher and awarded by an Assistant Principal to one member of the presiding class at the weekly assembly.

DP’s Award (2 points)
Nominated by the classroom teacher; selected and awarded to the selected student(s) by the Deputy Principal on a twice-a-term basis.

Principal’s Award (3 points)
Nominated by the classroom teacher and awarded to the selected student(s) by the Principal on a twice-a-term basis.

Ten Point Medallion
Awarded to qualified students at major school assemblies. Qualification is brought about by accumulation of 10 points worth of awards as indicated by the point value in brackets next to each award.

Student Leadership
Opportunities for students to display leadership within and outside the school will be provided on an ongoing basis. These will include:
- Captains and Prefects
- School Representative Council
- Peer Support
- Other Representative Opportunities

Mrs Deanne Taylor
Deputy Principal
KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Kindergarten are counting down the weeks until they are in Year 1, although there is still a lot of learning to take place and plenty of exciting events coming up! Please check your child’s bag for notes and the ‘Crawford Public School’ facebook page to ensure you don’t miss out on anything.

In the last week of Term 3 we visited Golden Ridge Animal Farm. Our students demonstrated impeccable behaviour throughout the whole day and experienced true farm life, a day never to be forgotten! A big thank you to Mrs Taylor, Mrs Bowden and Mrs Smeal who came along with the Kindergarten teachers to join in the fun.

Mrs Elyse Meadows
Relieving Assistant Principal

Here are some photos showing just how much fun we had:

Miss Galea and Miss Haller almost took these super cute puppies home!

Farmer Kemryn (KM) with a new furry friend.

We learned all about where milk comes from and what yummy foods are made with milk. Farmer Zane (KG) did an excellent job at milking the cow.

We all had a turn at feeding the baby goats with a bottle. Farmer James (KM) made sure this goat had a full tummy.

Farmer Ethan (KH) made sure this two-day old duckling was safe and warm in his hands.
CRAWFORD CUBS

Thursday mornings 9:00am – 11:00am

This term our Kinder 2015 students are exploring our wonderful school - visiting our library, playground, kindergarten classrooms and Indigenous Centre as part of our Crawford Cubs transition to school program. While our students are exploring, our parents are welcomed into our Professional Learning Centre (PLC) to chat with various support services from the local community as well as staff from our school. Remember we are starting our sessions by lining up in our whole school morning assembly to allow the children to become accustomed to our school routines.

On Thursday 20 November our Kindergarten Orientation will be held in the hall for all students who will begin school in 2015. Information will be presented to you regarding our school and how to prepare your child for school. The uniform shop will be present to allow you to purchase uniforms.

We look forward to seeing you and your child at either Crawford Cubs or the orientation day! Both of these programs are an excellent way for you and your child to meet new people, learn about our school programs and prepare for ‘big school’.

Week 3, 23/10– Crawford Cubs, line up in morning assembly.

Week 4, 30/10– Crawford Cubs, line up in morning assembly.

Week 5, 6/11– Crawford Cubs, line up in morning assembly.

Week 6, 13/11– Crawford Cubs graduation fun day, line up in morning assembly.

Week 7, 20/11 – Crawford Orientation Day, hall.

Mrs Elyse Meadows
Transition to School Co-ordinator
In Week 1 of this term, 2A planted seeds and are studying what requirements they need to grow. They have discussed what they thought would happen to the plant if it didn’t have soil, sunlight and water. The students have been observing the changes and recording their observations, including the height of the plant.
Welcome back to the new school term! It has been a busy first three weeks already with new topics being covered across our stage and preparation for our stage assembly this Thursday. This Thursday Stage 2 are conducting the 3-6 assembly. The item itself could not have taken place without the fantastic work done by Mrs Thomas as the choreographer and supported by the other staff members. I do hope that parents and caregivers are able to attend on Thursday afternoon.

Last week notes went home for this term’s excursion to ‘The Blue Mountains’. Places are limited to only 90 students and have begun to fill quickly. Please be aware that the behaviour expectations note does need to be signed by the parents/caregivers and the student.

This week we have also begun a mii soccer competition for Mondays and Wednesdays during either recess or lunch times. Teams consist of 5 plays of mixed gender and games are 4 minutes long. Thankyou to all the students who were interested in this.

EAT FOR HEALTH.

Over this term, we will be placing information in the newsletter regarding health eating. It is not only for our students but also for adults as well. Happy, healthy eating!

Mr Lowing
Assistant Principal
Welcome to Term 4 Everyone! This is one of the busiest and most exciting terms for Stage 3. Next week we will be hosting our annual Peddler’s Day fundraising event on Friday 31 October. We rely heavily on the donations given to us by our Stage 3 families to ensure that it can be as successful as it can be. If you are able to assist us with any of the items outlined on the note that was sent home last week, it would be greatly appreciated.

Many of our students in Year 5 have taken leadership applications for the opportunity to be elected into the SRC for 2015. I would like to remind everyone that they are due back this Friday and if anyone needs assistance in completing these applications, to see their teacher or myself for clarification before they are due.

We have made a tentative booking for our 100 Point Challenge Excursion on the 2 December to the movies in Blacktown, further information will be sent home shortly. Students need to be reminded that their behaviour at school will determine if they are invited to attend or not.

Year 6 attending the local public High Schools will be attending their Orientation Day on 3 December. This is a very important day for our students as they will meet many of the teachers that they may have for their subjects in High School as well as learning as much as they can in preparation for starting as smoothly as they can next year. If you are unsure of the date for Orientation at your child’s enrolled High School, I advise that you call to confirm this at your earliest convenience.

The Year 6 Farewell and Graduation are booked in to occur on 9 December, 2014. Our senior students will attend their graduation ceremony in the morning in the School Hall and the Farewell will take place that evening at the West Tradies Club in Dharruk. Formal invitations and information will be sent home soon.

We have many exciting events planned for this term, I wanted to make everyone aware of these dates so planning can take place as soon as possible as I know everyone is very busy at the back end of the year. We would like to see as many students as possible attend these events, but they need to remember their behaviour will determine their involvement.

If you have any questions regarding the information above, please contact me at the school at your earliest convenience.

Kind Regards
Ms. Leigh Alipate
Stage 3 Assistant Principal.
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.

STEWART HOUSE

The scheduled pick up date for the clothing appeal is Monday 10 November.

Please return all clothing bags by this date.

We thank you for your donation.

SUPPORT UNIT NEWS

Term 4 is certainly going to be a busy term for everyone in the Support Unit. We have many exciting things planned! The teachers have discussed with their class the importance of following the school-wide expectations throughout the term as student participation in extra-curricular is dependent on student behaviour.

This Term, our Year 5 students will be attending the Transition Program at Doonside Technology High School. The students in K-6J and 3-6M will be attending an excursion to the Blue Mountains and all students in the Support Unit will be invited to attend an excursion to the Art Gallery of NSW. We also have Peddler’s Day and the Year 5 farewell coming up!

In the support unit, we will continue to monitor the students who are wearing their uniform every day and those who wear it for 97% or more throughout the term will receive a reward. Please ensure that your child is always wearing bottle green pants or shorts, a white polo or school shirt and their school hat. It is encouraged that students wear black shoes or joggers with minimal colour. Thank you for your continued support in this area.

Attendance is a major concern across our school and it is especially important within the support unit as students appear to lose momentum and find it difficult to retain information after repeated absences. Please ensure that your child attends school regularly and if they are unable, can I please ask that you contact your child’s teacher to let them know.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Jain a very big farewell as she begins her maternity leave in Week 6. Mrs Jain is a wonderful asset to our staff and shows a great passion and commitment to all students in the support unit. Her class has seen great achievements this year and I know that she is very proud of them. Thank you so much Mrs Jain for all of your hard work, we look forward to welcoming you back during 2016.

Ms Paige Matthews
Assistant Principal – Special Education

Crawford Cookbook!
The Crawford Cookbook is almost ready for ordering! You will be able to come into the school office and view the cookbook as of Monday Week 4. Order forms will be sent home with all students in this week also. Thank you to everyone who sent in recipes, it will be wonderful to share them with you all!
The role of the Anti-Racism Contact Officer

Information for parents and carers

The NSW Department of Education and Communities rejects all forms of racism and is committed to the elimination of racial discrimination.

As part of the Department’s commitment to anti-racism each school has an Anti-Racism Contact Officer (ARCO). **Ms Alipate is the ARCO contact officer for Crawford Public School.**

The role of the ARCO is to:

1. receive the suggestion, complaint or allegation regarding racism
2. assist the complainant to write the complaint, if required
3. advise the complainant of their rights and the process to be followed in lodging a complaint
4. refer the complaint to a member of the school executive who will be responsible for resolving the complaint.

**Telephone Interpreter Service**

If you need an interpreter to assist you to speak to the ARCO on the telephone or to make an appointment for a meeting with the ARCO, ring the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. Tell the operator the phone number you would like to ring and the operator will get an interpreter on the line to help you with your conversation. This service will be free of charge to you.

**Further Information**

Learning and Leadership Directorate
Equity and Multicultural Education
Contact: Multicultural Adviser
Telephone: 9266 8238
www.racismnoway.com.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities
PARENT/COMMUNITY SESSIONS

Please find following dates for our Term 4 Parent/Community Sessions which are held in the Crawford Community Cottage from 9:00-10:30am.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 – October, 27</td>
<td>Living in Samoa – a parent sharing life in Samoa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 – November, 3</td>
<td>Community meeting – Hindi speaking</td>
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<td>Week 6 – November, 10</td>
<td>Christmas card-making – a parent sharing her skills in card-making</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7 – November 17</td>
<td>Community meeting – Tagalog speaking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8 – November 24</td>
<td>Transition to High School – Tips and ideas for parents with children starting High School in 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9 – December 1</td>
<td>Community meeting – English &amp; others</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10 – December 8</td>
<td>End of year celebration</td>
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GRANDPARENTS’ DAY – HIGH TEA

Week 4: Wednesday 29 October 2014

At Crawford Public School we would like to celebrate Grandparents Day.
Please invite ALL the children's grandparents to come to our school for a

"GRANDPARENTS HIGH TEA"

Program: 9.30 - 10.00: Visit to grandchildren's classrooms
10.00 - 11.00: Performance and High Tea for grandparents in the school hall
11.00 - 11.30: Grandparents enjoy morning tea with their grandchildren in the playground

Thank you
Mrs Dybac
The compulsory years of schooling

In New South Wales, all children from six years of age are legally required to attend school or be registered for home schooling. After they complete Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age, students then have the following options. They may also be in:

- full-time further education and training (e.g., TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship);
- full-time, paid employment of an average of 25 hours per week; or
- a combination of both of the above.

Children are expected to attend all school activities, on time. Regular attendance helps your child:

- develop the skills needed to access the world of work and other opportunities
- to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- make and keep friendships.

What if my child has to be away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, you must tell the school and provide a reason for your child’s absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may be required to:

- send a note to the school, or contact the school via electronic means such as SMS text message, fax or email, or
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

A small number of absences may be accepted by the principal. For example, if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend a serious or urgent family situation (e.g., a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.
What are school Principals responsible for?

Principals help to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of your child. Principals have to keep accurate records of student attendance and the reasons for any absences. Principals are responsible for accepting or not accepting a parent's explanations for their child's absences. Principals may request further information from parents for long or frequent absences, even where they are explained by parents as being due to illness.

When absences are unexplained by parents, or the explanations are not accepted by the principal, the school will work with parents to help address the issue. The main aim is to sort out what is preventing the child from getting to school and putting strategies in place to help. Sometimes, the school will ask support staff and other agencies to assist.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department may take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unacceptable absences from school. Some of the following actions may be undertaken.

- Attendance meetings and compulsory attendance conferences

Parents (and sometimes their child) can be asked to go to a meeting with school personnel and other regional officers. The aim of the meeting is to help identify strategies to support the child and family. Other agencies may also be invited along to help, if parents agree.

If the school and other regional officers have tried to help improve a child's attendance, without success, parents (and sometimes their child) can be asked to go to a compulsory attendance conference. The conference will be run by a trained conference convenor. The aim of the conference is for the school, parents (and sometimes their child) and other identified agencies ("the parties") to further identify the issues which are impacting on a child's attendance.

The outcome of a compulsory attendance conference is for the parties to agree to undertake certain actions to improve the child's attendance. These actions are written in the form of undertakings.

- Applications to the Children’s Court – A Compulsory Schooling Order

Legal compliance can be sought through an application to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The aim is to assist a family and/or child to address the issues which are preventing satisfactory school attendance but has the added enforcement of a Court's powers.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

If all attempts by schools and regional support staff fail to improve a student's attendance, action can be taken in the Local Court and the result can be fines up to a maximum of $11,000.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are provided, where possible, for parents/carers who do not speak or understand English well and for Deaf parents/carers who use sign language. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the telephone number: 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

See the website address:
**Mathematics Competition!**

*All classes have been working hard, improving their mathematical skills during our Maths competition!*  
*Congratulations to the following ‘Maths Champions” for the second half of Term 3:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>WEEKLY FOCUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 5:</strong></td>
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<td>KG</td>
<td>10-20 (number after)</td>
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<td>1A</td>
<td>+13 (to 30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>+13 (to 30)</td>
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<td>3/4S</td>
<td>x5</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6R</td>
<td>Decimals &amp; fractions - 100% CONGRATULATIONS!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6A</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 6:</strong></td>
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<td>KM</td>
<td>10-20 (number before)</td>
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<td>1M</td>
<td>-13 (to 30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>-13 (to 30)</td>
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<td>3/4S</td>
<td>-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6A</td>
<td>fractions &amp; decimals</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 7:</strong></td>
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<td>KG</td>
<td>10-20 (number after)</td>
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<td>5/6B</td>
<td>fractions &amp; percentages</td>
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<td><strong>Week 8:</strong></td>
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<td>KM</td>
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<td>5/6A</td>
<td>decimals &amp; percentages</td>
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<td><strong>Week 9:</strong></td>
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<td>5/6B</td>
<td>fractions &amp; percentages</td>
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<td><strong>Week 10:</strong></td>
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*‘Congratulations’ to all of our classes and teachers for the big effort they put into our school-wide competition every week!*

*Mrs Bowden*  
*Miss Still*
Saturday 25th to Sunday 26th October 2014
9:30am - 4pm
Adults $5 • Concession $4 • Children $2

26th Annual Doll Bear & Craft Show

Featuring:
- Unique Handmade Products
- Dolls and Accessories
- Wooden Toys and Furniture
- Doll’s Houses and Supplies
- Teddy Bear and Making Supplies
- Aromatherapy • Jewellery, Craft

For more information call 4731 3000
or visit www.museumoffire.com.au

Museum of Fire, 1 Museum Drive, Penrith,
The Museum of Fire is a Registered Charity.
Special Swimming Scheme

We have had an excellent response to the Special Swimming Scheme and we are currently at FULL capacity. Thankyou!

If you have paid the deposit only, please ensure that the full payment is made no later than 14 November 2014. Medical notes and final reminder notes will be distributed closer to the date.

Miss Buttigieg
Swimming Scheme Coordinator