Principal’s Report - Greg O’Neill

At the NSW Primary Principal’s State Conference in October 2014, I received the State Award for Aboriginal Education. I accepted this award on behalf of Crawford Public School and it recognises the outstanding programs that have been implemented to improve the life and educational opportunities of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children. Some of these initiatives and programs include:

- The Targeted Aboriginal Student Strategy (TASS) 2007-2009. Crawford Public School attracted TASS funding as a direct result of our existing commitment and willingness to use innovative practices to improve the learning achievements of Aboriginal students. The specific goal of TASS was to improve outcomes for Aboriginal students within the context of the whole school. Achievements under TASS included Accelerated Literacy being implemented across the whole school; a number of teachers were trained as regional tutors, CMIT Indigenous was introduced and has been embedded to engage Aboriginal students in Numeracy activities.

- The Schools In Partnership (SIP) program 2010-2012. SIP aimed to build community capacity to ensure sustainability of on-going outcomes through the SIP initiative and to develop strategies to build the capacity of their community to take part in meaningful consultation, leadership and decision-making. One indicator of success of the SIP program has been the number of Aboriginal community members who have gained entry into the workforce, both in and outside of the education sector as a direct result of their involvement in the SIP program.

- Participating school in the 2011 Effective EAL/D Pedagogies for Aboriginal Students professional learning program developed to provide teachers with knowledge, skills and practical strategies for teaching Aboriginal students who use non-standard dialect as their first home language. The program is aligned to the “Closing the Gap” strategy and to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010-2014. A further project, the 2012 trial of the EAL/D Learning Progression describes the development of English language learning typical of students learning English as an additional language or dialect (EAL/D).

Greg O’Neill
Principal

FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAM

An ideal development opportunity for school Student Representative Council (SRC) or any student who shows leadership potential. To make a booking or find out more, contact Sport and Recreation on 13 13 02 or visit [http://dsr.nsw.gov.au/futureleadersprimary/](http://dsr.nsw.gov.au/futureleadersprimary/) for primary school programs and [http://dsr.nsw.gov.au/futureleaderssecondary/](http://dsr.nsw.gov.au/futureleaderssecondary/) for secondary schools

READY FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Just to let you know that the Transition to high school, Ready for High School Checklist is now available in 36 languages.

Search by language:

Deputy Principal’s Report - Mrs D. Taylor

On the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour we did remember them. Our Students from K-6 did the school and themselves proud in their response to Remembrance Day 2014.

Excellent work to all our students who are working really hard to stay safe, be respectful and learning to the best of their ability by being a part of school life every day.

The school planning process will continue throughout the remainder of this term. We have gathered some parental feedback from the P&C regarding the current and future direction of the school. In addition to this, two information sessions will be held on Thursday 20 November 2014 at 10-11am in the Professional Learning Centre and one in the evening from 6:30–7:30pm in the Professional Learning Centre. Tea and coffee will be available. These information sessions are your vision for the school and area for growth and focus to ensure the 2015-2017 plan is effective and reflective of the whole school’s community needs.

Attendance at school is a legal requirement for all students between 6 and 17 years of age. Please read the information elsewhere in this newsletter and contact the school office to make an appointment with Mrs Taylor if you have any questions. We will be holding parent information sessions on ways to support your child’s attendance or engaging them in their school experience.

Students are reminded everyday that they need a hat to play in playground, otherwise they will be redirected to the amphitheatre. This is for their safety and protection from the sun. Can I please ask that your child comes to school with a hat every day and please make sure it is clearly labelled.

Mrs Deanne Taylor
Deputy Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOVEMBER 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsible pet owners visit K-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speeches and Votes for girls nominated leaders 9:15 – 10:00am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On Thursday 20 November our Kindergarten Orientation will be held in the hall from 9:00 – 11:00am 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.

Please remember to bring any outstanding documents with you on the day. You should have received a letter if this is required but if you have any questions please contact our office staff.

If you are yet to enrol your child for Kindergarten, please do so as soon as possible. This will enable us to finalise classing structures while we support you and your child during the transition to school.

I look forward to seeing both new and familiar faces at the Orientation day!
Mrs Elyse Meadows

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Kindergarten will be running the K-2 assembly next week, Friday 21 November at 10:00am in the hall. The students and teachers have been working extremely hard to put together a Dr Seuss Extravaganza not to be missed! Please come along and support our very talented students, we can’t wait to entertain you. We are requesting that our Kinder students wear green on the day.

At this busy time of year please check your child’s school bag daily for notes to ensure you do not miss any important information. Also, all three kinder classrooms currently have a large collection of unlabeled lost property – jumpers, hats etc. Please have a look at these items if you are missing anything.

We look forward to seeing you at our assembly!

Mrs Elyse Meadows (Rel. Assistant Principal)
STAGE 1 NEWS

Stage 1 teachers and students are looking forward to their excursion to Nurragingy Reserve from 9:00am-12:00pm on Friday 28 November. Please ensure permission notes and medical information are returned by Friday 21 November. Students will need to bring their hats, recess and a bottle of water in a plastic bag on this day. Their school bags and lunches will remain at school.

The Stage 1 students have been involved in a range of learning activities related to Aboriginal stories, tools and bush tucker as part of their English, H.S.I.E and Science units this term. Each class has visited Aunty Daph in her classroom to learn about these aspects of Aboriginal culture. We sincerely thank Aunty Daph for the contributions she has been making to these quality learning experiences.

Last week, we awarded some more Star Student awards for Term 4. Congratulations to the following students who have continually shown that they are Safe, Respectful Learners:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1A - Gloria</th>
<th>1D - Latu</th>
<th>1M - Stevie-Rae</th>
<th>2A - Yasmin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2B - Cloe</td>
<td>2E - Katie</td>
<td>2V - Noah</td>
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</table>

Vanessa Stone
Rel. Assistant Principal

STAGE 2 NEWS

Another week is almost gone and the end of the school year is almost upon us. Time has certainly gone quickly this term.

Mrs Collier, who replaced Miss Pratt this term, has settled into her new class and the students are trying their best with the change. I thank both Mrs Collier and the students in 3/4P for this transition. The Stage 2 excursion to the Blue Mountains is next Wednesday and if there are any children who still wish to go then this Friday is the final day to hand your notes and money to your teacher.

Recently notes for the school cookbook went out to students. If you would like to purchase one of these, please return your order form and money to your child’s class teacher.

There has been an area of concern throughout our stage over the last few weeks with students finding themselves arguing and teasing each other. We are trying to promote a safe, respectful learning environment here at Crawford Public School and ask all parents and caregivers to discuss with their children other more friendly and non-threatening means to solve issues. I have always said to students that learning to solve things peacefully, saying “Stop, I don’t like what you are doing or saying”, or turning and walking away, or finding an adult to help you, is far more constructive than ending up all hot, ill-tempered and frustrated. I ask parents and caregivers to ask their children if there are any issues and also find out the whole story to an issue that has occurred. The staff at Crawford do find out all the facts eventually and this does take some time. I do hope that you, as adults, can support our developing children.

On a more positive note, it has been terrific to see so many more Stage 2 students wearing their school uniform and also a hat. Wearing a hat in the playground is a must at Crawford. If students do not have one, the office is selling them for $5.00.

Our students this week celebrated Remembrance Day and this was a terrific experience for many of our students. I know that in Stage 2 we held discussions and created small artworks that reflected this important part of our Australian history. A big thankyou must go to the HSIE team and especially Mrs Thomas and Mrs Furlong for all their hard work in the celebrations.

We all hope that the last 5 weeks of this term are successful and remind parents and caregivers to contact the office to either request a meeting or let us know that your child is absent from school.

Mr Lowing - Assistant Principal
This term is flying by and there is still so much to be done. We are hopeful that our annual Peddler’s Day fundraising event will take place in a couple of weeks and we are looking forward to this event. Please remember that we rely heavily on the donations given to us by our Stage 3 families to ensure that this event is successful. 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.

A booking has been made for our 100 Point Challenge Excursion on 2 December to the movies in Blacktown. Further information will be sent home shortly. We will be inviting all students in the Green Zone to this event to ensure that we expect the highest levels of behaviour at all times and to thank those students who consistently do the right thing.

Just a reminder that Year 6 attending the local public High School will be attending their Orientation Day on Wednesday 3 December. This is a very important day for our students. 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 a smooth transition into 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 Tuesday 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. If any parents are interested in assisting in making the invitations and place cards for this event, please let me know as soon as possible.

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

Ms. Leigh Alipate - Stage 3 Assistant Principal.

Students in the Support Unit have been working very hard this term. We still have lots more learning to do but we also have some exciting events occurring in the next few weeks. Peddlers Day is fast approaching and students will be running a fairy floss stall, a cupcake stall and jewellery making. We will be very busy cooking and decorating cakes in the next couple of weeks. If any families would like to donate cake mixes it would be greatly appreciated.

All support unit classes have been studying a variety of artists and recreating their artworks during Terms 3 and 4. To consolidate this unit of learning we will be attending an excursion to the Art Gallery to further explore some of these artworks. Our excursion is scheduled for Tuesday 2 December. Money and notes are due to be returned to school by 21 November.

Another exciting event will be occurring on Wednesday 19 November with K-6J and 3-6M invited to attend the Blue Mountains excursion. Notes and payment are due this Friday 14 November. No late payments will be accepted.

Christmas is fast approaching and our classes will be busy practising the song we will be performing at our ‘Crawford Christmas Concert’ which will be held on Wednesday 10 October. It would be great to see many of our families in attendance to watch their children perform.

I am very excited to be teaching K-6J for the remainder of the year whilst Mrs Jain is on maternity leave. I have taken over the class at a very busy but exciting time and look forward to the last weeks of Term 4 being positive and productive for all of our students.

Mrs Bowden.
GATE TIMES FOR ELECTRONIC PEDESTRIAN GATE

8:30am - 9:15am
2:55pm - 3:30pm

During these times, the electronic gate is unlocked for entry and exit of the school. All that is required is to push or pull the gate open.

Outside of these times the gate will be locked. Entry and Exit of the school will be by pushing the button located on the gate and waiting for a response from the school office.

Unless you require to sign your child out for an early pass from the front office, the gate will remain closed until 2:55pm.

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS

Last chance to pay your school contributions for 2014

$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.

NO SMOKING

The school premises is a Non-Smoking Area

Thank you for your cooperation.

PBL AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received their PBL badges during assemblies for being a safe, respectful learner.

KH Oriana, Serena, Anusha (White)
KM Aarin, Maro, Majok, Sofia, Jayla (White)
1D Shreya, Joshua and Salina (Green)
1M Peter (White), Monique, Kodi, Joshua, Jakeb and Kara-Leigh (Green)
2A Maddison (Green), Kahlea, Fatima, Caitlin, Israel, Nikolina, Isabella, Daniel and Yasmin (Maroon)
2E Jerome (White) Justin, Mickyayla (Green) Gabrielle, Bella, Emma, Kiara and Hannah (Maroon)
3/4L Briana (White), Phoebe (Maroon)
3/4T Nagia (Green), Lueth (Bronze)
5/6A Billy (Maroon), Zayne (Bronze)
5/6E Sahil (White), Caitlin, Isaiah (Bronze)
3-6M Celeste and Anthony (White)

2015 BUS PASSES

‘Transport for NSW’ requires a new application form for free travel from students who currently receive a bus pass and who are going from Year 2 to Year 3.

Children will be eligible based on the map supplied by Transport for NSW. Forms may be collected at the school front office.

If you have not already done so, please return the completed and signed applications to the front office as soon as possible so your child’s pass can be ready for 2015.
ARE YOU A SINGLE PARENT?

Every week Single with Children provides fun and exciting activities especially for single parents and their children (many activities are subsidised or even free)

It’s a great way to meet and get to know people in your area

TO FIND OUT MORE AND GET A FREE COPY OF OUR SOCIAL CALENDAR, CONTACT US TODAY.

CALL 1300 300 496

Or visit our website:
www.singlewithchildren.com.au
Compulsory school attendance
Information for parents

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 convener. The aim of the meeting 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:
Come & Try Girl Guides

You are invited to come and try some adventurous and fun Girl Guides activities, meet some Guides and find out just what Guiding is all about. Have a go at running the obstacle course, making your own kite & friendship bracelets, playing bash the rat, blind volleyball and much, much more!

For: Girls aged 7–12 years and their families  
Date: Sunday, 23 November 2014  
Time: 11am–2pm  
Place: Parramatta Park, Parramatta.

For more information visit www.girlguides-nswact.org.au or call 1300 447 548.

Girl Guides are a diverse community based independent organisation built on values of empowerment, collaboration, respect, passion and initiative. We look forward to seeing you there.

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 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10 – December 8</td>
<td>End of year celebration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Crawford Parent’s Afternoon Tea

We would once again like to invite all of our wonderful families to an afternoon tea with Crawford staff.

When: Tuesday 18 November

Time: 2:15 – 3:00pm

We would like to give you the chance to get to know the teachers and staff at Crawford and we would love to get to know you. Come along and have a coffee, cake and a chat!

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY
PENRITH OBSERVATORY
Family Astronomy Night - Telescopes for Christmas

The UWS Penrith Observatory together with the Western Sydney Amateur Astronomy Group (WSAAG) will be running an Astronomy Night on Saturday, 22 November from 8pm – 10pm. The evening will include a presentation from WSAAG members who will look at some of the different types of telescopes you could buy for your families and friends, a 3D astronomy movie and stargazing through the University’s computerised telescopes (weather permitting).

Cost: $15 adult, $10 child/concession and $40 family.

Bookings are essential: Book and pay online: www.uws.edu.au/observatory, What’s On

Enquiries: Phone (02)4736 0135 or email rmccourt@uws.edu.au
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 Butttigieg
Swimming Scheme Coordinator