Principal’s Report - Greg O’Neill

As advised in the week 3 newsletter our actual student enrolment figure resulted in a re-structure in Kindergarten and Year 1. My thanks to all who were involved in this process which occurred with as little disruption as possible.

Mrs Bowden will undertake a new role within the school in 2014 ensuring the delivery of programs specifically targeted to meet the needs of our K-2 Aboriginal students.

Over the past two weeks I have met with all Executive, Priority Area Team leaders, Key Learning Area team leaders and the leaders of different initiatives and projects that we have operating at Crawford. I am incredibly pleased with the planning and organisation we have in place for 2014.

The meetings I have conducted have provided me with a comprehensive overview of the range of programs and initiatives being offered to students at Crawford Public School and I congratulate the staff on providing students with incredible opportunities. My sincere thanks for their commitment.

While lots of great work has commenced, there are a few students who have struggled getting back into routine and following the expectation of being a safe, respectful learner. Every effort is made by the staff to engage these students, however, disruption to teaching and learning in our classrooms is unacceptable and DEC procedures will be followed.

Our Student Leaders Induction ceremony showcased the best of our students. We have great students and terrific families and we thank you for your support.

Greg O’Neill
Principal

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

School photo day is

TUESDAY 18 MARCH, 2014

• All Children can be paid for in one envelope. Please **DO NOT** seal envelopes inside each other. Each child needs to have their **OWN** envelope on photo day.
• Family/Sibling photo envelopes are available at the school office upon request.
• Please enclose correct money as no change is given.
• Cash & Money Orders are accepted for payment. MSP Photography **DOES NOT** accept cheques.
• Credit Card payments – Will only be accepted for online payment.
• All late orders placed with the photographer will incur a minimum $20.00 late fee (per order).
• Online Ordering – Logon to [www.msp.com.au](http://www.msp.com.au) and click ORDER ONLINE. Place your order using the online system. Record your Order Reference number on your child’s envelope. Your child must present their own Photo Envelope to their photographer.

For any enquiries, please feel free to contact

**MSP Photograghy**  
98315505  
Email: sydneywest@msp.com.au
Deputy Principal’s Report—Mrs D. Taylor

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. The Education Act 1990 requires your child to attend school each day 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. Explanation can be provided in writing as soon as possible or alternatively you may wish to contact the school via phone.

Uniform

Hats, Hats, Hats

All students are required to have a hat to play in the playground as part of the school’s sun safe protocols. Students without hats are asked to play in shaded areas. Please make sure your child’s name is on their hat and all other school property.

Appointments

Our students are settling into the New Year and have completed a five-week unit on oceans. Classrooms have all set the year up for success, by ensuring all classroom and school expectations have been set and taught. Students have begun working towards the stage objectives from the new English Syllabus and lots of great concepts are being explored.

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

Morning Drop Off

Well most of the tears have stopped and students are now more comfortable with coming to school. However, we do still have a couple of students who struggle with saying goodbye to mum. To make this transition easier on all parties, can we please ask parents to drop their students at lines and move to the top of the amphitheatre. This will allow the teachers to set them up for a successful morning. If your child is having difficulty settling or needs assistance, the stage supervisor or deputy will be in contact with you.

Mrs Deanne Taylor
Deputy Principal

CHILDREN AND ASTHMA

Asthma in young children is one of the most common causes of hospital admission and visits to the doctor in this age group.

However it is not easy to diagnose asthma in children under 5 years old as there are many reasons for wheezing and coughing at that age. Once diagnosis is decided, often treatment is with trials of different doses of medication. Parents often ask about whether changes to a child’s bedding or diet is needed.

The aim of good asthma management is to ensure that children can lead a normal healthy life, while taking only as much medication as is needed to keep them well, and avoid asthma attacks.

Children can also spend periods of time away from home. It is important that the people around your child are aware if they have asthma, and know how to recognise symptoms and what to do in an emergency. Parents can provide friends and family with a copy of their child’s asthma action plan and asthma first aid information to help them be prepared.
“Student Voice” and Positive Behaviour for Learning @Crawford Public School

In 2014, students will be empowered and encouraged to participate in the decision making process through being active members of the school’s PBL Leadership Team or ‘Student Voice Committee’. They will support the school’s implementation efforts through their input into: the reviewing and the implementation of the school-wide expectations (encompassing the core values in NSW public schools) and matrix; determining rewards or acknowledgements available to students and delivering peer awards; developing and presenting social skills lessons to their peers and demonstrating how to be responsible role models.

Through their participation in the development and implementation of our school’s expectations and matrix, the student leaders will explore the values that lie behind diverse community attitudes and work towards building and strengthening the partnerships between home and school. This is reflective of all PBL training where it encourages PBL teams/schools to develop expectations that encompass the values/beliefs/attitudes of all members of a school community.

Crawford Public School developed the school wide expectations that respectfully acknowledges and are inclusive of these diverse values. The school’s core values/expectations guide the learning experiences of all students.

Students have the opportunity to be directly involved in the teaching of these expectations through creating, promoting and delivering social skills lessons to all students, via assemblies (role plays, student panel discussions, etc), photos, DVDs, as well as student led programs such as peer support. In doing so, they participate directly in making the values explicit in a range of learning contexts. They share and promote a common experience, common language and common vision.

In addition, our students will develop partnerships with the local community by seeking local business support and participation, particularly in the rewarding of students’ positive behaviours. They will assist their school-based “student voice” coordinator, to develop an action plan that incorporates their roles/responsibilities and provides opportunity for them to share exemplary practices with parents, caregivers and other schools within the region.

“Students have the power to get their peers to follow them in a way adults can only dream of...”
KINDERGARTEN NEWS

We can’t believe that our Kindy students have been part of our school for six weeks already, time flies when you’re having fun after all! Kindergarten are learning so many new things and it is great to see them grow and develop both socially and academically. The Kindergarten teachers are working on a website that will be used to share our photos and information regarding upcoming events, as soon as this is ready a note will be sent home with the website address.

Just a few reminders –

- Thank you for providing a paint shirt, soap and tissues. Please continue to send these if you haven’t already.
- Please ensure you check your child’s bag each afternoon for notes and return permission notes promptly.
- Each morning we eat ‘Crunch & Sip’, please send a bottle of water and a piece of fruit for your child to eat at this time.
- Please label all of your child’s jumpers, hats, lunch boxes, drink bottles etc. with their name and class.

Thank you for your ongoing support to ensure your child is settling into Kindergarten, the teachers are really happy with their progress so far.

Mrs Elyse Meadows
Relieving Assistant Principal – Kindergarten
Kindy have been very busy learning all about numbers during maths time.

Ethan, Liam, Jayla and Latisha enjoy exploring their new XO Duo laptops.

STAGE 1 NEWS

Our Stage 1 students have been very busy in their classrooms over the past few weeks. They have been learning about the ocean as part of our H.S.I.E and Science units of work this term.

On Tuesday 25 March, Stage 1 will be heading on an excursion to Sydney Sea Life Aquarium, Darling Harbour. This will be a very valuable learning experience for the students. Permission notes and money need to be given to your child’s classroom teacher by Wednesday 19 March.

Congratulations to 2V on their assembly last week! All of our K-2 students did a fantastic job of displaying our school behaviour expectations throughout the assembly. We look forward to seeing what 2B has in store for us at the K-2 Assembly next Friday.

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded a ‘Star Student’ award for being Safe, Respectful Learners:

1A- Riley
1D- Lual
1M- Josh
2A- Fatima
2B- Matthew
2S- Armaan
2V- Shririna

Thank you to all the parents and students who have given their teachers the classroom supplies listed on the Stage 1 requirements note. These items will be used regularly throughout the year.

Miss Vanessa Stone
Rel. Assistant Principal- Stage 1

UNIFORM SHOP
OPENING HOURS 2014

The Uniform Shop will be open for business every Thursday morning from 8:30am-9:30am in the Crawford Community Cottage.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

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

Our school contributions for 2014 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.

STAGE 2 NEWS

Well we are over halfway through the Term and Stage 2 have completed the unit about oceans. Our stage is now looking at the human body in Science and our growing bodies in Health.

At the end of this term the CSIRO are coming to our school to conduct an interactive learning session with the students for $9.50 per student. Permission notes will be sent home shortly.

Homework
As you are aware, Stage 2 homework is over 2 weeks. All children need to have a homework book to put their homework in.

Homework is handed out to assist your child with concepts covered in the class. There are also practical activities to foster family time.

Hats and Stage 2

It has been terrific to see so many Stage 2 children wearing a hat in the playground. Let’s aim for all children to have a hat with their name on it.

Art Shirts

Please can we ask for all children to have an old painting shirt for art activities at school. This can be kept at school for when classes participate in painting activities. This will save families time and money in cleaning school uniforms.

Mr Lowing
Assistant Principal-Stage 2

CRAWFORD DANCE GROUP

This year we had over 160 students audition for the Crawford Performance Dance Group. It was incredible to see so many students enjoying dancing and wanting to perform.

Miss Haller and Miss Stone will be organising the Crawford Performance Dance Group this year. This involves a smaller number of students who are working on a performance item for a range of community and school events. These students were given a permission note last week. Please return this note to Miss Haller as soon as possible.

Due to the amount of student interest in this area, Miss Galea will be starting a Crawford Dance Club in Term 2 for all those students who want to build their dancing skills. This is a fantastic opportunity for students who are interested in dancing and performing at various school events. Please listen out for these announcements early next term.

Miss Stone & Miss Haller

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS

Our school contributions for 2014 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.
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.

CRAWFORD COOKBOOK

Thank you to those families who have already sent in their favourite recipes!

We are trying to collect as many recipes as possible so that we can begin to put together our cookbook and share it with the community.

We are looking for lots of different recipes – they can be easy or hard to cook as well as child friendly, anything your family love!

Please send your favourite family recipes into the office before the end of Term 1.

If you have any questions please contact Ms Matthews.

2014 homework planner

The best homework help you can give your child is to teach them to be organised. Print out the 2014 homework and study calendar, which includes key dates and school holidays. Stick them on the fridge and above their desk.


Maths A to Z

Brush up on some of the maths terms your child uses in the classroom. The Maths A to Z glossary provides straightforward explanations and illustrated examples.


PBL AWARDS

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

2B Pranav (White)
3/6M Julian (White)
K/6J Ryan (Green)
5/6W Chadar (Green)
5/6W Riki (Green)
3/4L Jiya (Maroon)
3/4L Chloe (Maroon)
5/6W Zayne (Maroon)
5/6W Leevarn (Bronze)
5/6W Nikhil (Bronze)
5/6W Ebony (Bronze)
It is hard to believe that we are already half way through the term. So much has happened for so many Stage 3 children, whether it was individual success or group oriented achievements. At Crawford Public School we hold the welfare of our children our highest priority. Clear evidence of this is through the recognition of students who have attained various levels of PBL awards. My congratulations to all the students who have achieved recognition through the student reward system this term.

Last week our Year 6 students were consulted about their public secondary school options and the enrolment process. Mr Nathan Brown (Doonside Technology High School Year Advisor) visited to discuss the transition into Year 7. Students received a ‘Parent Information Evening Pack’ detailing the parent evening on the 4 March for Year 7 enrolments in 2015.

A couple of weeks ago each Year 6 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 and returned NO LATER THAN 18 MARCH 2014. 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 2015 are required to take the Selective Placement Test which will be held from 9:00am to 1:15pm on Thursday 13 March 2014. 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 earlier this week.

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.”

Uniform: The weather is changing and mornings are getting quite cool. Could I remind parents to label ALL clothing with their child’s name. If clothing is labelled, we can always return it!

As the plethora of colds, sniffles and autumn ailments have started to affect many of our students already; we are running very low on tissues. A donation of a box of tissues would be greatly appreciated. We are also encouraging students to wash their hands to help prevent the spread of germs and viruses. Liquid soap supplies are also very low in our classrooms and donations of these would be gladly accepted.

NAPLAN: Year 3 and Year 5 students will sit these National assessments from 14 - 16 May. All Year 3 and Year 5 students should be at school on these days to participate in NAPLAN: If students are unable to attend, there is a catch up day at the end of the week, however, please try to be at school on the test days.

The Stage 3 teachers have started preparing Stage 3 for high school study habits. This will build the foundation for future success if they can be more independent.

Organisation means setting a goal and planning my time to do my best.

1. Setting Goals
2. Planning my time.

How can you help your child to be organised?

Children get their work done with greater ease if they can manage their time and their environment.

Here are five great tips from experts and families endorsed by the DEC and NSW Parents & Citizens Association to help you and your children in getting organised for school.
1. Establish some routines

Set up a few simple routines in your home that make things more efficient. For example, teach your children that the first thing they do when they come in the door is empty their bag of food and notes or newsletters and place their bag and belongings in a set place.

2. Manage time

Talk to your children regularly about planning how they use time for activities that need doing as well as down time.

A family organiser is a calendar that has a column for each family member to write in what they will be doing throughout the week.

When families make use of this simple tool, planning, communication and organisation is easy. They are usually sold alongside regular calendars. Providing whiteboards, pin boards or chalkboards in children's rooms or in the kitchen can also help the family to remember things and keep notes handy.

3. Five-minute focus

Help get your children into and out of their homework faster. Encourage your child to focus on what homework needs to be done (prioritizing) and to make a list of tasks, such as their spelling homework and reading. Each task can be ticked off or crossed out when completed. Seeing things being achieved is rewarding and motivating.

4. Make a home study area

Children can waste a lot of time looking for things they need to do to finish their homework - a pot of glue can make a huge difference to a household's harmony when a project is due. Try storing the following items at home:

- lots of blank and recycled paper
- pens, pencils, sharpener, glue, staplers, batteries, and a rubber
- a ruler
- a dictionary

5. Praise good organisation

Praise your child's attempts to improve their organisation. Praise them for getting out of the house on time, taking their lunch box out of their bag, and finishing homework and assignments on time. It may appear to them that they are often criticised, so praising positive behaviour will encourage more of it.

6. Model good organisation yourself.

Parents are the child’s first teacher and this is one of the most important ways to help your child be organised.

Here are a few links to support your child to be organised.


Upcoming events for Stage 3 include ‘School Photographs’ in Week 8 on Tuesday 18 March. All students are expected to come dressed in full school (summer) uniform. Harmony Day will be celebrated on Thursday 20 March. Students will wear orange to school and bring something orange for recess and lunch. Also on the 20-21 March our Leaders will be attending a Leadership Camp at Brewongle EEC followed by a conference in Sydney on Monday 31 March 2014 for ‘The National Young Leaders Day’.

Ms Mila Evans
Assistant Principal

Great books for tweens to read

Favourite books from the Premier’s Reading Challenge team that will inspire kids aged between nine and 13 to read read read!


Science assignment starters

Not sure where to go to help your child find out about electricity, natural disasters, the solar system or other science projects? Have a look at our project starters.

What a fantastic start to the year! During the past 5 weeks, the students have settled well into their routines, have met their new teachers and have made new friendship groups. The students have been learning about the school values, rights and responsibilities, friendships, counting, writing and learning all about the different types of creatures in the ocean.

During Weeks 1-4 all classes have been learning about oceans and have created beautiful displays of artworks in their rooms. Feel free to come and have a look at the wonderful displays.

The students have been enjoying our music sessions on Wednesdays. They have taken a liking towards ‘Fire works’ by Katy Perry. So we have decided to make this our assembly item in Term 2.

Just a few reminders:

- At Crawford we require all students to wear their school hat when outside. Please ensure your child’s hat is clearly labelled.

- Students need to bring in one or two pieces of fruit/vegetables for ‘crunch and sip’. This will help your child concentrate for longer periods during the morning session.

- Just a reminder that school photos will be on Tuesday 18 March, week 7. Students are to bring their envelopes on that day and not prior to the day.

- We look forward to meeting you during our parent/teacher interviews. Feel free to contact us if you have any queries or questions.

Mrs Jain
## Ways to Help your Child Learn to Read

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Let your child see you reading!</td>
<td>Blacktown City Library: Cnr Flushcombe Road &amp; Alpha Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have magazines and books in your home</td>
<td>Blacktown NSW 2148</td>
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<tr>
<td>Look for appropriate word games online to play with your child</td>
<td>Mt Druitt Hub: Ayres Grove Mt Druitt NSW 2770</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ask your child to draw a picture or write about what happens in a story</td>
<td>Riverstone: 1st Floor, Marketown, cnr Market Street &amp; Riverstone</td>
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<tr>
<td>they have read.</td>
<td>Parade Riverstone NSW 2765</td>
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<td>When your reading a magazine or newsletter, ask your child to look for</td>
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<td>words and pictures starting with certain sounds/letters.</td>
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<td>For example can you find words and pictures that start with the letter</td>
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<td>“p”</td>
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<td>Have fun with your kids when reading, use goofy voices and laugh at</td>
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<td>funny pictures.</td>
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<td>Enjoy books together!</td>
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<td>Play games while reading. Look for rhyming words</td>
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<td>Set aside a time and place for reading.</td>
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<td>For example a comfy chair with a reading light for bedtime stories.</td>
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<td>Teach your child to recognise their own names and names of family</td>
<td>Ask your child questions about what they have read.</td>
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<td>members.</td>
<td>For Example:</td>
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<td>Ask your child questions about what they have read.</td>
<td>What was the story about?</td>
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<td>- What do you think will happen</td>
<td>- What do you think will happen next?</td>
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<td>Read Aloud to Someone. Read books aloud to your child and have them</td>
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<tr>
<td>read to you.</td>
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Entertain the kids these school holidays at Blacktown Aquatic Centre.
Full day programs (8am – 5pm) for children aged 6 - 12 years

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Programs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 14th April</td>
<td><strong>Monster Monday</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Start the day with a taste of Monster Boot camp&lt;br&gt;• Monster inflatable fun&lt;br&gt;• Monster Easter Egg Hunt&lt;br&gt;• Pool Fun&lt;br&gt;• Indoor activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 15th April</td>
<td><strong>Active Kidz Wednesday</strong>&lt;br&gt;The children will soon be awake with all the fun activities in store for them today&lt;br&gt;• Outdoor Games&lt;br&gt;• Aqua Aerobics&lt;br&gt;• CPR talk&lt;br&gt;• Inflatable fun&lt;br&gt;• Movie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th April</td>
<td><strong>Easter Fun Friday</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Make your own Eater Hat&lt;br&gt;• Easter Egg hunt&lt;br&gt;• Pool Activities&lt;br&gt;• Easter egg parade&lt;br&gt;• Easter colour in competition&lt;br&gt;• Disco fever (Learn a dance routine)</td>
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Call Blacktown Aquatic Centre on 9622 2279
For more information or to register.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!