Principal’s Report

This is the final newsletter for the year. Gosh, hasn’t the year gone quickly.

As with any year we say goodbye to some staff:

**Sue Hodgson** has been an Integration Aide, supporting students in our school for 19 years. Over this time she has made a significant contribution, often working with some of our most challenging students. This is often not easy work at all, but Sue puts her heart and soul into everything she does and our students are the beneficiaries of her wonderful care. We wish her well in her well-earned retirement.

**Rebekah Clark** has been with us only this year, but has fitted in so well and done an outstanding job with her Early Learning Class. We would love to have had Bec with us longer, but wish her all the best in her new position at Mt Evelyn Christian School.

On Tuesday we held our **Graduation Ceremony** for our students who are leaving after having completed Year 6. It was a lovely evening of reflection of their time at CHPS, as well as some thoughts for the future, as our graduates move on to a wide variety of secondary schools. I would like to thank the Year 6 staff and the parent assistants for making this all possible. Those who attended on the night know how much time goes into making it a memorable evening.

The end of any school year means the end of the direct connection to the school of many families, as their youngest graduate from Primary School. To the families leaving the school, we wish them all the best in the future and hope they leave with fond memories of their time as part of the Croydon Hills Primary School Community. I would like to acknowledge a particularly special family who have been connected to the school for 19 years. The Dannocks have had 4 children pass through the school and have Katie graduating this year. David has been School Council President in the...

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**Calendar**

**December**

- **Friday 21st** Billy Cart Grand Prix & Soap Box Derby, 9am
- **Friday 21st** Term 4 ends 1pm – Assembly on Oval 1.30pm – Early Dismissal

**2013**

**January**

- **Tuesday 29th** Book Collection Day 8.30 – 10am, 3 - 5.30pm
- **Thursday 31st** Students start school Preps dismissed 1pm

**February**

- **Thursday 21st** School Photographs

**Secondary School Placements**

Aquinas - 2  
Blackburn High School - 1  
Carey Baptist Grammar School - 1  
Croydon-Maroondah College - 2  
Heatherwood School - 1  
Lilydale High School - 1  
Luther College - 12  
Mount Lilydale College - 6  
Norwood Secondary College - 23  
Orley College - 2  
Ringwood Secondary College - 4  
Rossburnie School - 2  
Scoresby Secondary College - 1  
Warrandyte Secondary College - 4  
Yarra Hills Secondary School - 1  
Yarra Valley - 1
past and has headed up our Finance Committee for at least the last 12 years. Debbie has contributed in many ways over the years, but the most visible is her work with the decorations at the Christmas Carols each year. Their contribution as a family has been outstanding over many, many years and they will be very much missed.

School Calendars for 2013 will be available for the start of the new school year. I have just run out of time to get that project completed, so it is a holiday job.

Tomorrow has the **Billy Cart Races and Soap Box Derby** in the morning, where spectators are welcome. It is always lots of fun.

**Final Assembly** tomorrow will be on the oval commencing at 1pm. Students will be dismissed straight from the assembly. Students should bring a substantial morning tea, but there will be no lunch break tomorrow.

Later in this newsletter I have included an Article from Michael Grose, with some thoughts on assisting children deal with challenging and distressing events like the one that happened in Connecticut last weekend. It was a shocking event and one that is distressing for all of us. Even as adults we find it difficult to understand, so we need to consider how we can assist students in these types of circumstances. I hope you find it useful.

From the start of next year we will be producing only an electronic newsletter for families. This allows us the opportunity to include many photos and colourful information. We will only provide a printed copy in special circumstances. Please send a note to the office if you are unable to access the weekly newsletter electronically and, if you have not already done so, please register for the newsletter on our website by clicking on the ‘Subscribe to Newsletter’ button on the middle right of the Home Page. This will ensure you receive an email alert each week when the latest newsletter is posted online.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in our community for their support of CHPS throughout this year. The end of the year after the Christmas rush provides us a time to reflect on the year and what has been achieved. I believe it has been a terrific year for the school and would like to acknowledge our hardworking staff for their amazing contributions.

I trust that everyone has a special family time at Christmas and trust that we all get some time to enjoy a slower pace of life, for a while at least!! We look forward to seeing the students return healthy and happy for the new school year on Thursday January 31st.

**Graeme Caudry - Principal**

**Sports News**

**State Championship Hooptime**

Well, what a **SPECTACULAR** finish to the school sporting calendar. It has truly been such a successful and exciting year. Last Sunday the Senior All Star Boys Team played the Grand Final against Lysterfield Primary School at the State Netball/Hockey Centre, also known as the home of the Melbourne Tigers and the “Cage”. All of the Boys’ families were there as were many of the teachers and their families. The atmosphere was exciting enough let alone our school team playing in a grand final. Coached by Andrew Robertson, the game started with our boys scoring the first goal. After a slow start, the boys picked up to bring the game back and put their skills into practice in the second half of the game. This was an incredible game to watch. I don’t think I saw too much as I had my head in my hands in the last few seconds as the scores were 24 all, but then Ben threw a shot which went in and a foul was called on one of the Lysterfield boys and Ben was given a free after the buzzer which took the score to 27 points. Croydon Hills has not only won the State Hooptime Championships back to back with SSV Championship Basketball, but has made History in doing so. It was claimed that Yarra Road had done this by winning this last year, however it was brought to our attention that Yarra Road had lost a game, somewhere along the line in the process. Croydon Hills has not lost a game at all, therefore has gone a step closer to actually making the history books undefeated. (Just a bit of trivia.)

Congratulations to: Ben A, Tyler R, Sean Mc, Brent G, Ryan H, Nathan H, Anthony H, Jack P. (See photo attachments)

**Division Girls Rounder Final**

Last Friday the Girls Rounders team played the Division final against Dorset Primary School. This final has taken so long to play, as the other school has had so many things on such as their swimming program and we have had camp, so we have had to wait for a convenient time. Thanks to the girls for being so patient. The wait was certainly worth it as they won the game. They have only practised a few times, but it didn’t take them too long before their skills came back to them. Most of the girls scored a home run during the game. The weather conditions weren’t the best, but they played on anyway. Well done girls!
Soap Box Derby & Billy Cart Grand Prix

The Exciting Billy Cart Grand Prix and Soap Box Derby will be run tomorrow so make sure you have your transport securely made and brightly decorated!! We can’t wait to see it.

Noreen McMenaman - Sport / PE

Year 6 Graduation Project

Last night was the unveiling of the Year 6 Graduation Project, a wonderful double canvas painting. This is the second year that the Graduation Project has run where students assisted in creating an art piece that will stay here at the school. This painting will be placed in the office foyer for all to admire.

The painting has been divided into 4 sections, one for each season, and holds a number of our Australian animals representing where we live.

In the centre a large tree matures signifying growth, strength and knowledge, it's branches hold their names engraved into the leaves.

It has been a pleasure to work with the Year 6 students this year on this project and I wish them all the very best in their education and future endeavours.

Now what will next year’s Graduation Project look like??

Claudia Michielen - Visual Arts Teacher

Year 6 Graduation Painting

Bridie and Olivia admiring their art work.
Canteen News

NEW PRICELIST
A new pricelist will be distributed at the start of term 1.

ROSTER 2012
Friday 21st December – Joanne Duo, Rachelle McNamara, Carolyn Sharpe.

ROSTER 2013
PLEASE NOTE VOLUNTEERS ARE REQUIRED FROM 9AM DUE TO THE EARLIER RECESS & LUNCHTIME
Friday 1st February – Lia Biasuzzo, Sharron Savage, Narelle Collins, Jess Allison.
Monday 4th February – CLOSED
Tuesday 5th February – Mesina Long, Melody Donald.
Wednesday 6th February – Alisa Wills.
Thursday 7th February – Karen Kane, Sandra Horgan.
Friday 8th February – Danni Bennett, Nicole Murphy, Sonia Newlands, Helen Thompson.

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU
A would like to thank the following parents for many years of fantastic service to the canteen –
Kylie Gaudion, Lucy McDaid, Wendy Hantzipavlis, Sheryl Woolley, Lauretta Pitts, Carolyn Sharpe, Christine Humprys and Debbie Dannock.
Your efforts have been very much appreciated by the students but mostly by me. Thank you, you will be missed.
Karen Cyster - Canteen Manager

Uniform News
I would like to thank parents and staff for the kind assistance and wonderful support given over the last six months managing the Uniform Shop. I would like to welcome Anissa Silver to the role for 2013 and wish her all the best with her new position at the school.
I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and I will return to the school in 2013 as an Integration Aide.
Thank you
Meredith Norton

OUR SQUASH CHAMPIONS!

Congratulations to Eishaanii (Md-K) and Jananii (Jr-H) who have just completed competition to be ranked 3rd and 5th in the state respectively, Under 11. This is a remarkable achievement, as Eishaanii is only 9 and Jananii just 7 years old. Both girls are coached by former World No 1 Vicky Cardwell, so watch this space in the future – we’re expecting big things!
Helping kids make sense of the mass shooting in the US

The shooting in Newtown, Connecticut last week hits a special nerve. Such events can affect children’s worlds in ways we can’t conceive. Here are some thoughts to help you respond.

The mass shooting in a Connecticut school that hit our airwaves on Saturday morning will no doubt leave an indelible imprint on our collective psyches. The poignancy of President Obama’s ‘Our hearts are broken today’ response reflected the mood of people around the world, not just that of the American people.

No doubt this event will continue to dominate the media over the coming days as new stories emerge, and the important gun debate takes place.

Of course, this event hits a special nerve as it took place in a primary school (where kids are supposed to be safe) and involved young children and teachers who died protecting their charges.

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as events. In reality we can’t do this.

So what is a parent, teacher, or other caring adult to do when such an event fills the airwaves and the consciousness of society? Here are some ideas:

1. First and foremost reassure children that they are safe. The consistency of the images can be frightening for young children who don’t understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Let them know that while this event has happened, it won’t happen to them.

2. Be available. Let kids know that it is okay to talk about the unpleasant events. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need. You do not need to explain more than they are ready to hear, but be willing to answer their questions.

3. Watch your language. The media describes such events in dramatic fashion. Already this event has been described as a massacre, which is very scary for young ears.

4. Help children process what they see and hear. Children are good observers but can be poor interpreters of events that are out of their level of understanding.

5. Support children’s concerns for others. They may have genuine concerns for the children who died and those who are left and they may need an outlet for those concerns. It is heart-warming to see this empathy in children for the concerns of others.

6. Let them explore feelings such as sadness and anger. Many children may feel sad or even angry with these events so let them express the full range of emotions. Sometimes kids feel sadder for the loss of lives that they don’t know, than for people they know.

7. Help children take action. Action is a great antidote to loss so find simple ways to express feelings such as planting a memorial tree in the garden can help, or participating in the gun debate where appropriate.

8. Provide hope and optimism. Children who know their parents, teachers, or other significant caregivers are working to make a difference feel hope. They feel safer and more positive about the future. So do something. It will make you feel more hopeful, too. And hope is one of the most valuable gifts we can give children and ourselves.

Children’s worlds can be affected in ways that we can’t even conceive of so adults need to be both sensitive to children’s needs and mindful of what they say and how they act in front of children.

In difficult times, it is worth remembering what adults and children need most are each other.
Come And Ride

The Yarra Valley Railway
These School Holidays!
Enjoy a Ride on our Walker Railmotor though the historic tunnel
We operate Wednesday and Sunday throughout the school holidays
Rides depart Healesville station hourly 10am to 4pm
For more information visit our website at www.yvr.com.au

Wonnies School of Music are currently taking enrolments for Term 1, 2013 at Croydon Hills Primary School.

Have you or your friends ever wanted to learn an instrument?
Well what are you waiting for!!?

In-school and private lessons are being offered to all students over a huge variety of instruments and styles! If you like to rock hard, you can even try out for our ROCK BAND!

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enquiries@wonnies.com.au   p. 9812 2568

www.wonnies.com.au