Welcome back
Warm greetings and welcome back to all in our school community as we start the new school year. This year brings a lot of new faces to Crestmead State School, both students and staff – we extend a warm welcome to them all. We have an exciting and busy year ahead of us as the school embarks on a new journey as an Independent Public School. Our staff will be focussed around our school mission and priorities as shown below – you will see these displayed all over our school. Teachers will be focussing on working together in teams to plan targeted teaching around reading, writing and maths, as well as other programs such as Sound Waves, in order to consolidate the basics that are necessary for future success. Education is under the spotlight both politically and socially like never before, with many winds of change having an impact, so I am determined that our school operations produce clarity of expectations and a relentless focus on the pursuit of excellence, positivity and our community. Please reinforce with your children, the school values that underpin our approach to student behaviour management. I expect a high standard of behaviour of all students and want to state from the outset, that inappropriate behaviours will not be tolerated in our school community. Our school rules are “Be Respectful”, “Be a Learner”, “Be Safe” and “Be Co-operative”. You may see some new signs up in classrooms to help promote these rules. Discuss at home with your children the importance of schooling, the need to strive for excellence and the importance of manners, respect and good behaviour. Give the teacher your full support in order to ensure we have a really productive and positive relationship with home that is of benefit to your children in the long term.

Staff training days
Our staff were engaged in three full days of training and preparation in the week prior to school resuming. Our local member in the national parliament, Dr. Jim Chalmers attended the opening session to wish us well for the year ahead and to acknowledge the important work of schools.
Facilities developments

Our new two-storey classroom building, “The Crestmead Contempo” will be built this year to accommodate the need for additional classroom spaces in our growing community. The final design is quite striking and I am sure it will become a standout asset for our school (architects drawing pictured below). You may have noticed that a number of other improvements have been completed over the recent Christmas holidays and we are looking forward to taking advantage of these in the year ahead – they include an expanded Student Support Services department into block 2, lots of new dividing walls between double classroom spaces, painting and general refurbishments.

Independent Public School (IPS) status

I was notified late last year that our application to become an Independent Public School has been successful. This is a tremendous recognition of our school community and the trust our system has placed in all of us to manage our own affairs for the benefit of our students. It will take most of this year to set up the school council and other processes to become fully functioning in this new model. We are looking forward to the enhanced partnership with Kingston College this status will provide as they are also an IPS.

Thought for the fortnight

No act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted.

Aesop

Day eight enrolment census and staffing

Day eight (Thursday 2 February, 2017) enrolment statistics will determine the final staffing allocations for schools across Queensland. All class placements and allocation of teachers is considered tentative until this time. We have received notifications of families who have left our community due to changing circumstances and have taken in many new enrolments. Should overall enrolments have an impact on the number of classroom teachers appointed to our school or on the structure of classes, information will be shared with parents and caregivers. This may mean some allocations of students to a different class or a different teacher, however at this stage it is looking unlikely. We are expecting a total enrolment of 1225 students across 52 classes.

Languages Other than English program

SPANISH GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS

Hola  Buenos días  Adiós
Our permanent language teacher, Mr. Klaus Neumeier will be on leave for the duration of this school year. As it proved difficult to source a suitable replacement German teacher, we will be taking this as an opportunity to explore some other language and cultural education options during the year. We were fortunate to find Mr. Alex Cuttriss who is qualified in multiple languages which has enabled us to commence a Spanish language program in Years 5 and 6 this semester. Staff and students alike have been overwhelmingly enthused following the first Spanish lessons last week and are looking forward to the program. We should keep in mind that at primary school level, the language program does not aim to produce fluent speakers of a foreign language, rather it is a language and inter-cultural awareness program. This is even more applicable when local high schools teach different languages as is the case in our area.

FOOD IN SPANISH

Hamburguesa  Perrito Caliente  Sandwich  Refresco  Pizza
Arroz  Pasta  Miel  Palomitas de Maíz
Pescado  Carne  Tarta  Huevos  Ensalada
Chicle  Helado  patatas/papas fritas

P. & C. news

Our wonderful P. & C. Association volunteers are gearing up for another year of supporting our school. Meetings will normally be held on the second Tuesday afternoon of each month during school terms, at 5:00pm in the staffroom. However, the first meeting for this year has been changed to coincide with the parent information afternoon on Tuesday 7th February at 5:00pm. All welcome. Please support the various fundraising initiatives that are held regularly by the Association. The P. & C. has generously agreed to make a contribution towards air-conditioning the new building due to be constructed on site this year with eight classrooms on two storeys.

Set Down, Parking and Pickup

The commencement of the school year always heightens everyone’s concern as parents and schools set up routines. When driving your children to and from school, we need your full support and cooperation. Our local streets are busy before and after school. While we can’t change the local streets we can review and modify our driving habits in the interest of road safety and the security of the students. Please drive slowly when using local streets, avoid double parking and be mindful of safety at all times. Do not encourage or allow children to run across the road to you in a parking situation. If possible review your set down and pick-up times. If you have no pressing engagements, please consider arriving a few minutes earlier in the morning or a few minutes later in the afternoon. After school, staff members will supervise the Augusta Street and Trulson Drive zones. Remember that in the first ten minutes after school significant congestion occurs in the street. Please consider collecting your children five or ten minutes later and that will help the overall traffic flow considerably. The waiting children are supervised until approximately 3.20pm at the front gate, at which time they are escorted to the office if parents and caregivers are delayed. Parents are strongly advised to comply with the parking and road regulations that apply to local streets, and to exercise patience and cooperation. Queensland Transport officers, council parking inspectors and officers from the Queensland Police Service monitor this area regularly, sometimes without notice and will enforce regulations if need be. Please take care in order to make drop off and pick up a happy and safe time for all.

Verbal abuse of other drivers and road rage in front of children is out of order and will normally be reported to police. Suggestions to help alleviate congestion problems:

1. Use the Trulson Drive car park
2. Arrive 10 minutes or so later when the main rush is over. The front gate is supervised until 3:20pm and Trulson Drive gate till 3:15pm.
3. Car pool with another family.
4. Meet your children at one of the other entrances – we have two gates into Ironwood Street.
Communication channels

Crestmead State School is a very large primary school, which makes it important for everyone to understand the correct channels of communication. The classroom teacher is the main point of contact for parents and following that, any ongoing or more serious issues should be brought to the attention of the relevant Deputy Principal. This means that when people send messages or phone asking to see the Principal, they will often be directed in the first instance to one of the Deputy Principals. Our team of committed and experienced Deputy Principals will work hard to listen and resolve any issues with you and I can assure you they keep me fully informed. They have my full confidence and authority to make decisions and represent the school’s position as needed. Based on this information I will be involved in meetings on a case by case basis. Obviously with any very serious matters that arise, I will usually be fully involved from the outset. I read all emails that are sent to the school which are marked for my attention; however they will be delegated to staff as necessary, especially Deputy Principals and teachers, who may have a much fuller knowledge of the details and history to be able to give you the best response. We are one of the largest state schools in Queensland which means these protocols are in place to ensure communication is efficient and effective.

Deputy Principal Year levels:

| Prep & Year 1 – Mrs Nicholson | Year 2 – Mrs Terrill (on leave – see below) |
| Years 3 & 5 – Mrs Griffiths | Year 4 – Mr Tucker |
| Year 6 – Mr Woollett | While Mrs Terrill is on leave: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 & 2.4 – Mr Tucker |
| | 2.5, 2.6, 2.7 & 2.8 – Mr Woollett |

School facebook page

Many of you may be aware that we have a school facebook page, which has become a popular avenue for parents to be updated on school events and news. Please be aware that this page is not a place for airing complaints and engaging in argumentative posts with the school or with other facebook users. We have a number of people in the school community who moderate the site for us as volunteers and they have been instructed to hide these types of comments and posts as quickly as possible. It is checked multiple times every day. A public forum is not the right place for comments of this nature. Standard procedure for parents with complaints and concerns is to contact the class teacher or a member of the school leadership team. Issues with other parents should be discussed with them in person. I want to thank the overwhelming majority of people that regularly like posts on the page and support our school positively – you are making a real difference to build up our school and our students and this is generating a growing positive reputation. Some of our posts have attracted a huge amount of interest as they have been forwarded much further afield than just our local community.

Term dates

This term is ten weeks long and we break up for Easter holidays on Friday 31st March. School resumes for term two on Tuesday 18th April. Please mark these dates on your calendar in order to avoid any confusion at the time. There will be several big events this term including the student leadership badge ceremony, Harmony Day parade and Easter bonnet parade.

Principal Champion’s Award:

**Senior:** Cody 3.1, Caitlyn 3.2, Daniel 3.3, Montell 3.4, Seth 3.6, Seth 3.7, Wendell 3.8, Mikahla 4.1, Lochlan 4.3, Whitnee 4.3, Wyat 4.4, Zeko 5.1, Deklan 5.2, Benson 5.3, Hallie 5.4, Joshua 5.4, Samuel 5.5, Cory 5.5, Calam 5.6, Liam 5.7, Sam 6.1, Hunter 6.4, Lotolua 6.5

Daily school program and bell times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>First Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:50am</td>
<td>Class commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Play time first break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:25am</td>
<td>Toilet and drink time</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>Eating Time first break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40am</td>
<td>Middle session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:20pm</td>
<td>Play time second break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45pm</td>
<td>Toilet and drink time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:50pm</td>
<td>Eating time second break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Afternoon session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Home time</td>
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</tbody>
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Kind regards to you all,
Principal Ward.
Please be aware that Prep in Queensland is now compulsory. If your child or a child you know was born between 1 July 2011 till 30 June 2012 please contact the school to enroll as soon as possible.

Parent Information Afternoon

A Parent Information Afternoon and Free Sausage Sizzle will be held at Crestmead State School on Tuesday 7 February 2017.

Attending the Parent Information Afternoon is a great way to get to know your child’s class teacher and to find out about classroom expectations and procedures. Teachers will outline the wonderful learning opportunities planned to assist your child to reach their potential and how you can support your child’s learning.

The format for the Parent Information Afternoon is as follows:

Prep, Years 1 & 2 – in classrooms
3:15pm – 3:45pm Formal Sessions run by class teachers.
3:45pm – 4:15pm Parents will have the opportunity to talk informally to their child’s teacher or The Head of Special Education.

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 – in classrooms
3:15pm – 3:45pm Parents will have the opportunity to talk informally to their child’s teacher or The Head of Special Education.
3:45pm – 4:15pm Formal Sessions run by class teachers.

All parents and children are invited to share in the sausage sizzle, provided by the P&C, in the covered area from 3.15pm – 4:15pm

INTERSCHOOL SPORT - YEAR 5/6 STUDENTS

Interschool Sport for Semester One is fast approaching, commencing on Friday 3rd March and running over a 12 week season. The cost of buses for the season will be $75.

Sports offered in Semester One are:
Girls Touch Football- Mr Keen
Mixed Netball- Miss Haines
Boys Rugby League- Mr TuiSamoa and Mr Erbacher
Boys Soccer- Mr Munkasci

Trials will be held during week 2, starting Monday 30th February. Students will be notified of trial date/times through class notices and also reminded the day before the trials. Trials will be held at different dates/times in the week to allow students to trial for more than one sport, increasing their chances to be selected. Please take the time to discuss this extra-curricular activity with your child as it is a great opportunity to make new friends and stay active. Students are encouraged to talk to coaches with any questions they may have.

Yours in Sport,
Miss Parfitt

School Banking

School banking will take place each Friday, please bring your deposit books and hand in at the office to be processed.

Finance

At Crestmead State School, a voluntary contribution scheme has been in place for some years now, and is approved by the Parents and Citizens’ Association.

A contribution of $40.00 per family per year is respectfully requested. If this is too much, any other amount will be gratefully received.

This contribution is used to supplement the cost of:
- Reprographics (other than photocopies of workbooks)
- Arts & Craft supplies
- Cooking or alternative activity materials
- Technology consumables
- Playground enhancements such as shade, surfacing and extra play equipment
Music Notes

There are exciting plans for growth and development of music in the life of our school for 2017. Our Instrumental Program is growing and this year we will also see the addition of a Boys Choir.

Instrumental Music

Lessons will commence in week 3 for all instrumental students. Students will be notified of their lesson time this week and the timetable will be placed on the window of the music block office. All students learning an instrument will have received a letter last year which gives information about what they will need to bring. They will need to have their book and any items listed at their first lesson in week 3.

Nb. Do not pay the levy to the office until you receive an invoice.

- Mrs. Kylie Chivers will be teaching woodwind, brass and percussion instruments on Thursdays and Friday mornings.
- Mr. Frank Fodor will be teaching strings on Mondays.

Rehearsals

Concert Band (All 2nd & 3rd year students) - 8am Thursdays starting week 5.
Beginner Band (All 1st year students) – 8am Fridays starting week 5.
Senior String Ensemble (All 2nd & 3rd year students)-Time to be advised (TBA)
Senior Choir (Grades 4-6) – 8am Tuesdays starting week 5.
Boys Choir (Grades 4-6) – 8am Wednesdays starting week 5.
Grade 3 Choir – TBA
Grade 1&2 Choir – TBA

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

Welcome back and a special welcome to our new families at Crestmead State School.
Our current PBL focus is our 4 school rules and learning the High 5 strategy.

Our 4 school rules are:

- Be a Learner
- Be Safe
- Be Respectful
- Be Co-operative

The High 5 strategy helps students to follow a simple process to deal with other students in tricky social situations. It is a 5 step problem solving strategy that can be used in the classroom, in the playground and for perceived bullying incidents.

Discuss and practise these with your child/ren!
Visiting Professional Performances for the whole school in 2017
There will be two highly entertaining performance groups coming to Crestmead SS this year. Please mark the following dates onto your calendars.

23rd May (Tues) - Taiko Drums & Flutes of Japan (Nexus Arts)
7th September (Thurs) – Rhythm Works (Musica Viva)

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours in Music
Dorothy
Music Coordinator

Early musical training helps develop brain areas involved in language and reasoning. It is thought that brain development continues for many years after birth. Recent studies have clearly indicated that musical training physically develops the part of the left side of the brain known to be involved with processing language, and can actually wire the brain’s circuits in specific ways. Linking familiar songs to new information can also help imprint information on young minds.

CSS Club 100

School absenteeism and truancy can impact significantly on students’ learning and wellbeing. Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance is associated, on average, with higher student achievement. Additionally, attending school every day helps children to build social and emotional skills such as communication, teamwork and resilience.

Under the law, you must make sure your child is enrolled and attends school on all school days unless there is a reasonable excuse. Schools must monitor attendance of students and follow up with parents and caregivers any unexplained absences. If your child does not want to go to school, or is missing school without you knowing, contact your school immediately for assistance and support.

Crestmead State School will:
- monitor student attendance
- let you know if your child is not at school through a text message
- follow-up any unexplained absences as soon as practicable, but within three days of any unexplained absence
- use effective teaching strategies to engage your child in learning
- help you with strategies to encourage your child to go to school
- provide support for families.

“CSS Club 100”, is a school attendance initiative which officially recognises those students who have attended 100% of school over 3 terms or more with a special “Club 100” T-Shirt at the end of the year. Students who attend 100% each term receive a “Club 100” wristband and certificate. Non-attendance up to one day due to medical/extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis for a reward.

Reading Ideas – Make reading fun!

Reading is an opportunity to discover, explore and let your imagination run free. A child doesn't have to be able to read independently to experience the joy and wonder of reading. Reading out loud to children helps them develop a love of reading and learn about new people and faraway places, new words, new ideas, new facts and new ways to say things.

Ideas for reading aloud…

- Read to your child every day. Encourage brothers and sisters to read to each other.
- Point to the words as you read.
- Point to the pictures and discuss them.
- Read expressively: talk the way the story’s characters would talk; make sound effects and funny faces; and vary the pitch of your voice throughout the story to make it more interesting.
- Encourage your child to ask questions about the story’s characters and events.
- Talk about the story and relate it to real life experiences.
- Have your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Ask them to think about the book – favourite event, character, illustration.
- Laugh together at the funny parts of the story.
- Find out what types of books your child enjoys most.
- Join the local library and visit regularly. Ask the librarian to recommend great books or authors to read.
Amaze Active Crestmead – Why it’s cool to stay at school!

Welcome back to school! We hope 2017 is going to be an amazing year for all students and families, old and new. There are many stressors that come with the start of the new school year: how to carry the whole book pack in on the first day!, who is in who’s class, where, when and how to drop off and pick up your child and by whom?!

As parents, Amaze teachers understand all of this and aim to ease the load somewhat. For many parents it is the first time that the school day is significantly shorter than their working day which provides a dilemma.

Here are 8 reasons why it is cool for your child to stay at school:

1. Sleepy Prep children – starting school is exhausting and we often find Prep children are asleep at pick up time. On waking, our little ones can be tired and emotional. To then have to go to a meeting point and stand and wait for a bus to pick them up, often with children from other schools, can be very confronting and overwhelming. Even if they aren’t asleep, most Prep children have had an exhausting day and just need a quiet place to sit down and rest. It is easier for them to be gently moved to Amaze Active OSHC right here at Crestmead SS, where they can wake in a familiar environment with children they know.

2. Plenty of friends to play with – at Amaze we cater for many children which means there is always someone they can play with, whether it be someone from their grade or an older or younger buddy. A bigger group means more playmate possibilities. If your child has a disagreement with someone there are plenty of other children they can play with.

3. Room to run – As Amaze is located at Crestmead SS rather than a little daycare, there is plenty of room to run. We do not have to wait until little children have left a playground before we are allowed outside. Plus, our equipment is school kid size! We are enjoying the use of our new home in the hall which is great for any weather. Amaze has an active philosophy so we also use ovals, playgrounds, undercover and indoor spaces. There is no such thing as bad weather as we always have a place to run off steam after sitting at desks at school all day.

4. A place to call home – Amaze Active Crestmead children can always use the OSHC room as a hub. Miss Cyndi sees many little faces pop in during the day to say hello. As this is not a shared classroom or space, children can create artworks or unfinished lego and come back to it later in the week. The children have a sense of belonging and ownership over the room.

5. Money returned to the school – a portion of the fees paid to Amaze goes directly back to the school, for the school to use on your children. The more children who attend, the more money goes back to the school.

6. Lowest Cost Care – a recent survey of care providers in the area demonstrated that our fees were well below the lowest being charged AND a portion of that is going back to the school. Win, win! In some cases, our vacation care is free. Ask us for a quote.

7. No lost children – most importantly, as your child stays at school, they will NEVER get lost. They will never go to the wrong meeting place, be picked up when they shouldn’t be, miss the bus or catch the wrong one. This peace of mind is priceless. Even if your child comes to Amaze on a day they are not supposed to, we will look after them and contact you to help them get back to you. There is no issue as they will always be at school with someone to look out for them.

8. Community fun nights! By being part of our Amaze family, you are welcome to join us for our family fun nights. We loved spending time with everyone at bowling last year.

We have an open door policy, so please feel free to wander over for a visit and check out the Amaze difference. You can also reach our Co-ordinator Miss Cyndi on 38054964 or 0477068577, or feel free to email crestmead@amazeeducation.com.au.

Have an AMAZE-ing year!