

NEWSLETTER



Week ending – Friday, 29h January

Newsletter No 01, 2016

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Brad Madden

Welcome to 2016

Welcome back to all students and families who have been with us before and a special welcome to those who are starting at Crusoe College for the first time. We look forward to helping all students face the challenges that their year level provides and to support them to develop into confident students ready to embrace the challenges of their education. Throughout the year, there will be many invitations for parents to be involved in supporting the education of their children so please keep an eye on the fortnightly newsletters, the College website and the specific notices that your child will bring home from time to time. If you wish to contact the College, which we encourage you to do to share information that will enable us to assist your child, please communicate with your child's Advisory teacher as the first point of contact. We are using a new online communication program known as Compass and we strongly encourage you to become a regular user to stay in touch with what is happening for your child.

Staffing update

We welcome a number of new teachers and support staff to the College for 2016. Mr Joel McLean comes to us to teach Health & Physical Education, Mr Shane Bright returns to teach Maths & Science while Ms Emma Smart returns to work in the SWITCH program. Ms Alex Crocker will take up the Wellbeing Officer role, Donna Hall will join us in a student support role and Linda Tschakert comes to us from Germany to take up a Language Assistant position. We look forward to working with these new staff who all come to us highly skilled in their fields of teaching and education support. Ms Sherri Lawson will be on leave for Term 1 so her Indonesian classes will complete the cultural components of their courses up to the start of Term 2 when Sherri returns.

Term dates

Term 1 of 2016 is a busy time that will pass very quickly. The first full day for students will be Friday January 29. Please remember that the country buses will not be running on this day. There is a public holiday for Labour Day on Monday March 14. The final day of the term will be Thursday March 24 when there will be special arrangements for parents, teachers and students to meet to discuss progress throughout Term 1. We encourage all parents to make appointments to speak with teachers on this day, or on the evening before if this time is more convenient, so that there is a strong partnership between parents, students and teachers moving through the school year.

School Council Elections

Each year, half of the parent and staff representative positions on the School Council are declared vacant. In some instances, a parent or staff member may stand to be re-elected to a position. For the 2016 school year, we have a number of parents whose children have finished school at Crusoe College so we are looking for new parents to consider getting involved. There are different ways that you can get involved which mean either a one or two year commitment to attending a meeting each month and sometimes some follow up work between meetings in an area where you may have expertise or a particular interest. Please contact me at the College if you want further information on what is involved or how to apply. More information will be provided in the next newsletter.

Important school dates

There are a number of important events that happen throughout the term and affect the entire school or just some year levels. It is important that families are aware of these so that planning can be done to ensure that students attend 100% of the required school days and have the opportunity to maximise the benefits available from their education. These include:

Friday January 29 - first full day of school for all students. **Country buses WILL NOT be running on this day.**

Friday February 11 - whole school swimming carnival. All students are expected to be in attendance.

Tuesday February 16 - Year 7 immunisations.

Friday February 25 - school photographs to be taken for all students.

Order packs to be distributed and returned prior to or on this day.

Wednesday March 9 to Friday March 11 - Year 7 Orientation Camp to Campaspe Downs.

Places are available for all students who are strongly encouraged to attend.

Wednesday March 23 interviews for parents, teachers and students from 4:00pm to 8:00pm

Thursday March 24 from 9:00am to 12:00pm - interviews for parents, teachers and students.

Bookings to be made through the Compass PORTAL or the General Office.

Friday March 25 - Good Friday Holiday.

Monday April 11 - start of Term 2.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

RICHELLE HOLLIS

I would like to welcome back all members of our school community to the 2016 school year.

I trust that you have had an enjoyable break and that you have had the opportunity to rest, relax and recuperate, and that you are now looking forward to the beginning of a new and exciting year at Crusoe College in 2016.

I would like to welcome all of our new families who will be joining us in 2016 and I extend a welcome to our existing families as well.

I look forward to working with you and your children as they attend Crusoe College this year.

Please find below some important information which will provide you and your child with a positive start to the year.

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

Please advise the College of when your child is absent from school.

The College Absence Phone Number is 4433 4455.

You will be able to leave a message stating the name of your child, their advisory group and the reason for absence. This message service is available 24/7 for your convenience.

SCHOOL INJURIES AND INSURANCE

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold accident insurance for school students. Therefore, parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other costs from the fund. We strongly recommend all families to be a member of the ambulance fund as we will not hesitate (*particularly if we cannot contact you or your designated emergency contact*) to ring for an ambulance if our First Aid staff deem it appropriate.

CODE RED DAYS

Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. **CRUSOE COLLEGE has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.**

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter, phone, email and/or sms. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- § No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- § School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.
- § As a bus co-ordinating school all bus routes will be cancelled.

On Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.