# Comleroy Road Chronicles



# Principal's message

Dear Parents and Carers.

As we make our way to the end of Term 4, our end of year celebrations and fun days are on their

way. Routine and rigger are crucial at this time of year to maintain stability as we enter this exciting time. Students have been reminded of the importance of following our school expectations of Safe, Respect and Learn. Appropriate student behaviour is expected, and students are rewarded with Wagon Wheels as we make our way to our end of term PBL prize draw. Please continue to discuss these expectations with your children as we work together to navigate this busy time of year.



## **Leadership Speeches**

On Monday 13 November, I had the absolute pleasure of listening to our 2024 candidates present their leadership speeches. I would personally like to congratulate all students for their outstanding delivery. Public speaking can be a daunting experience, and our students handled it with the utmost professionalism. It was a proud moment to witness! We wish them all the best and look forward to announcing the results on Presentation Day.



#### K-2 Police Youth Liaison Officer Visit

On Monday 6 November, Comleroy Road Public School welcomed Senior Constable Karlie Nye, Youth Officer to speak with our K-2 students about Cyber safety and what is and is not appropriate behaviour online. Senior Constable spoke about the risks and concerns regarding online platforms, appropriate use of technology and the effects of bullying. We would like to thank her for her time and ongoing relationship with our students and school community.



# **Staffing**

# **Congratulations Mrs Ingi McKinnon!**

It is with pleasure that we inform the community that Mrs Ingi McKinnon will be joining our School Administration Team in 2024. Mrs McKinnon was successful through the Merit Selection process and has accepted the permanent School Administrative Officer position at CRPS to begin in 2024. She brings a wealth of experience in the administration space and has many wonderful attributes to contribute to our team. I know that you will all join me in congratulating Mrs McKinnon on obtaining the position. Thank you to the panel members for their time, consideration, and contribution to filling the position. We look forward to welcoming Mrs McKinnon to the team!



It is that time of the year where we sadly farewell some of our temporary staff here at CRPS as they take up other opportunities to grow and develop their skills in education and beyond.



#### **Farewell Mrs Courtelis**

Mrs Courtelis has been an incredible addition to our School Administration Team here at CRPS. Sadly, it is time to say farewell as Mrs Courtelis will be leaving us at the end of year. We have appreciated Mrs Courtelis's warm nature, vibrant personality, and impeccable professionalism. Her manner with students, staff & parents/carers alike is second to none and she will be very missed here at CRPS.

#### **Farewell Mrs Fowler**

Mrs Fowler has delighted us this year with her warm smile, friendly nature, and zest for all things education. This year, she taught 1/2F and engaged them with her creative spirit, passion for learning and quirky sense of humour. We have been lucky enough to work with Mrs Fowler this year and the students, staff and families of Comleroy Road Public School have benefited greatly from the skills and experience she has had to offer. Mrs Fowler will be returning to Kurmond PS in 2024 and we wish her well.

#### **Farewell Mrs Hart**

Mrs Hart has been a wonderful Student Learning Support Officer here at CRPS this year. Her big heart, gentle nature and love for children has been an asset to CRPS this year. Mrs Hart has been flexible in her SLSO role, covering both office duties and servicing our students each day. She will be greatly missed by the CRPS community for her kindness, professionalism, and attentiveness. We wish her well as she takes up another career opportunity.

#### Farewell Mrs Vella - Griffin

Mrs Vella-Griffin has been an integral Student Learning Support Officer here at CRPS. Recognised for her excellent work ethic, patience and genuine care for students, staff and parents, Mrs Vella-Griffin will be sorely missed. Thank you for your kindness, empathy, and contribution to CRPS this year. Mrs Vella-Griffin will be taking up a Student Learning Support Officer role at Kurmond PS in 2024. We wish her all the very best.

#### **Presentation Day**

Our combined K-6 presentation day assembly will take place on Tuesday 12 December. The assembly will commence at 9.15am and will include both the Kindergarten & Year 6 Graduation.

# **Student Progress Reports**

Teachers have been busily preparing Student Progress Reports to go home via Sentral on Tuesday 12 December. The report will focus on the learning undertaken in English, mathematics, other Key Learning Areas, and general information regarding the learning of your child/ren. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this report with your child's teacher, please contact the school and arrange an interview.

# **School Development Days**

The final two school development days for 2023 will be held on Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 December. The purpose of the school development days is to provide staff with high-impact professional learning that contributes to the improvement of the learning outcomes of our students. The last day for students is Friday 15 December.

# 2024 Planning

We have commenced our planning for 2024 and would greatly appreciate receiving information regarding any child who is not returning to Comleroy Road Public School in 2024. If your child is not returning to Comleroy Road Public School in 2024, please let the office staff know so we can do as much as possible to organise classes around anticipated enrolments.

Kind regards,

#### Rachel Farley

## Stage 3 Camp



On Wednesday 22 November – Friday 24 November, Stage 3 had a magnificent time on camp at Point Wolstoncroft. With so many activities to participate in, plenty of food and great company, the students were busy the whole time.

Below is an account from Charli & Angelica:





We were so excited on the bus trip up the coast. Camp was great! We had so much fun doing the activities with all our friends. Our favourite activities were sailing and stand-up paddle boarding. Archery was fun but hard as well. We are very thankful we got the opportunity to go on camp at Point Wolstoncroft.

Thank you to Mr Picot, Mrs McGregor & Mrs Joseph for taking us.

Charli & Angelica

On behalf of Comleroy Road Public School, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our staff Mrs McGregor, Mr Picot & Mrs Joseph who sacrificed time with their own families to accompany our Stage 3 students to the Point Wolstoncroft Camp. It was an amazing opportunity for our students and one that would not happen without the time, dedication, organisation and support from you all. Thank you!

# **Effective Writing Instruction**

Writing is a complex skill that requires the writer to have:

- knowledge on what they are writing about
- knowledge on how to say it
- an understanding on how to transfer it into appropriate written language
- knowledge on how to structure it what makes up a sentence/paragraph/story
- knowledge on how to spell (encode) those words
- knowledge on how to write/type those words

# How do we teach writing at Comleroy Road PS

As many of you know, we collaborate with a number of other schools in the Hawkesbury and Windsor Networks and have engaged with a professional learning provider - Training 24/7. Through these relationships, we have refined how we teach writing at Comleroy Road P.S. and collaboratively developed research-informed units of work. This is what the Writing Revolution's 6 Principles are and how we follow it:

- 1. Students need explicit instruction in writing, beginning in the early elementary grades. Writing is a biologically secondary skill, meaning that it needs to be taught. They need to learn how the conventions of writing are different to those of spoken. It is also more complex than reading because there are no visual cues to draw upon.
- 2. Sentences are the building blocks of all writing. The end goal is to have students write at length, but if they can't compose a decent sentence, they will never produce a decent imaginative piece of writing. We provide our students with a lot of time honing their skills in this area so that they can use complex syntax and vocabulary.
- 3. When embedded in the content of the curriculum, writing instruction is a powerful teaching tool. Writing about what we read boosts understanding. Throughout our writing units, we spend time building students knowledge base for the topic they will be writing about by engaging with various sources of information.
- 4. The content of the curriculum drives the rigor of the writing activities. The content of our units has been purposefully chosen based on the curriculum and the need to expose them to a rich variety of texts.
- 5. **Grammar is best taught in the context of student writing.** Students have been learning a number of grammar rules throughout the year that have been relevant for what they have been writing about. For example, recently Stage 1 have learnt about plurals during Morning Routine so that they could use that knowledge for their writing.
- 6. The two most important phases of the writing process are planning and revising. Our students spend several weeks developing their pieces of writing. We use two distinct methods to help scaffold it called, "Blanks and Blocks" and I'll provide some specific examples in the next newsletter. It allows them to focus their attention on the areas that they can improve through word choice and sentence
- \* The Writing Revolution by Judith C. Hochman & Natalie Wexler

By Brendan Lee (Assistant Principal Curriculum and Instruction)



# November/December

Kyle, Mia, Leevi, Chloe, Nash, William, Kacy, Vivienne, Jake Lewis, Joseph, Emery, Caleb, Gianluca, Ruby, Matilda, Hannah, Piper, Isabelle, Sophie, Alexi, Archie



**SAFE:** I make wise choices to ensure no harm comes to anyone.

**RESPECTFUL:** I appreciate everyone for who they are. I will use positive words and actions to ensure everyone feels accepted.

LEARNERS: I am always ready to do my best. Education is a life - long process. It gives me opportunities for life.

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