



# Crows Nest State School

## **NEWSLETTER**

Tel: (07) 4698 3111 / Fax: (07) 4698 3100

Web: [www.crownestss.eq.edu.au](http://www.crownestss.eq.edu.au) / Email: [admin@crownestss.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@crownestss.eq.edu.au)

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**Edition 1**

**28/01/09**

*Principal:* Scott Edmunds  
*Deputy Principal:* Kaarin Grinstead  
*Head of Department:* Justin Kummerow  
*Head of Curriculum:* Claire Thicthener  
*Head of Special Education:* Louise Leggett  
*Business Services Manager:*

*P&C Email:* [pandc@crownestss.eq.edu.au](mailto:pandc@crownestss.eq.edu.au)

*Student Absences Email:*  
[admin@crownestss.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@crownestss.eq.edu.au)

*Office Hours:* 8:00am - 4:00pm

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### **Principal's Message**

#### **Welcome Back**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the 2009 school year.

Welcome back to all of our continuing students and their families. I hope that you had an enjoyable time with your families over the Christmas/New Year break and that if had the opportunity to go away over this period that you enjoyed this time as well.

A warm welcome to all of our new students and their families who have enrolled in our great school. We hope that you enjoy your time at Crows Nest State School.

#### **Staffing Update**

We welcome to our school new staff members for 2009.

Joining us permanently are our new Deputy Principal, Miss Kaarin Grinstead and Mrs Leiscia Consolati in the Secondary Department.

Also joining our staff for temporary contracts are Mrs Janita Simpson (Secondary) and Mrs Andrea Schefe (Special Education).

I am sure that you all join me in welcoming our new staff members.

Our Business Services Manager, Mrs Sharon Taylor, has taken leave for Semester One of this year. We are currently trying to find a suitable replacement for Sharon and once this has been achieved I will notify the school community.

In the meantime we will be short one staff member in our office. At times this may affect our ability to attend to parents requests and to provide assistance. It will also mean that we will be a little late in issuing invoices and payments. We thank you for your understanding during this period.

Our staffing for 2009 will be finalised after Thursday 5 February. If there are any changes that need to be made, we will communicate with any affected families before this change is to be made.

A full Staff List will be published in our school newsletter in the coming weeks once everything has been finalised.

#### **School Communication**

The school will communicate with all families via our school newsletter. This newsletter will be published each week and sent home with students (usually the eldest in the family) each Tuesday.

Take the time to read through our newsletter as it is our main means of communication with you. If you child does not give it to you, please ask them for it.

Alternatively, if you would like your newsletter emailed directly to you, contact Mrs Shirley Schick, in our school office and she will make the necessary arrangements.

Our newsletter (current and past editions) are also uploaded onto our school website. Go to [www.crownestss.eq.edu.au](http://www.crownestss.eq.edu.au) and you will also find our newsletter there.



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Many of the following items are addressed in our School Handbook (also available on our website), however I wanted to address the following important messages with you directly.

### **Attendance**

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students. The Education Act requires 'a child is of **compulsory school age** if the child is at least 6 years and less than 16 years' attend school every day unless there is a *valid* reason.

Parents are requested to contact the school office by phone, note or email whenever a child is absent or late.

### **Bicycle Safety**

Bike riders must wear a bicycle helmet. Bikes are not to be ridden inside the school grounds. If your child is a bike rider, please ensure they know the appropriate rules.

### **Behaviour**

The school has a Responsible Behaviour Plan that all of our students are made aware of. We reward positive behaviour through a five-point scale.

All students commence each school year at the Satisfactory Level and are encouraged to promote their behaviour to High and Outstanding Levels as the year progresses.

The school has consequences for poor behaviour and students who find their behaviour level on either At Risk or Problematic maybe excluded from certain activities.

More detailed information about our Responsible Behaviour Plan is available on our website.

### **Concerns of Parents**

Parents are always encouraged to discuss their child's progress with their class teacher. If you require an appointment before or after school please ensure that this is done with the relevant teacher.

For general concerns or unresolved issues please make an appointment through the office to meet

with the Principal, Deputy Principal, Head of Department or Business Services Manager.

### **Gates**

In the interests of your child's safety the school gates are closed at 8:15am-9:00am and 2:45pm-3:10pm daily. Please do attempt to open the gates or enter or leave through these gates at these times.

### **Hats**

Hats are an important part of our school uniform and the school has a No Hat No Play policy. Students must wear the specified broad brimmed hat or legionnaires cap. Caps are **not** acceptable.

### **Homework**

Homework is a valuable part of every child's education and as such all students will be required to complete homework.

Teachers will set homework for students that is relevant to what is happening in their classes at that time. Homework may also contain work that the students have covered in the past as well.

If you have any concerns or questions about your child's homework, please see your class teacher.

### **LOTE**

In line with schools in the Toowoomba District and to generate an interest in LOTE the focus of our Primary LOTE program for 2009 will be more about the German culture. There will be less emphasis placed on the German language.

### **Mobile Phones**

Mobile phones are an undesirable item that we do not wish students to have at school. However, we understand that parents do wish their children to carry these for their own safety.

If a child must bring their mobile phone to school, it can be left in the school office on the child's arrival to school and collected as they depart in the afternoon.

Students will be required to sign a register each day for their mobile phone.



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### **Pupil Free Days - 2009**

Term 1	22 & 23 January
Term 2	20 April
Term 3	13 July
Term 4	19 October
Ministerial Pupil Free Day	To be advised

### **Reporting to Parents**

Formal reporting will occur four times per year. This process provides valuable information on student progress to parents and key stakeholders.

Student Progress Reports will be given to students to share with their parents at the end of Semester One and Semester Two. Parent/Teacher Interviews are offered at the end of Term 1 and Term 3.

### **Tuckshop**

Tuckshop will commence on Wednesday 11 February 2009.

### **Undesirable items at school**

Parents should ensure that students do not bring items of value to school. These items can be lost or stolen and it can be disappointing for the child if the item cannot be recovered.

Examples of undesirable items include laser pointers, CD players, MP3 or iPods, mobile phones, etc.

### **Uniforms**

The wearing of our school uniform promotes pride in our school and self, not only while at school but also on excursions and sporting and cultural events. Our P&C strongly endorses the wearing of our school uniform and it is an expectation that students wear it all the time.

Students not wearing their school uniform will be asked for reasons as to why their correct uniform is not being worn.

Students are discouraged from wearing items that are not identified as a part of our school uniform (eg jewellery) and will be asked to remove these if they are worn at school.

Makeup and nail polish are also not a part of our uniform and students wearing any of this will be asked to remove it at once.

Parents can assist the school by making sure that their child is correctly attired each day.

### **Updating Personal and Emergency Contact Information**

It is imperative that if you have a change in personal circumstances that you notify the school so that we can update our information. We need current information so that we can contact you if the need arises.

Information that needs updating may include:

- a change of address
- home phone numbers
- mobile phone numbers
- Emergency Contacts

Parents should also update Emergency Contacts as well. In the event of an emergency with your child, if we cannot contact you, we will need the name of someone else that we can make contact with. Please ensure that this person is local and can come to the school reasonably easily. There is no use in having an Emergency Contact who may live in a different state.

If any of these have changed recently, or you are unsure, please contact our school office for assistance.

### **Thought for the Week**

He who has imagination without learning has wings and no feet.

*Joseph Joubert*

Regards,

Scott Edmunds  
Principal

### **From our Deputy Principal**

Dear Parents and Carers,



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Isn't it great to see the rain around for the start of a new school year! I trust your holidays were relaxing and provided many happy times with relatives and friends. I'm sure there were many heavy hearts this morning as you watched the children return to school for another action packed year.

I am pleased to be joining you, and the Crow's Nest State School team, as Deputy Principal. I have relocated to Crow's Nest SS from Capella State School, near Emerald, where I was Principal for 5 years. I have been with Education Queensland since 1987 and have been lucky to have worked in many different roles and settings across Queensland. Working with children and their families, along with teaching, are my true passions and I look forward to meeting you and your family soon. If you see me around the school or in the office I am always ready for a chat so I'd love to hear your holiday story and know more about your students at Crow's Nest.

Kind regards,

Kaarin Grinstead