We are off to a great start this year with a fantastic group of children and what looks like a very supportive parent population. At the teacher parent presentations last week a significant number of families attended. This is great to see. As I have said previously the input of parents into your child’s learning has five times more positive effect than a teacher.

A number of parents can’t be present at school during school hours due to work commitments but these presentation nights are a good opportunity to show your child that you are interested in their education and it is important. For this reason it was great to see so many parents in attendance.

The times have changed. Every-one needs a good education just to participate in basic every day activities. Croydon children are at a point where they are achieving and reaching higher standards. Over the next few years this will improve further and the Croydon children will be at the same level as students in Brisbane or Cairns.

The focus at the school since I have been here has been on reading improvement. This is happening. Come and look at our data it has improved significantly. The next step in this process is improving reading comprehension and we are introducing a new program next week to tackle this. We are also employing two extra teacher aides each day for two hours a day to further develop literacy skills, particularly for at risk children.

This is part of the strategy, “Great Results Guarantee,” initiated by the current government. In this guarantee Croydon State School will guarantee that every student will either: Achieve National Minimum Standards in literacy and numeracy for their year level or have an evidence based learning plan in place to address specific learning needs.

Our specific goals are as follows: Improve PM reading to L7 in Prep from 40% to 80%, to L17 in year 1 from 44% to 80% and to L21 in year 2 from 66% to 80%

Improve Naplan reading results in Year 3 MSS from 120 points less than QSS to QSS

Improve Naplan reading results in Year 3, 5, 7 from 0% to 30% in U2B in 2014 and 2015.

This maybe a lot of Education Jargon but it means we are working for your child to get them to where they should be now.

We have a committed staff that has been stable now for a number of years. We are seeing a greater commitment from parents and carers and stronger links between school and families.

We ask two things.

1. Make sure your child is at school each day. We can’t do anything if they are not there.

2. Come in and help at school whenever you get a chance. There are a number of things that you can help with. We need people to cook, to read with kids, to make costumes for the dance, assist with art activities, weed, chop trees.

Thanks to the people who have volunteered to assist with the lunches at school. Cecelia, Natalie, Jane, Anita, Rosalinda and Chappie Joe.

A great place to start contributing is at the P & C meeting being held on Wednesday, 19th of February at 5.00 p.m. This meeting is always held at the school. At this meeting we will be planning the touch carnival, dance eisteddfod and swimming carnival. As always we need help.

Congratulations to the school captains elected last week by the students; Bobbie Knudsen and Henry Kidd. Congratulations also to Chelsea Petersen and Rosie Douglas who will also be a part of the student leadership team. These students will be participating in a leadership program in Cairns on Monday. This will be continued when they get back to school.

This newsletter we are highlighting some of the activities of the P - 2 classroom. It looks like they are having too much fun in there. Next newsletter we will highlight the activities of the 3 - 7 classroom.

A reminder that school starts at 8.30 a.m. Students should not be at school before 8.00 a.m. To be in class in time students should arrive by 8.20 a.m.

Regards

Daniel Smith
Parents needed for reading
9.00 - 10.00 daily.

P & C MEETING

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 19TH
5.00 P.M.
IN THE KITCHEN
AT SCHOOL

Congratulations Ethan and Aidan.
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK.

Our school expectations - Absentees

All children should attend school every school day

When students are absent
Ring the school on 47456197 before 9.00 a.m. with a reasonable explanation or provide a signed note.
If the student absence is to be for some time collect some work from school.
Students are required to be at school by 8.20 am to ensure they go into class in adequate time.
When students are late i.e after 8.30 a.m. they need a note explaining their absence.

School Response to absences
2 days absence without explanation – class teacher will ring home to enquire
4 days absence without suitable explanation – Principal will ring home to enquire
If there is no response to the phone call then an Absence Letter will be mailed home, reminding parents/carers of their obligations to ensure their child attends school on every school day and the requirement for providing satisfactory explanations for all absences.

Absences greater than 10 days
If you are expecting that your child will be absent for greater than 10 days you need to apply for an exemption from compulsory schooling. This form can be accessed at school.