



St Clair Public School

Newsletter



Issue: 3 Thursday 15th March 2018

2018 Events & Activities

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
March 15 – Selective High School Placement Test March 16 – Stage 3 Graffiti Ed Program March 16 – Year 7 2019 Expressions of Interest to be Returned March 19 – Closing Date for ICAS Competition Entry March 19 – STEPS Debating Workshop (Blackwell PS) March 21 – Harmony Day March 26 – Easter Hat Parade (2pm) March 27 – School Cross Country Carnival **March 27 – P & C Meeting + AGM (7pm) March 30 – Good Friday April 2 – Easter Monday April 6 – Billionaire Boy Play Excursion (Stages 2 & 3) April 10 – TOPSTEPS Day April 11 – Canteen Asian Theme Lunch Day April 12 – Coffee and Chat April 13 – Last Day of Term	May 1 – Students Return to School May 8 – ICAS Digital Technologies Competition May 9 – Mother's Day Stall May 15 – P & C Meeting (7pm) May 18 – Coffee & Chat Session May 22 – Debate (vs Blackwell PS) May 23 – School Captains Civic Reception May 23 – District Cross Country May 29 – ICAS Science Competition May 30 – STEPS Mass Choir Rehearsal (Banks PS) June 6 – School Athletics Carnival June 11 – Queen's Birthday Public Holiday June 12 – ICAS Writing Competition (TBC) June 13 – ICAS Spelling Competition June 14 – Commonwealth Games Day! June 19 – Debate (vs Clairgate PS) June 19 – P & C Meeting (7pm) June 22 – NAIDOC Cup June 26 – Coffee & Chat session July 3 – STEPPING Up Together Day July 4 – STEPS Mass Choir Rehearsal (SCHS) July 6 – Last Day of Term	July 24 – Students Return to School July 25 – OC Placement Test July 31 ICAS English Competition Aug 2 – Book Fair Aug 7 – P & C Meeting (7pm) Aug 8 – Kindergarten Excursion to Calmsley Hill City Farm Aug 14 – ICAS Mathematics Competition Aug 14 – Debate (vs Banks) Aug 16 & 17 – Stage 3 Bathurst Goldfields Camp Aug 22 – STEPS Book Forum Aug 29 – Father's Day Stall Sept 5 – Zone Athletics Carnival Sept 7 – Coffee & Chat Session Sept 11 – Debate (vs JEPS) Sept 25 & 26 – Stage 2 Camp Sept 28 – Last Day of Term	Oct 15 – Students Return to School Oct 16 to 22 – Life Education Program Oct 25 – Dance Sport Championships Dec 7 – Presentation Day Dec 10 – Last School Assembly for 2018 Dec 12 – Year 6 Farewell Dec 17 – End of Year Movie / Picnic Day Dec 19 – Last Day of the School Year

This table will be updated with each newsletter.

** Please note change in date for the P C meeting and AGM.

The Principal's Message.....

School Photos

Our school photo day, and follow up sibling photo day, were very successful. Thank you to the vast majority of students who wore their correct summer uniform. You all looked sensational. Hopefully the photos will arrive back to school before the end of the term or early next term. As soon as they do, they will be sent home. If you have any concerns regarding school photos, you can contact the company (AdvancedLife) directly on 1300 728 972 and they will assist you.

Morning Routines

A reminder for students to move to above the white line after the 8.30am bell in the morning, I would like to encourage parents and carers to then move away from that area and give the students the chance to be independent. For our new Kinder parents and carers, we ask that you also begin now to follow this rule. When the bell goes at 9.00am, the students then move to their classes and begin their school day. Students should not be arriving before 8.30am as no supervision is provided.

Swimming Carnival

Well done to our school team who competed at the St Marys Swimming Carnival. Mr Heath reported the whole team had a great day and competed well. Congratulations to Taylah W who competed this week as a part of the St Marys District Team at the Sydney West Carnival. We are all very proud of your achievements Taylah!

Student Leaders Induction

This week a group of our student leaders went into the International Convention Centre at Darling Harbour for the National Young Leaders Day. They spent the day listening to some amazing inspirational speakers. I would like to congratulate them on their outstanding behaviour and maturity whilst representing the school.

Scooter, Skateboards, Bikes & Helmets

We encourage students to be active and they are allowed to ride a scooter, skateboard or bike to school. They MUST however, wear a helmet. Please check with your children that they have the appropriate equipment (including a helmet) to ensure they are safe. Also, please be reminded that these items are the responsibility of the student. If they ride a bike, it is essential they lock the bike on the bike rack outside the office. We are currently looking at options to store scooters and skateboards during the day.

Speaking to Students

A reminder to parents and carers to not directly address or speak to students if they experience a problem with them. Instead, please inform a teacher or make a time to come and speak with me. I believe all parents and carers would be upset (and rightfully so) if their child or children were spoken to, or

reprimanded by another parent or carer. It can also be quite stressful for the child concerned.

Student Safety

Once students are at school, they are not allowed to leave the school boundary. We know parents and carers trust that when they drop their children off at school in the morning, they remain safely inside the school gates. Recently we have had to remind some students about this. I would appreciate it if you could also discuss this with your children. Formal supervision is provided above the white line from 8.30am each morning. Students should not arrive before this time. If they do arrive a few minutes earlier, they are to sit quietly on the steps outside the office.

The back gate which leads down to the shopping centre, is locked at 9.00am each morning. If arriving after that time and the gate is locked, children will need to walk along the pathway and through the front pedestrian gate (not through the car park gates). Both the pedestrian gate and car park gates will now have the bolt pulled across to stop them from automatically opening. This will be done around 9.15am each morning. Some smaller students will not be able to reach the bolt, so if you are arriving late, please ensure you supervise your children and make sure they enter the school safely.

Also, I ask parents and carers not to send children to school with a knife of any kind or made from any material i.e. plastic or metal, for cutting cakes or making a sandwich. If they need access to a knife, their teacher will ensure safe procedures are in place. If sending in a cake for a birthday, it is best to already have it cut up or even better, send in individual cupcakes.

Coding & Robotics

I am excited to inform our community that we were recently successful in gaining a significant amount of funding through a grant to develop a coding and robotics program across the school. The grant will provide us with up to \$70,000 over three years to upgrade our technology infrastructure, purchase equipment and resources, and train our staff through various professional development opportunities. We will be working closely with the IMC Foundation which is providing both the funds and direct support. There will also be opportunities for some students to attend courses and events. This program is designed to develop creative, critical and innovative thinkers and will benefit all students across the school. Ask your children about some of the things they are doing around coding and robotics, particularly in regard to their visits to the library. We will keep you posted with updates as the year progresses.

Student Morning Tea

I am excited to host my first PBL award and Aussie of the Month morning tea this Friday. Congratulations to the students who received a PBL or Aussie of the Month award this week. I will be hosting this morning tea twice each term and look forward to acknowledging the recipients. The new PBL award is awarded to students who always follow our core values of being safe, respectful learners. This includes having regular and punctual attendance and the wearing of correct school uniform. Students who receive this award always follow classroom and playground rules and do their best with every aspect of their learning. No doubt, the teachers will have a tough time nominating students!

Upcoming Events

- **Harmony Day** - Next Wednesday 21st March is Harmony Day. The students can wear orange mufti on this day. Classes will be completing some activities designed to increase their understanding about diversity and tolerance. If wearing mufti, we ask for a gold coin donation. All money raised will go toward supporting our World Vision sponsored child, Pedro.
- **Easter Hat Parade** – This will be held during assembly time (from 2pm) on Monday 26th March. We are looking forward to seeing some wonderful creations!
- **Cross Country** - Our annual cross country carnival is also fast approaching and will be held on March 27th. This year the competition side of the carnival will involve students from Years 3 to 6 and students in Year 2 who turn 8 years old this year. This will enable us to establish a school team to compete at the St Marys District carnival early next term. Our students in K – 2 will also be participating in circuit activities on the same day. Parents and carers are very welcome to attend this event.
- **TOPSTEPS Day** - This year our TOPSTEPS Day will be held on Tuesday 10th April. This day will involve selected students from years 1 to 6 spending the day in one of the STEPS schools and participating in learning experiences designed to build on their interests and ability. The teachers are currently nominating students for particular activities. If nominated, an information and permission note will go home soon. Only a small group of students from each stage can be nominated so well done and good luck to those selected.

Debating Workshop

Good luck to our students attending next week's debating workshop at Blackwell PS. These regular workshops have been organised to assist students to develop their debating and public speaking skills in preparation for the STEPS and R.A. Pickles debating competitions held throughout the year.

Assembly Change

Next Monday, our assembly will be a regular assembly and not a swimming presentation assembly as originally planned. The swimming presentation will occur during the assembly in the last week of the term.

Next Coffee & Chat Session

My next coffee and chat session will be on Thursday 12th April at 9am in the school staffroom. It was so lovely to see so many attend the last session and I'll look forward to welcoming anyone who would like to attend this one. It is a very positive forum to hear about and discuss some of the events and activities happening at our school.

P & C News

The P & C meeting and AGM scheduled for next Tuesday 20th March has been postponed until the following week and will now be on Tuesday 27th March. The meeting starts at 7.00pm and is held in the staffroom. All parents and carers are welcomed and encouraged to attend P & C meetings. They are another wonderful avenue to support the school.

As always, I thank our St Clair community for the positive way you support the school, the staff and your children on a daily basis. It makes our school a wonderful place of learning.

Warm Regards,

Dale Bruce
Principal

School Awards Term 1 Weeks 4 - 7

Trade-Ups

Don't forget to keep your child's mini merits in a safe place. When they have 5 mini merits, they can trade up for a merit award. When they have 5 merit awards, they can trade up for a Principal's award and when they have 5 Principal's awards, they can trade up for a very special School award. Trade ups should be placed in the 'house' in the office foyer by Friday each week.

Congratulations to the following students:

Mini Merits

Samantha L, Bilal K, Sarah R x4, Jonalyn D, Crystal D, Cydney S, Dakota G, Tyler M, Jordan W x 2, Hannah D, Kayley M, Taylah W, K. F, Sebastian P, Obinna B, Akira W, Frederick S, Amy T, Emily W x 2, Joshua B x2, Holly F, Harshiv S, Zachary S, Angus M, Pranav S x5, Morgan S, Jessica B, Tyler S, Lillie B, Scarlett F, Holly F, S. F

Principal's Awards

Bilal K, Sarah R x2, Sami E, Titi E, Bronte J, Samantha L, Frederick S, Dakota G, Pranav S x4, Akira W, Nathaniel C, Emma B, Brandon T x2

Aussie of the Month (Acts of Kindness)

Sandra S & Pelenato L

Merit Awards Week 5

Class	Student	Class	Student	Class	Student
1	Alexa B & Dakota R	7	Khloe T	12	Benjamin K & Harmony L
3	Taquin S-T & Michael S-O	8	JR N	13	Koby G & Chloe W
4	Krystal B & Addison S	9	Asher I	15	Angelina S & Brayden E
5	Cooper G & Samantha M	10	Abdullah A	16	Koray K & Oliver M
6	Anna S & Jenny A	11	Tyler S	18	Christopher A & Courtney R

Merit Awards Week 6

Class	Student	Class	Student	Class	Student
1	Cahlil S & Tyrone S-S	7	Logan O	12	Anna S & Lucas W
3	Johbe R & Jack S	8	Cooper J	13	Lily M & Lyla D
4	Joshua H & Nathaniel C	9	Johannes M	15	Jasmine G & Chaise M
5	Cydney S & Emeka B	10	Brenden S	16	Zander F-W & Makayla B
6	Madison B & Curtis H	11	Brandon T	18	Samuel K & Hunter M

PBL Awards

Class	Student	Class	Student	Class	Student
1	Sarah R	7	Yousif M	12	Scarlett F
3	Tayla R	8	Shane S	13	Elizabeth S
4	Jessica B	9	Johannes M	15	Hannah D
5	Zipporah H	10	Rathushaan M	16	Oliver M
6	Harrison B	11	Riley B	18	Marley L

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden News

Our garden focus last week was all about composting and recycling. Here at St Clair PS, we collect fruit and vegetable scraps. Most classrooms have a bucket to put their leftover scraps in, then students take the bucket to the small, pink wheelie bin outside room 20. These scraps are then added into our garden compost bins along with dried leaves, shredded paper, wood chips and other green garden trimmings. Our chickens enjoy some of these fruit scraps too! In class we discussed many things and one of the subjects we talked about was regarding wastage. Sadly, some students who collect the buckets nearly every week discover uneaten apples, pears, bananas and grapes. We are so glad that we have compost bins but it is still a waste seeing perfectly good fruit go uneaten. After learning where and how our fruit and vegetables travel from farms and orchards to our table, students had a better understanding of why our food costs so much. We also discussed how our environment plays a huge part in the whole process and how much work and energy was put into it before it got into our lunch boxes. Students realised that maybe parents should buy smaller fruit for their children to take to school or maybe cut it in half and save the other half for later. Some even had a better idea, don't waste at all -- just eat it and leave the core for the chickens!



During our next garden week, we will make a miniature compost bin using a see-through plastic bottle for better viewing. The students are excited to see how composting works and are thrilled to see how it breaks down over a period of time. We will also plant our seeds ready for our Autumn vegetables. Our garden is doing well. We are waiting on our radishes and some of our lettuce. I mentioned last newsletter that most of our grapes were dried up from the sun but I am happy to report those covered by large vine leaves managed to survive and ripened well. Our rockmelons, green beans, lettuce, capsicums, chillies and eggplants are ready for harvesting.

Week 6 was Kitchen Week. Our kitchen focus was about the difference between self-raising agents and yeast. Last week, students used self-raising flour for their bread. We learnt self-raising flour contains baking soda and this releases carbon dioxide gas into the batter or dough through an acid based reaction, causing bubbles in the wet mixture to expand. Class 1 and 4 baked beautiful herb and cheese bread sticks. Something so simple and cheap to make can be so addictive. The students also made some chilled green tea and lemon tea. Some students cooked basic scrambled eggs and omelettes. Everyone loved what was accomplished in the kitchen; they all worked well together and produced amazing food. Well done everyone! The next kitchen week will be in Week 8. Students will be making focaccia bread using yeast. We will also experiment by making our own yeast -- now that's something to look forward to! Some say cooking is an art, that is true, but I tell the students it is also chemistry, and understanding it will make you a better cook. It's definitely fun.



Until next time,
Cazendra

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE?

For the Kitchen: white rice, onions, tinned tomatoes, olive oil, butter and cheese

For the Garden: Seeds (varieties), cow manure, shooting potatoes, scratched old CD's and seed raising soil



Support Unit News

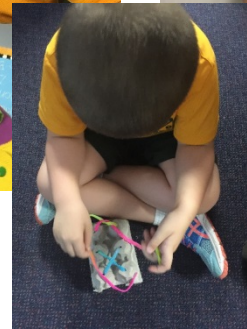
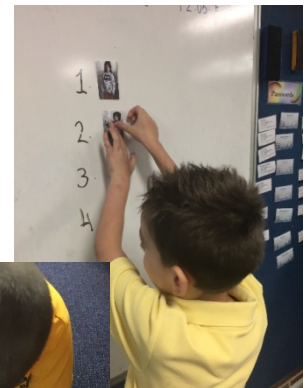
FUNctional Friday

Each Friday, students from Classes 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 take part in FUN Friday. FUN Friday aims to build students' independent living skills or FUNCTIONal skills by presenting activities that are fun to complete. Students will experience a range of activities as the year progresses.


What are some of the things we do?

- Gross Motor Skills – jumping, throwing, catching, running, balancing and hand-eye coordination.
- Fine Motor Skills – grasping, holding, threading.
- Independent Living Skills – dressing, shoelaces, buckles, zips and buttons.
- Gardening – digging, planting, egg collecting.
- Community Access – road safety, visiting places in our community.
- Cooking – spreading, cutting, making sandwiches.

FUN Friday is a great day!



K – 2 News

Kindergarten & Stage 1 have their  plates on!



Learning to be
creative



Learning from
others



Learning together



Learning independence



Learning to be proud of their efforts

YOUNG LEADER'S DAY



Pursue
your
dreams.



*Treat the people
the way you wish
to be treated.*



If it doesn't
challenge you, it
won't change you.

**If at first you
don't succeed,
try again.**



13 lucky St Clair school leaders attended the Young Leader's Day. They were inspired by John Coutis, Lauren Cheadle, Harrison Craig and Matt Cosgrove.

Congratulations to all our leaders who were great representatives for our school.

Sport News

St Clair PS Swimming Carnival

On Wednesday 21st February, 29 students competed at the school swimming carnival. All students demonstrated excellent sportsmanship. Thank you to the the parents that attended and supported the students on the day. Ten students qualified to compete at the District carnival on Friday 2nd March.

At the District Carnival, Taylah Williamson placed first in the 50m butterfly and the 50m backstroke. Second in the 200m Individual Medley and third in the 50m freestyle. She competed at the area carnival on Tuesday 13th March. We are very proud of this achievement!

Parents also please be advised that the date of the swimming carnival assembly has been changed. Trophies and St Marys PSSA District carnival ribbons will now be presented on Monday 9th April (Week 11) at the school assembly. St Clair PS swimming carnival ribbons were handed out on the day of the school swimming carnival.

Congratulations to all students who participated.

District Participants: Phillip N, Taylah W, Faith G, Brooklyn S, Amy H-L, Nathaniel C, Anabel F-G, Jordan W, Cooper G and Bianca H.

Thank you,

Mrs Farlow.

Tell Them From Me Survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at the following two links:

<http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au>

http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/images/pdf/TTFM_Student_Survey_FAQs_Parent_and_Carers_T12018.pdf

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. More than 6,300 schools in Australia and around the world have used *Tell Them From Me* to survey 5.4 million students. Capturing the voices of our students will help improve how we do things at our school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 12 March and 13 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by the date stipulated on the note. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>.

The consent form and FAQs are available in 23 languages.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please feel free to contact me at school

Kind regards,

Mrs Elizabeth Goodwin