



St Clair Public School Newsletter



Issue: 3 Thursday 7th March 2019

Upcoming Events & Activities

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
March 8 – District Sport Trials (Revised Date) March 11 – National Young Leaders Day March 11 – Year 6 High School EOI Forms Distributed March 12 – Sydney West Swimming Carnival March 12 – Closing Date for Easter Mug Orders March 14 – Selective High School Placement Test March 19 – Year 6 High School EOI Forms Due Back March 19 – STEPS Junior AECG Meeting March 19 – P & C Meeting March 21 – Harmony Day March 28 – Year 5 Peer Play Program Group Training Day March 29 – Environmentors Program April 1 – Debating Workshop April 1 – Coffee and Chat Parent Morning Tea April 2 – PBL Award Recipients Morning Tea April 3 – Responsible Pet Ownership Incursion (K – 2 Students) April 9 – TOPSTEPS Day April 10 – STEPS Student Leadership Day (at JEPS) April 12 – Last Day of Term 1	April 30 – Students Return May 10 – Coffee & Chat May 14 – NAPLAN (Language Conventions & Writing) May 14 – P & C Meeting May 15 – NAPLAN (Reading) May 16 – NAPLAN (Numeracy) May 21 – STEPS Mass Choir Rehearsal (at Blackwell PS) May 22 – Penrith Council Student Leaders Civic Reception May 23 – Debate May 28 – PBL Award recipient Morning Tea June 11 – STEPS Mass Choir Rehearsal (at Clairgate PS) June 12 – School Athletics Carnival June 18 – P & C Meeting June 20 – Debate (vs JEPS) June 25 – Forensic Science Incursion June 27 – Coffee and Chat July 5 – Last Day of Term 2	July 23 – Students Return July 31 – OC Placement Test Aug 1 – STEPS Music Festival (9.00 – 2.30 Dress Rehearsal / 7.00 Evening Performance) Aug 5 to 8 – Education Week Aug 6 – P & C Meeting Aug 7 – Kindergarten Calmsley Hill Excursion Aug 15 – Debate (Vs Clairgate) Sept 4 – District Athletics Carnival Sept 5 – Stage 1 Excursion to Taronga Zoo Sept 10 – P & C Meeting Sept 19 – Debate (vs Banks PS) Sept 23 & 24 – Stage 2 Survivor Camp (TBC) Sept 25 to 27 – Stage 3 Overnight Canberra Camp Sept 27 – Last Day of Term 3	Oct 14 Students Return Oct 22 Dance Sport Championship Oct 29 – P & C Meeting Dec 3 – P & C Meeting Dec 6 – Presentation Day Dec 11 – Year 6 Farewell Dec 16 – End of Year Picnic / Movie Day Dec 18 – Last Day of the Year

This table will be updated with each newsletter.

Our Calendar seems to be growing with each newsletter. Don't forget to update your fridge flyer or personal calendar with newly added events and activities.

The Principal's Message.....

Swimming Carnival

What a wonderful success our first ever twilight swimming carnival was. Not only did we have a few more competitors than normal but we also had 13 teachers and many parents, carers and family members come along. Thank you to everyone for supporting this event and helping to make it so successful. Thank you also to Mrs Farlow for her excellent organisation.

Last Friday the 1st March, ten students attended the St Marys District Swimming Carnival. The students represented St Clair PS well and achieved many personal bests. Congratulations to Jordan Williamson who will be representing St Marys PSSA in the Sydney West Swimming Carnival next Tuesday 12th March. Thank you to all the parents and relatives that attended on the day to support our students.



School Maintenance

During the next school holiday period, we are expecting a number of maintenance jobs to be started. These include the removal of the brick wall and cricket nets near the top hardcourt as well as the fencing around our oval. There will also be some painting throughout the school and some classrooms and learning spaces will be recarpeted. The old chain link and barb wire fence between us and the high school will be replaced with a new green diplomat fence, consistent with the fencing around the school. The steps at the front office will also be replaced. I imagine this work will take some time to complete but it will be great when it's all completed!

Clean Up Day

Thank you to all of our students who participated in the *Clean Up St Clair PS* day last Friday. The school was certainly very tidy! It's wonderful to see how proud our students are of their school environment.

Towards the end of the term and sometime next term, we will be holding some Environmentors workshops to further develop an appreciation of the importance of looking after the environment.

Attendance

A reminder that all days absent from school must be explained. Thank you to the vast majority of parents and carers who contact us to let us know why their child is away from school. If planning a holiday during school time, please let us know so we can record it as leave. If students are away for more than 15 consecutive days, an application for leave must be submitted and approved. Thank you to our parents and carers who value their child's education by ensuring their attendance at school is regular and punctual.

Student Leaders

Congratulations to all of our student leaders who were presented with their leadership badges at our recent Student Leaders Induction assembly. All of these students have already shown wonderful leadership qualities and I am looking forward to seeing how they continue to grow as leaders over the year. Well done and congratulations to:

- 2019 School Captains
Abdo A & Amy T

- 2019 Prefects
Tayla R, Ethan A, Emma B & Codey M

- 2019 Class SRC Members
Harshiv S (Class 1), Jessica B (Class 3), Julia I (Class 4), Madison B (Class 5), Harrison B (Class 6), Nate N (Classes 7/8), Shayne S (Classes 10/11), Hannah D (Class 12) & Maddison R (Class 13)

- 2019 Sport House Leaders
Eagles: Elise H & Lava S (Captains), Jordan F & Matilda V (Vice Captains)
Emus: Abigail L & Mandla M (Captains), Bronte J & Curtis H (Vice Captains)
Kingfishers: Jasmine R & Nathaniel C (Captains), Ngahina K & Aiden C (Vice Captains)
Rosellas: Morgan S & Joshua H (Captains), Holly F & Brayden S (Vice Captains)

Class 11

This week, Class 11 have been experimenting with some 3D printing. Mr Heywood reported that the students really enjoyed the process and watching an object being made. The 3D printer is part of a STEM Share kit the school has borrowed from the department for this term. Thank you to Class 11 for giving it a go!



School Community Charter

Recently the Department of Education released a School Community Charter which outlines the responsibilities of parents, carers, educators and school staff to ensure our school and learning environments are collaborative, supportive and cohesive. A copy of the charter has been included in this newsletter. I am very appreciative of our school community and the respectful way in which we all communicate, which falls in line with this charter.



New Electronic Smart Boards

Recently we had 4 new electronic smart boards installed. These have been placed in the library, Class 1, Class 9 and Class 15 rooms. A big thank you to the P & C who have funded the board for the library, a place utilised by all children and staff and many community based activities. Eventually our older electronic smart boards will be replaced with these new systems in all classrooms.


NAPLAN

This year our Year 3 and 5 students will be completing NAPLAN Online. These assessments occur in May, early next term. An information sheet will be sent home outlining what NAPLAN is about and how it will run this year. Information has also been included with this newsletter.

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Award

The PBL award is given at assembly twice per term (once in Term 1) and is awarded to students who fulfil all the criteria of being a safe, respectful learner. These students are also invited to a Principal's morning tea to acknowledge and celebrate their achievement. In order to be nominated for this award, the students must meet the following criteria (this criteria is also discussed with the students in class):

PBL Award Criteria

I am a Learner	I am Respectful	I am Safe
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I follow all teacher instructions• I do my best with all tasks and activities• I participate appropriately during lessons• My attendance at school is regular and punctual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I follow all classroom rules• I always speak politely to students, staff and visitors to the school• I respect the rights of other students to learn• I respect my own property and the property of the school• I wear my full school uniform (including a hat) with pride every day• I am respectful during the singing of the National Anthem and School Song• I am a good representative of the school when participating in out of school activities e.g. excursions, PSSA, dance, debating	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I follow all playground rules (including morning routine)• I line up sensibly• I do not leave the classroom without permission• I use classroom and playground equipment safely• I play sensibly and safely with others

Coffee & Chat

The first coffee and chat session was held last Friday and it was great to see some new and some familiar faces. Thank you to those who came along. It's always wonderful to share the good news stories about the school and to hear what's happening in the community. The next coffee and chat session will be on Tuesday 2nd April at 9am in the staffroom.

A reminder to parents and carers that if you have any concerns about any aspect of the school or your child's time at school, please come and chat with me about it. It's important to hear the facts so that the wrong information doesn't lead to gossip and miscommunication. We have such a lovely school community and sometimes it's quite disheartening to hear particular comments based around incorrect information. We work very hard to maintain a consistent and positive culture at school and as always I am very grateful to all in our community who continue to contribute toward this.

Warm Regards,

Dale Bruce
Principal

Awards

Mini Merits

Jenny A, Aiden C, Lachlan J, Bronte J, Makaylah P,

Principal's Awards

Frederick S, Obinna B, Asher I, Bronte J, Dakota F, K.F

Aussie of the Month – March (Kindness)

Lava S & Mikayla B

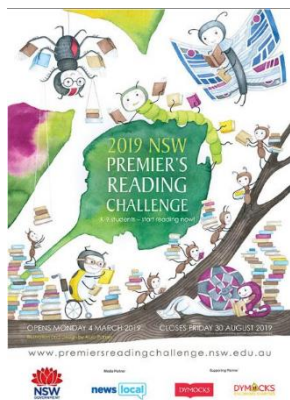
Merit Awards – Term 1 Week 6

Class	Student	Class	Student	Class	Student
1	Zavier S & Liliana C	7	Cooper J	12	Chaise M & Koby G
3	Dean C & Amalie W	8	Levi	13	Jayden B & Rhys M
4	Mia W & Cooper G	9		15	Christopher A & Lorelei G
5	Alexis D & Kaleo T	10	Bryzbyn W	16	Hunter T & Paige W
6	TJ & Lillie B	11	Jordan M	18	Isaiah C & Isla M

Upcoming Assemblies...

Monday 11 th March	Monday 18 th March	Monday 25 th March	Monday 1 st April	Monday 8 th April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade-Up Awards Merit Awards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade-Up Awards Swimming Carnival Presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade-Up Awards Excellence in Reading Awards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade-Up Awards Aussie of the Month Award (Sportsmanship) PBL Awards 	No Formal Assembly – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter Parade

Library News



The Premiers Reading Challenge (PRC) has commenced and will run until the 30th August. The table below provides you with some information about the challenge. Students are encouraged to borrow PRC books each week during their library time. If you have any questions about the challenge please visit the website <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html> or contact the school. In other library news, we are very excited to have an electronic whiteboard. Thank you to the P&C who donated funds towards this valuable resource.

Challenge	Number of books you must read	Minimum number of PRC books	Maximum number of Personal Choice books	PRC booklists you can read from
K-2	30	25	5	K-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-9
3-4	20	15	5	3-4, 5-6, 7-9
5-6	20	15	5	5-6, 7-9
7-9	20	15	5	5-6, 7-9

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden News

Welcome to autumn. I'm hoping for the temperature to drop down a little and maybe for some cooler nights, but unfortunately it still feels like we are in the middle of summer. Surprisingly, some parts of the garden are thriving very well and I noticed some plants should have stopped fruiting or even should have died down but they are still flowering and greener than ever. I guess in that extra heat, some plants do better than others. Autumn is a great month for planting as temperatures drop and the harsh summer sun recedes (these days it may as well be in the middle of autumn). The good thing about autumn is that we don't need to wait until spring to plant veggies. Many plants grow well in cooler months and can give us a bumper crop of fresh veggies in spring, such as some leafy veggies, root vegetables and herbs. A few weeks ago, I planted some seeds for the students and they should be all ready to be planted by next week. For our garden lesson for the upcoming week, some students will prepare the garden beds, some will plant the seedlings and some will plant more seeds. At the moment, we have roughly 150 students participating in the SAKG



program so mass produce is a must. In the garden we have watermelons, dew melons, okra, Jerusalem artichokes, eggplants, pumpkin, lots of leafy vegetables, beans, herbs and tomatillos. Our chickens are doing well also. We collect five eggs every day and we will definitely use them for our pasta making soon.



This week, we have started our cooking lessons. Our kitchen focus is 'bread and pasta making'. What a great way to introduce the new Year 3 students into the SAKG program by making freshly made pizza! We used our fragrant fresh herbs from the garden. We added thyme, basil and oregano to our pizza sauce. We had fun making the dough and learned about yeast. Students precisely measured the ingredients and had a blast kneading the dough. Putting the pizza together was fun for them too; it was a great team effort and everyone produced delicious pizzas. After cleaning the kitchen and washing all the used equipment, we all sat down together and shared our hard labour. With our pizza we also enjoyed dew melons and grapes, all fresh from the garden. It was such a treat! Our next cooking lesson we will be making middle-eastern style bread. What a perfect way to enjoy our fresh herbs and spices. How exciting!



Thank you to all the families who donated flour, olive oil, tinned tomatoes, onions, potatoes, soap and paper towels. Also, thank you to all parents who donated \$5 for the SAKG Term 1 contribution. It is very overwhelming to see the support we are getting. A big THANK YOU!

Have a great week everyone and until next time.

Cazendra.

Would you like to donate? We need: *olive oil, butter, cheese, tinned tomatoes, rice noodles, rice, garden seeds and mushroom mulch.*





Harmony Day Orange Mufti Day



When? Thursday 21st March

What is Harmony Day? Harmony Day is a day to celebrate cultural diversity. The reason orange is used to represent the day is because the colour signifies social communication and meaningful conversations and is linked to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.

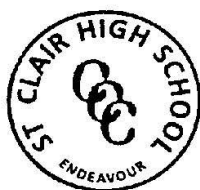
*** Please note, although orange clothing is preferred, it isn't necessary to purchase orange clothing especially for the day.*

Thanks in advance for your support!
Mrs Sebelic, Mrs Gilbert and Mrs Bear



Address: 6 Endeavour Avenue St Clair, 2759

Phone: 9670 6700



Year 6 into 7 Information Night

The school will be holding an open night for Year 5 and 6 students on Tuesday 12th March 2019.

The evening will start at 6pm with a tour of the school including our brand new Innovation Centre, followed by a short information session. In addition, Head Teachers will be available to answer subject specific questions.

This is a great opportunity to meet the staff of the school, for students to meet their Peer Support Leaders, meet the Year Adviser and begin their transition into high school.

Please contact Year 6 Transition Coordinator Ms Laura Morrison if you have any questions or would like more information.

Relieving Principal: Karen Shepherd **Deputy Principals:** Sylvana Beslic, Rodney Mcanulty

NAPLAN Online – information for parents and carers



2019

Why do students do NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

The assessment provides parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process - it does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

What is assessed?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

In 2019 most students across Australia will sit NAPLAN online.

Feedback in the first year of NAPLAN Online showed that students engaged well with online assessments. One of the main benefits of NAPLAN Online is tailored (or adaptive) testing, where the test automatically adapts to a student's test performance. The test presents questions of higher or lower complexity, depending on a student's performance.

Tailored (or adaptive) testing is designed to assess a wider range of student abilities and to measure student achievement more precisely. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions more challenging than usual; they may be taking a more complex test pathway. A student's overall NAPLAN score is based on the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly.

NAPLAN Online is not a test of keyboard skills. There are variations in how fast and well a student can type – just as there are variations in how fast and well a student can write by hand. Year 3 students will complete the writing test on paper.

To get an idea of what the online assessment looks like, visit the public demonstration site at nap.edu.au

How can I help my child prepare?

Help your child prepare by reassuring them that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and by reminding them on the day to simply try their best. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance. Ensuring students are familiar with using devices, typing on them and navigating through programs are a part of student learning and a requirement of the Australian Curriculum from the first year at school.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of coaching providers. NAPLAN is about assessing learning progress in literacy and numeracy.

Will my child sit NAPLAN on paper or online?

In 2019, your child will sit the NAPLAN online tests. However, children in some other schools across Australia will sit the NAPLAN paper tests this year. Federal, state and territory education ministers have agreed that all schools will move online by 2020. State and territory education authorities will determine when their schools move online.

As students are assessed on the same literacy and numeracy curriculum content, regardless of whether they complete the test online or on paper, results for both formats can be reported on the same NAPLAN assessment scale. To find out more about NAPLAN Online, visit nap.edu.au

Participation in NAPLAN

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in the annual NAPLAN assessment.

Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments. You should first discuss the use of any disability adjustments for your child with your child's teacher.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on NAPLAN Online disability adjustments or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

NAPLAN Online 2019 timetable

The assessment window for NAPLAN Online is extended from three days provided for the paper test to nine days. This is to give schools more flexibility in scheduling and accommodate schools that may have fewer devices. The NAPLAN Online assessment window starts on Tuesday 14 May and finishes on Friday 24 May 2019.

The online tests must be taken in the following order:

Test	Duration	Order	Details
Writing	Year 3: 40 min. Year 5: 40 min. Year 7: 40 min. Year 9: 40 min.	To be completed in the first two days	Year 3 students do a paper-based writing test on day one only
Reading	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min.	To be completed after the writing test	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts
Conventions of language	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 45 min. Year 7: 45 min. Year 9: 45 min.	To be completed after the reading test	This test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation
Numeracy	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min.	To be completed after the conventions of language test	This test includes number and algebra; measurement and geometry; and statistics and probability

What if my child is absent from school on assessment days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule. Individual students are not permitted to sit NAPLAN online tests after Friday 24 May 2019.

How is my child's performance measured?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each assessment. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student has demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be issued by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to better identify students who would benefit from greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas to improve in teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results at myschool.edu.au

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at nap.edu.au/TAA
- visit nap.edu.au

For information about how personal information for NAPLAN is handled by ACARA, visit nap.edu.au/naplanprivacy

NAP NATIONAL
ASSESSMENT
PROGRAM

acara AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM,
ASSESSMENT AND
REPORTING AUTHORITY

NAP NATIONAL
ASSESSMENT
PROGRAM

acara AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM,
ASSESSMENT AND
REPORTING AUTHORITY



School Community Charter

 **Collaborative. Respectful. Communication.**

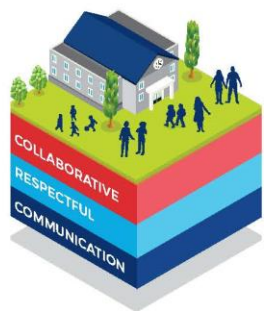
The following School Community Charter outlines the responsibilities of parents, carers, educators and school staff in NSW public schools to ensure our learning environments are collaborative, supportive and cohesive.

What our schools provide

NSW public schools work to create positive environments for students, staff and the entire school community that support student learning. We strive to ensure that every student is known, valued and cared for.

The best education happens when parents and schools work together.

The School Community Charter aligns with the NSW Department of Education Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022.



Positive environments

It is important that our NSW public schools are positive environments and that parents and carers are kept informed of students' progress and school announcements.

Parents and carers can expect:

- to be welcomed into our schools to work in partnership to promote student learning.
- communication from school staff will be timely, polite and informative.
- professional relationships with school staff are based on transparency, honesty and mutual respect.
- to be treated fairly. Tolerance and understanding are promoted as we respect diversity.

Ensuring respectful learning environments for all members of NSW Public Schools communities.

© NSW Department of Education

We treat each other with respect

We prioritise the wellbeing of all students and staff

Unsafe behaviour is not acceptable in our schools

We work together with the school



We create **collaborative** learning environments

We all play **a part**

We work **in partnership** to promote student learning

Communicating with our schools

Our staff will find a time to talk to you when they can give you their full attention. Please remember that while our staff are in class or dealing with other matters, they may not be available to answer your questions immediately.

Our schools and communities will make sure that written communication is appropriate, fair and easy to read. We encourage you to use email and social media appropriately to connect with your school and stay up-to-date with up-coming events in the school community.

Our guide for parents, carers and students provides useful information about the complaints process: education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions/guide-for-parents-carers-and-students

Respectful communication is a right

In all workplaces people have the right to feel respected. Unacceptable and offensive behaviour has no place in our school communities.

To ensure the wellbeing of students, staff and the community in our schools, steps will be taken to address unacceptable behaviour. This may include restricting contact with the school community or, in more serious cases, referral to NSW Police.

Unacceptable behaviour may include but is not limited to:

- Aggressive or intimidating actions, such as violence, threatening gestures or physical proximity.
- Aggressive or intimidating language, including the use of obscenities, making sexist, racist or derogatory comments or using a rude tone.
- Treating members of the school community differently due to aspects such as their religion or disability.
- Inappropriate and time wasting communication.



 **Collaborative. Respectful. Communication.**

School Community Charter

education.nsw.gov.au