



# St Clair Public School Newsletter



Issue: 4 Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019

## Upcoming Events & Activities

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
March 29 – Environmentors Program (Years 3 – 6) April 1 – Debating Workshop April 2 – Coffee and Chat Parent Morning Tea 9.00am April 2 – PBL Award Recipients Morning Tea 10.30am (students only) April 3 – Responsible Pet Ownership Incursion (K – 2 Students) April 4 – School Cross Country Carnival April 9 – TOPSTEPS Day April 10 – STEPS Student Leadership Day (at JEPS) April 12 – Stage 3 Camp Deposit Due April 12 – Last Day of Term 1	April 30 – Students Return May 10 – Coffee & Chat May 14 to 20 – NAPLAN Online May 14 – P & C Meeting May 21 – STEPS Mass Choir Rehearsal (at Blackwell PS) May 22 – Penrith Council Student Leaders Civic Reception May 23 – Debate May 23 – Biggest Morning Tea May 28 – PBL Award Recipient Morning Tea June 11 – STEPS Mass Choir Rehearsal (at Clairgate PS) June 12 – School Athletics Carnival June 18 – STEPS Junior AECG Meeting 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...

### Canteen

From next term, the canteen will be **closed every Tuesday** for the rest of the year. Please make sure your children bring their recess and lunch with them on Tuesdays. There will be no lunch orders or sales of any type. Occasionally the SRC, P & C or other group may run a special fundraising event e.g. cake stall or sausage sizzle on a Tuesday. When this happens we will provide plenty of notice.

### Cross Country

Good luck to the students participating in next week's cross country carnival. This carnival will assist us to organise our school team for the District Carnival next term. Students turning 8 years old this year and above will compete in either a junior, 11 years or senior race. Our K – 2 students (excluding those in Year 2 turning 8) will participate in circuit activities. As with all our events, parents and carers are welcome to come along to encourage and support. It is expected that all students participate in this event. If for some reason, they are unable to do so, please speak with your child's class teacher.

### STEPS (St Clair & Erskine Park Schools) Events

We have a couple of events happening across our learning community. On the 9<sup>th</sup> April approximately 60 students will be heading to one of our seven STEPS schools to participate in the TOPSTEPS day. This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TOPSTEPS, a program initiated and organised by Clairgate PS. It gives some of our students an opportunity to participate in a variety of activities focussed around gifted and talented education. We hope the students attending have a great day and we look forward to welcoming students from other schools to St Clair on the day.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> April some of our student leaders will be heading to James Erskine PS to participate in a STEPS leadership day. This day provides our student leaders with the opportunity to further develop their leadership and communication skills, whilst networking with student leaders from the other schools. I am sure they will have a great day and come back with some great ideas.

## **Harmony Day**

Thank you to the students and families who supported Harmony Day this year. It was great to see the students working together on a number of class activities designed to further enhance their understanding of tolerance and respect for others. We are very fortunate to be part of a community with an overwhelming appreciation and care for each other. Thank you to all.

## **Peer Play Program**

Today a group of Year 5 students participated in a Peer Play Program leadership training day. Next term they will use their skills to assist some of our younger students on the playground, to play sensible games and to build appropriate friendships with others. Thank you to Miss Bernstein for organising and running this program.

## **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. In some cases 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.

## **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. It is very important, if you intend to exclude your child from NAPLAN, that you discuss this with either Mr Heath, Mrs Clunes or myself, as soon as possible.

## **Important Information and Reminders**

- Please let the office staff know if your child or any member of your immediate family contracts any serious diseases such as chicken pox, measles, mumps and so on. We have students at school who have diagnosed auto-immune concerns and their health may be significantly impacted upon should they be exposed to these diseases.
- The office staff regularly update student information. So often, we try to contact parents and either calls are not answered or numbers are no longer connected. It is important our parents and carers provide us with updated information as changes occur. Also, if you have a missed call from the school, please ring back.
- School security – the back gate to the school will be locked between 9.10am and 2.50pm every day. If you need access before 2.50pm, please enter via the front gate.
- If you have a high school aged student responsible for picking up their sibling, please remind them to sit and wait either on the steps or in the courtyard area outside the office. They are not to congregate near classrooms or on the bottom hardcourt.
- The school car park is not a public car park and is only to be accessed by school staff, arranged deliveries and parents / carers with a parking permit. For the safety of our students please do not drop off your child or children in the car park or in the driveway. Also, please be mindful of the road rules around the school and where you can and can't stop. Please be good role models and set a good example for your children. Thank you to the vast majority of our parents, carers and family members who always are!
- The final day for the Stage 3 camp deposit is the last day of the term (Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April). If you need financial assistance with camp (or other activities), please come and speak with me.

## **PBL Awards**

Next Monday the first round of PBL awards will be given to students. Students are nominated for this award by demonstrating on a regular basis, that they are safe, respectful learners. On Tuesday, I will be hosting a morning tea for this group of students, to acknowledge and celebrate their commitment to their learning. I look forward to celebrating positive behaviour with many students over the course of the year.

## **Coffee & Chat**

The next coffee and chat session will be on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 9am in the staffroom. Please feel free to pop in and enjoy a tea or coffee and have a chat about what's happening at St Clair. This is a great opportunity to hear and share information about many aspects of the school and the community, in an informal and friendly setting.

Although still two weeks away, I'd like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable school holidays and Easter break. Students return for the start of Term 2 on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Warm Regards,

Dale Bruce  
Principal

## P & C News

Thank you to the members of our school community who attended the AGM last Tuesday evening. This year the executive positions are filled as follows.

- President: Mark Rutledge
- Vice President: Phillip Isaac
- Treasurer: Jason Noonan
- Secretary: Antje Millott
- Fundraising Coordinator: Anita Jurd

**Easter Mugs:** These will be available for collection on Wednesday 10th April.

**Easter Raffle:** A huge thank you to those who have already donated items for our raffle! The students I saw peeking in the box were very excited.

Tickets are \$1 each or 3 for \$2. Extra booklets are available from the office.

Thank you for continuing to support our school.

We welcome all ideas for fundraising and school improvement.

Please join us in Week 3 next term on Tuesday 14th May at 7pm in the Staffroom.

Kind Regards

Antje Millott

P & C Secretary

## Awards

JR. N, Tyler M x2, Kyle W, Sophie G, Abdullah A-S, Lyla D, Jonah S, Samantha L, Holly F x2, Rochelle C, Cydney S, Kaito F, Julia I, Tyler S, Kayley M, Izaak D, Braxton A, Chaise M, Hannah D, Anabel F-G, Alexis D, Lorelle G x2

### Principal's Awards

JR. N, Liliana C, Lyla D, Abdullah A-S, Izaak D, Alexis D

### Merit Awards – Term 1 Week 7

Class	Student	Class	Student	Class	Student
1	Michael B & Junior I	7	Abdullah A-S	12	Ava K & Braxtynn G
3	Ivana V & Hannah B	8	Jaslyn W	13	A.A & Catalina A
4	Aiden C & Mackenzie H	9	Lucas B	15	Daisy P & Kingston T
5	Chrissy B & Alex N	10	Corey N	16	Chase W & Calais D
6	Harrison B & Harmony L	11	Brandan T	18	Logan L & Chelsie S

### Excellence in Reading Awards

Class	Student	Class	Student	Class	Student
1	Leinard S	7	JR. N	12	Lyla D
3	Jasmine P	8	Levi G-W	13	Mikayla B
4	Mia W	9	Seeley J	15	Oliver M
5	Madison B	10	Bryzbyn W	16	Lucas W
6	Elaine C	11	Jayden S	18	Fiona S

### Upcoming Assemblies...

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> April (Term 1 Week 10)	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April (Term 1 Week 11)	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May (Term 2 Week 2)	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May (Term 2 Week 3)	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May (Term 2 Week 4)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trade-Up Awards</li> <li>• Aussie of the Month Award (Sportsmanship)</li> <li>• PBL Awards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Formal Assembly – Easter Parade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trade-Up Awards</li> <li>• Aussie of the Month</li> <li>• Merit Awards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trade-Up Awards</li> <li>• Merit Award</li> <li>• Class 5 Item</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross Country Presentation</li> </ul>



## Library News

The last few weeks in the library have been very exciting. We have received a large number of new books for the students to enjoy. The library has been very busy at lunchtime over the last few weeks. Students can choose from a variety of activities to engage in or just simply relax with a book.

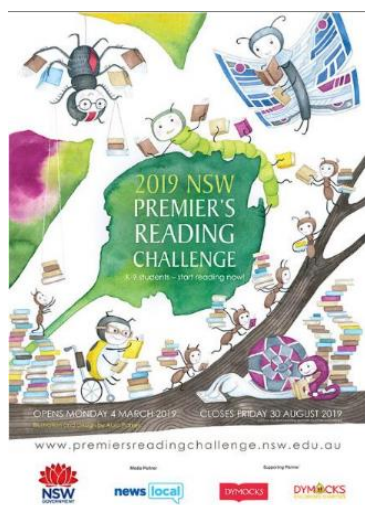


The library is looking great with lots of wonderful new furniture and spaces.

Thank you to our P & C for funding our new interactive board!



### Premiers Reading Challenge Update



Thank you to the students and parents that have enquired about the 2019 Premiers Reading Challenge (PRC). As a school we have decided that all students in Kindergarten to Year 2 will have the books read in class automatically added to their entry. This means that **all students in K-2 will automatically complete the 2019 challenge**. Parents do not need to enter any reading data for their child.

Students in Years 3-6 must independently read 20 books. Students have begun to record their PRC books during library time and throughout the term they will upload their reading data onto the PRC website. Congratulations to students in Class 4, 5 and 6 who have already begun this process.

Students in 3-6 can also access their reading record at home by logging onto the student portal. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Farlow

## Reading News

Well done to the students participating in our new Mini Lit K - 2 reading program. Miss Bernstein reports that all the students are enjoying participating, especially as they continually enhance and develop their reading skills. As you can see on the faces of these Year 1 boys, they appear to be very happy and proud of their learning. Well done!





# Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden News

What a successful Week 8 we had. Students thoroughly enjoyed their time in the kitchen learning about yeast. This term our kitchen focus is still on the topic of 'bread and pasta making'. Students learned how to make bread dough and baked Turkish bread. It was a simple recipe that most students were eager to try at home. Of course, in the kitchen, we always make something slightly different to the traditional recipe. Rather than using nigella and sesame seeds, we garnish our dough with sumac and some fresh mixed herbs (thyme, rosemary and parsley) from the garden. We also added extra virgin olive oil and a sprinkle of sea salt. The aroma coming from the oven was just amazing. As one student said, 'the smell of fresh baked bread makes you hungry even if you're not hungry'. Another dish the students made was a simple potato soup. I was a little bit hesitant making 8 litres of vegetable stock for the potato soup for the Year 3 students but to my surprise, they polished off the whole thing! Using our potatoes from our garden and the few that were donated to us, we used 8-9 kilos of potatoes for the 5 classes last week. Having to peel and cut loads of carrots and potatoes, I took the opportunity to teach and remind some students about knife safety and knife skills while others focused on making the dough. Our time in the kitchen was such a success that we could enjoy sharing and eating our delicious food. Thank you to all students who worked so hard in the kitchen last week. What a team effort!



Harvesting 2 kilos of carrots was a great joy for me. I love the earthy scent of the soil when I pull a carrot from the ground. The students who planted them did an awesome job. The carrots were planted separately and as a result they were not stunted or deformed so the students could easily peel and cut them. It was also time to pull out all our dew melons and watermelons. The garden is loving all the rain we have had for the past few days. All the seeds that our students planted two weeks ago have already sprouted and some are ready to be planted in the garden. I am so glad some of the garden beds students prepared two weeks ago are ready for the autumn vegetables. The manure and mulch are all mixed and are decomposing among healthy soil and earth worms.

I am looking forward to our next kitchen garden lesson. Next week we will make pasta and a simple pasta sauce. We will also make simple drinks and a 'salad of imagination'. In the garden, we will start transferring seedlings into the garden beds and continue making biodegradable pots. Your support has been amazing and we are so grateful. Families have donated seeds, kitchen equipment and donated \$5 per term to our SAKG. THANK YOU SO MUCH! Until next time, Cazendra.



## Creamy Potato Soup - serves 6

### Ingredients:

3 tablespoons of olive oil  
500g potatoes, peeled and roughly chopped  
2 large carrots, peeled and roughly chopped  
1 stalk of celery, roughly chopped  
1 large onion, chopped  
2 cloves garlic, diced  
1/4 cup mixed herbs (parsley, thyme and rosemary)  
2 litres of vegetable stock  
250ml cream  
2 teaspoons of salt  
pepper to taste  
parsley or parmesan cheese for garnish (optional)

### Method:

1. In a large pot, heat oil. Add garlic and onions. Sauté for 5 minutes or until the onions are transparent. Add all remaining ingredients, except the cream.
2. Bring to boil and cook until all vegetables are soft. Add cream and cook for further 2 minutes.
3. Using a hand blender, carefully blend the soup until smooth.
4. Add garnish and serve.

## Turkish Bread - serves: 6

### Ingredients:

500 g plain flour, sifted  
1 teaspoon dried yeast  
1 teaspoon sugar  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 1/2 cups WARM water  
1 egg yolk, whisked  
4 tablespoons olive oil  
sumac (garnish)  
mixed herbs (garnish)

### Method:

1. Combine yeast, sugar and warm water in a jug. Put aside.
2. Combine flour and salt in a large bowl.
3. Pour the jug of yeast and water into the dry ingredients. Using a wooden spoon, stir until combined. Use hands to bring the dough together on the bowl.
4. Heat oven to 180 degrees.
5. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead for 15 minutes or until smooth and elastic.
6. Cut dough in half. With floured hands, stretch each piece of dough into an 18 x 40cm rectangle. Leave on non-stick baking paper. Cover with a damp tea towel and set aside in a warm, draught-free place for 10 minutes.
7. Brush the top of the dough with egg. Sprinkle sumac, herbs and salt. Splash some olive oil and bake for 8 - 10 minutes or until golden brown.





# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://nap.edu.au/TAA)
- visit [nap.edu.au](http://nap.edu.au)

For information about how personal information for NAPLAN is handled by ACARA, visit [nap.edu.au/naplanprivacy](http://nap.edu.au/naplanprivacy)

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ASSESSMENT  
PROGRAM

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