



St Clair Public School

Newsletter



Issue: 2 Thursday 11th February 2021

Upcoming Events & Activities

Term 1

Gymnastics – Every Monday & Friday	March 2 – Radical Recycling Program (Stage 3)
Feb 17 – Twilight Swimming Carnival (3.30pm to 5.30pm)	March 3 – Scripture Commences
Feb 19 – St Marys PSSA Trial Day	March 5 – WSU Visiting Stage 3 Students (TBC)
Feb 24 – School Photos (Classes and Groups)	March 8 & 9 – Book Fair
Feb 24 – Kindergarten Meet The Teacher	March 11 – Selective High School Placement Test
Feb 25 – Student Leaders Induction	March 15 – P & C Meeting
Feb 26 – Zone Swimming Carnival	March 17 & 18 – Peer Support Student Training Day
March 1 – Sibling Photos	April 1 – Last Day of Term 1
	April 2 – Good Friday

The Principal's Message...

COVID-19 Update / Reminders

A big thank you to our parents, carers and families for continuing to support and adhere to the department's COVID guidelines. As always, it is very much appreciated.

A special well done to our new Kindergarten students who have all settled in extremely well and have been quite amazing in the way they have already developed independence and resilience. Well done mums and dads on preparing them so well for 'big school!'

A few reminders:

- Where possible, please contact the school by phone or email, rather than come into the office. Many organisational aspects can be done this way, from ordering uniforms to requesting notes.
- If you do come into the office, you must sign in via both the Service NSW and school's QR codes. If you do not have the technology to do this, you will need to fill in a visitor form and declaration every time. These measures are required for contact tracing purposes.
- At this stage the vast majority of students are familiar with their morning and afternoon pick up. Thank you for ensuring your children are aware of what is in place.
- Continue to be mindful and follow social distancing expectations, particularly for those picking up children from the bottom hard court area. Unfortunately, we cannot avoid the congestion around the gate area and ask parents and carers to be patient and courteous with each other. It is OK to wait a minute or so before coming in or leaving. This may lessen the congestion. Teachers will not let students leave without you. It might also be wise if you can organise an alternate meeting spot for your children, for example, meeting your child outside the front gate where it is less crowded.
- If your child is unwell and particularly if they have even mild flu like symptoms, it is a department of education requirement for them to have a COVID test. When a negative result is given to you, you must present this to the office before your child is allowed to return. If they present unwell at school, you will be called and asked to come and pick them up. It is vital we all comply with this to assist us all to remain safe and well. This also applies to school staff.
- Enhanced cleaning measures remain in place. Students are also encouraged and reminded often to wash their hands and use hand sanitiser.

Lunches

Please ensure your child brings enough food for recess and lunch each day, and also a small piece of fruit or vegies for crunch n' sip time. If they don't bring lunch and we are aware of this in time, the office staff will contact you and you'll be asked to bring them something. The canteen can provide lunch on Wednesdays and Fridays when they're open, and then invoice you for the cost of this lunch. On other days, students will be provided with something snacky, such as dippits.

Voluntary Contributions

As a NSW public school we do not set compulsory school fees. Instead we may request a voluntary contribution. As implied, it is a VOLUNTARY contribution and students are not disadvantaged if families do not make this contribution. On the last page of this newsletter is the voluntary contribution page which has further information about this scheme.

Attendance

I cannot stress enough how important regular and punctual attendance at school is. Please ensure your children come to school, and on time, every day. There is a correlation between irregular attendance and academic progress and social development and the impact can have lasting effects on students. Of course, if children are not well, they should stay home until they are well enough to return to school. Please do not send children to school knowing they are unwell as this may cause other students and staff to also become unwell. If children have any flu like symptoms, they must have a COVID test and cannot return to school until a negative result is presented. This also applies to staff.

School Photos

School photos (class, groups & individual) will be taken on Wednesday 24th February with sibling photos on the following Monday 1st March. Information about school photos and a photo ordering envelope have already been sent home. Online orders can be made by going to www.advancedlife.com.au and entering the code **BND CZE HMQ**. There are a number of options available. Ordering online is the preferred method.

Gymnastics

It was great to see all our students participate in the gymnastics program on Friday last week and Monday this week. We provide the first session at no cost so all our students can see just how good the program is. We have a company come to the school to provide this opportunity. We do this because we don't have the specialised equipment nor the staff qualified to run the same type of program. The school subsidises the cost of this by around 70% and we only ask for \$10 for the whole program per student (not \$10 per week). We do this in order to have as many students as possible participate. We would love to see 100% participation, so if you are yet to return the note and payment, please do so soon so they don't miss out.

Swimming Carnival

Good luck to the students participating in next week's twilight swimming carnival. Parents and carers, please note this carnival is after school and only open to students who turn 8 years old and above this year. It is also a requirement they can correctly and competently swim particular swimming strokes without assistance for 50 metres, and 100 metres for the 100 metre race.

Save the Date

During week 5 we will be hosting Meet the Teacher Information Sessions for Parents. Due to ongoing COVID restrictions, most of these meetings will be held virtually via Zoom. Notes and details on how to register a Zoom account will be sent home at the start of next week.

Awards

Through our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) program we have many ways to recognise and celebrate students with great behaviour. Individual classes will usually have a system for their classroom and as a school we have our whole school trade-up system. This year we are also introducing a *Bronze, Silver and Gold* level system which will acknowledge those students who consistently demonstrate they are safe, respectful learners on a daily basis. Further information about our trade up system and new level systems has been included on the next page. Please take the time to read it. If there is anything you are not sure of, please speak with your child's class teacher.

P & C Meeting

Thank you to the P & C who held their first meeting for 2021 on Tuesday evening. It is so lovely to be able to once again hold this at school. It was great to see some new faces, especially those families new to the school. The P & C meeting forum is a good way to hear about many aspects of the school and to share ideas and information that may benefit the school. The next P & C meeting will be on Tuesday 16th March at 7pm in the school's staffroom.

Well done to all our students and staff on a settled start to the school year!

Warm Regards,

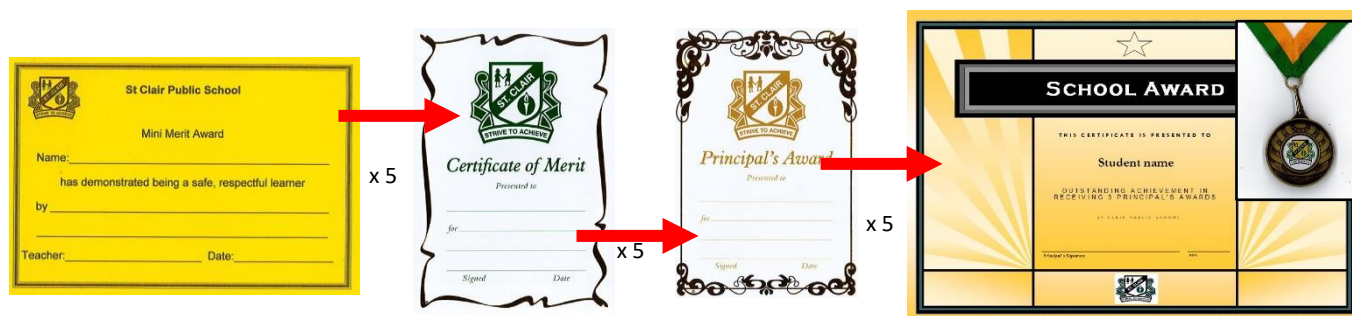
Dale Bruce

Principal

Whole School Positive Reward Systems

Trade-Up System

- Students are awarded MINI MERIT awards for demonstrating positive behaviour. These may be from their class teacher or sometimes from an organising teacher e.g. participation in an event such as cross country.
- When students have 5 mini merits, they can hand them into the office to trade them up for a MERIT award. Two merit awards are also presented to students in each class at assembly.
- When they have collected 5 merit awards, they can trade them up for a PRINCIPAL'S Award.
- When they have 5 Principal's awards, they can trade up to a SCHOOL award. This also comes with a school medallion!
- All awards are returned to the students as they trade up each time.



Bronze, Silver & Gold Awards

This system is based around students meeting set criteria for each level and works on a yearly basis. At the start of each year, all students work towards earning their BRONZE award in Term 1.

- If they receive their Bronze award in Term 1, they then work toward achieving their Silver award in Term 2 and then Gold in Term 3.
- If they don't meet the criteria to achieve an award, they work toward it in the following term.
- The students achieving each level are recognised at an assembly at the end of each term. Because of the number of students who may receive an award, the certificates are presented by their teacher in class.
- Year 5 students who wish to be nominated for a School Captain or Prefect role must be at gold level or working towards gold level in Term 4.

NEW

BRONZE Criteria	SILVER Criteria	GOLD Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ I wear correct school uniform ❖ I wear my school hat every day ❖ I come to school on time ❖ I move to class lines promptly ❖ I line up quietly and sensibly ❖ I move quietly and sensibly around the school ❖ I have good manners ❖ I follow classroom rules ❖ I follow playground rules ❖ I am respectful during the singing of the National Anthem and the school song ❖ I do not disturb the learning of others ❖ I do my best for all teachers and staff ❖ I listen while others are speaking ❖ I bring the correct equipment everyday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ I continue to fulfil all Bronze criteria ❖ I have excellent school attendance ❖ I actively participate in classroom discussions and activities ❖ I support the learning of others ❖ I am responsible for my own actions ❖ I look after and respect school property & the property of others ❖ I represent the school with pride ❖ I work independently when required ❖ I display a high standard of sportsmanship ❖ I don't use put downs ❖ I participate willingly in all school activities & events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ I continue to fulfil all Bronze and Silver criteria ❖ I display initiative ❖ I solve my own minor problems ❖ I respect and accept the differences in others ❖ I have outstanding manners ❖ I am a positive role model ❖ I strive to reach my full potential

Library News.....

Students have started coming to the library this week to borrow books and engage in learning around STEM and digital technology. Please ensure your child has a library bag each week and return their books regularly

Library days are:

Monday – Classes 18, 16, 12, 3 & 1

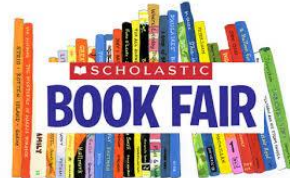
Tuesday – Classes 4, 13 & 15

Thursday – Classes 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11

Friday – Classes 5 & 6

Book Fair

This year we will be holding two Book Fairs. Our first Book Fair for 2021 will be held in Week 7 (Monday 8th March – Wednesday 10th March). More information to follow.

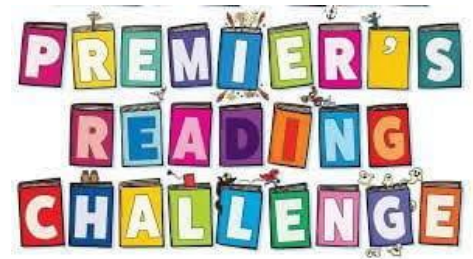


Premiers Reading Challenge

The Premiers Reading Challenge has begun. This challenge runs every year and is open to students from Kindergarten to Year 9. The aim of the challenge is to get more children reading books and enjoying it!

Students in K-2 will automatically complete the challenge through shared reading activities in the classroom and library. There is no need to log books for these students as we will do this automatically at the end of August.

Students in 3-6 are encouraged to read 20 books by themselves and log their books onto the website <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/studentExperience.html#/> Students will be shown how to navigate the site during library sessions this term. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the school.



Happy Reading!
Mrs Farlow

 **positive partnerships**
Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

**NSW PARENT/CARER
ONLINE WORKSHOP**




Join us for an online workshop where you will have the opportunity to listen, share and learn with parents and carers who support young people on the autism spectrum, from across New South Wales.

This online workshop is for parents, full-time carers and grandparents. Join other families to learn more about autism and ways to strengthen the home-school partnership.

During the online workshops, we will cover three topics:

- diversity of autism
- understanding behaviour
- working together with your child's school

Location:

 [New South Wales](#)
[via zoom online](#)

Date:

Tuesday 9th March 2021

Time

Wed 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM (AEDT)

[http://](#)

For more information and to register, visit www.positivepartnerships.com.au or contact Laura Owens lauraowens@autismspectrum.org.au

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden News.....

A big welcome back to all St Clair PS students! It was wonderful seeing old and new students last week bursting with excitement to head back into the kitchen and garden. Although I had fun doing cooking demonstrations last year, I am very excited for the students to start cooking again this year..... while following the COVID safety plan, of course. Last week, all students (especially Year 3) participating in the SAKG program, started learning kitchen rules and procedures. Next week we will be moving onto knife skills and kitchen safety to prepare the students for cooking in the following week.

I am so grateful that we had so much rain during the Summer school holidays! Thanks to the rain, many of the remaining crops that were planted last year survived. Last week we harvested our banana chilies, grapes, potatoes, carrots and approximately 12 pumpkins! This week is garden week; we will be discussing and learning garden rules, and how to handle garden tools safely. We are also looking forward to showing some TLC to our empty garden beds to prepare them for planting new crops for the Autumn season. Our Stage 2 and 3 students should be able to start getting into the action. We have loads of seeds to plant and plenty of weeds to pull.

It is going to be a really busy term. Students are very eager to start cooking and trying delicious dishes. I am looking forward to working with all the students and also with Mrs Robinson.

Until next time,
Cazendra

Thank you for those who have already donated kitchen and garden supplies. Your donations will inspire young people to learn to love fresh, seasonal, delicious food! Check out our newsletter as we will be posting what we need in our kitchen and garden.

Would you like to donate? We thank you in advance!

Kitchen: dishwashing soap, brown rice, white rice, butter, cheese, olive oil, sunflower oil

Garden: sprouting potatoes, sprouting sweet potatoes, mushroom compost, garden soil, any seeds



Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.



My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

The school leaving age: Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning* website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 512

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities



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Voluntary School Contributions

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a NSW Public School, we do not set compulsory fees, however, schools may request a voluntary contribution.

We are asking for a voluntary contribution of \$40 per child or up to a maximum of \$60 per family. This equates to about \$1 per week per child towards providing additional resources for your child's education.

These resources include technology devices such as laptops and iPads, art resources, sport equipment, access to online programs such as Mathletics and Reading Eggs, and general classroom equipment and supplies.

It would be appreciated if you could make your voluntary contribution as soon as possible by returning the completed slip below with the correct money in an envelope marked 'School contribution' to the black box outside the school Office. Alternatively you can pay online or by credit card at the front office. These contributions are strictly voluntary and should you choose not to contribute, your child will not be disadvantaged.

Already this year, we had had many enquiries and contributions made and we thank our families for doing this.

If you have any questions or would like more information about voluntary contributions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for supporting St Clair Public School and educational opportunities for our students.
Warm Regards,

Dale Bruce
Principal

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Voluntary School Contributions

My Voluntary Contribution is for:

Child's Name _____ Class

Child's Name _____ Class

Child's Name _____ Class

Please find enclosed: \$_____ being \$40 per child or \$60 per family.

Online Payment – Receipt Number: _____

Signed _____