



St Clair Public School Newsletter



Issue: 5 Thursday 6th May 2021

Upcoming Events & Activities

Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
<p>May 7 – Online OC Applications Close</p> <p>May 11 to 21 – NAPLAN Online Testing Window</p> <p>May 14 – Walk Safely to School Day</p> <p>May 17 to 21 – NSW Dental Health Checks</p> <p>May 19 – National Simultaneous Storytime</p> <p>May 21 – Coffee and Chat 9.00am</p> <p>May 24 – Wannabees Incursion K – 2 Students</p> <p>May 25 – Verse Speaking Finals</p> <p>May 26 – Biggest Morning Tea</p> <p>May 27 – District Cross Country</p> <p>May 28 – Activate Inclusion Sports Day (Classes 10 & 11)</p> <p>May 28 – Winter PSSA Commences</p> <p>June 8 – School Athletics Carnival</p> <p>June 8 – P & C Meeting 7.00pm</p> <p>June 9 – Sydney West Cross Country</p> <p>June 10 – STEPS Junior AECG Meeting</p> <p>June 14 – Queen's Birthday Public Holiday</p> <p>June 25 – Last Day of Term 2</p>	<p>July 13 – Students Return</p> <p>July 20 – Penrith council Student Leaders Civic Reception</p> <p>July 23 – Kindergarten Celebrating 100 Days of Learning</p> <p>July 26 to 30 – Education Week</p> <p>July 27 – P & C Meeting</p> <p>July 29 – STEPS Music Festival</p> <p>Aug 3 – WSU Visit (Stage 3)</p> <p>Aug 10 – Kindergarten Farm Excursion</p> <p>Aug 18 – Stage 1 Sydney Zoo Excursion</p> <p>Aug 19 to 25 – Book Fair</p> <p>Aug 26 – Forensic Science Incursion</p> <p>Aug 31 – P & C Meeting</p> <p>Sept 1 – District Athletics Carnival</p> <p>Sept 9 – Year 6 Fun Day</p> <p>Sept 17 – Last Day of Term 3</p>	<p>Oct 5 – Students Return</p> <p>Oct 19 – P & C Meeting</p> <p>Nov 1 to 3 – Stage 3 Canberra Camp</p> <p>Nov 23 – High School Orientation Day</p> <p>Nov 23 – P & C Meeting</p> <p>Dec 1 – Presentation Day</p> <p>Dec 8 – Year 6 Farewell</p> <p>Dec 13 – Movie / Pic Day</p> <p>Dec 16 – Last Day of Term</p>

The Principal's Message...

Our Amazing Lyla!

A huge well done, thank you and congratulations to Lyla D from Class 5 who recently participated in the World's Greatest Shave. At last check, she has raised \$1440 for the Leukaemia Foundation. What an amazing, compassionate and courageous young lady to volunteer to do this. I think her new look is fantastic!

If you would like to donate to this amazing cause by sponsoring Lyla, you can go to her page at www.worldsgreatestshave.com and search for Lyla.



Before



After

If you have children achieving great things outside of the school, please let us know so we can celebrate their success as a school community!

Staffing News

We welcome back Mrs Khan to Class 7, after having leave during Term 1. We farewell Mr Vaillant who has been an integral part of the Itinerant Support Teacher (Hearing) team based at our school. Mr Vaillant has accepted a position within the Kingswood South PS ISTH team. I thank him for his contribution to supporting students across many schools within a number of districts, and wish him all the best for the future.

Congratulations to Mr Heywood and his family on the birth of his beautiful daughter, Taylor!

School Banking

Our school banking day is Monday. Students can bring their banking to the office for processing. If you would like your child to start a savings account you can apply for this online through the Commonwealth Bank.

Events and Activities

It has been lovely to be able to once again have particular events and activities occur. We can once again plan camps, excursions and incursions, and organise groups such as debating and dancing. Keep a lookout for relevant information as the year progresses.

It has been wonderful to see all of our students participating in the Verse speaking competition at class and stage level. I look forward to seeing the finals in Week 6!

Canteen News

Our new canteen operator, Kids Pantry Canteens, have commenced with the canteen open every day. Parents and carers also have the opportunity to order online.

NAPLAN

Good luck to our Year 3 and Year 5 students who will complete their NAPLAN online from Monday 11th May through to the 21st May. They have been preparing using the school's laptops and desktop computers and they are ready to go!

STEPS Leadership Day

Well done to a group of our student leaders who went to Blackwell PS this week to participate in the STEPS Leadership day with the other local primary schools. Mrs Minard reported that our students represented our school brilliantly and they had a great day learning about communication, team work and many other aspects of leadership. The students reported they enjoyed the day and particularly enjoyed meeting and making some new friends from other schools.



ANZAC Day

Well done to the whole school on their respectful acknowledgement of this year's ANZAC day. Our student leaders ran a well organised assembly and placed wreaths in our ANZAC garden. A special thank you to Mrs Healey and her wonderful husband, Ray, for the design and construction of our new ANZAC garden and memorial next to the office.



P & C

Thank you to our amazing P & C committee for organising a successful Mother's Day stall. It was lovely to see so many wonderful gifts available for the students to purchase for their mums and special ladies in their lives. A huge thank you to the many parents and carers who came along on the day to assist at the stall. It is always very much appreciated.

Thank you to our whole school community for their continued support of P & C fundraising initiatives. At this week's meeting, a number of fundraising ideas were discussed so keep a look out for more information throughout the year.

Wishing all our mums and special ladies in our community a very happy Mother's Day for this Sunday!

Warm Regards,
Dale Bruce



Awards.....

Mini Merits Trade ups

Anastasia A, Cydney S, Kaito F, Manansh S, Willow M, A.A x2, Cooper B, Z.A, Emily W, Veronica G, Logan O, Lachlan H, Zahra A, Ben H, Elleisia T, Khloe T, Brenden S, Angel M, Logan L, Frederick S, Sadie-Rose C, Kieraleigh M, Dominic C, Chloe M, Tyler S, Duggu T, Dut M, Noah C, Sehajroop K, Prabhnoor K, Samantha M x2, Seeley J, Koray K, Matthew S, Cooper G x 2, Kyle W

School Award

Cooper G



Principal Awards

Rhys M, Cooper B, Samantha L, Bowen G, Manansh S, Zahra A, Ava N

Merit Awards Term 1 Week 9

Class	Student	Class	Student	Class	Student
1	Kheilan E & Faith K	7	Logan S & Bryson N-M	12	Dominic C & Mina K
3	Angelo R & William S	8	Logan O	13	Nathalie A & Logan M
4	Alex N & Sehajroop K	9	Dut M	15	Marie S & Angel M-M
5	Lorelei G & Kaleb Z	10	Nate N	16	Quinn G & Thomas G
6	Oliver M & Samantha L	11	Kyle W	18	Rosalie A & Rida K

Merit Awards Term 2 Week 2

Class	Student	Class	Student	Class	Student
1	Makaylah P & Darrin H-S	4	Scarlett F & Braxtynn G	6	Hunter M & Eda S
3	Kimberly N & Sam L	5	Christopher A & Catalina A	10	Tyler M
11	Jaslyn W				

NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...

Learn

Make friends

Build skills through fun

education.nsw.gov.au

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

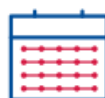
When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight

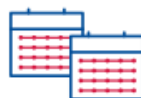
= 4 weeks



= Over 1 year missed

1 day per week

= 8 weeks



= Over 2.5 years missed

education.nsw.gov.au

Kitchen Garden News

Welcome to Term 2. Autumn has finally arrived! Here at St Clair PS, all participating SAKG students enjoyed making delicious food using most of our last Summer vegetables we have in the garden. We also used most of our eggs which accumulated over the school break. We had at least 6 dozen! Our menu in the kitchen included: Corn soup, eggs on bread rolls, corn and zucchini fritters, silverbeet and spinach cheese rolls, vegetarian spaghetti bolognese and vegetarian 'meatballs'. It was definitely hard work but I am so proud how of hard our students worked. They did an amazing job!

Autumn season is the perfect time to give some of our garden beds a 'rest' and prepare the soil for Spring. In Week 2, our students prepared some of the garden beds by aerating the soil and adding organic manure and compost. Though this cold weather makes everything grow slow, we still have to plant winter vegetables to make sure we have something to harvest and use in the kitchen. They are also the most challenging vegetables as the students don't particular love to eat them. We planted kale, spinach, cauliflower, broccoli, eggplant, cabbage and garlic. Fortunately for them I always come prepared. I cannot wait to cook my delicious new recipes. For now, we are going to make sure our winter vegetables are going to thrive.

Thank you for those who donated kitchen and garden supplies. Also, thank you to all parents who paid the SAKG \$5 per term voluntary donation.

Until next time....

Cazendra

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

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

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





WE'RE TAKING IT IN OUR STRIDE ON FRIDAY 14 MAY 2021

Well it's that time of year again when our school seriously starts talking about walking!

Walk Safely to School Day asks that we all consider our transport habits and try to incorporate more walking as part of a healthy, active way to get around. And although walking all the way to school isn't realistic for many of us, it's quite easy to figure out how you can build a walk into your family's daily routine.

You can teach your child the healthy habit of walking more by:

- Walking with them the whole way to school
- If they get the bus or train, walk past your usual stop and get on at the next stop
- If you have to drive, park the car a few blocks away from the school and walk the rest of the way.

Regular exercise like walking with your child not only helps them (and you!) beat chronic problems like obesity, heart disease, behavioural and mental health issues and diabetes. It also gives you a great opportunity to teach your child safe ways to behave around roads and traffic.

Remember, Active Kids are Healthy Kids so get planning your own Walk Safely to School Day journey for Friday 14 May 2021!

For more information, visit www.walk.com.au

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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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