



St Clair Public School Newsletter



Issue: 6 Friday 28th May 2021

Upcoming Events & Activities

Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
May 28 – Activate Inclusion Sports Day (Classes 10 & 11) May 28 – Winter PSSA Commences June 1 – High School Transition (SCHS Teachers visiting Year 6) June 8 – School Athletics Carnival June 8 – P & C Meeting 7.00pm June 9 – Sydney West Cross Country June 9 – Parent / Teacher Interviews (Online Bookings Open 3pm) June 10 – SAKG Donation Thank You Lunch June 10 – STEPS Junior AECG Meeting June 14 – Queen's Birthday Public Holiday June 18 – Semester 1 Student Reports go Home June 18 – Parent / Teacher Interview (Online Bookings Close 6pm) June 21 – STEPS Music Festival Tickets on Sale (Through Ticketek) June 21 to 24 – Parent / Teacher Interviews Week June 21 to 25 – NAIDOC Week June 24 – Coffee and Chat 9am June 25 – Last Day of Term 2	July 13 – Students Return July 20 – Penrith Council Student Leaders Civic Reception July 23 – Kindergarten Celebrating 100 Days of Learning July 26 to 30 – Education Week July 27 – P & C Meeting July 29 – STEPS Music Festival (Day Rehearsal and Evening Performance) Aug 3 – WSU Visit (Stage 3) Aug 6 – Coffee and Chat 9am Aug 10 – Kindergarten Farm Excursion Aug 18 – Stage 1 Sydney Zoo Excursion Aug 19 to 25 – Book Fair Aug 26 – Forensic Science Incursion Aug 31 – P & C Meeting 7pm Sept 1 – District Athletics Carnival Sept 9 – Year 6 Fun Day Sept 10 – Coffee and Chat 9am Sept 13 – Debating Gala Day Sept 17 – Last Day of Term 3	Oct 4 – Public Holiday Oct 5 – Students Return Oct 19 – P & C Meeting Oct 25 – Coffee and Chat 2.15pm Nov 1 to 3 – Stage 3 Canberra Camp Nov 23 – High School Orientation Day Nov 23 – P & C Meeting Dec 1 – Presentation Day Dec 8 – Year 6 Farewell Dec 9 – Coffee and Chat 9am Dec 13 – Movie / Pic Day Dec 16 – Last Day of Term

The Principal's Message...

Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance at school is extremely important. It not only allows students to receive a consistent education without missing vital concepts but it also helps them to make and maintain appropriate friendships and social skills. Of course, when children are unwell, they should not attend school. When unwell, they are not able to focus on their learning and often run the risk of passing on an illness to other students and staff.

When students are absent from school, parents must provide an explanation. Each week we send home letters to parents where an explanation has not been received. This also includes partial absences, even if they are late for only a minute or so. I thank the vast majority of our parents and carers for being vigilant in providing explanations. When an explanation is received, they are officially recorded in one of the following main ways:

- Sick – the student is unwell (3 days or more requires a medical certificate. Too many single sick days will also require a medical certificate)
- Leave – for approved reasons e.g. dental appointment, to attend a funeral, to attend an approved religious event etc
- Unjustified – for non-approved leave e.g. staying home for their birthday, staying home due to weather conditions, car trouble etc

As a school, we have set into place a number of initiatives to encourage students to attend school every day they are well. These include a class 100% daily attendance competition and an individual student 100% weekly canteen voucher draw per class.

If your child's teacher is concerned about aspects of their attendance, they will take the time to discuss this with you and work through strategies to help them improve their attendance rate. This may include concerns about partial attendance (usually lateness to school) as well.

PBL Awards Term 2

In Term 1, almost 90 students achieved their bronze award by fulfilling ALL bronze criteria. This term, we hope to see many more achieve their bronze award. Students who have achieved their bronze award are working toward achieving their silver award. In order to receive this award, students must fulfil ALL silver level criteria. Teachers are currently nominating students for both awards.

BRONZE Award Criteria	SILVER Award 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

Reports & Parent / Teacher Interviews

Semester 1 student reports are due to go home on Friday 18th June. During the last week of this term (21st to 24th June), teachers will be holding parent / teacher interviews. Bookings will be open from Wednesday 9th June and will close on Friday 18th June. All bookings are made online with a number of days and timeslots available. A letter about how to book an interview time will go home on Monday 7th June.

Aboriginal Education Update

This week all of our students participated in "Sorry Day" activities. It was wonderful to see and hear the respect, understanding and knowledge our students exhibit about our Aboriginal culture and history. Our Koori Kids group visited St Clair HS where they participated in a yarn with Uncle Wes. Well done to all involved and thank you to Mrs Peachey for leading the school in Aboriginal Education.



Cross Country

Yesterday our cross country team competed in the St Marys District cross country carnival at the Kingsway. Well done to all on their outstanding sportsmanship, behaviour and effort. Congratulations to Cooper G and Alex N who will go on to compete at the Sydney West carnival at Eastern Creek on Wednesday 9th June. Cooper came 2nd in his event and Alex came 6th. Good luck Cooper and Alex!

Verse Speaking

Well done to our amazing Verse Speaking finalists for reciting their poems on Tuesday. Such a high quality from some very confident and capable speakers!



Athletics

Our school athletics carnival will be held this year on Tuesday 8th June at Blair Oval, St Marys. Notes went home with all students last week. This is a K – 6 event with the expectation that all students attend and enjoy participating in the many events. Please ensure you return the signed permission note and payment by Friday 4th June. If you have any questions about this event, please contact your child's class teacher. Parents and carers are welcome to attend the carnival to cheer on the students. As has become the norm though, we remind parents and carers to continue to follow COVID guidelines and expectations around social distancing.

Parking

Woolworths Direct to Boot - we have had a number of complaints from community members regarding parents parking in the "Direct to Boot" parking bays that are clearly painted and signposted at the back of the shopping centre. For the sake of community spirit, can we please ask that you don't park in these bays. Thank you for your support with this.

STEPS Music Festival

It is so lovely to be able to once again participate in the annual STEPS Music Festival at the Evans Theatre, Panthers! This year the Music Festival will be held on the evening of Thursday 29th July (Term 3 Week 3). Our dance group and sign language choir will both perform, along with items from our local primary and high schools. I thank Ms Menezes and Mrs Aczel for taking these groups and Carlie Brooks who has volunteered to help with the dance group. Carlie is an ex student and a wonderful dancer!

Tickets for the music festival will go on sale through Ticketek on Monday 21st June. Tickets will cost \$20 each and can only be purchased through Ticketek. There will be no door sales at the venue or tickets provided through the school so get in early and purchase your tickets for this popular event!

More information will be sent home with the students in the dance group and sign language choir in the coming weeks. If you are unsure about any aspect of their participation, please don't hesitate to contact either Ms Menezes or Mrs Aczel.

Coffee & Chat

Thank you to the parents and carers who came along to last week's coffee and chat session. It was great to see some new faces! The next coffee and chat will be held on Thursday 24th June at 9am in the staffroom. All parents and carers are welcome to come along to share, discuss and celebrate what's happening in our school.

School Communication

There are a number of ways our community can find out about what's happening at school or to pass along information to the school. These include:

School Website: <http://www.stclair-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

School Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Clair-Public-School-1530955660488146/>

P & C Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/stclairpublicschoolpandc/>

We also have the Skoolbag app which can be used to access notes and newsletters and also has the facility for you to communicate with the school regarding student absences. You can download the St Clair PS Skoolbag app for free through the app store on both Apple and android devices. Once downloaded, search for and add St Clair Public School and you will then have access to school information.

Of course, you are more than welcome to call or send an email to the school office should you need any clarification about anything.

Most class teachers also use See-Saw as an avenue of communication between the teacher and parents. If you are not sure about this, please speak with your child's class teacher to see if they are using See-Saw and if they are, about how you can join.

Student Safety

Riding Bikes and Scooters to school – I like that some students are riding bikes or scooters to school. It's great exercise and something they enjoy. It is essential though, that students riding bikes follow the law and wear a securely fitted and fastened helmet. I have addressed this with students and they understand this is a law that protects them and keeps them safe. I have also reminded them that it would be wise to make sure they secure their bikes and scooters with a chain or locking device.

If you are allowing your child to ride a bike or scooter, please revise road safety rules and expectations with them on a regular basis.

P & C

A huge thank you to our wonderful P & C for the new honour board in the school office. The previous board was full and so the new board will be the start of at least 20 years' worth of student achievement!

Warm Regards,
Dale Bruce

Awards.....

Mini Merits Trade ups

Isla M, Anthony N x2, Lucas P, Peter L, Isabella P, Yousif M, Scarlett F, Nazeef S, Lachlan H, Oliver M, Abhinav M, Makaylah P, Cooper J, Jayden B, Kingston F, Zakariah H, Tyler M, Maikel A

Principal Awards

Anastasia A, Daniel G, Willow M, Lucas B, Seeley J, Kyle W, Makaylah P, Ben H, Lucas P, Angel M-M

Merit Awards Term 2 Weeks 3 & 4

Class	Student	Class	Student	Class	Student
1	Emily B & J.T E	6	Ranjot S & Gulnaz K	13	Willow F-W & Anthony N
3	Harmony L & Zinhle M	7	Aiden W	15	Chloe M & Kaidynn B
4	Keiraleigh MM & Danirah B	11	Kaylee H	16	Aubree B & Jackson B
5	Lucian R-M & Zaiden D	12	Marie S & Caleb E	18	Aleia Q & Elijah B

Excellence in Reading Awards

Class	Student	Class	Student	Class	Student
1	Maikel A	7	Lucas B	13	Michael F
3	Lexis D	9	Dut M	15	Manansh S
4	S.F	10	Jordan M	16	Damien F
5	Lyla D	11	Shane S	18	Connor M
6	Oliver M	12	Erin J		

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...

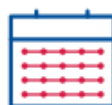
When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight

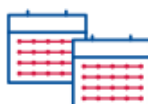
= **4** weeks



= Over **1** year missed

1 day per week

= **8** weeks



= Over **2.5** years missed

education.nsw.gov.au

Kitchen Garden News

It is a busy time for all the students at St Clair PS. This year I had the privilege of preparing a simple breakfast 'feast' for all participating NAPLAN students. They all enjoyed banana cupcakes, apple and yoghurt cupcakes, mini egg frittatas, Milo, fruit juice and mixed fruit each morning. What a way to calm their nerves before the test! Great idea, Mrs Prants!



Our time in the garden was also a busy one. Students pulled weeds from our Australian Native Garden in preparation for NAIDOC week. They also prepared garden beds, harvested oranges and corn, and cleaned the garden and its surroundings of rubbish. Our garden is now looking beautiful and clean, as well as colourful! Our flowers bloomed so well and it was great to see bees enjoy the pollen. Our winter vegetables are all covered with nets to stop the white butterflies from laying their eggs into our kale, cabbages, cauliflowers and broccoli. Last week, I managed to plant lettuce, spinach and beetroot. We will have an abundance of fruit and vegetables very soon!



Week 5 was fun because, as the students say, "It's cooking time!" Class 5 and Class 1 enjoyed eating Filipino style chicken noodle soup called 'sopas'. The ingredients were mostly harvested from the garden. It had carrots, celery, potatoes and leek. We also added a small amount of chicken pieces, vegetable stock, macaroni pasta and some milk. Meanwhile, Class 3 loved their vegetarian meatballs with vegetable and tomato sauce in a bun. These vegetarian meatballs were kept frozen from last week's preparation, so it was great to use these. Class 6 and Class 4 enjoyed their "Taco Thursday!" Students had fun making their own tortilla bread. The kitchen group had to make 30 pieces! We used our freshly harvested corn and added a few more ingredients such as tomatoes, red onions, coriander and red beans. Yes, we learned how to properly eat tacos, biting it with our head tilted to the side!



Thank you, everyone, for working so hard. I am looking forward to seeing and working with everyone in the garden.

Until next time.

Cazendra.

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

Kitchen: butter, cheese, olive oil

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



Hearing Team News

Winter is here and it is that time of the year when our children often have colds and other issues such as middle ear infections. There are many ways for us as parents or carers to prevent middle ear infections and ear blockage. A Healthy diet and regular hand washing are both good ways to prevent exposure to illness.

Did you know that up to 30% of students between the ages 2-10 have middle ear problems at school? This is usually because they have a nose tube blockage (known as a Eustachian Tube Dysfunction). The best thing to prevent this problem is for children to know how to blow their nose properly. Many children don't blow their nose properly until they are at least 10 years old!

This is the best way to teach children to blow their noses:

- 1) Close one side of your nose with your finger
- 2) Place a tissue under the open nostril
- 3) Take a big breath and close your mouth
- 4) Push all of the air (and gooey stuff) out onto the tissue
- 5) Throw the tissue in the bin
- 6) Wash your hands

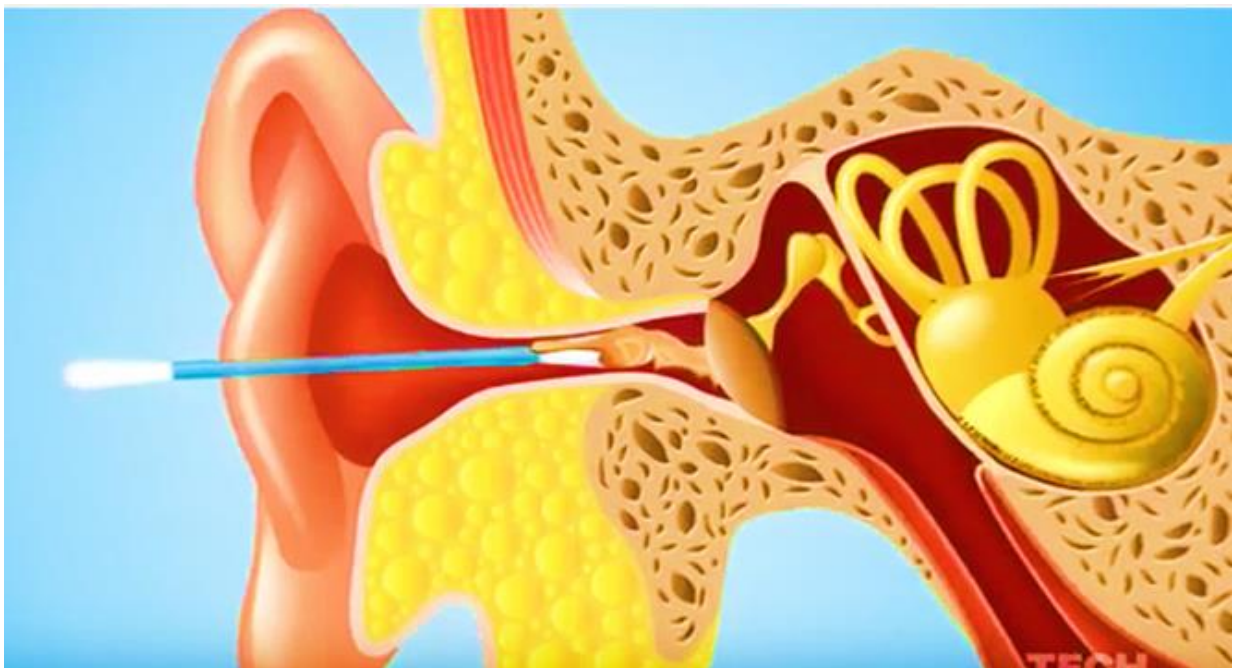
You can practice this at home with your children and should encourage them to blow their noses 3 times a day. At school we promote regular nose blowing and all classrooms have tissues and hand sanitiser for students to use.

Cotton tips are also bad. Your ear should not have anything inserted in it. Even if you think you are getting wax out you are actually pushing more down into your ear canal. If you or your child has waxy ears you can use olive oil and drop in 2-3 drops daily, or talk to your doctor about other wax clearing options. Cotton tips can also fall off and we see many that have been left behind in children's ears and caused infections.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's hearing loss or middle ear conditions we are based in school grounds, so please contact the front office and we will arrange a time to contact you.

Mrs J Aczel

Assistant Principal Hearing.



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ST CLAIR COMMUNITY HUB DAY



When: Thursday 3rd June 2021

Time: 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Where: Cnr Autumnleaf Parade & Timesweep Drive, St Clair

Cost: Free - whole community welcome

- Meet and engage with various service stalls
- Enjoy a free sausage sizzle
- Free food pantry
- Health and Fitness workshop
- Painting workshop
- Self-care workshop

For further information please contact Naomi or Monique on 9834 2708 or email naomis@communityjunction.org.au or monique@communityjunction.org.au

Community Junction Inc. gratefully acknowledges support received from COVID-19 Community Recovery Fund

www.communityjunction.org.au