

St Clare's Catholic High School

Term 2, Week 8

Friday, 20 June 2014



Clare Connection

From the Principal.....Mr R Muscat

Dear St Clare's Community,

Whoever said parenting was easy did not truly appreciate the complexities of raising children. I read an article from a prominent American psychologist last week and thought I would include an extract for your information:

Before the mid-20th century, parenting emphasized teaching children self-discipline, obedience to authority, and service to family and community. Increasingly through the second half of the 20th century, parenting practices made a dramatic shift away from obedience, toward child affirmation. Over the past few decades, the majority of educated, privileged families have eschewed the boot camp-esque parenting practices of their parents. They remember being scared of their fathers, who were angry and never played

with them or did anything much other than tell them what to do. It doesn't take a brilliant child psychologist to see that this isn't the ideal model for parenting.

Since the cultural revolution of the '60s, self-help, psychological, and parenting resources have taught the importance of cultivating our individuality, building [self-esteem](#), and being in touch with our emotional, creative, and spiritual needs. Naturally, enlightened parents want to nurture these qualities in their children. And so the pendulum swings from the stereotypical parent of yore who whipped his kids into shape with strict discipline and hard work, to the parent of today who aims to foster self-confidence, individuality, and creative self-expression.

Researchers have dubbed these two extremes "authoritarian" and "indulgent" parenting styles, respectively. Research has shown that either style, taken to an extreme, is

damaging to a child's mental health. Interestingly, the results of the research suggest that overly authoritarian parenting can lead to insecure self-worth, timidity, depression, or anger problems. Overly indulgent parenting leads to significantly worse outcomes.

Indulgent parents who minimize their child's unhappiness deprive their child of the experience of suppressing their own impulses in consideration of others. Without this ability to suppress one's own needs in favour of another, a person grows into an egocentric monster.

Our aim is to work with parents as partners in the education of your children. This involves not only facilitating their cognitive development but also modelling a life filled with the gospel values of love, hope and charity.

God Bless.

Dates to Remember:

Monday, 23 June	Year 7 Reflection Day Soccer Gala Day
Tuesday, 24 June	Year 10 Try-a-Skill Day
Wednesday, 25 June	Year 10 Try-a-Skill Day
Friday, 27 June	End of Term 2 (last day for students)
Monday, 14 July	Start of Term 3
Tuesday, 15 July	School Athletics Carnival
Wednesday, 16 July	Parent/Teacher consultation (A-L)
Friday, 18 July	Year 10 Careers Market
Wednesday, 23 July	Parent/Teacher consultation (M-Z)

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From the Assistant Principal..... Mr M Whitton

"Take some time if you need to but don't waste your life wondering. Trust your gut and go! The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step" (author unknown). Last Friday I had the wonderful opportunity to assist and represent St Clare's at the On-Track mock interviews and to witness the graduation of five St Clare's students Braiden McArthur, Nicholas Maynard, Fred Masharqa, Valerie Iosefo and Jacob Collis-Naidu I was tasked with the role to interview (mock interview) five students (various schools) for positions they would like to apply for in the near future. During the week students had the opportunity to prepare professional resumes, learn how to prepare for interviews, learn how to answer phones and what would be expected of appropriate dress and grooming when attending an interview.

Each student came prepared, armed with resumes, neatly dressed and ready to answer the hard questions we had to fire at them. What struck

me the most was the passion and enthusiasm these young men and women brought with them whilst going through, what I would suspect, for many their first interview. I was lucky enough to be asked to speak on behalf of the schools represented at the presentation of certificates and I congratulated each and every one of the students present. I also reminded them that the learning journey is not over, whether you leave school for a traineeship, apprenticeship or go on to senior school, learning will always continue, bring passion to everything you do in life.

"It's tough to win in a hostile environment" and "practice makes permanent" are two terms that I use as a rugby league coach to inspire my team before and after a game. On reflection they are but two well-worn clichés that can be used to emphasise the value of perseverance and resilience. Whilst often used in relation to sporting efforts or learning musical instruments, perseverance is equally relevant to academic pursuits.

The desire to continue working on, for example, a difficult probability problem or a sophisticated passage of text, does not come naturally to all students.

However, whilst some may abandon the difficult tasks relatively quickly, other students will continue to focus on the difficult work until it is mastered, or at least until they have exhausted various methods of completion. Even if they are unable to solve the maths problem or decipher the meaning of the passage, students with perseverance will actively seek out help to improve their understanding of the concepts behind the work.

Not all academic work is intrinsically "exciting", but teachers rarely have time to waste on 'useless information'. If the students at St Clare's are going to be successful learners, they will need to develop the habit of perseverance, (which was on display at the On-Track interviews last Friday) of remaining focused when other minds are wandering (but not wondering!) and aiming to master the material that they are learning.

From the Religious Education



St Clare and the Holy Spirit

St Clare was a woman in love with God. She saw the Holy Spirit as the gravity of love that draws the believer toward God. St Francis said to follow Christ, we need to be "inwardly cleansed, interiorly enlightened and inflamed by the fire of the Holy Spirit." Clare was a woman on fire as she

wrote, "I rejoice and exult with you in the joy of the Spirit."

Jesus, the man from two thousand years ago, was restricted by time and space, however the Holy Spirit who came after him was able to dwell in the hearts of all his followers giving them courage and the will to spread the Good News.

Even at the end of the life of Clare as she was sick, frail and had to fight to keep her order on the right road, she was like a young woman in love as we read, "I will run and not tire, until You bring me into the wine-cellar, until Your left hand is under my head and your right hand will embrace me happily, You will kiss me with the happiest kiss of your mouth."

This passage reminds me of the Song of Songs in the Bible which reveals a God who is in love with us and like St Clare

we are called to love Him in return. All the way through her letters to St Agnes we see examples of this love. Another quote from her letters is, "may you totally love Him, whose beauty the sun and the moon admire."

Clare reminds us that we are on a journey in love but we are not alone as we join with all the saints who have gone before us. Like Francis, Clare sees being a truly poor person, someone who clings to God and nothing else, as a truly freeing experience, as it made her free for God.

Inspired by Ilia Delio O.S.F. in "Clare of Assisi—A Heart Full of Love"

From the Head of Learning....Mr D Wales

Dear parents, carers and students of the St Clare's community

That St Clare's is a Catholic school of excellence and improvement has been well documented. So, with this ethos in mind, St Clare's staff members have initiated, throughout this semester, some of the most significant reforms of reporting, at least within the recent history of our school. Moreover, when St Clare's students present their Semester One reports next week, parents and carers will find a comprehensive school report, containing the following elements:

- A profile page, on which a student's punctuality, manners, return of correspondence, use of Student Planner, grooming and participation in school life, in particular, extracurricular

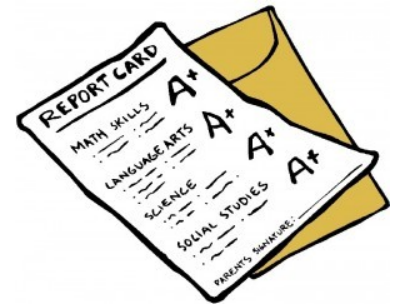
activities, will be identified; and

- Individual course reports, within which a student's course grade and level of achievement of respective learning outcomes, his/her commitment to learning, in relation to a range of work habits, as well as targeted areas for that student's improvement, will be provided. Additionally, a graphic representation of the distribution of course grades, across a student's course, will also be supplied.

As a result of the implementation of these important reforms, parents

and carers will receive even more valuable information about their child's progress.

Thank you for your on-going support of learning at St Clare's. Best wishes and prayers



From the Head of Teaching, Innovation and Learning....Ms S McManus

As we near the end of another school term and indeed face the prospect that half the year has flown by, it is important for parents to reflect with their children on the learning that has taken place and will occur in Semester Two of the school year.

Reading your child's report with them is a wonderful opportunity to commend them on areas they have achieved their personal best. It is also a time for setting new goals around their learning, based on recommendations from their teachers.

The ways in which students learn are very different to when most parents were at school. The days of the teacher, teaching and the student, learning no longer exists within this traditional framework. Students must take greater responsibility for

participating in the learning process and are encouraged to set personal learning goals.

The following are some conversation starters you may use when unpacking your child's report and setting goals with them for Semester Two:

- ◆ Do you believe this report reflects your personal best?
- ◆ How active a participant have you been in your learning?
- ◆ What subjects have you found challenging and how can we go about helping you to achieve your personal best?
- ◆ How do you learn best?

How do you know? What do we need to do to make sure this occurs?

- ◆ What learning goals do you need to set for Semester Two?
- ◆ Who do you need to help you achieve these goals? What do you need from these people to achieve your personal best?

Of course, the conversation is only the start but it is a good place to open the lines of communication and have your child accept responsibility for their role within the learning process.

Kind Regards

From the Business Manager.... Mrs K Parker

School Fees

All families are kindly reminded that Term 2 fees should now be finalised unless you have a payment arrangement in place.

I urge families; please don't hesitate in contacting myself or the finance department on 9830 2400 (Select Option 2) if you have any concerns in meeting your school fee responsibilities. **THE KEY IS COMMUNICATION** – we are happy to discuss a mutually agreed arrangement for payment of fees.

If, however, you are experiencing a situation that is impacting on your fee paying ability please make us aware of your situation so that we can discuss ways to alleviate your concerns. You may be assured that all correspondence is treated with the strictest confidentiality.

With the holidays fast approachingPlease note that the office will be unable to accept any cash payments on Friday, 27 June.

Families, particularly those on arrangements, are reminded that

they may continue to pay through BPay or at the Post Office throughout the holiday period. Please refer to your account statement for the Biller Code and Biller Reference numbers.

Security

The school will have tradesmen on the site throughout the school holidays.

I ask, although, if you see anything suspicious please contact the parish office on 9832 4461.

Captivate.....Mr J Smolen

Congratulations to our CAPTIVATE performers on their impressive performance at the CAPTIVATE Showcase last week. The CAPTIVATE showcase is a collective of performances from students from various schools in the Parramatta Diocese.

CAPTIVATE has many more opportunities for students who like to Dance on offer. If students want to get involved in any of the

CAPTIVATE initiatives, information can be found by contacting The Catholic Education Office, Parramatta or Peta Markham-Ward (02) 9840 5649.

I would encourage members of our community not to miss the 'Best of Showcase' at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith, on Monday the 23rd June, 7.00pm- 9.00pm. For further enquiries contact (02)

98405649

Our CAPTIVATE group consists of the following students;

Derya Hatipoglu, Dolapo Akanbi, Alyssa Baldicano, Melis Yusuf, Nansy Koko, Princess Pacleb, Rhianna Alpuerto, Mariel Sarinas, Adrienne Yuque, Joy Matu'u, Rianna Cruz, Puti Luamanuvae, Andrea Sadsad, Eliza Hutchen-Bews, Parthena Mikhael and Sheryl Thomas.

From the Communication Leaders

Hello, St Clare's community! The end of our second term is fast approaching (and with it, the holidays!). It's been a busy term, with lots of things happening over the last couple of weeks.

As explained in last fortnight's article, the SRC are aiming to buy and install a water filter. The first fundraiser organised by the SRC for this initiative was the Boys vs Girls SRC Bake-Off, held on Tuesday, 17th of June. We are proud to announce that the event was a total success! There was an extraordinary amount of food, baked not just by the SRC, but also by non-SRC volunteers.

The UNBELIEVABLE results were counted at the end of the day. The boys pulled in more than \$240, which was an

outstanding feat. However, the girls ruled the event, raising a total of \$404! Even though the girls won the gender battle, the volunteers outside of the SRC beat us all - the extra donations raised more than \$450! The best news of all is the total amount of money raised: **\$1057.80!!!** We are now a third of the way towards the total amount of money we need to buy the water filter!

Several people need to be thanked for their contributions to this event. Firstly, we have to give a massive thanks to Miss Calleja, the mastermind behind this fundraiser. Thank you also to the SRC, for organising the event and for baking, the non-SRC volunteer bakers, the students who helped set and pack up, and all of the students at St Clare's who bought food on the day. We really appreciate

everyone's support, and hope that you will show the same support for all of our future fundraisers.

In other news, this Friday, our Year Ten debating team will head out to Santa Sabrina College in Strathfield to debate against St Gregory's in the Quarterfinals. This comes after winning five out of six of the preliminary rounds, and proceeding straight through to the Quarters. Good luck to the team - let's hope for a win!

Thank you again to students, staff and parents for your continued support of events at St Clare's. Students: study hard and be good!

- Sam and Tori

Year 10 Geography

Year 10 Geographers enjoy a day at the beach

On the 9th and 12th of May, Year 10 Geography classes visited Dee Why Lagoon, Long Reef and Collaroy beaches to study coastal management.

On the excursion, the classes were split into four groups and had a knowledgeable guide from the Coastal Environment Centre. Our guides gave us valuable information about the issues impacting this area of Sydney. We will use the information we collected on the excursion to complete assessment

task three.

We learnt about the many issues affecting the coastal environment; storm drainage issues, inappropriate development on the beach, long shore drift and litter. We also discussed preventive strategies used to address the issues occurring along the coast such as beach nourishment. Walking along Collaroy and Long Reef beaches allowed us to compare the two beaches. It was clear how much of an impact development can have on the coastal environment. We also learnt about the coastal processes acting on this area, by observing and using geographical skills, such as

taking field notes, field sketches and drawing line maps.

We were also given the opportunity to visit Dee Why Lagoon and complete a litter count. There were many different types of litter; food peelings, wrappers, lids, bottles, shoes and plastic, to name a few.

It was a fun and educational visit over the two days for Year 10; we learnt lots of valuable information that will help us to complete our assessment task.

Thank you to the Year 10 Geography teachers who accompanied us, and planned the excursion.

By Adele Luamanuvae and Alyssa Posadas

Year 9 experience World War II

As Year 9 gathered in Town Square, the sun was shining and it seemed like it would be a beautiful day. Everyone on the bus was filled with excitement and was eager for the adventure that awaited us. We were looking forward to the amazing experience that the Australian War Memorial in Canberra had in store for us.

Once at the Australian War Memorial we were astounded about how sacred the atmosphere was. Words could not explain how the War Memorial made us feel.

When we entered the War Memorial, we automatically knew that we had to behave with utmost respect for the Australians that paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Everything we saw and heard gave us a better understanding of what Australian men and women did to serve our country.

We will use what we learned and apply it to our classroom activities and upcoming assessment task.

Overall the War Memorial was a truly fun learning experience. On behalf of Year 9, we would like to thank the teachers and staff at the War

Memorial, for making this experience possible, you have created another high school memory that we will treasure.

By Jasper Rentoy



St Clare's Bake Off





Parents can stay in touch with our diverse range of services and courses for children, individuals, couples and families, by following us at www.facebook.com/CCSSParramatta Enquiries can be made on 02 9933 0222

“Making the decision to commit to marriage is just the first step. Every day provides opportunities to strengthen your relationship and recommit to each other.” Jo Lamble

Jo Lamble is a Clinical Psychologist who has been in private practice for over 20 years. She sees individuals, couples, and groups and specialises in parenting and relationship issues.

Jo is the resident psychologist on Studio 10 on the Ten network.

Jo will be one the speakers at the [2nd Annual Marriage Conference](#) presented by CatholicCare Social Services and Australian Catholic University. **This conference will be held on Sunday 24 August 2014 from 9:30 – 4:30 at Our Lady of Mercy College, Ross Street Parramatta.** \$25/person or \$50/couple, including, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. To register or make enquiries phone 02 9933 0222 or email marriage@ccss.org.au

One young woman who attended last year's conference without her husband, after they had a disagreement, had this to say ***“The conference made a big difference to my feelings of resentment and some unresolved issues and my husband and I are making enquiries with CatholicCare Social Services to seek some counselling. I am very grateful to have attended and see much hope for our future together.”*** Child-minding is available.

This conference is part of CatholicCare's [Marriage Education Support and Enrichment seminars](#) aimed at supporting married couples in Western Sydney.

Many thanks

Claire Gordon

Marketing & Fundraising Coordinator | CatholicCare Social Services | Diocese of Parramatta

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Year 10 Drama Elective Update

In Term One, as the school saw at the last school assembly, the Year 10 Drama class created a film based on a script we wrote last year. This term in Drama, the class is going back to the roots of drama, and are studying Ancient Greek drama.

We first looked at how drama began in ancient Greece, followed by the religious festival held in honour of Dionysus in Athens. This was important because it led to plays being created in his honour. The performance elements and conventions of ancient Greece have been very interesting to learn about. For example, all actors were men, and because the Theatre of Dionysus was so big, (it could seat

up to 20 000 people!!) all actors had to wear masks so that the audience at the back could see the actors' facial expressions.

The Drama class even created their own masks through papier mache, either of tragedy or comedy style with a modern twist.

This term, our assessment task is to write a play review on Medea, a play written by Euripides (a famous Greek tragedy playwright) in 431 BC. We have to select a scene from the contemporary version to review, and then we are to write about the

authenticity, in relation to the original script. The Drama class will be handing in their assessments next week. There is a lot to look forward to next term, as the class will be studying melodrama. Stay tuned!

-Krystelle Quartermain



A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

A **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** is a *Marriage Enrichment* experience for married couples – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious

asset... your Marriage!

Weekend dates: 12 – 14 September (7 – 9 November) at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW

Bookings: Ardell & Bill Sharpe tel. 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au

www.wwme.org.au

www.facebook.com/WWMEasternUnit

Homework Club

In the SD8 & SD9 at lunch.

Every Tuesday and Friday.

For help with homework and assessments.

Computers available for your use.

Remember to bring your class books and assessment tasks

From the Diversity Team

Subscribe to our website

www.clarehassallgrove.catholic.edu.au

Did you know that St Clare's Catholic High School can deliver the latest news and upcoming events straight to your email inbox? What a time saver!

Sign up to E-News today

clarehassallgrove.catholic.edu.au

LOYOLA SENIOR CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Did you know that Loyola Senior Catholic High School can deliver the latest news and upcoming events straight to your email inbox? What a time saver!

Year 10 students and their parents are encouraged to subscribe to Loyola's web page. Below is the link.

(website: www.loyolamtdruitt.catholic.edu.au)

Uniform Shop

Tuesdays - 8.00am - 1.30pm

Thursdays - 12.00noon - 3.00pm

Colebee Crescent Car Park Entrance

Phone: 9835 2718

ENROLMENTS FOR YEAR 7, 2015

Parents with children in Year 6, 2014, if you have NOT yet enrolled your child for Year 7, 2015, **NOW IS THE TIME!**

Enrolment packs are available from the school office. Enrolment Agreement Forms can be downloaded from the school website.