

St Clare's Catholic High School

Term 1, Week 4

Friday, 21 February 2014



Clare Connection

From the Principal.....Mr R Muscat

Dear St Clare's Community,

Recent research into student achievement acknowledges that parent involvement is the secret ingredient to children's school success:

"The involvement of parents helps break down the mystique about school that can exist for some children. Their chances of success are better when they see school as an extension of home rather than merely an institution for learning." (Grose 2014)
I encourage all parents to actively participate in your child's education in

the following ways;

1. Support our literacy and numeracy goals by assisting with assessment tasks.
2. Foster a willingness in your child to participate in extra-curricular activities at school.
3. Contact your child's teachers about their learning.
4. Promote the positive features of the school in the wider community.
5. Attend school activities such as open evenings, concerts, sport events and

parents/teacher/student evenings.

6. Positive parent participation in school and learning is a proven contributor to student success.

God Bless



Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, 26 February	Year 7 & 9 Vaccinations
Tuesday, 4 March	St Francis & Holy Family, Year 6 visit at St Clare's
Wednesday, 5 March	Ash Wednesday, Mass commences 11am, Good Shepherd Church, Plumpton
Friday, 7 March	Good Shepherd, Year 6 visit at St Clare's
Tuesday, 25 March	Parent/Teacher Night—A-L. 1pm—4pm
Wednesday, 26 March	Parent/Teacher Night—M-Z. 1pm—4pm
Friday, 28 March	St Clare's Cross Country

175 Buckwell Drive HASSALL GROVE 2761/Locked Bag 1412 Plumpton 2761
Phone: (02) 9830 2400 Fax: (02) 9835 2539
Web: clarehassallgrove.catholic.edu.au
Email: clarehassallgrove@parra.catholic.edu.au

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

I encourage all students to take on (3) three simple challenges to make 2014 a happy and rewarding year for all. They are to:

- ⇒ take advantage of every opportunity to get involved in school life throughout 2014
- ⇒ build strong friendships, look after one another and to go out of their way to welcome the new students, staff and families who have joined our St Clare's community
- ⇒ get down to the business of learning immediately and to set high goals for learning.

UNIFORM

All students are to wear the St Clare's uniform correctly and with great pride. I ask all families to assist with maintaining a high standard of uniform and grooming throughout 2014. Students who repeatedly show disregard for our uniform policy may be sent home.

SICK LEAVE

All absences from school, except for prior approved leave, are to be rung in to the office **by 8.30 am on each day of absence. Please ring the School (02) 9830 2400** to inform us of your child's absence. Also, a note should be provided with your child's return to school. Many thanks in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

SCHOOL PLANNER

Each student has been issued with a school planner. The student planner is an important form of communication between parents, students and teachers. The student planner is to be used anytime parents have a message for a teacher as well as for writing homework and keeping a record of Merits. This planner is to be taken to homeroom each morning and each lesson. **Parents are asked to sign and sign their child's planner once a week.** Homeroom teachers will be checking for parental signatures. Students are responsible for communicating this to their parents and ensuring that their planner is signed.

ASH WEDNESDAY

The whole school will be involved in an Ash Wednesday Mass on Wednesday 5th March. Mass will commence at 11am at Good Shepherd Parish, Plumpton. All parents and family are very welcome to join us.

I look forward to a very happy and learning filled year.

'SKOOLBAG' ST CLARE'S SMARTPHONE APP FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Download St Clare's app and receive all the latest news & newsletters. Also, you can send absent notes and change of family details via the Parent eForms → Absent Note & Change of details



From the Religious Education Coordinator.....Mr M Vella

In Matthew 5 V3 "Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!" St Clare new that Kingdom of heaven is where God, not things, is the centre and focus of our lives. It is sad to hear things like: "wow he's worth six million dollars with five properties". People are reduced to what we own. The poor are those who come to know Jesus Christ who emptied self to become human. He challenges us to empty self and come before God with open empty hands so we can receive God. We need to remove the clutter in our hearts to focus on love because God is love and

the more we love then the more we can make God present in our life to be reflected to others.

Clare could see that Christ reveals what it truly means to be human as he reveals God who is self-giving love. Jesus on the cross reveals the extent of this love. He lived a life of poverty with the Father as his focus and even though it led him to the cross he reveals the way to true happiness with a living relationship with God and others. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a society where love, justice and mutual respect is based on the love of the three persons in the Blessed Trinity. God, who is other-

centred, is reflected in this society, who think of others before themselves. The Incarnation is a wellspring of love born in our hearts to be shared with those we meet.

Dear Jesus, St Clare could see that you revealed what it truly means to be human. You also showed us the Father who is self-giving love. Jesus on the cross you revealed the extent of this love. Help us create a society where love, justice and mutual respect is based on other-centred love. There are people who think of others before themselves. Help us learn from them to foster this life giving love.

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

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

With the 2014 school year well under way, this is an excellent opportunity to remind ourselves of the importance of homework, particularly within a learning community, which prides itself on being one of excellence and improvement.

At St Clare's, homework is perceived as a key element of student learning. It

allows for students' learning to be enriched and extended, just as it helps students to develop important skills in relation to planning, preparation, personal organisation and time management. With these thoughts in mind, please note the following guide regarding the amount of time that St Clare's students should devote to their homework and/or revision, six evenings per week, or the equivalent: Stage 4 (Years 7 and 8) Between 1 and

1 ½ hours
Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10)
Approximately 2 hours.

As always, please feel free to contact me, should you have any questions about homework. Thank you for your support of learning at St Clare's.

Best wishes and prayers

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

It is with great pleasure that I write my first article for the Clare Connection. Over the past few weeks I have most certainly witnessed the dedication and professionalism of the St Clare's staff as they impart invaluable knowledge, skills and understandings to the students in their care.

One very important aspect of teaching is programming. There may be days when your child informs you that their teacher was at school, however a casual teacher

took that class. The reason is Program Evaluation Days or (PEDs). Each Key Learning Area at St Clare's is offered two of these days per year. All faculty members meet and work diligently on aspects of programming, including Essential Questions, Learning Intentions and GRASP Assessment tasks, all of which are key components of the Understanding by Design framework, which is a planning process and structure to guide curriculum,

assessment and instruction.

Therefore, such professional learning days are a definite opportunity for the staff to plan valuable lessons for their students.

I look forward to keeping you up to date with many other teaching matters throughout the year and hope you find such information an important insight how teaching and learning operates within the classrooms of St Clare's.

From the Business Manager...Mrs K Parker

School Fees

Term 1 fees have now been issued and are due by 7 March (unless a prior arrangement has been made). If you would like to discuss your fee account, please phone our finance staff on 9830 2400 between the hours of 8:00am –

3:30pm.

A reminder also to families who wish to take up the Flexible Payment Plan (FPP) sent home with Term 1's fee statements that the form to do so must be completed and lodged with the Catholic Education Office asap. If, however, you are electing to pay by

BPAY, you must set this up directly with your bank in order that the first payment occurs by 7 March 2014. We kindly ask parents to confirm that they have taken this option by phoning Mrs Sandra Bourke or by email at sbourke2@parra.catholic.edu.au

From the Leader of Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10)....Mrs T Nielsen

As mentioned at the Years 9 and 10 Information Nights, this year has seen the beginning of an exciting program named Learning to Learn. The program will be led by their Learning Advisor. The focus of the Term 1 lessons are on building the students' capacity as learners. This fortnight, the students

will be focussing on home learning and their study timetable. They will also be analysing their learning style and refining their SMART goals for Term 1. Please take some time to discuss your son/daughter's goals for this term, they can be found

on page 25 of their Student Planner. Please sign the bottom of this page to acknowledge you have read through their goals. At the end of the term, the students will review their goals and prepare to set new goals for the next term.

Social Justice Valentine's Day Stall..... Miss M Mutabdzija

Leading up to Valentine's Day, the Social Justice team had a stall arranged in order to raise money for Project Compassion. With the sale of raffle tickets, chocolate

roses and lolly bags, we managed to raise \$407!!!! A HUGE thank you to all of the St Clare's community for their generosity and charity for this great cause. Congratulations to our

raffle winners:
1st Prize: Monica Reyes
2nd Prize: Kyle Salalila
3rd Prize: Taya Stepfner

Academic Achievement Awards & Leader's Ceremony 2013





Student Leader's Vision

Welcome to all students and parents to a new year. It is a great pleasure and honour to be able to undertake this learning odyssey with all of you. A learning odyssey that entails authentic learning experiences, engaging learning environments and stimulating learning pursuits. The 2014 school year, I believe, will be a year of creativity, innovation, recognition, achievement and a desire to challenge the status quo. A year that will emphasise on promoting

equity and social justice, building a culture of achievement, celebrating diversity, encouraging continuous improvement and developing invaluable partnerships. Like all journeys, the traveller must reach a destination. This academic journey's end is the obtainment of our academic goals and being rewarded for our accomplishments and hard work.

I, along with the other school leaders, are fully committed to taking the responsibility of guiding

and supporting all students in the right direction. We are ever-ready to assist students with any concerns or questions. I am confident that in the following twelve months, not only myself, but the rest of the leadership body will go above and beyond the call of duty put forth to us, with the help, ideas and continued support of the student body and our teachers.

I, cannot wait to embark on this quest for knowledge and transformation.

Trishala Sharma
School Captain

Captivate

The CAPTIVATE team, through CEO, is offering a number of initiatives for students this year in the areas of Dance and Music.

INITIATIVE 1 - The CAPTIVATE Commercial Dance Ensemble is a performing arts initiative of the Parramatta CEO which brings students together from our different schools to work with various choreographers in commercial dance styles. Students are given the opportunity to partake in performances throughout Sydney.

CAPTIVATE Commercial Dance

Ensemble Rehearsals

Weekly, every Friday

4.30-6.30pm (sometimes later depending on shows)

St Agnes, Evans Rd, Rooty Hill Open to students from Year 3 – 12. Start Date Friday 14 February 2014

Students who participate in this Ensemble Rehearsal will have the opportunity to be a part of some fabulous training, development, mentoring and performance opportunities.

INITIATIVE 2 - McCarthy, Emu Plains

1/ Competent Dance Students (Year 5-12) can study and achieve their **Certificate I, II & III in Dance**, which is a Nationally Recognised Certificate based on the Dance Industry. If students achieve these qualifications whilst at school it will look impressive on any CV especially those wanting to teach or partake in Cert IV Full Time Studies when they leave school.

This course will run on a Wednesday at McCarthy, Emu Plains.

2/ **Commercial Dance Performance Experiences and partial completion of Cert I, II & III** are also available on a Wednesday afternoon at McCarthy 2.30pm-4pm/4.30pm. Students will have the opportunity to be a part of a performance group and whilst partaking in these rehearsals can complete some of the modules from Cert I, II or III. This is an awesome opportunity to achieve this Certificate in your own time.

3/ **Performance Ensembles and Opportunities for Music (many facets), Vocal/Choral & Drama** will also be run from McCarthy on a Wednesday (some day time, mostly 2.30pm- 4pm/4.30pm).

Do you have students that would love to play in a band, in an orchestra, sing in a choir or be a part of a play – this is their opportunity to learn new skills and be a part of something special.

For more information and/or for students to apply for any of these initiatives, please contact Mark Hopkins on Mark.Hopkins@parra.catholic.edu.au. Be quick as classes have commenced.

Every year MASTERCLASS aims to be bigger and better than the year before. We pride ourselves on offering students from our Diocese and other schools the opportunity to work with some of the finest choreographers/tutors in their field. 2014 is no exception.

A 2-3 Day Dance Workshop & Performance designed to challenge and encourage students to step out of their comfort zones, learn new skills, meet new people and perform in an encouraging setting. Open to Primary & Secondary Students in our Diocese and other schools this Workshop is great value for money.

Details are as follows: **DATE:** Fri 4th, Sat 5th, Sun 6th April 2014

VENUE: Terra Sancta College, Nirimba Quakers Hill

PERFORMANCE: Sun 6th April 6.30pm

SECONDARY TUTORS

Courtney Horton – Pop Ballet □ Kieron Kulik – How To Work It! Seminar □ Jrisi Jusakos – Middle Eastern Bellydance Fusion Jayden Rodrigues – HipHop □ Jess Orcsik – Contemporary □ Amandah Blok – Cheerleading □ Angela Bellomo – Rehearsals □ Camilla J – Musical Theatre □ Simone Samuel – Jazz

COST: 2 days - \$80 or \$70 Earlybird (Primary – Sat/Sun) □ 3 days - \$120 or \$100 Earlybird (Secondary – Fri/Sat/Sun)

Advanced Students in Year 5&6 may participate in 3 day course with Peta's approval.

For More Information Please Email Peta on

pmarkham@parra.catholic.edu.au or go to Website <http://www.captivate.catholic.edu.au/> for more info and to register online.

INITIATIVE 4 – CAPTIVATE'S GOT TALENT is a talent and mentor program open to ALL Diocesan students. We offer an opportunity for soloists, duos, trios, small groups or large ensembles to audition with any discipline of the arts – Dance, Drama, Music, Vocal etc

Auditions will be in July. If you would like any information please email Peta Markham – Ward on pmarkham@parra.catholic.edu.au

YOURS IN DANCIN'

Peta Markham-Ward
CAPTIVATE Dance
pmarkham@parra.catholic.edu.au
0409 399 440

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE 2014



The Challenge runs from **3 March to 29 August 2014**. Ongoing reading is encouraged. NB : Books read from 1 September 2013 can count towards the 2014 Challenge.

ALL STUDENTS in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be entered.

Learning Advisors will help by encouraging students to read challenge books during DEAR each morning. We hope that parents will help by encouraging their sons and daughters to read regularly at home.

Mrs H Wood—Teacher Librarian

Clare Connection

You may download the school newsletter either on the **web** at www.carehassallgrove.catholic.edu.au or by **downloading the school app on your smart phone.**

Homework Club

Tuesdays & Fridays during lunch time at the San Damiano Centre (SDC). All welcome for homework and assessment help.

Maths Club

Every Wednesday from 2.30pm to 3.30pm at the San Damiano Centre (SDC).

Communication Leaders

On Wednesday, 12th February, we celebrated our Semester Two 2013 Academic Awards Ceremony. This was an opportunity for students who did well academically in the second half of last year to be recognised for their efforts. We extend a special congratulations to all students who were presented with awards, as well as those students who, while they may not have been awarded, have dedicated themselves to their learning. At Academic Awards Ceremonies, three types of awards are given: Academic Excellence; Academic Achievement; and Academic Application and Effort. This means that you don't have to get straight-A's to be recognised. Students who receive Application and Effort Awards actively participate in class, by asking questions, offering answers, raising points of discussion and doing their classwork and homework. Teachers notice when you make an effort in class! We both encourage all students to work hard in class and strive for improvement - who knows, maybe it'll be you receiving an award next semester!

The ceremony was also a chance for us, and the rest of the Student Leaders, to be badged by our parents in front of the school. We are all very proud to be able to represent St Clare's, and are very keen to get started on serving and improving our great school. Speaking of the leaders, our House

Captains will have their hand full this week with the preparations for our first big event of the year: the Swimming Carnival! Friday, 21st February is the date, and we're all gearing up for the big day. There's been some friendly house rivalry among the Student Leaders already, as we're all sure our houses will win. So get behind your house this Friday and win some points! Points are awarded for participation, placing 1st to 4th, sun safety, area cleanliness and, of course, house spirit. The cheer-off will be the best opportunity to score some points, so be loud and proud for your house. No matter whether your house is red, blue, gold or black, have some fun this Friday! The past four weeks have been a rude awakening - it's not holidays anymore! We have to wake up early, pull on a uniform, pull our hair back (that's the girls), catch the bus or walk or jump in the car, enter the classroom and focus. Hopefully, by now, everyone's gotten back into the routine. Already, in just four short weeks, we have started learning new things (and remembering what we've forgotten). This fortnight, we're focussing on the learning going on in Year Seven classrooms. HSIE (History) has begun with a focus on Investigating the Ancient Past. Science has turned to practical experiments (always fun). In

Mathematics, students have been learning mental strategies for solving equations (the more strategies and tips you get, the better, believe us). English has been about narrative-writing (who doesn't love a good story), and Music has been a chance for students to learn how to play guitar chords. The year seems to be off to a great start! Next fortnight, we'll hear about what Year 8 have been up to in the classroom.

In other news, our school canteen has seen a massive makeover this year. Our canteen is now out-sourced, meaning; Yes! You guessed it! Amazing new food! Don't let the fact that the prices have changed put you off, the food really is spectacular. A menu was attached to the back of last fortnight's newsletter. Don't lose it! Take a look at some of the great food and beverages on offer: Nachos, milkshakes, butter chicken, Sushi, pasta, you name it. Support the canteen by buying some really nice food!

Well, that brings this fortnight's article to a close. We ask all students to remember their responsibilities to this school - wear the uniform with pride, keep the environment clean, work hard in class, be safe and be happy!

Until next fortnight,

- *Sam and Tori*

URGENT MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE

There have been a number of sick or injured students presenting at the sick bay and it has become difficult to contact parents or the emergency phone contacts.

If you have changed your home/mobile/work phone number, it is vital to fill in a change of details form (from the school website: clarehassallgrove.catholic.edu.au or the school app) asap.

Uniform Shop

Tuesdays - 8.00am - 1.30pm
Thursdays - 12.00noon - 3.00pm
Colebee Crescent Car Park Entrance
Phone: 9835 2718

New school email address

The Catholic Education Office has upgraded the Parramatta Diocese emails and so St Clare's has a new email address. The new email address is:
clarehassallgrove@parra.catholic.edu.au