



# St Clare's Catholic High School

*A Catholic school of excellence and improvement*

## **Upcoming Events**

28 January 2016 (Saturday) - Uniform Shop Open from 9am - 2pm  
30 January 2017 - First Day Term 1 (Year 7 Students Only & Peer Support)  
31 January 2017 - First Day Term 1 Year 8, 9, 10 Students  
1 February 2017 - Year 7 & New Student ID Photo Cards - SDC

***"Everything is connected - Every day, Every Learner"***

**27 January 2017**



***From the Principal - Mr Shane Morris***

## ***Extract from the Reading of the Day***

<sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed which, at the time of its sowing,  
is the smallest of all the seeds on earth.

<sup>32</sup> Yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the  
birds of the air can shelter in its shade.' (Gospel, Mark 4:26-34).

*Reflection: This passage reminds us all that our students, your children have the opportunity to grow and be nurtured as they encounter a new school year and new beginnings for each of us in our community. I invite you to take a minute to think about what this passage means to you?*

*I hope that all families had an opportunity to participate in Australia Day celebrations in their local community.*

*We are looking forward to welcoming back all students as we prepare to commence our 2017 school year. We had many things to celebrate as a school community in 2016, and this year will deliver just as many highs for our community.*

*Over the past week many of our staff have been preparing for the arrival of our Year 7 students to ensure that they have a smooth start to high school here at St Clare's. I also extend a warm welcome to all our new families who have joined our community this year.*

## ***Staffing Announcements***

*Last year I introduced Mr Nathan Zammit to all the Year 7 families and students as the the Leader of Year 7. Unfortunately, Mr Zammit has moved schools and as a result of this late change we had to find a suitable replacement for this critical role in our school. I am pleased to announce that Mrs Amanda Watton will take on the position as Leader of Year 7 for 2017.*

We are also very fortunate to welcome the following teaching staff who are joining St Clare's in 2017. On behalf of the staff, students and parents I extend a warm welcome to;

**Mr Anthony Hulme** - Assistant Principal and Mathematics

**Mr David Senathirajah** - Science

**Miss Madonna Eskander** - HSIE

**Mrs Rachel Pirovic-Moss** - Religious Education

**Mrs Widad Thalji** - Diversity and Mathematics

**Mrs Deborah Watts** - Diversity and Mathematics

**Mrs Dijana Siric** - Diversity and Litracey

We also welcome back **Mrs Fiona Lopes** (Science) and **Mrs Nadine McArdle** (Leader of Year 9 and Mathematics) who return from their extended leave.

I would like to acknowledge the appointment of **Mrs Madlin Aboelsaad** who has been appointed as our Senior Finance Officer commencing this year.

I would like to extend my thanks to **Miss Stephanie Cassar** who continues as acting Religious Education Coordinator, as **Mr Michael Vella** continues leave for this term. **Mr Dale Ahern** has also been appointed as acting HSIE Coordinator for term 1, replacing Mrs Alyson Cefai who continues her leave. **Mrs Toni Lee** will also be Assistant Leader of PDHPE for 2017. **Mr Brenton Geribo** has been appointed as the Leader of Sport for 2017.

I would like to congratulate both **Mrs Theresa Nielsen (Leader of Wellbeing and Learning)** and **Ms Catherine Ruff (Leader of Diversity and Learning)** who have been appointed as 3 point coordinators and will continue to support the work of our school Leadership Team along with **Mr Anthony Hulme, Miss Stephanie Cassar** and myself. I know that you will join with me in congratulating all the staff on these recent appointments.

### **Student Leaders for 2017**

School Captains for 2017 - **Marvin Urbano and Vitoryna Vaifale**

Learning Leaders - **Tiana Bernal and Katlyn Micallef**

Social Justice Leaders - **Chrsitine Dela Cruz and Renz Tomacruz**

Mission Leaders - **Jason Cabrera and JC Ogoy**

Creative and Performing Arts Leaders - **Iris Meredegia and Andrea Sadsad**

Event Leaders - **Pooja Pillay and Danilo Djuric**

Kolbe House Leaders - **Jacob Botros and Adrianne Yuque**

Chisholm House Leaders - **Francis Queras and Jericho Gunay**

Benedict House Leaders - **Thomas Htay and Sheryl Thomas**

Mackillop House Leaders - **Monica Nunez and Leonard Skelton**

I would like to congratulate all our school leaders as they commence their leadership roles and responsibilities this year. We will acknowledge and present all leaders their badges at our upcoming school assembly. Further details will be sent home to families,

as we encourage parents to attend this significant occasion. Thank you to **Mrs Deborah Baker, Leader of Year 10** who coordinated this selection process.

### ***Our Improved Communication Strategy for 2017***

Our new website is up and running as we begin our school year. I would like to extend my apologies for this delay. We are now in a great position to keep parents and guardians informed of all events as they happen. I will continue to publish a Principals bulletin (every fortnight) to keep parents informed of significant events and matters as the year progresses. I will publish the Principal's Bulletin via our website under newsletters. I would encourage you to also keep abreast of our latest news and announcements which will also provide information for families. In the event whereby you don't have access to the internet please contact the front office to request a print out of the Principals Bulletins or other published information. Please email [clarehassallgrove@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:clarehassallgrove@parra.catholic.edu.au) to request this option. Your son or daughter will then bring home the requested information.



We will also post daily information via our website under our 'latest news'. Our student leaders, teachers and leadership team will ensure no event is missed in capturing and sharing pictures of our daily events and achievements of our students at St Clare's with parents/guardians.

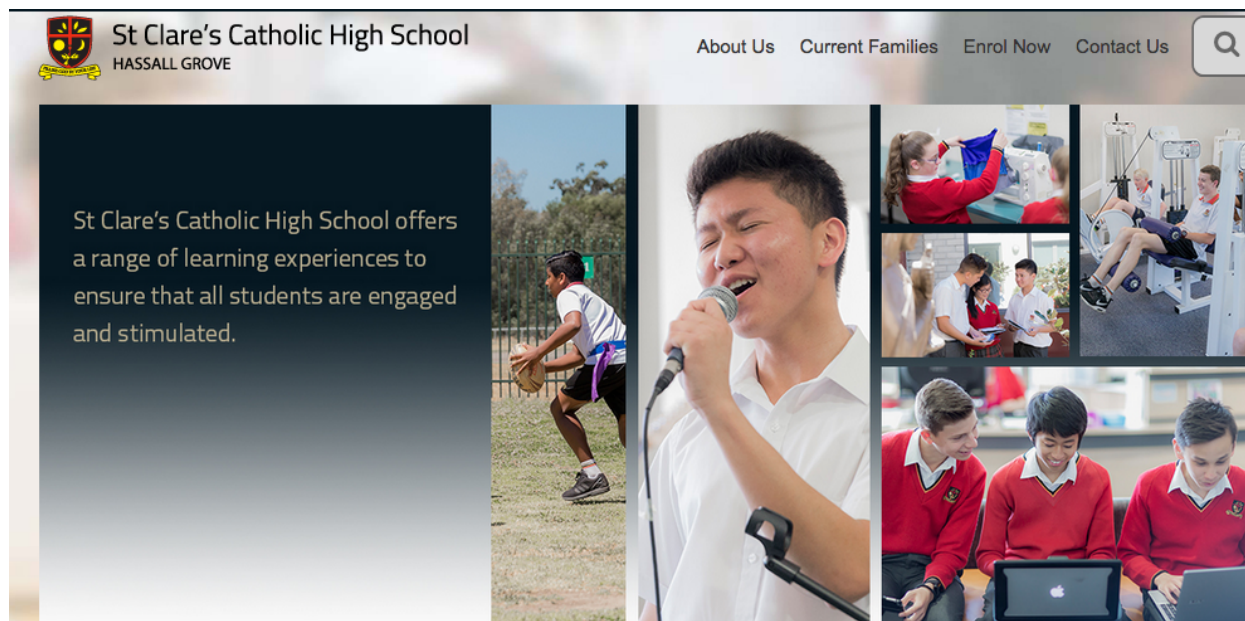
I would encourage you to send me any significant accomplishments or achievements your son or daughter might have been recognised for so we can share these with our school community. For instance, making a NSW or Australian sporting team, Duke of Edinburgh award, Local Community recognition or Volunteering / Community Service recognition. Send any worthy news stories and pictures to [clarehassallgrove@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:clarehassallgrove@parra.catholic.edu.au) and mark for the attention of the principal.

### ***Every Day at School Counts***

Yesterday I received a report generated in December 2016 that our student "Attendance Level" was calculated at 65.2%. Given the average for our diocese is 80.1%, our level is somewhat concerning. So many students are missing out on their learning and are playing catch up with their studies or simply falling behind.

Our focus this year is to improve our attendance level to at least 90%. We all need to have high universal expectations as this is critical a student's achievement progress and wellbeing. Please see Mrs Nielsen's report below that visually represents how a poor level attendance impacts on a student's schooling. With your support we can turn this statistic around.

Here is the link to our new school website:  
<http://www.clarehassallgrove.catholic.edu.au/>



### ***School Action Plans for 2017***

*As part of our ongoing Strategic Plan and Improvement Plan all schools across our diocese have been asked to generate plans for Literacy, Numeracy and Formation. Our school goals for 2017 are as follows :-*

***Formation / Religious Education*** - *By the end of 2017, students will develop a deeper understanding of the Gospel Matthew with a particular focus on the charism of St Francis and St Clare.*

***Literacy*** - *To improve the reading comprehension skills of each student in Stage 4, by meeting or exceeding of Pat-r norms, within the October 2016 - October 2017 PAT-R testing periods.*



***Numeracy*** - *To increase Years 7 and 8 students' mathematical understanding and competence, particularly in the domain of multiplication and division. All Year 7 and 8 students to progress a minimum of one growth point in the domain of multiplication and division by the end of 2017; all targeted students in the EMU program to progress a minimum of two growth points by the end of 2017.*

We will endeavour to keep you informed of the progress we are making on these goals as part of our end of term communications. We will also be holding workshops to work shoulder to shoulder with parents and guardians to promote how you too can work with us to support your ward in achieving these highlighted goals. More information will be provided via a **“Parent Education Learning and Engagement Sessions”** we will be running this term. As your child's first educator we seek your support and input into these sessions. These most likely will be twilight sessions to accommodate work and family commitments.

### ***From the Assistant Principal - Mr Anthony Hulme***

*Welcome back to the 2017 school year to all families and I hope that the whole community has had a restful Christmas break. I look forward to meeting all members of the St Clare's community in the coming weeks as we all work in partnership to discover the learning potential of your child/children.*

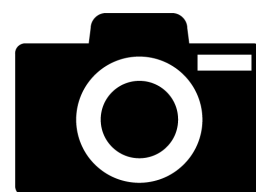
*In a special way, can I warmly welcome our new Year 7 cohort and their families, along with those new students commencing at St Clare's Catholic High School across the other year groups. Welcome, and we trust you will enjoy your time at St Clare's.*

*Can I remind families that Year 7-2017 return on Monday 30th January and that the remaining Years 8-10 start back on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 in full summer uniform.*

*Just a reminder to parents that supervision for the Duty of Care of the students begins at 7.55am.*

### ***Year 7, 2017 and students new to St Clare's***

*To assist in your transition to high school an ID photo day (only for students in Year 7 and students new to the school) will take place on Wednesday, Feb 1. There is nothing you need to bring as Full School photos will be taken later in the year.*



### ***Uniform and Grooming***

*Please ensure that every effort is made so that students return meeting correct uniform and grooming standards, including correct school shoes (which are a hard black polishable leather with a heel) and correct hairstyles which are of a natural colour, uniform and without any shavings, undercuts or irregular styles. This will avoid any embarrassing phone calls to parents/carers on the first day.*



## OPAL Card



*Students who were issued with an Opal Card last year need to carry this with them from the start of the school year. Opal Cards will not be reissued like the older style bus passes. All families would have received information packs from Transport NSW if there was an issue with your child's bus pass for 2017. Bus passes will be sent directly home for those who ordered the cards at the end of last year. The school no longer collects any forms as applications are completed online through Transport NSW*

## Coming events over the next week

Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Staff Return
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Year 7-2017 return today for a 8.05am start in full summer uniform Peer Support Leaders leave at end of Period 2
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2017	All Students Year 7-10 attend in full school summer uniform today Normal lessons – timetables & diaries distributed today Year 7 IT Bootcamp - Period 3 & 4
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2017	Year 7 and New Students ID Photos taken
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2017	Sport uniform is to be worn. Trials for the following sports: Boys and girls Volleyball, boys and girls touch football, boys basketball
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2017	Normal Day 5 timetable

## 2017 Focus

*There are cornerstones of all of our endeavours both inside and outside the classroom that over the course of the next twelve months we will focus on. I will challenge students to pay attention to the 'small, but important' things of living in a school community namely; 'Manners, Courtesy, Uniform' as behaviours in which they can be constructive agents of conversion in our community and more broadly as they represent themselves, their families and the School.*



**Saint Clare of Assisi**  
**(July 16, 1194 – August 11, 1253)**

### ***From the Leader of Wellbeing and Learning- Mrs Theresa Nielsen***

*I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all students and their families back to 2017. As always, the Student Advocacy Team will comprise of experienced, enthusiastic leaders whose primary concern is for the wellbeing of all students in their year group. Collectively the Student Advocacy Team will focus on areas ranging from student attendance at school, issues that may arise at school and initiatives to support student wellbeing. The team will be as follows:*

Year 7	Mrs A. Watton
Year 8	Miss M. Calleja
Year 9	Mrs N. McArdle
Year 10	Ms D. Baker

*In 2017, the Leader of Year will work closely with you to improve student attendance across the school. The initiative put forward for all diocesan schools Every Learner, Every Day is a campaign designed to raise awareness about the importance of attendance for every student, on every school day and to promote a healthy attendance culture. Please read through the infographic below. As a family, we encourage you to discuss the importance of your child attending school regularly. As a school, we can offer support in working with you to improve your child's attendance.*

*Please contact your child's Leader of Year to discuss concerns.*

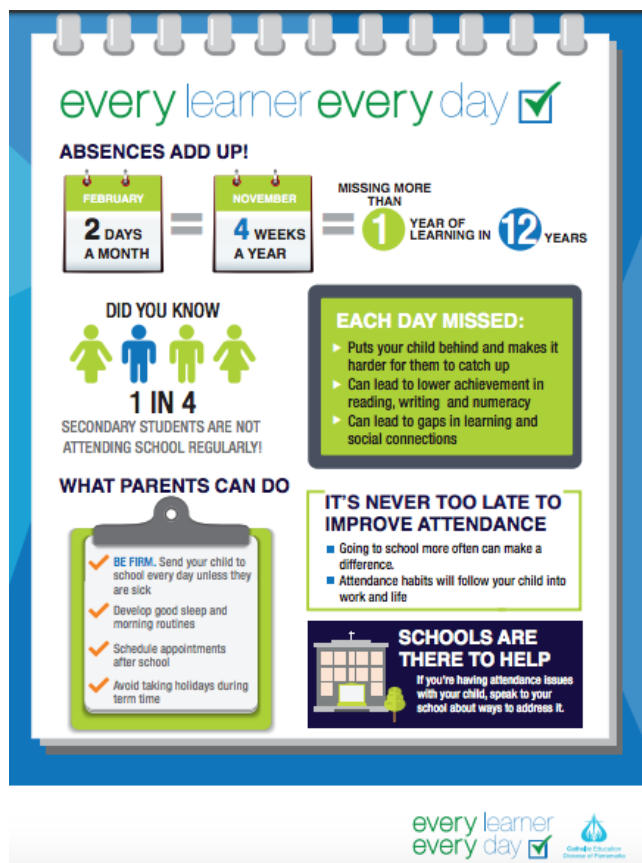
*From time to time, parents and carers would like to discuss issues or concerns. If an issue pertains to a particular subject area, please contact the subject teacher or Leader of Learning in that subject area. Any other issues relating to student wellbeing can be referred to the Leader of Year.*

*As always, thank you for your support in the work we do. We look forward to working in partnership with you to achieve positive outcomes for your child.*

***We wish all students a successful 2017 school year.***

***God Bless,***

***Mr Shane Morris  
Principal***



***From the School Counsellor - Ms Lauren Forwood***



the  
children's  
hospital at Westmead

## **St Clare's Anxiety Management Group**

Parents and students at St Clare's have been invited to participate in an anxiety management group, to be conducted as part of a research study through The Department of Psychological Medicine at the Children's Hospital at Westmead, in partnership with Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP).

The student group will run at school for one hour per week for ten weeks in 2017, and will be facilitated by Lauren Forwood, St Clare's School Counsellor, and an additional psychologist from CEDP. The group will consist of a series of mindfulness and acceptance based activities to teach children various skills to learn how to deal with anxiety.

For students to participate in the group, parents will initially be required to complete some screening questionnaires and also attend a short interview with one of the researchers to answer questions about their child's anxiety. Once the group commences, parents will also be required to attend two evening information sessions, one at the beginning and one half way through the group program.

If you feel you and your child would benefit from learning how to manage your child's anxiety and are interested in participating in this study please direct your expressions of interest to Lauren Forwood through the school office on 9830 2400. There is no fee associated with your participation.





## **CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 7 AARON SMITH**

St Clare's Catholic High School has another true champion amongst its student body. Aaron Smith, year 7 was one of 119,000 students around Australia taking part in the 2016 "NAIDOC Week School Initiative Competition"

Judging of entries was adjudicated by a panel including Aboriginal Elders, Agency Delegates, Television Personalities and other members of the community.

Aaron wrote his award winning essay on the great Rugby League player Greg Inglis.



Aaron was one of only 20 students across New South Wales receiving the NAIDOC Medal of Excellence...awesome achievement.

Well done Aaron.

## **CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 9 JAYDEN BUAN**

St Clare's Catholic High School welcomes another great act of dedication. Jayden Buan of year 9 decided he wanted to take up boxing, travelling each day after school to the gym getting himself boxing fit and sparring against boys older, bigger and more experienced.

Jayden was invited to Queensland to take part in the National Junior Boxing Championships. Fighting in the Under 16, 57 kilogram class, Jayden's opponent was 3 time National Champion from Tasmania who had 25 fights to his name. This was Jayden's first fight.

Jayden didn't get the decision on this occasion but won the respect and admiration of all who saw the match. Well done Jayden. All of St Clare's are proud of you.