

Newsletter
every second
Thursday

Clare State School

The Messenger



Goals for 2017	Current Level of Attainment
Implement Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) across the school	Achieved
90% of students to achieve a 'C' or better in English	76%
90% of students to achieve a 'C' or better in Mathematics	80%

Important Dates

9/6 – Inter-School Sports	19/6 – Hair Raiser	20/6 – BCA Health Talk
21/6 - Artist in Residence	22/6 – HASS and NAIDOC Cluster Day, Playgroup	23/6 - Last Day of Term 2, Shared Lunch

Thursday 8 June 2017

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

With just over two weeks left, we are now really hitting the business end of Term 2. Students have been completing many assessment tasks in preparation for their report cards to be finalized. Over the past two weeks we have had a consistent focus on ensuring that the students are 'Being a Learner by trying their hardest always and having a go'. This has been our focus rule for the past two weeks as we all want the students to achieve to the best of their ability and reap the rewards for the hard work that they have put in throughout the first half of this year. This is also aligned to us achieving two of the goals that are set out in our Annual Implementation Plan which are to have ninety percent of students achieving a 'C' or better by the end of this year in Mathematics and English. As yet, we have not achieved these goals, however we are on track to achieve our interim goal of having 80% of students achieve a 'C' or better in these subject areas by the end of this Semester.

I am also pleased to report that we have now achieved the third goal set out in our Annual Implementation Plan which was to fully embed Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) across our school. To achieve this we had to:

- Change our school rules to 'Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be a Learner'
- Place posters with these rules and consequences for inappropriate behaviour around the school.
- Update our Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students
- Align our rewards systems to PBL
- Implement focused behaviour lessons which target a specific rule each week.

Well done and thank you to all of the staff, students, parents and community members who had input into these rules and assisted with the implementation of PBL. Keep up the great work!

Have a great day,

Troy Patti - Principal

3-6 Class

The year 3 – 6 students are busy completing all of their assessment tasks and learning some final concepts in Maths and English at the moment. The students are really enjoying their Technology and English assessments and, so far, many of them have done a great job on these tasks.

The final concepts that are being covered in Maths and English are as follows:

- Yr 3 and 4 Maths – Multiplication Facts and Location and Direction
- Yr 5 and 6 Maths – Angles, Symmetry and Order of Operations
- Yr 3 and 4 English – Writing a literary recount where they have to assume the role of either an aborigine or a European settler at the time of the arrival of the First Fleet.
- Yr 5 and 6 English – Writing a comparative report that compares the movie and novel versions of 'The Lorax' to decide which medium does a better job of conveying the message of the story.



P-2 Class



The students in Prep – Year 2 have been very busy over the past few weeks. They have completed their retell of the well-known children's book 'Possum Magic'. For this task, the students used a map of Australia to retell the events that led to the invisible possum, Hush, becoming visible again.

Students have also been learning about the properties of different materials in science. The boys in Prep have used their knowledge of these materials to make a wind ornament. They had to think about materials that would withstand various weather elements. The students in year 2 have also been investigating the properties of various materials that they could use to construct a lunchbox.

Home Reading

In the last newsletter, we reported that all students had made improvements in their reading levels. This is very pleasing. However, upon further analysis of their reading tests and through observations made in the classroom, staff have noticed that a number of students are not progressing in their fluency. We have also noticed that these same students have not been completing their home reading section of their homework.



Reading is an essential skill that goes across all subject areas and facets of life. Please ensure that your child is reading aloud for 10 minutes every night. This will boost their confidence with reading and will improve their overall fluency which can lead to better understanding of a text. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Gotchas – Positive Behaviour For Learning

Rule of the Week – Be a Learner by having a go and always trying your best.

So far this term the students have earned a total of 526 Gotchas. Well done kids! Keep up the great work. 800 Gotchas is definitely in reach!

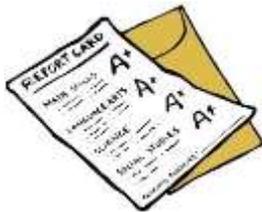


Diagnostic Assessment – Literacy Continuum

Every year the school conducts a number of diagnostic assessments on our students to collect data on their abilities in Mathematics and English. These diagnostic assessments are often very time consuming and often tell us what we already know about a student's abilities. This year we have replaced 4 of these diagnostic assessments with a tool called the 'Literacy Continuum'.

The Literacy Continuum is a checklist which outlines what is expected in the various elements of English, such as reading, comprehension, phonics, writing, vocabulary, speaking and listening. So far, staff have plotted all students in Prep – Year 4 on the Continuum. This will vastly reduce the learning time that students spend on diagnostic assessments and will provide us with a 'one-stop-shop' to see where students' strengths and weaknesses are in English. We will be using this continuum to assist with goal setting for the remainder of this year.

Report Cards



Report cards will be sent home with the students on Tuesday 20 June. If you have any queries about your child's report card, please make a time to speak with your child's teacher. We will also be hosting an Open Classroom Afternoon on Wednesday 21 June where all parents and family members are encouraged to come in and look at the work that their child has completed throughout this term.

Finance and Workplace Health and Safety Audit

Over the past three days, our school has undergone a Workplace Health and Safety and Financial Audit. Overall, the auditor was pleased with what was happening at Clare State School.



Hair Raiser

The next Hair Raiser will be held on 19 June at 2:30pm. If you would like to book a hair cut, please fill out the form attached at the back of this newsletter. Thank you to Mrs Kovacich for donating her equipment, products and time to this exceptional fundraiser for our school.

Parents and Citizens' Association

The next P&C meeting will be held at 4:30 pm on Monday 17th July in the school library. All parents and community members are encouraged to attend. Our last P&C Meeting was very well attended. Thank you to all of the parents, staff and community members who actively participated in this meeting. During the meeting it was decided to hold a working bee on Friday 7 July starting at 8:00am. New gardens will be planted at the front of the school during this working bee.



Fidget Spinners

The latest craze to hit schools across the nation is fidget spinners. Fidget spinners are little toys that some experts say assist some students to concentrate better. While these toys may assist some students, many students find them distracting. As a result of this, our schools' stance on fidget spinners is that they are a toy that students can bring to school but they are only allowed into the classroom with permission from the Principal. This is because we have some students for whom it is recommended that they use fidget toys in the classroom to help them maintain concentration. The students have been made aware of this rule and they are also well aware that they are wholly and solely responsible for any toys that are brought to school. They are also aware that as soon as any issues arise with these toys being brought to school, they will be banned.



Ayr State High School Year 6 Transition Day

On Wednesday 31 May, students in year 6 went to Ayr State High School for a Transition Day. The students thoroughly enjoyed their day and met many students from other schools who will be in the same year level as them when they go to high school next year.

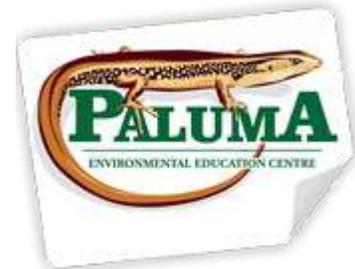
HASS and NAIDOC Cluster Day



On Thursday 22 June, all students will be joining the other small schools from around the Burdekin for a History and Social Sciences (HASS) and NAIDOC Cluster Day at Airville State School. Please fill in the attached permission form to give your child permission to attend this day. Students will have to bring their own lunch on this day as there will not be a tuckshop.

Artist In Residence

On Wednesday 21 June, Mr Ashley McLaughlin (Principal of the Paluma Environmental Education Centre), will be coming to Clare State School to conduct an art workshop with our students and the students of Maidavale State School, who will also join us for the day.



Shared Lunch

The last day of Term 2 will be a Shared Lunch provided by the P&C Association. Thank you to the P&C for this generous donation.

Clare Dump

The Burdekin Shire Council has taken over the running of the Clare Dump. Until recently, this job was shared by the Clare Church and Clare State School P&C Association. The dump will continue to open every fortnight on a Saturday from 1:00pm – 5:00pm. The P&C Association will continue to conduct the Drum Muster. If you have any chemical drums that need to be

disposed of, please clean them properly and phone the school on 47827133 to arrange a time to drop the drums off at the dump.

Please support the dump as it is a great facility for our community to have. Supporting the Drum Muster will also provide excellent funds for our P&C Association.

Inter-school Soccer



On Friday 26 May, the students in year 5 and 6 travelled to Ayr to compete against other schools in a 6-a-side soccer competition. The team played very well winning all of their games and being the only team to go through all of their games undefeated. The second day for

inter-school soccer will be held tomorrow (Friday 9 June). Good luck year 5 and 6.

Water Safety Awareness – Clare and Millaroo State Schools

Importance of Water Safety Education

On Monday 29 May 2017, Queensland Police conducted a fun filled excursion to raise awareness of water safety for the students at Clare and Millaroo State Schools.

The aim of the excursion was to educate local children about the importance of local water distribution infrastructure to the rural and agricultural development in the area. The safety of the public around dams, weirs and irrigation channels was also a focus of the day.

Students were given a first-hand view of some of the most prominent water distribution infrastructure in the local area, including the Clare Weir, Tom Fenwick Pump Station, irrigation channels and Mulgrave Balancing Storage.

The excursion was particularly valuable for students from Clare State School who are currently studying the water cycle and were able to learn more about the importance of the various systems for distributing water throughout the agricultural area.

Staff from SunWater's Burdekin Office also attended the excursion to provide the students with some insight into what is required to operate and maintain a large irrigation scheme. The students learned

that in June, SunWater will commence their annual operational maintenance shutdown for the scheme, which involves undertaking routine maintenance to infrastructure such as; channels, drains, control gates, control systems, balance storages and pump stations to ensure they continue to operate effectively to deliver water to the farms in the area.

Importantly it was explained to the students how they should follow the advice of SunWater's mascot, Blue and "Play It Safe ...Stay Away" from the irrigation channels, even if the channels appear safe because they are empty. Some of water safety messages included:

- Stay away from irrigation channels and dam and weir walls. Keep a distance of at least 200 metres away from the dam and weir walls.
- Water within irrigation channels can contain algae and moss which makes the sides of the channels very slippery.
- The water in irrigation channels moves very quickly and you could become trapped in deep water. It might look calm, but the water can move very fast and make it very difficult to get to safety.
- Whether a dam or a weir is full, half full or empty, submerged hazards are always present. Hazards such as logs, pipes and rocks could be under the water which could injure or trap you if you jump in.

After the excursion, a BBQ lunch was enjoyed by all and special guest "Constable Clancy" dropped in to say hello.



Back at Clare School for lunch with Constable Clancy



Students at Tom Fenwick Pump Station



Students visited Mulgrave Storage Pit