Dear Parents and Carers,

Audit

Thank you to all staff, parents and students who participated in the audit process two weeks ago. The auditor was impressed with our school and commented how well behaved the children of Clare State School are. In her words ‘this school has a wonderful culture and should be proud of this fact’.

Since the previous Teaching and Learning Audit (2010) the school has shown improvement in all eight domains:

1. Explicit Improvement Agenda
2. Analysis and Discussion of Data
3. Culture that Promotes Learning
4. An Expert Teaching Team
5. Systematic Curriculum Delivery
6. Differentiated Classroom Learning
7. Effective Teaching Practice
8. Targeted Use of School Resources

All domains were highlighted with a result of high, some domains also reached results of outstanding. The auditor mentioned that to get a result of outstanding, the Principal and staff would normally have to be working on the explicit improvement agenda for 3 years and a number of reviews would have occurred. Considering I have been in this position for 2 years, these are excellent results for Clare State School.

The staff have worked hard to ensure we provide your children with the best education we can. I am extremely proud of the work we have done but know we will continue to improve and enhance our teaching practices.

The Discipline Audit also occurred on the same day. During this time the auditor examined the behaviour management strategies used, behaviour data collection and its use, our Behaviour Plan, positive and negative behaviours and other programs that are used in the school to support a consistent approach to discipline.

In the words of the auditor ‘your school has a wonderful culture and limited behaviour issues’. She also said ‘The audit tool is hard to use in your school context due to you not requiring intervention strategies. Whilst your documentation and policies are in place, the tool the department uses rates you on the use of some of these strategies and policies’. Due to the tool rating us on our use of our behaviour management strategies and policies the results for our schools discipline audit do not look as consistent as results for our the Teaching and Learning Audit. Whilst I have provided this context, I am still extremely proud that are results for the Discipline Audit also rated from medium to outstanding.

If you would like to see our results and the executive summary they are available on the Clare State School website under the heading; support and resources; documents; Audit or at this weblink: Audit Results.

If you have any questions about the Teaching and Learning Audit or the Discipline Audit feel free to call the school and I will discuss these with you.
2015 enrolments

With 6 Preps now enrolled for 2015 we have reached the magic number of 26 students, which means we retain our second teacher. At this early stage the class set up for next year will be a Prep to year 2 class and a year 3 to year 6 class. Discussions with current teaching staff will commence in the coming weeks regarding the 2015 teaching arrangements.

If you are aware of any friends, family or acquaintances that are thinking of a change or return to Clare, please ask them to call the office. We are keen to continue building our school enrolments.

Coll’s Lecturette

On Tuesday night we will have 4 students representing Clare State School in the Coll’s Lecturette competition. This is a speaking competition where students from state schools across the Burdekin compete against each other to see who can give the best persuasive speech. The 4 students representing our school:

- Year 6: Shai Auer and Connor Hall
- Year 7: Luke McNee and Matthew Schifilliti

They have all been practising their speeches and I know they will do a wonderful job, making their parents and themselves proud. Good luck guys! **You need to be seated in the Auditorium by no later than 6.45pm tomorrow night.** Students need to be in the front row for ease of performance and are requested to stay until the very end.

Tuckshop—Swimming Carnival

Find attached a copy of the tuckshop order form for this year’s swimming carnival. Please ensure you have returned the order form by 11am Thursday 20th November.

The swimming carnival is Wednesday November 26th. There will be more information about this event in the next newsletter.

End of year celebration

With only five weeks to go we have started organising all the end of year functions and celebrations. We have booked to go to Launch Zone (trampoline centre) in Townsville on Monday 8th December in the last week of school.

We have booked in to jump from 10am to 11am with a soft drink and hot chips for each child afterwards. At this stage we are also thinking of going to the rock pools to have a swim, picnic and play in the park. We will be asking for parent volunteers to help transport children to Townsville for this day. The children will need to bring their own lunch for the picnic. There will be more information about this event in the next newsletter.

Christmas Church Service

There will be a Christmas church service occurring on Wednesday 10th December at approximately 9am at the church. This service is an annual event, which helps us to celebrate the end of year and reminds us of the importance of Christmas. Thank you to Kylie McNee for organising this event.

Choral Challenge

A reminder that this week, Thursday 13th November, is the Choral Challenge at Ayr State School. We need to leave Clare at 9am and will return to school at approximately 12pm. The children will compete against other small schools including Brandon and Kalamia.

The Prep–3 children will be competing against the 4–7 class in the verse speaking component. I wonder who will win? Thank you to the parents who have offered to help with transport. We will let you know on Tuesday afternoon the specific arrangements for transport.
Student Attendance

Student attendance continues to be a major focus at our school. We are currently focussing on unexplained student absences.

If children are sick or are going to be away from school for a particular reason, parents or carers are asked to notify the school of your child’s absence (through email or a note), or with a telephone call to the office. The school will always follow-up on any unexplained absences.

**EVERY DAY COUNTS**: because children achieve better when they attend school all day.
**EVERY DAY COUNTS**: because going to school means a better chance at life.
**EVERY DAY COUNTS**: because school helps children build social and emotional skills such as communication, teamwork and resilience.
**EVERY DAY COUNTS**: because going to school is a legal requirement.

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Thank you

Lee Braney
Principal