

Dear Parents and Carers,

Who is responsible for getting the best learning outcomes for your children?

Obviously your child's teacher plays a big role in that, and of course, so do you, the parents, carers and the wider community. At the recent Principals' Conference that I attended in Brisbane, the Parent and Community Engagement Framework was launched. This framework, which can be viewed at: <http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/parent-community-engagement-framework/> provides a guide to how we can work together better.

"The research tells us that the most meaningful partnerships are those where schools, parents, students and the community work together to focus on student learning. Parent and community engagement that is effectively focused on student learning can deliver powerful outcomes."

The 5 elements are: Communication, Learning Partnerships, Community Collaboration, Decision Making and Participation. We need your input, your skills and passion for the development of our most precious resource – your children. Think about how you might be involved and discuss it with us.

For starters, please come to our **Parent & Citizens AGM meeting tomorrow, Tuesday 12th March**, and the subsequent meetings. They are friendly and positive meetings where we are looking for feedback and innovative thinking. Most of all, it is about being part of our community and contributing to the better education for Clare State School students.

Also remember that we are having coffee mornings in the school library/staffroom every Wednesday morning from 8am. Thank you to those parents and carers who have made the effort to attend so far.

Of course, parents are crucial in improving student results. At the conference, Dr George Otera outlined how something as simple as playing family board games once a week, can make a significant impact on student outcomes in: increased social interaction, critical thinking, communication, numeracy and literacy, team work,

sportsmanship, as well as strengthening family bonds. It shows that education comes in many forms.



BULLYING. NO WAY!

Australia's safe and supportive school communities getting to the heart of the matter

This annual day provides a focus for schools who want to say **Bullying. No Way!** and to strengthen their everyday messages that bullying and violence at school are not okay at any time.

The annual 'National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence' occurs on the third Friday in March each year and is organised by all Australian education authorities through the Safe and Supportive School Communities Project.

At Clare State School we are having a free dress day on Friday, 15th March and all children are encouraged to wear orange to show our support of this day and to remind us that bullying and violence is not accepted at Clare State School at any time.

For more information please visit the following Website: <http://bullyingnoway.gov.au/index.html>



Harmony Day is managed by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It is a day of cultural respect, widely celebrated across schools, childcare centres, community groups, churches, businesses and federal, state and local government agencies.

The message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. In 2013 the theme is: Many Stories – One Australia.

Our Australian Story is diverse. We come from many countries around the world. We each make up the pages of the bigger Australian story we share today. From the Dreamtime to the Eureka to the Snowy River, from the outback to the city, in wartime and in peace, our stories may be heart-wrenching but also inspirational.

To celebrate our diversity, Clare State School will hold another free dress day (gold coin donation) on **Thursday, 21st March**. Students are encouraged to dress in something culturally significant to them or dress in something that represents what they believe represents Australia. Examples: Sporting outfits, National colours, or Icons such as Surf Lifesavers.

For more information please visit the following Website: <http://www.harmony.gov.au/>

Celebrating Student Success:

Congratulations to Luke Mio, Georgia Tomasetig, Bella Rapisarda and Lydia Scott for your 'You Can Do It' awards on parade. Bella, Lydia and Georgia all demonstrated 'Persistence' in the areas of reading and spelling, whilst Luke showed 'confidence' in Maths. Special congratulations to Bella who was named student of the week. The student of the week receives their prize on parade in the weeks following their announcement.

I would like to congratulate everyone on their efforts during PAT testing (diagnostic testing) in the areas of Maths, Reading comprehension and Vocabulary. These tests are conducted at the start of the year and again at the end of the year. They are designed to check students understanding at the beginning of the year and to measure movement at the end of the year based on what should be known for their particular year level. All results are displayed in the back of the year 3-7 classroom and I am happy to discuss these with you or your child at any time. We have some good results and the children should be proud of themselves.

Sport

Congratulations to the year 5,6,7 students for their efforts at hockey on Friday afternoons. We have had some good wins and some very tight games. Clare State School students have displayed excellent sportsmanship and teamwork over the last few weeks and I look forward to a couple more weeks of fair play.

Thank you to the parents who have offered to take children to and from the sports fields in Ayr. Your help is appreciated and without it we couldn't participate.

Unfortunately we have had a parent withdraw their help for this Friday due to other commitments. We therefore require the help of somebody else. If you can transport 2

– 4 children this Friday can you please let us know by Tuesday. Thank you.

Year 6 -7 visit to High school

On Wednesday 6th March our year 6 and 7 students visited Ayr High School. Thank you to Mrs Schifilliti and Mrs Hall for transporting and accompanying these children to Ayr. From all accounts the students had fun and worked hard. They were introduced to art and science in the high school setting. In art they were introduced to the different grades of shading in pencil and attempted drawing and shading their own piece of artwork. In Science they were asked to participate in several experiments and record what they found to see if their hypothesis was correct. The experiments centred around force and gravity. Well done everyone on yet another good display of manners and Clare workmanship. I hope you enjoyed your first taste of high school.

Working Bee:

Thank you to everyone who helped at the recent working bee. The school and P&C appreciate your help in making the school grounds safer and more appealing. Unfortunately I couldn't be there to work and meet with you all due to being in Brisbane but I look forward to the next opportunity.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Due to the short term and the Yr 7 Brisbane Trip being on the last week of school, parent/teacher interviews will be on the first week in Term 2 on Wednesday 17th April and Thursday 18th April. Attached are the interview forms which need to be returned by **Wednesday, 27th March**. *Please note that your slip with your day and time will not be sent home until Monday 15th April attached with the newsletter. So please keep an eye out for it on the first day back.*

School Photos

The date booked is **Thursday, 18th April**, which is the first week back next term. Students are to be in full school uniform on this day.

Reminders

■ **P&C AGM is on Tuesday, 12th March at 7.30pm in the Library. All are welcome to attend.**

■ Forms and monies for UNSW testing needs to be in by Friday 22nd March.

■ Invoices for Maths textbooks and Maths Mate Homework sheets were given to students last week. Anyone who hasn't received an invoice please contact the office. Payments need to be made by Friday, 3rd May.

Thank you,

Lee Braney
Acting Principal

Quote of the Week:

Dream as if you have forever. Live as if you only have today.

- James Dean

ATTACHMENTS:

- Parent/Teacher Interview Form

P&C NOTICES:

- AGM Tuesday 12th March, 7.30pm.

Congratulations to the Students of the Week:



Week 6 – Bella Rapisarda

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- P&C AGM – Tuesday 12th March
- ‘National Day against Bullying’ wear ORANGE to show your support (no cost to students) - Friday 15th March
- ‘Harmony Day’ – dress in your favourite cultural dress or colour (gold coin donation) – Thursday 21st March
- Yr 7 Young Leaders Conference – Monday 25th March
- Wednesday 27th March. Mr Braney and Mrs Schifilliti to accompany.
- Easter Parade and last day of school – Thursday 28th March.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

This Week (11th March to 15th March):

Monday	PE
Tuesday	LOTE – Year 7 P&C AGM Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday	LOTE – Year 6 RE Parent Coffee Mornings 8am Library
Thursday	Music Parade
Friday	Interschool Sport (Yr 5-7)

Next Week (18th March to 22nd March):

Monday	PE
Tuesday	LOTE Yr 7
Wednesday	LOTE Yr 6 RE Parent Coffee Mornings 8am Library
Thursday	Music Parade
Friday	Interschool Sport (Yr 5-7)



