

SCHOOL NEWS

25th October 2019

CLARKE ROAD SCHOOL
Opening New Worlds

Dear parents, carers, family members and community members,

Welcome back to Term 4! It was wonderful to see all the high fives, smiles and greetings as students returned to school after the break last week. Students have settled in well to the final term for the year and I have enjoyed seeing them engaged in deeply, personalised learning as I have visited around the school.

Farewells from last term ...

On the last week of term we farewelled Kavish and his family. We were so pleased to hear that he has settled in well at his new school, Asquith Public and is enjoying getting to know some new friends.



We also farewelled Kavi, who has gone to work for CESE; Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, for two terms. Kavi joins a team looking at assessment and learning through a trial of The Communication Passport. The trial will be used to gain a broader perspective of assessment for complex learners. This is a wonderful opportunity for our stories to be told and understood by the wider community and we are grateful that Kavi is championing our students across New South Wales. The staff farewelled Kavi with a special morning tea last week

Dates to Remember

28th October - 8th November

School Swim School

15th November

P&C Meeting 9:30am

4th December

Year 12 School Formal

12th December

Presentation Day, 10:00am

P.B.E.L. NEWS



Across every school day the students have many opportunities to learn to be a good friend. Look at these wonderful students showing their friendship skills in the playground



Maria is waiting patiently for a turn on the slide.



These friends are sharing the spinner



Maheen is waiting nicely for her turn on the trampoline.



Benji and Shaaun are playing together and have made Humpty a birthday cake.

Celebrating staff Aimee Firkins, our SLSO on Yarra class is currently away as she is representing New South Wales at the 36th Australian Eight Ball Federation Championships in Albury, Wodonga. Aimee is currently 7th in the Australian rankings and we wish her all the best – Go Aimee!



I would like to acknowledge, Shanaya Dubash who has been successful in gaining the Assistant Principal role whilst I am Relieving Principal. Shanaya will be a great asset to the executive team this term.

Visit to Parliament House



Yesterday, some of our school leaders, Eleanor, Jordan and Aiden had a fabulous opportunity to visit NSW Parliament House. They joined with other school leaders around the state and were able to meet with some members of Parliament; including our Member for Hornsby, Matt Kean. Matt is a great supporter of our school. Students and their parents thoroughly enjoyed their visit. The day is a wonderful way for our students to be acknowledged for their leadership.

NDIS . . I am aware that many of you are in the process of having review meetings as part of your NDIS packages and that at times this requires a supporting letter from the school. Miroslav, our school counsellor is able to provide these letters if needed. However as Miroslav only works at Clarke Road one day a week it would be appreciated if you were able to give 4 weeks notice when you require these letters.

What are we learning together?

This week our fabulous, hard-working School Learning Support Officers (SLSO's) engaged in some professional learning around the topic of **wellbeing**. We looked at some research-based evidence on the topic which outlines the following five ways that best support our wellbeing: **Connecting** by developing relationships with those around you; **Being active** by engaging in regular exercise that you enjoy; **Keep learning** by trying new things; **Take notice** by finding time in the day to notice how you are and by **giving** to others through acts of kindness. We reflected on what steps we could each take to improve our wellbeing on a daily basis. It was a wonderful reminder of the steps we can take to care for ourselves. I would encourage you to take a look 5waystowellbeing.org.au and consider the questions that we did How can we care for others? How can we care for ourselves?

Outstanding teamwork and connecting with community . . . Some of the highlights of my new role as relieving principal has been to observe the outstanding teamwork which I see our staff demonstrate on a daily basis in caring for our students as well as the opportunity to connect with more of you – whether that be at bus lines, in your voluntary roles at school or in your most important role; that of being parents to your amazing kids. I look forward to continuing an ongoing partnership with you this term as we work together to provide our kids with the opportunity to be the best that they can.

Have a look at some of our wonderful learners this week

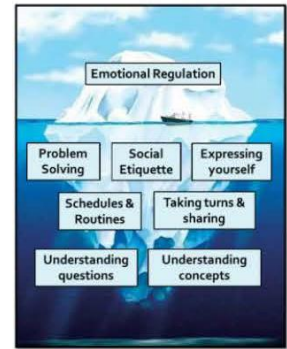


Have a lovely weekend!

Rebecca

Creating a Voice (CaV) Project

The notion of **understanding questions** is another key concept in developing emotional regulation leading them to be able to understand and respond to questions such as “what happened,” “what are you feeling” and “what do you want.” It is important to teach these skills within a range of skills to develop a student’s emotional regulation. The process in which we combine these skills is called ‘The Flow’. The following are some of the skills and strategies which different students are working towards. What skill is your child working towards?



A blue student is developing their understanding of words through gestures, real items and tone of voice. Give students opportunities to learn words by consistently presenting the real item and exaggerating key words.

A purple student is beginning to understand frequently used words in context and paired with real items and gestures.

Consistently use common objects, action words and location words when communicating with the student. Link sounds with words as students often initially respond to sound e.g. cow/moo, car/vroom and mistake/uhoh.

A red student can make verbal requests or request with the use of a visual and is able to understand frequently used words such as the names of familiar people, common nouns and modifiers e.g. ball, water, hot. The student is beginning to understand action words such as up/down and is responding to words linked to social etiquette.

Once students have learnt a word it is useful to teach words that they can associate with it e.g. linking pat, big, walk to the word dog. Student’s language can also be developed through the use of photo memory books.

A brown student can understand simple *wh* questions in context and when objects are clearly visible e.g. students can answer “what do you want?” when presented with a choice board. They can also respond to “where is” questions when the mentioned object is in view.

Ask “what is this?” with real objects to continue developing students’ language and use realistic pictures/books to work on “what is” and “where is” questions.

An orange student understands “what”, “where” and “who” questions.

Develop activities for students to respond to a range of questions such as “who is that?”, “what do you want to drink?” and “where is Mum?”

A yellow student can use their prior knowledge to understand and respond to questions about their own experiences. Yellow students can answer “what”, “where”, “who”, “when”, “why” and “how” questions. Practise their understanding by asking students to reflect on past events to answer questions such as “when will you go?”, “what will you take?” and “how did you get there?”

A green student can use critical thinking and reasoning skills to make assumptions about events.

Develop their understanding of the world by asking students questions such as “what happened?” “why did he do that?” and “how can we fix it?”

Supported by:



Bendigo Bank

Awareness

Anticipation

Intentional

Imitation
First – Then

Categorising

Problem Solving

Critical Thinking



Colo Class Newsletter Article

Colo Class have been having some wonderful experiences in bushwalking. We go bushwalking twice a week, on Mondays with our own class group and on Fridays with Gibba and Buru classes.

We have had some amazing bushwalking experiences and this term we are challenging ourselves with some demanding walks. The photos in this article are from West Head which is one of our favourite places to walk.

Last term we went to Lisgar Gardens, Middle Head and West Head and we will be going there again this term. We will be going to Jerusalem Bay as a new venue.

We go on these walks with Matthew's father- Howard, Tony Little, Manoj and myself. In the beginning we would complain and grunt and groan but we now really enjoy the walks, as our fitness levels have improved.

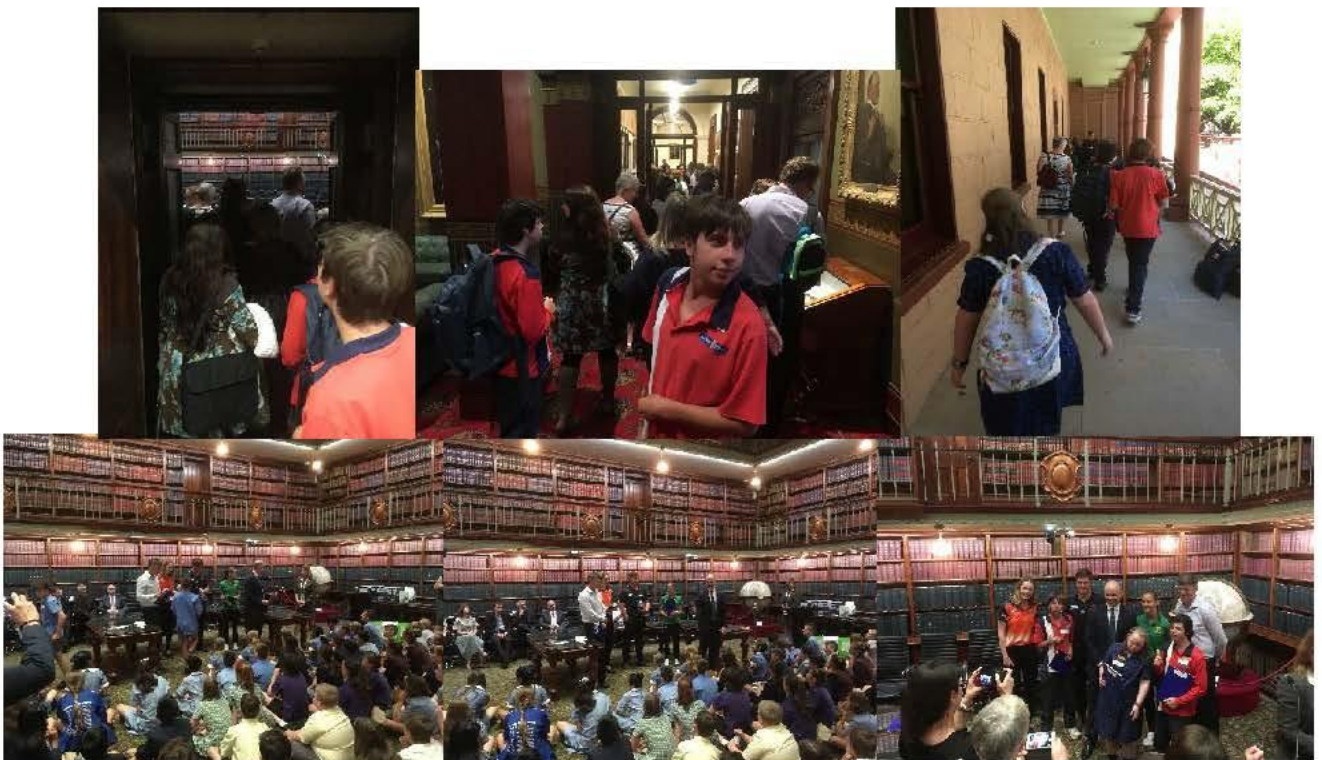


In all of these photos the students are bushwalking in some of the most amazing bush settings.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE VISIT



Clarke Road School Leaders were invited by the State Member for Hornsby (and Minister for Energy and the Environment), Matt Kean, to attend Parliament House for a special visit. They undertook a behind the scenes tour, and witnessed some very heated debates. The Leaders (Aiden, Eleanor, and Jordan), were introduced to four international sport stars and listened to an address by State Premier Gladys Berejiklian.



TEACCH - Structured Learning

TEACCH CONFERENCE

During the recent school holidays Cathy Treay and I attended the TEACCH Conference in Chapel Hill North Carolina, USA.

It was an amazing Conference and we were able to hear researchers speak about the latest research in autism. One of the main things they spoke about was the crucial need to start intervention as early as possible. Now, with DNA and Brain Imaging technology, children can be assessed earlier.

As most children are usually assessed as having autism after the age of fourteen months they are going to start early intervention programs with children as young as six months old who have not been diagnosed with autism but have a strong probability of having autism.

One of the speakers provided brain scans on children with autism and a number of syndromes including Angelman's Syndrome and Fragile X Syndrome. They found similarities in the brain scans of the children with autism and children with these syndromes.

The guest speakers who spoke at the Conference are listed below. If you are interested in finding out more information I am happy to give you the handouts or links to the handouts.

[Halladay, Alycia - Myth vs Facts](#)
[Piven, Joseph - Infant Brain & Behavior](#)
[Rubin, Emily - SCERTS for Early Learners](#)
[Turner-Brown, Lauren - TEACCH for Toddlers](#)
[Dreiling, Nicole - Project ECHO Autism](#)
[Wetherby, Amy - Changing Developmental Trajectories](#)
[Wetherby, Amy - Mobilizing Community Systems](#)

Verney Diamantes and Cathy Treay



Cathy and Verney with one of our lovely contacts Deb McDonald, a Registrar from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.



Small group discussion at TEACCH Conference



Two of our mentors at the TEACCH Conference.

Sunday 10th
November 2019

15
Exciting
Rides

Fantastic
Food
Stalls

30
Market
Stalls

Normanhurst West
Public School
FAMILY FUN DAY

Normanhurst West Public School
4-10 Dartford Road, Thornleigh

10am - 3pm

Purchase Unlimited Ride Tickets Online Now \$30.
Great value for 15 rides & 5 hours of fun!

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can get this great early bird deal on rides tickets,
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and search for Normanhurst West Public School

Food Stalls: BBQ • Turkish • Korean • Sushi • Thai • Hot Dogs
Chip on a Stick • Hot Sweet Corn • Homemade Cakes • Lollies • Toffee Apples.

Huge Plant Stall • Book Shop • Plaster Art • Balloon Animals
Side Show Alley • Face Painting • Showbags • Chocolate Toss
Lucky Ball • Henna Tattoos • Art Show • Lego Exhibition
Massive Thrift Shop with Toys & Homewares

For more details and to check out the rides go to www.normanhurstwestpandc.com.au
or Find us on  @NWPSandC.

Special Olympics Australia invites families, carers, disability support providers of people with an intellectual disability to...

SOAR & ROAR

Celebrate International Day of People with Disability

Sunday 8 December 2019

9AM – 3PM | Free Entry

Sydney Motorsport Park



Experience Australia's Most Inclusive Motoring Festival



Experience a
Dream Ride



Free health
screening



Cars & Bike Show



Live
Entertainment



Helicopter Ride

"We would like to thank you so much. You put a smile on my daughter's face and she was so happy after her ride... I had tears in my eyes as it was so kind... No one has ever done this for her."

- Karen, Soar & Roar Parent

Reserve your spot for Soar & Roar Festival today!

REGISTER:

www.soarandroar.com.au

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