

Dear parents, carers, family members and community members,

As the final newsletter for 2019, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a ***Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!***

I would also like to thank everyone who attended our Presentation Day Assembly last Thursday. It was a special day and a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate together as a school community. I have included Diane's principal speech below for those who were unable to be with us on the day. Clarke Road School has had a wonderful year and there has indeed been much to celebrate.

Thank you for your support and for partnering with us in the great work of our school. Could I also take this opportunity to thank our fabulous staff. They are tireless in championing your children; that they are well cared for and given opportunities to be the best they can. I would like to thank the executive staff, teachers, SLSO's, office staff, our general assistant and cleaners for the amazing job they have done this year. They are no doubt looking forward to a well-deserved break.

***Wishing you all a safe, enjoyable break and look forward to seeing you in 2020!***

**Rebecca**

### Dates to Remember

#### Last Day of Term 4

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

#### First Day Term 1, 2020

Staff – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January

**Students** – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January

## P.B.E.L. NEWS

Congratulations for another great year using PBEL at school and in the community. Remember to keep practicing PBEL rules in the holidays! Students can **Be a Friend** at home or in the community by sharing and waiting for their turn. Remember to **Be Safe** and wear a hat and sunscreen outdoors, keep shoes and socks on and wear seatbelts in transport. Ask your child to **Be Caring** and pack away their belongings, throw rubbish in the bin and wipe the table. Students can **Be a Learner** by listening and following instructions from parents.



Dear distinguished guests, parents, community members, volunteers, staff and students,

I would like to acknowledge the Darug people of the Durug nation on whose land we meet today. I would also like to acknowledge Aboriginal peoples past and present. It is an honour to address this gathering for our 2019 Presentation Day assembly. As you all know I have been on leave and enjoying the world of sleep ins, coffee shops and of course being a nanny to my gorgeous grandchildren Franklin and Lulu. They are both adorable and just so precious, as every child is.

I love this school and I am just so very proud of the work that our staff do every day to make a difference for your children. It feels like a family, a professional family. It's amazing and rewarding to share the journey of education alongside you all. As parents, as community members, you all know that special education is a tough gig at times and to do it well can never be under estimated. Our teachers and support staff unlock the potential in your children every day. They are a caring, inspiring, dedicated and innovative group of educators. We are so very lucky.

It is a privilege to be a teacher to know that each day you have the chance to positively affect a life to impact on the outcomes of students in our care. To be a principal is another privilege as you try to provide the best resources for teachers to be able to weave their magic, to constantly drive a positive school culture where relationships are strong and students are at the forefront of all that we do and to provide a high quality school experience for every child. I am honoured to work in such a fabulous school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the executive team and especially those teachers who have stepped up into executive roles- Kavi, Rebecca, Amy & Shanaya.

We live in a world now where education can be lost in a fog of data, testing, assessment and national standards which attempt to define student's achievement in narrow bands of abilities and ranking, which a system assumes will define success.

Albert Einstein once said

“Not everything that counts can be measured, and not everything that can be measured counts”

So what counts for our students and what constitutes success? Is it being able to travel on a bus? Is it being able to walk for the first time, is it being able to travel to and from school? Is it being able to read and comprehend what is read, is it beginning to talk, is it developing strong working relationships with your teacher? Is it academic progress? Is it being able to use regulation strategies to maintain your calm and engage in learning?

We know that having a happy, well regulated, engaged student who has friends and who can grow to be their best is what matters most!

One of our new 2018-2020 strategic directions is “deep personalised learning” – We do personalised learning extraordinarily well in special education. We celebrate every step that a child makes in their learning journey. It matters not how small. Today is a community celebration of every step that your children and our children have made.

We have a central vision for our school and our students. Our banner statement is “Opening New Worlds”. Regardless of a student's complexities and learning styles we want all students to experience high educational standards.

Evidence of excellence is easy to find when it is everywhere you look in a school. In 2019 we have led a statewide program – Success for Complex students and supported 7 support units and high schools in the state. This work has been adopted as a trial in NSW under the Disability Strategy.

To our staff, each and every one of you, thank you! You do a stunning job! Each and every day you are navigating complex issues to support students in ways no one else could ever dream of! The system talks of personalised learning, well we excel in this arena. When you know a student by the pitter pat of their feet at a distance, you know you've got a deep connection and understanding of a student. For your imagination, innovation, new ways of thinking and creative problem solving I say well done to you all. Thank you from me and thank you from our students.

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to a fabulous group of parents, for the highs we have shared, the tears and complexities we have navigated, for the tough conversations we have had, to the many driveway conversations and for the celebrations we have shared about our school and your children. As a school we will always be here for you. Teams make strong schools and teams forge enduring change and improvement. I believe we have some of the best teams here at Clarke Road.

To our leavers- Sascha – Melissa and Daryl, Alex – Kathy and Tony, Jordan – Karen and Wade, Andy – Sue and Vlad, Eleanor – Linda and Pat

To students moving on in 2020- Julian –Sunny and Sean - Galston HS-, Michael – Stacey – Perth, Alannah – Nicole and Ansgar – Germany, Gonzo – Olga and Nino - the Bush School, Kavish – Shajja and Raj Karan - Asquith Public.

One of our school key messages has been strong community connections and it has been wonderful to have these families as part of our community.

### **Now to the Principal Award 2019**

#### **Damon Baber**

I would like to invite Damon and his parents Madeline and Drew to the stage-

I remember our first meeting two and half years ago. I remember meeting you both. I was expecting to meet nervous parents and Drew possibly was, but not Madeline. Madeline came right out and said – I can't wait for him to go to school!.....and this gorgeous quiet little man entered our world. He was in Carol's, Tara and Nina's class.

I remember how Damon presented -quiet, very much in his own world, little eye contact, always carrying a plane and he spent long periods of time lining up trains meticulously and then laying on the floor watching them. Damon did not engage with other students, he found it hard to accept school routines, he couldn't share, no language...but what a sweetie!

I ran into Madeline and Drew out shopping and guess where they were. In the toy store next to Damon who was sitting on the floor looking at the big box of trains.....dreaming. Move forward two and half years - Damon achievements in 2019 have been nothing short of outstanding. Thank you to Tanya, Tara and Anita for your outstanding work with Damon in 2019.

His progress is a reminder to never under estimate what a child can achieve and NEVER let a label impact your expectations. Know the child, know how to teach them.

I read Damon's report and got tingles down my spine and I felt myself almost shedding a tear. Damon can now - follow daily routines, trace his name, identify his name, sequence numbers to 30, knows his days of the week, complete puzzles of up to 15 pieces, take turns with peers and share, language is on its way. Congratulations to Damon for his breathtaking progress.

Damon Baber is the worthy recipient of the Principals Award for 2019. Congratulations Damon!

***Have a wonderful break! Di***

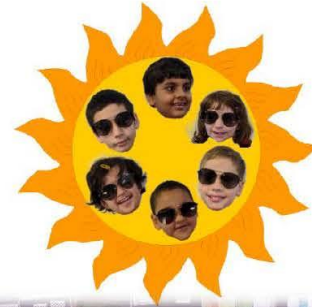


## Bembul Students love their friends!

This year, Bembul students have been learning to work and play together as a class! They have learned to take turns and share with each other. Bembul students had a great semester. Well done Bembul!



*Bembul students enjoy painting and being together with their friends.*



*Atharv, Gabriel, Malayka and Ruby sharing their cooking jobs.*



*Bembul students waiting for their turn when working as a class.*



*Gabriel, Malayka and Ruby watching carefully while Shaaun pours the water into the measuring cup.*



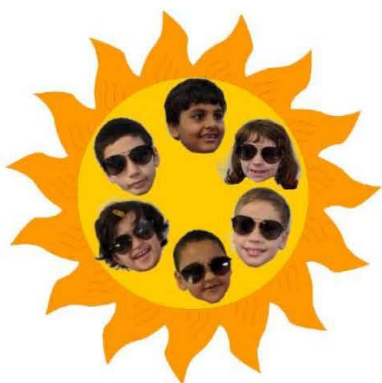
*Swimming is so much fun when together with friends.*



*Josiah and Atharv engaging in their art work as a pair.*



*Malayka and Ruby enjoying their lunch together.*



*Gabriel and Shaaun eating their Cannoli.*



# PRESENTATION DAY



A great morning  
celebrating awards,  
Year 12 leavers and  
new school  
captains









# VISIT FROM SANTA



On Monday, SANTA came to visit Clarke Road School! His reindeers dropped him off and he gave out lots of presents! Thank you Hornsby Westfield for helping SANTA!!







THE RHYTHM VILLAGE

PRESENTS

## **School Holiday Music Workshops for children with special needs and their siblings**

Join us for a 1-hr interactive music workshop or stay on for our percussion making workshop. Bring siblings along for a fun and exciting opportunity for bonding with one another through music.



**At Sydney Olympic Park**

**10am Tues 14th January** - primary school aged children:  
<http://eventbrite.com.au/e/85037534555>

**1pm Tues 14th January**- secondary school aged children:  
<http://eventbrite.com.au/e/85040846461>

**10am Tues 21st January** - primary school aged children:  
<http://eventbrite.com.au/e/85041311853>

**1pm Tues 21st January** - secondary school aged children:  
<http://eventbrite.com.au/e/85041801317>



# School Zone Road Safety

December 2019

## End of year road safety tips for parents and carers

The lead up to Christmas and the holiday period can be a very busy time of year. With this comes traffic congestion, fatigue and distraction. Here are some tips to help you get through it:

- Allow extra travel time to get to places.
- Avoid alcohol if you plan to drive.
- If travelling with packages in your car, place them in the boot or restrain them with a seatbelt to avoid them moving about while driving. In a crash unrestrained objects can cause severe injury to vehicle occupants.
- Ensure pets are properly restrained.

## Tips for preparing to walk or cycle to school in 2020

Now is a great time to think about and plan how your family will travel to school next year. Walking (even part of the way), cycling, or catching a bus to school is a great alternative to school zone congestion.

- Plan a safe route with your child/ren.
- Identify safe crossing locations.
- Discuss how to spot dangers such as vehicles exiting driveways.
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Leave balls, mobile phones, and headphones in your bag.



## NSW double demerit driver and rider offences

Double demerit points apply for speeding, seatbelt, motorcycle helmet and mobile phone offences during the following holiday periods:

### Christmas Day to New Years Day:

Starts Friday 20 December 2019 to Wednesday 1st January 2020 (inclusive).

### Australia Day:

Starts Friday 24th January 2020 to Monday 27th January 2020 (inclusive).



## In the car - Journeys with kids

It is important your child is restrained in the correct child car seat for their age and size:

- It is recommended to keep children in a booster seat until they are at least 145cm in height.
- A child that is correctly secured in an approved child car seat is less likely to be killed or injured in a crash than one who is not.



**Model safe and considerate behaviour for your child.  
Remember, road safety starts with you!**

This is a road safety initiative from Hornsby Shire Council. For further information contact the Road Safety Officer





# CareFlight's Christmas Magic Mania

PO Box 6333 Alexandria 2015

Telephone: 02 96993925

Fax: 02 96901280

## "CAREFLIGHT'S Christmas MAGIC MANIA"

A project by Magic Mania for special needs children and families throughout New South Wales

We would like to invite any members and their families from your organisation to "MAGIC MANIA". It will be held on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2019** at **QUAYCENTRE (Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre)**, Homebush.

There are three (3) available show times commencing promptly at **12.30pm, 2.30pm and 4.30pm**, although we ask those needing assistance to arrive **at least 30 minutes prior**.

We are offering FREE tickets to this event to all special needs as well as care givers and family members who would like to attend. These tickets to you are completely **FREE OF CHARGE** and made possible by the generosity of your local business and professional people. If you could please reply by email or fax by Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. We request that you email or fax us the number of tickets you require. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to call **Jenny Goodman** during business hours on

**02 9699 3925**

Yours sincerely

*Jenny Goodman*

Jenny Goodman project coordinator  
Magic Mania



**FOR YOUR FREE TICKETS PLEASE EMAIL OR FAX:**

**FAX: 02 9690 1280**

**[careflightsmagicandmoviemania@magicmania.com.au](mailto:careflightsmagicandmoviemania@magicmania.com.au)**



NUMBER OF TICKETS: **SHOW 1 @ 12.30PM** \_\_\_\_\_

**SHOW 2 @ 2.30PM** \_\_\_\_\_

**SHOW 3 @ 4.30PM** \_\_\_\_\_



CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANISATION from or heard about show from \_\_\_\_\_

Your Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please tick if you would like your tickets emailed (saves paper and postage)  
Proudly supporting

# CareFlight

Po Box 6333 Alexandria 2015

## How it works

A travel trainer will discuss your public transport needs and plan a trip with you. They will travel with you on your practice trip. More practice sessions can be arranged, as needed.

The service is personalised and flexible, helping you deal with any challenges, and matched with the best transport options available.

## The cost

Travel training is free for people learning how to travel on public transport, for a limited number of hours.

If you require additional training, Easylink is a Registered NDIS Provider of travel training and other transport solutions.

Ask us for details about our free training and our NDIS services.



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**Easylink Travel Training**  
is available to individuals  
and groups.

**Travel Training is a FREE service**



**For booking and more  
information**

Contact our friendly team:

**9919 0700**  
**www.easylink.com.au**

Travel Training is supported with funding  
from Transport for NSW

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**Easylink**  
Travel Training

**Public transport  
made easy**

**Northern Sydney Region**



**9919 0700**

**www.easylink.com.au**

**Registered NDIS Provider**

1/8/19 3:39 pm

## What is Travel Training?

Travel Training enables people to use public transport independently, whether they are a new user or would like to use it more often.

If you want to catch public transport to travel to work, study or school, go shopping, visit the doctor or see friends, Easylink can help you develop the confidence and skills to make it happen.

### You can learn about:

- catching trains, buses and ferries
- using an Opal card
- how to plan trips
- which service to catch
- where to get on and off
- accessible services
- travelling safely
- strategies to deal with difficulties
- where to find information.

**"I now travel confidently on  
buses and trains by myself.  
I can travel anywhere."**

**Margaret**



## Who is it for?

The service is for adults and children.

It is available for *anyone* who does not have the confidence, information or experience to use public transport.

### You may be:

- a person with disability
- starting study, training or work
- driving less or no longer driving
- an older person
- recently moved
- a migrant or refugee
- at school and doing work experience
- a carer
- of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin
- financially disadvantaged.

**For booking and more  
information**

Contact our friendly team:

**9919 0700**  
**www.easylink.com.au**

Telephone Interpreter Service  
call 131 450

1/8/19 3:39 pm