

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you to all the parents and teaching staff, who were able to attend our Parent Information Night on the 7<sup>th</sup> March. It was another opportunity to connect and appreciate some of the key messages and programs that are the cornerstone of our amazing school. When we work together so much can be achieved.

***Building and maintaining positive and trusting relationships is a key driver of this school.***

Kathy Cahill and Deb Marsden (Parents & Citizens committee) spoke candidly about their experience of Clarke Road as parents. They pointed out the importance and value of belonging to a community. To new parents they extended their support and willingness to walk the journey of raising a child with unique needs together. The P&C committee are meeting on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 9.30am in the school library. We invite you to attend these meetings to be a part of this wonderful community and support network.

As a school community, we would encourage you to connect with our P&C or teaching staff, especially if there is a matter that needs further planning or clarification. Sometimes we have to get to Plan Z before we find a solution that works for all! Solution-focused, positive outcomes for all is another key driver of this school.

## Dates to Remember



P&C Meeting  
22<sup>nd</sup> March, 9:30am

Junior Swimming Carnival  
27<sup>th</sup> March, 9.30-11.00am

High Flyers Assembly  
5<sup>th</sup> April, 9:30am

## P.B.E.L. NEWS



**Being safe** in the playground is very important for students at Clarke Road School. Students are safe in the playground by walking together, wearing hats, keeping shoes on, waiting for their turn on the trampoline and using equipment safely. Here are some students **being safe** and having fun in the playground.



On the night, I went through our core values and beliefs. Next time you visit the school take time to read these blue and red posters (they frame the front office window!). ***“Innovative practices and new ways of thinking”*** is a key value of ours.

Every now and again the “b...” word raised its head. Yes ...Behaviour! Our students are often referred to as “having challenging behaviour” or needing a “behaviour management plan”. It’s an interesting word as we all have behaviour, some people are just better able to manage, regulate and use their behaviour than other people are. Our student’s unique neurology can impact the way the brain regulates and responds to issues they perceive in their world. We can support many aspects of the environment that assist our students to be regulated, calm and to be able to make choices that are positive in managing their own behaviour, but ultimately students’ needs to manage their own behaviour with our support and your support. We have a shared responsibility to continue to build practices that support our students and build positive neural networks. What if we were curious about behaviour....instead of blaming someone else for a student’s behaviour? Beacon house or Bruce Perry’s work has some wonderfully simple suggestions and mantras about support students to be regulated and engaged. Much of it involves us as adults changing the way we view and judge behaviour and skills us to respond differently in order to support a child’s behaviour. Here is a poster to provide a brief image of a simple strategy. If you want to read a great deal more about behaviour, then go to the website for a browse.

**What if...**

Beacon House  
Therapeutic Services and Trauma Team

We can't help children change their behaviour by making them feel bad for what they've done.

Remember, they already feel bad.

Instead, show them that you care and help them find calm.

Sometime later, when you feel regulated...

...choose a quiet moment and ask them, with kindness in your voice, to be curious about what happened...

...then you'll help them to change their behaviour.

**...we are curious about behaviour?**

**www.beaconhouse.org.uk**

Follow us:   
@BeaconHouseTeam

We continue to provide support for some of our colleagues out the far west of NSW who are supporting students with disabilities in quite isolated places. This week Kavi, Ylana and Myself (for a short time) VCed into Broken Hill to mentor and support these teachers in ideas around the Communication Passport and strategies that support students to regulate and keep the happy hormones flowing. We are so privileged to have such state wide support of the great work we are doing here to support and develop communication for our students.

A BIG Thank You to all of our families who have attended ***Personalised Learning and Support Planning meetings*** (PLSP) here at school. It is just so important that parents have a strong voice in planning for your children’s future. We expect all of our families to be engaged in this process. For our new parents, I hope you enjoyed the process.

**Senior Camp**-Our senior students enjoyed the camp so much. Thank you to our hugely dedicated staff who gave so much to make it all possible. The students had a magnificent time. Staff commented how being out of the school context provides new insights into what students can do for themselves. I hope our families had a wonderful few nights of peace and quiet. Hopefully you made the most of it and managed a night out to dinner or the like. Our students and staff arrived home absolutely exhausted. Fun was had by all.

Many of you are so sweet and often ask me how my beautiful grandson is going. Well this week I thought I'd give you an updated photo- my Lil vegemite!



Have a great week!  
Di

# Term 1 P&C Meeting



Friday, March 22nd at 9:30am  
Clarke Road School Library

Everyone is welcome. It is a great way to have input into the school and meet other parents. Morning tea is provided.

Contact Kathy Cahill for further information: [kitcahill@bigpond.com](mailto:kitcahill@bigpond.com) or 0405448450

# Creating a Voice (CaV) Project

## Why use The Communication Passport® at Clarke Road School?

The following poem captures the bigger purpose/vision of the Creating Voice Project.

### Keymakers

Some people see a closed door,  
and turn away.

Others see a closed door, try the knob  
if it doesn't open...  
they turn away.

Still others see a closed door,  
try the knob,  
if it doesn't open, they find a key,  
if the key doesn't fit...  
they turn away.

A rare few see a closed door,  
try the knob, if it doesn't open,  
they find a key,  
if the key doesn't fit...  
they make one.

(Author unknown)

**Lisa Rogers (2013) Visual Supports for Visual Thinkers:  
Practical ideas for students with Autism Spectrum  
Disorders and other special educational needs.  
London: Jessica Kingley Publishers**

Here at Clarke Road School, one of our **key outcomes is to "Create a Voice" for every student**. The overall purpose of the Creating a Voice (CaV) project is to empower all students to communicate in as **"many ways as possible."**

In order to do this, we need to better understand our students. We need to become the **keymakers** so that we can support our students to **communicate and connect with each other and the world around them**.

We are using The Communication Passport and In the Zonne for Learning to **better understand the students** we teach everyday, so that we can **enable and empower them to better understand the world** they live in. This **shared vision and consistency** between classes will help us realise this vision for **all** our students.

### What is currently happening at school?

Currently, teaching staff are attending collaboration sessions with Ylana Bloom, academic partner to the project, and Kavi Razzaghi-Pour on The Communication Passport.

A common learning conversation, during these sessions, is that our brains are like a filing cabinet. We are using The Communication Passport framework and assessments to create relevant files and help to organise and strengthen them for **ALL our students**. This allows each child and young person to have a **deep understanding about their world** at their own level.

**Our brain is like a filing cabinet.**



We are all using a common framework & assessments, which ensures greater consistency for our children and young people.

**Create files**



**Organise files**



Supported by:



**Bendigo Bank**

Awareness

Anticipation

Intentional

Imitation  
First – Then

Categorising

Problem Solving

Critical Thinking

# Garraway



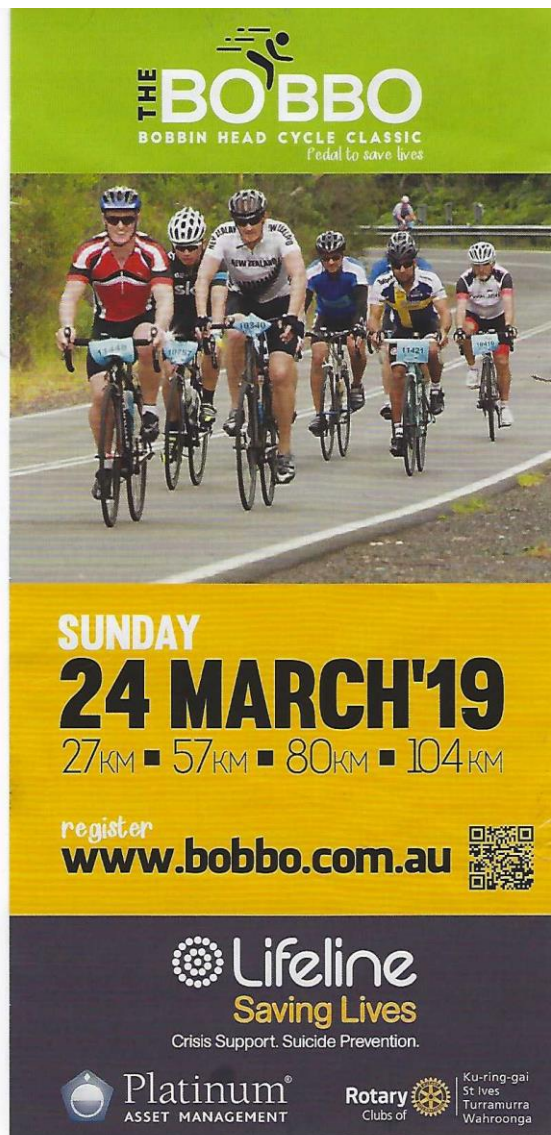
Garraway class have been investigating the weather in Geography. Last week, we looked at what to wear for rainy weather – we put on our gumboots, put up our umbrella and then suddenly it rained!

Hi parents and staff. You wanted to see our amazing adventure at camp? Well here are some photos showing all fun things we did. YAY!



A big thankyou to a wonderful, caring and organised staff; Cathy, Lisa, Tila and Cindy. Also to the students for giving it their all! 😊😊





**THE BOBBO**  
BOBBIN HEAD CYCLE CLASSIC  
Pedal to save lives

**SUNDAY  
24 MARCH'19**  
27KM ■ 57KM ■ 80KM ■ 104KM

register  
**www.bobbo.com.au**

**Lifeline**  
Saving Lives  
Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.

**Platinum**  
ASSET MANAGEMENT

**Rotary**  
Clubs of

Ku-ring-gai  
St Ives  
Turramurra  
Wahroonga

**“Can you help? Our Rotary Club’s major fundraising event, the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic (the BOBBO) is coming up on 24 March.**

We are looking for keen cyclists who may like to enter, and also volunteers to act as marshals on the day. More info is attached.

Our Rotary Club, Ku-ring-gai, is responsible for finding marshals for the first section of the ride from Turramurra to Mt Colah. You would need to be in place by 6am and would be all finished by 8.30am when you are welcome to come to Karuah Oval for a free sausage sandwich. Marshal training will be provided.

If you would like to join the 1500 cyclists already registered to ride, or the 450 marshals who have already volunteered, please contact Joy asap on 0400 305 370 or [joy@newling.net.au](mailto:joy@newling.net.au)

## AUTISM SUPPORT IN HORNSBY



The Autism Community Network provides free support for families living with autism conditions. If you would like to meet other carers who understand you or find social opportunities for your ASD child and their siblings, please contact us or come along to our free support group meetings.

### HORNSBY SUPPORT GROUP - EVENING

First Tuesday 7.30 to 9.30 pm at Hornsby RSL Club— in the Sports Lounge

### HORNSBY SUPPORT GROUP - DAY

Fourth Thursday 10 am to noon to Hornsby RSL Club— in the Sports Lounge

For more information :

[www.autismcommunity.org.au](http://www.autismcommunity.org.au) | [info@autismcommunity.org.au](mailto:info@autismcommunity.org.au) | 9543 9036