

**Dates to Remember:**

**Last Day for Students**  
Fri 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Students Return**  
Thur 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024

Dear parents, carers, family members and community members,

In our final newsletter for 2023, I would like to take the opportunity to wish all of our families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. There has been much to celebrate in our schools 50th anniversary year and I would like to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation for the support of our families and community members.

Thank you to Shanaya, Kavi and the PBL team who coordinated a fabulous Presentation Day last week to acknowledge and celebrate all our students have achieved this year. I would also like to thank the staff for their tireless effort in 2023 in providing a continuous, meaningful and relevant learning pathway for every student and in creating a learning environment in which students feel safe, cared for, known and accepted. Thank you too to our amazing executive team, our office staff, our ASTP drivers and escorts and our cleaners for the wonderful job they have done in 2023.

***New School Leaders for 2023***

Last week at Presentation Day, we were thrilled to announce our new school leaders for 2024. Please join with me in acknowledging our School Captains for 2024: Will Patterson and Ava Marsden and our School Prefects: Justin Sandhu and Ben Shackleton. We know they will do a fantastic job and will represent Clarke Road proudly in their new roles

## P.B.L. NEWS

This year CRS students have made great progress in learning about PBL at school and in the community. It would be wonderful if they can practise PBL with parents and carers during the school holiday. CRS students can **be a Friend** at home by taking turns when playing games, greeting others and sharing toys. Remind your child to **be Safe** by wearing seatbelts in transport and following safety rules during activities (e.g., walk in the swimming pool area). Encourage your child to **be Caring** and wash up or wipe the table after mealtimes and pack away their things. They are amazing **Learners** at school in following instructions and trying their best with new skills.





### ***Thank you, Hornsby Westfield***

Yesterday, we had a special visitor to Clarke Road who was provided by Hornsby Westfield. Santa's visit was enjoyed by all and it was a joy to hear the excitement across the school when he arrived and rang his bell! A special thank you to Glen Wootton-Wilson and his 'Elf', Indira from Hornsby Westfield for their continued support of our school and for the generous and thoughtful gifts for each of our students.

***Wishing you all a safe and restful break and we look forward to seeing you in 2024!***

***Rebecca***

## ***Principal's Speech from Presentation Day***

Dear parents, carers, special guests and community members,

I would like to begin this morning by acknowledging the Guringai peoples of the Darug nation who are the original custodians of the land on which we meet today. I would also like to acknowledge and pay respect to Aboriginal peoples past and present.

In 2023, Clarke Road School had a wonderful opportunity to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday by hosting a community event which many past and present, students, families, staff and community members attended. School archives outline a history of excellence of which we can all be proud. While reading through our school archives, it became clear that the key principles on which Clarke Road School was founded 50 years ago still resonate strongly today. Records indicate that the school's earliest members of staff had a student-centred approach and were driven to create meaningful programs for students with disability, encapsulated in the school's original motto "Learning to Live". Early educators recognised the importance of building students' play, communication and language skills. They also acknowledged the importance of keeping students physically active, developing life skills and engaging in the wider community.

These principles, fundamental to Clarke Road's inception, remain integral to the schools' research-informed programs and practices today. They inform our shared learning frameworks: *Passport for Learning* which focuses on building students' skills in expressive and receptive language and their cognitive and social skills; *In the Zone for Learning* which focuses on building students' ability to engage in learning and develop regulation skills; and Positive Behaviour for Learning, PBL, which focuses on explicitly teaching students positive ways to engage with their peers and in the community. Clarke Road continues to value the importance of students developing relevant and meaningful life skills, so that each one is engaged and challenged to learn.

This year, we have had a further opportunity to embed our shared frameworks through Stage 2 of the Success for Complex Learners project. Our present and past Clarke Road parents, Ai Keng and Archana, are valued members of our leadership team. This year, our parent toolbox team was re-established with our lead parents, Ai Keng and Susan, working with staff to consider how to develop a meaningful toolbox of shared frameworks and strategies for all parents. An educator, Creating a Toolbox Team, was also established with teachers considering together how to create a continuous, meaningful and relevant learning pathway for all students, as well as how to increase opportunities for each child to actively express themselves and actively participate in learning. In 2023, this project was recognised by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, as an example of exemplary practice.

This year, the Assessment for Complex Learners trial, of which Clarke Road was a significant contributor, was completed with statewide implementation planned by the Centre for Evaluation and Statistics team in 2024. This team were winners in the recent Premiers Awards in the World Class education and training category; an award of which our whole community should be proud.

In 2023, we continue to value our partnership with the wider community, in particular Barker College and Ku-ring-gai Rotary. Barker College supports Clarke Road by providing student volunteers at Athletics and Swimming Carnivals and we are grateful for your support. We also appreciate Ku-ring-gai Rotary who partner with us in organising events and working bees each school holidays. Thank you.

Our P & C has continued to provide support to families and to the school under the positive leadership of our P & C President, Brooke Moore. I would like to thank the small but committed group of P & C members who, ably led by Leanne Dries, organised Clarke Road's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations at the beginning of this term. It was a wonderful day of celebration for our school community. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all of our P & C members who are here with us today. Thank you for your commitment to our school community.

To our inspiring families – thank you for allowing us to partner with you as we work together to support your children to reach their potential. At Clarke Road, you are part of a community. A community that recognises the 'awesomeness' of your child and will stand beside you when it becomes too difficult to navigate on your own. As a school community, let us continue to foster and encourage in each other the belief that the journey is better together and that each of us needs to have a place where we can be seen and belong.

To our amazing staff - thank you for your incredible commitment to our students' learning; for ensuring that our students are at the centre of all that you do and that every day is a learning opportunity. Thank you for your teamwork, compassion and for pursuing with passion and purpose opportunities for students to establish a stronger voice, increase their independence and be part of the community.

I would now like to acknowledge our graduating Year 12 leavers and their families. As I say your names, could I ask our Year 12 leavers and their families to stand – Ben - Lynda, Dan – Massimo – Valeria and Brendan, James – Tina and Bong, Valentine – Jane and James.

To our students and families moving on to different settings in 2023 – Cody – Karryn and Mark.

Please acknowledge our leavers.

### **And now for the Principal's Award for 2023**

Cody began at Clarke Road School in 2016, as a pre-Kindergarten student. He was as cute as a button - a tiny little boy with big blue eyes, curly blonde hair and a matching scarf. But there was nothing tiny about Cody's personality – he was a bundle of energy, sociable and quickly took on the role of the third staff member in the classroom. Although he immediately won the hearts of staff with his engaged and thoughtful nature, we recognised that it would take time and a whole school approach for us to support Cody; for him to trust us and to learn to regulate.

Cody's goals in his first year were built around his capacity to regulate his emotions. As a school, we became familiar with Dr Bruce Perry's and Dr Dan Siegel's work on brain-informed practices as together we worked to support Cody to become regulated for longer periods, to find a voice in expressing his emotions and in finding strategies that supported his engagement with learning and with his peers.

In close collaboration with Cody's family, Mark, Karryn and Tahlia, and with Dr Vella at the Health Clinic, we all became Team Cody. Each year we saw progress as Cody became more secure and confident. He learnt to co-regulate, navigate friendships successfully and to engage with learning for longer periods.

This year, in Cody's last year of school, he has continued to make wonderful progress.

Some of the highlights of Cody's growth in 2023 have been:

- Accessing regulation strategies independently
- Engaging for longer periods when attending to learning tasks
- Building a growing bank of sight words, and
- Consistently working hard

Cody, we couldn't be more proud of all that you have achieved at Clarke Road and know that you are well-placed to start high school at Galston next year.

Cody Hudson is the worthy recipient of the Principal's Award for 2023. Congratulations Cody!



# PRESENTATION DAY 2023



*Congratulations to our award recipients, school leavers and all our students for a wonderful 2023! Thank you to all families and community members who helped make the day special.*





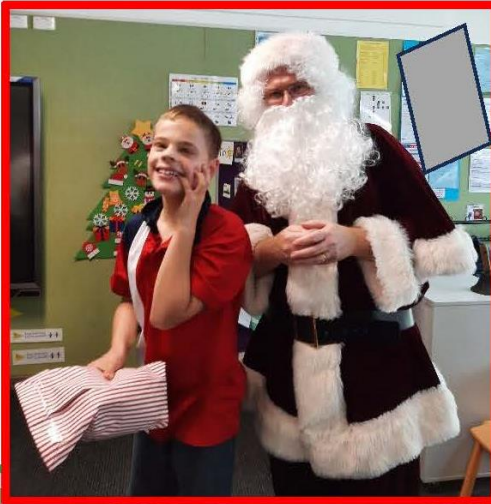




# SANTA'S VISIT TO CLARKE ROAD SCHOOL





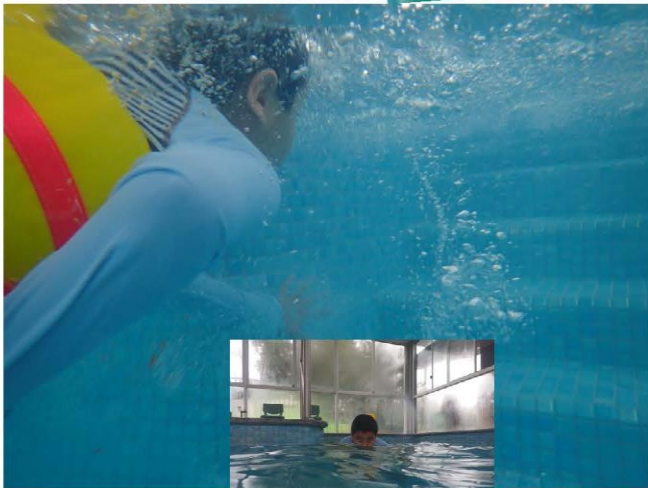
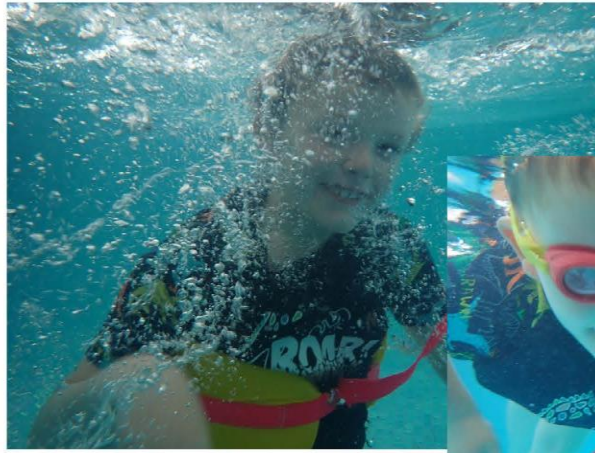






Bembul class has enjoyed swimming this year and each student has made great progress. Here are just a few of our photos. Thanks for an awesome year Bembul From Aggie and Amy







MORHAVEN

## OUR SERVICES

Supporting you to develop independence.  
Helping you to engage in community, social & recreational activities.



Support Workers in your home or in the community

Group Activities

Living Skills Programs

Friday Night & Weekend Social Groups

SLES Employment Ready Programs

STA Supported Holiday Experiences

Therapies



MORHAVEN

Spend time with friends  
Learn new skills  
Hang out with people your own age  
Experience new & exciting things

We have a team who is experienced, passionate, dedicated & FUN! We enjoy finding ways to provide social, recreational & community participation opportunities for young people with mild to moderate disabilities & mental health conditions.

Our unique, real-life experiences are specifically tailored for this age group & promote capacity building in a fun, safe, supportive, & age-appropriate setting. We find that this approach strengthens social connection, confidence & inclusion.

## WHY CHOOSE MORHAVEN ?



- We help you maximize the benefits of your NDIS plan by tailoring our support to meet your goals.
- Our team has experience supporting young people with disabilities where we promote acceptance & inclusion
- We listen and focus on fun, exciting & preferred activities.
- We aim to provide the highest standards in quality, customer well-being & safeguards
- Our program promotes a range of capacity-building opportunities for independence & everyday living skills, social & interpersonal skills as well as developing meaningful & lasting friendships



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upcoming events

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## Short Term Accommodation (Respite)

Short, long, regular or casual stay?  
At CPA, we can tailor a stay to suit every need,  
and every disability.



### Short Term Accommodation (Respite) at Cerebral Palsy Alliance

CPA has 10 Short Term Accommodation (Respite) locations, for individuals aged 7 and up, across the Northern Beaches, Northern Sydney Ryde and Chester Hill.

A stay in one of CPA's purpose-built short term accommodation homes will provide:

- A safe, friendly and enjoyable environment
- High-quality care by fully trained disability support professionals
- Opportunities to build new skills and increase independence
- A chance to focus on a person's individual NDIS goals
- New experiences, activities, and the chance to make friends

Contact us now to find out more!



1300 888 378

ask@cerebralpalsy.org.au

cerebralpalsy.org.au



# ABHS

## 60th Anniversary Book

The Asquith Boys High School 60 Year Anniversary book has arrived! Purchase is online via TryBooking:

[www.trybooking.com/BWDDUO](http://www.trybooking.com/BWDDUO)

At well over 400 pages, this \$60 hard-cover book contains

100s of photos, illustrations, anecdotes, clippings and reports

on ABHS school life. Following online purchase, an email will be sent to you to arrange for book collection in Mt Colah.

Postage can also be arranged.





# School Holiday Program

January 2024

**January** / 2024  
SCHOOL HOLIDAY CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre 8	Bowling at Holey Moley Castle Towers 9	Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden 10	Science Day at the Hub 11	Koala Park 12	13	14
Blaxland Riverside Park & Picnic 15	The Rocks Discovery Museum 16	Water Games at Fagan Park 17	Clifton Gardens Reserve 18	Sydney Zoo 19	20	21
Chinese Garden of Friendship & Tumbalong Park 22	Parramatta Aquatic Centre 23	Peak Pursuit Indoor Climbing Gym 24	Arcade Games at Holey Moley Castle Towers 25			

**RESERVE A SPOT**  
space is limited

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enquiries@saharaservices.com.au



## Specialised sport and social skills groups for children with disabilities

- Multi-sport social skills programs developed by an experienced Occupational Therapist & Psychologist
- Children with disabilities aged 2 - 16 yrs
- Learning new skills in a group setting, whilst making friends and having fun
- Promoting social and physical skill development
- 10-week program in school terms
- 9 sports across the year
- Building a community for the whole family

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