FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S PEN

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would, on behalf of the school community, like to welcome all new parents, carers and students to our school community. A big welcome back to Joshua, Angela, Laura and their families to Claremont.

Welcome to the first school newsletter of the 2015 year. The newsletter will be published fortnightly on a Monday. The newsletter will contain messages from the principal, class articles, dates to remember, celebrations, and messages from key staff at Claremont. The newsletter will be emailed to all parents who have requested this and a paper copy sent home to all others. We are trying to respect the environment by cutting down on paper usage and also, emails ensure you receive a copy.

The school Open Day will be held on Wednesday 18 February. Please refer to the invitation in this week’s communications from school.

It has been a very busy first two weeks:

- Twenty three new students commenced schooling at Claremont. WOW!
- SWPBS Boot Camp has occurred across the school. This involves explicitly teaching all students the school expectations, routines, and transition procedures enabling them to access the school programs and curriculum to the best of their abilities
- Student observations, diagnostic testing and data gathering has occurred to assist teachers with the development of ICPs, curriculum planning, and teaching and learning programs
- Day 8 resourcing was completed on Thursday. This will identify teacher and teacher aide resourcing for the school year. Hopefully this will be provided in the very near future. Parents will be informed by me of any changes which may impact on their child
- Breakfast club started last Monday and will continue each Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:30am – 9:00am. If you would like to volunteer in the mornings please let me or Bryony (Brad’s mum) know
- Tuckshop commenced on Tuesday and will be held each Tuesday and Thursday. The senior students do a fantastic job with tuckshop supported by Mrs Kemp

School Expectations: I CAN LEARN, I AM RESPECTFUL, I AM RESPONSIBLE, I AM SAFE
The Stephanie Alexander Program commenced. Thanks to Mr Bill, Mark and a new volunteer Nathan, the gardens have been prepared for the new crops. Mr Bill is looking for community volunteers to assist with the program. If you are interested please make contact with him and he will give you details of when assistance is required.

International visitors from Hong Kong were received at the school. The group of nurses were involved in a four week intensive program with the Centre of Excellence for Clinical Innovation and Behaviour Support. A big thank you to Mrs McLaren who provide them with information on the school’s mission and values, philosophy, and services to children with special needs. They were treated to morning tea with the students in the SAKG program.

Can parents please assist with the following:
- Items for the breakfast club: honey, peanut butter, juice, margarine
- Safety: please ensure all students and parents use the concrete path to enter and exit the school. Please do not walk down the middle of the driveway especially during bus times
- School entry and exit: all students are required to enter and exit the school through the front gate near admin
- Morning arrivals: students can arrive at school between the hours of 8:30am and 8:50am. Staff are not on duty until 8:30am of a morning
- Student absences: if your child is away for the day please contact the school by phone to advise the school so the appropriate attendance register can be logged on the Oneschool data base
- Alternate student pick-ups: if your child is being collected by a different person you must provide that information to admin prior to the collection time. If you are changing bus arrangements and you will be collecting your child from school, you must notify admin. To ensure safety, a message from the student is not accepted and the staff will proceed with the regular arrangements
- Student 2015 information updates: if you have not returned the information to school can you please do so ASAP to enable us to update our records with the correct information.

Celebrations:
Well done Josh in the senior school who was offered a part time job this week by his work experience provider. We are all very proud of you!
B3 this week completed a teamwork exercise through a painting activity. All members of the team were responsible for assisting in the project, knowing what they had to do as a member of a team to ensure the project came together. Well done!

School information:
The school website is a wealth of information including: newsletters, school information on programs, term calendar, school procedures, import dates to remember and school celebrations can be accessed at www.claremonsspecs.eq.edu.au

Please contact me if you would like to discuss any issues relating to your child or would like clarification on any item. Have a great week!

School Expectations: I CAN LEARN, I AM RESPECTFUL, I AM RESPONSIBLE, I AM SAFE
Have a great week!

Regards

Trish Thiedeman
Principal

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY AWARDS

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<th>School Expectations: I CAN LEARN</th>
<th>I am Respectful</th>
<th>I am Responsible</th>
<th>I am Safe</th>
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Principal’s Award

Josh McPhail,

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Whitehead Studios will be at Claremont Special School on March 4th (Wednesday) to take School Photos. We are sending envelopes home today outlining the photo packages that are available. If you would like to order a school photo please return the envelope with the money enclosed prior to FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY.

LOST POLO SHIRT

A new Claremont Polo shirt was found outside Brothers on the bus seat. If you have lost one that was purchased in the last two weeks please see the admin staff.

SCHOOL BANKING

Student banking with the Commonwealth Bank is available every Wednesday at school. Information packets have been sent home today with the newsletter. If you are interested in your child participating please complete the form enclosed and send it to the school office.

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

I wanted to introduce myself to parent as the Speech Language Pathologist servicing Claremont Special School in 2015. I will be working at Claremont on Thursdays and Fridays. I am really looking forward to working with everyone at Claremont Special School this year!

Kind Regards,

Camilla.

School Expectations: I CAN LEARN, I AM RESPECTFUL, I AM RESPONSIBLE, I AM SAFE
Class B2 have had a great start to the school year and are ready to start our literacy lessons straight away. We have started to do our daily shared reading lessons, where we are focusing on the one book for a week. The students answer questions about the book and do activities based on the book. The students have also started to engage with predictable chart writing lessons, where the students use a PODD communication book to finish a sentence that is written on the board. Students have been gluing their sentence in their books and then drawing a picture of their sentence. The students love choosing and reading story books at the end of the day, and they also enjoy listening to story books being read to them. We have been practising our Magic 100 Sight Words, which the students love playing games using these words. We are going to focus on a letter each week and do activities based around that focus letter. These activities aim to improve students' recognition of the letters, writing the letters and using the letters in words. We are looking forward to doing more Literacy Four Blocks activities throughout the semester.

**CLAREMON'TS LEARN TO SWIM PROGRAM BY MR AB**

Our learn to swim program commenced on Thursday, 5 February for C5, B2, C3 and C6. Congratulations to the teachers and their aides for being well organised and also for ensuring that their students were familiar with pool rules. Thank you to our parents and carers for ensuring that their student was prepared for swimming. Also, congratulations to senior student Josh for his wonderful assistance in the pool.

At this juncture I would like to turn my attention to the academic value of the junior learn to swim program that permeates other learning areas. The practical value for water safety and water wise can never be over stated.

However, children who learn how to swim at a young age are reaching their developmental heights earlier than the norm. We believe that before any learner, but especially a child, works at becoming competent in traditional swimming strokes, a set of fundamental skills, attitudes, and understanding must be acquired first.

Professor Robyn Jorgensen from the Griffith Institute for Educational Research demonstrates in her research that young children who participate in early-years swimming achieve a wide range of skills earlier than the normal population. The study confirms that many of these skills are those that help young children into the transition into formal learning context such as pre-school or school.

As well as achieving physical development faster, children also scored significantly better in visual-motor skills such as cutting paper, colouring in and drawing lines and shapes, and many mathematical-related tasks. The research found that their oral expression was also better as well as in the general areas of literacy and numeracy.

Many of these skills are highly valuable in other learning areas and will be of considerable benefit for young children as they transition into pre-school and school according to the research. It is for this reason that Claremont places a very high premium on the swimming program.

More information on Professor Robyn Jorgensen’s research on ‘Early Years Swimming’ can be found in the Griffith Institute for Educational Research, Interim Report on Swimming, November 2012.
CHAPPY’S CORNER

What a great start to the beginning of a new school year. Everyone seems to be settling in OK with great anticipation for what lies ahead. It certainly is wonderful to see some new faces and to see how the little ones are becoming accustomed to school life. There are a number of programs, which I will be running this year with many of the students. For those who did not participate last year and get a chance to do so this year we will all have a lot of fun.

Drumming has started off well, with about half the school participating. Drumming teaches social skills, teamwork and how to deal with certain aspects of anxiety. Our vital program with the seniors has started with great expectations and excitement, this program once again develops teamwork through trust building exercises, it allows the students to develop close working relationships with each other which will reflect back in their social skills at both school and at home.

Once again the Breakfast Program will be running on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Thank you to all those who so freely give up their time to help in the mornings and those who have so generously donated food items. If you would like to contribute by donating we are still in need of fruit juice, honey, jams, margarine and peanut butter.

For all the Mums, Dads and Carers who would like to meet their school Chaplain please call me or send me an email. I am here to work with the whole school community, promoting a healthy physical, mental, social and spiritual lifestyle. I look forward to hearing from you.

Chappy Bill
Mob: 0416 888573 and email: bills@chappy.org

AMART COMMUNITY KICK BACK

Our school has been selected to participate in the Amart Community Kickbacks Program. Under this program, the school can earn 5% of your purchases at Amart Sports as in store credit to spend on our school sports programs.

All you need to do is join Team Amart, select our school from the list of participating groups and swipe your loyalty card every time you make a purchase at Amart Sports. You'll receive access to great member prices and other initiatives and the school will receive a 5% credit.

Thanks for your support.