Term 1, Week 3

Student of the Week: Luke  S1/2K

Luke has had a brilliant start to the 2015 school year. He has been ready to learn and is respectful every day, at all times. He has followed all rules and instructions and kept himself and others safe. He has been a particularly good role model for our new Kindergarten students and has given up most of his own play time to help the new Kinder students at recess and lunch. Luke loves his play time so this has been a very generous sacrifice on his behalf. Well done Luke!

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to Year 6 students who have done a brilliant job as the Buddies for our Kindergarten students. This program has been running for many years at our school and is a wonderful program of support for new Kinder students. This year's Year 6 have maintained and in many cases exceeded the quality of previous years – well done!
What a wonderful conclusion to our second week of school with our Leaders Induction Assembly last Friday. Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and extended family members who attended to support our 2015 School Leadership Program and Welcome our new Kindergarten students. It was delightful to see so many proud family members and the students in their full leadership glory. The Sound Room Monitors started their role well with the sound and music running smoothly, the Sport House Captains and Vice Captains will be busy organising their teams for our swimming carnival this Wednesday, the Library Monitors will be briefed by Mrs Brown tomorrow for their role, our playground Monitor is already doing a great job and our Student Leaders will host their first weekly assembly in Week 4. Congratulations once again to our School Leaders and I know you will fulfil your roles well.

Our new Kindergarten students did a fabulous job for their first school assembly – remembering their 6Ls and showing respect. They were so proud to receive their Clarence Town Public School badge and I know they will wear it to school each day with pride. Thank you to the parents and grandparents who gave me lots of positive feedback after the assembly – it is always wonderful to know we are appreciated by our school community.

I have also included a special article about the Flannery family tradition of attending Clarence Town Public School and would like to invite any family with a similar history to let me know to add to the newsletter.

I have also included an article from Crime Stoppers re the disappearance of two girls and would use this as a timely reminder to keep our kids safe. These stories are heart breaking and just confirm the preciousness our children are.

As I mentioned in last week’s newsletter final student numbers are due on February 11 and if an extra student doesn’t arrive we will operate with the current 5 classes; however, if more students arrive we will operate on 6 classes. At this point we are still one student short of the ‘magic 130’ and this will mean we will have what is called a ‘nominated transfer’ – which means one of our teachers will be transferred to another school. After following DEC procedures Mrs Etchells will be the nominated transfer and we should receive notice after Wednesday of where she will be transferred to. This has been a very difficult time for everyone as Mrs Etchells has been at our school for many years, but we are remaining positive in the hope that a new student may arrive before Wednesday – fingers crossed! It also means we will lose some Library time and Mrs Brown will be a nominated transfer for one of her days. Mrs Brown will still be with us 1 day per week. This will mean that the Library timetable will be adjusted

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**Permission Notes & Payments Due**

**Early Stage 1**
Swimming Carnival

**Stage 1**
Swimming Carnival

**Stage 2**
Swimming for Sport
Swimming Carnival

**Stage 3**
Swimming for Sport
Swimming Carnival

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**Awards**

**Friday 6 February**

**ES1L**
Jada Garvey-Rae, Ellee Maytom, Jarvis Lea

**S1E**
Hayley Speedie, Seth Smith, Noah Wade

**S1/2 K**
Jacob Head, Lucas Hawkin, Brianna Gooden

**S2/3L**
Brodi Longbottom, Eboney Preece, Gilbert Ainsworth

**S3G**
Samara Archer, Anneeka Knight, Jayden Hawkin, Liam Garvey-Rae
and Library days may change, but I will keep you notified in the newsletter. Once again please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or problems either by phoning the school on 49964156, making an appointment at the office or via my email louise.blakemore@det.nsw.edu.au.

Our Special Programs started last week and our Year 2 students have slotted in well to their Maths time each day. Mrs Etchells will continue with this group this week. Mr Kemp and Miss Ellis are also finding it more manageable to focus on their Year 3 and Year 1 students during this time each day. As I have mentioned before all classes have settled really well and the school has a very calm and positive feel to it this year. Mrs Jensen will be in again this week to teach ES1L while Mr Lofts undertakes the Best Assessment each morning and Mrs Kelson will start on her Stage 2 and Stage 3 GATS groups this week.

I will be out of the school this Wednesday to attend a Principal meeting about our new 2015-2017 School Plan procedure, which means I will miss our Swimming Carnival. However, I look forward to catching up on all the news from the carnival on Thursday. On Friday Mr Lofts, Miss Ellis, Mrs Kelson, Mrs Price and I with members from our local Dungog and District Community of Schools will be attending a 3 hour workshop relating to dealing with Serious Incidents. This is a DEC Professional Learning initiative to update our staff on dealing with any likely serious incident within the school. This workshop will be hosted here at Clarence Town Public School in our Computer Lab.

The Student Welfare Program is progressing well already with our new Tawny 5 Rules:

- I can listen
- I can put up my hand and wait
- I can work quietly
- I can follow instructions
- I can control what I do and Say

I was able to send home lots of Happy Notes last week and look forward to doing the same this week. Send your awards into school once collected and Tawny Awards will be presented each week at assembly. The collected Merit Awards/Happy Notes/Tawny Awards need to be in no later than Thursday morning for that week’s assembly.

This week I will also be finalising a letter to parents/carers that will go home in the post with information regarding feedback, suggestions and complaints. It is vital that any concerns or ideas you have are passed on to the school in a timely manner so matters can be dealt with or processes improved. Already in the past 2 weeks I have received wonderful suggestion/support and just to give two examples - from Mrs Thurlow re: school access during road work (see further over in newsletter for her idea which will be implemented from tomorrow) and Mrs Smith Assembly Item

Assembly on Wednesday 18 February in the School Hall. S2/3L will perform the assembly item. All parents and friends welcome.

Canteen Roster

Wednesday 11 February
Swimming Carnival
Michelle Croxton
Mary Lewis

Monday 16 February
Kristy Boyton
Heather McLenahan
Danni Jeffery
Katie Bagnall

Friday 20 February
Matt Hicks
Mark Zuber
Robyn Keller
Volunteer needed

Wednesday 25 February
Darren Hall
Rina Rocco

Friday 27 February
Bronwyn Prentice
Volunteer needed
who saved us from an embarrassing moment on Friday at the pool (see next paragraph for explanation!) – working together as a school community makes us a really great school.

Last Friday we were all set for our Stage 2 students to begin their Swimming for Sport Program, when thanks to Mrs Smith I was alerted to Seaham PS having their Swimming Carnival on the same day – this meant I could inform staff and students before we had an embarrassing moment turning up at the pool. While the Stage 2 students were very disappointed, especially Year 3 as it was their first time, I was able to adjust our plans and keep the students informed.

Have a great week and I look forward to seeing you throughout the week. Please see our new Dungog and District Community of Schools section later in the newsletter for further news and updates on collegial projects across our schools.

Louise Blakemore
Principal

School Access – Road Work Updates

**New Information** - I received a wonderful suggestion from a parent last week (thanks Mrs Thurlow) that it might help the morning congestion on Marshall Street if we open the bottom Rifle Street gate. So from tomorrow 10 February 2015 the gate at the bottom of the playground on Rifle Street will be open from 8:30am. This is a perfect ‘Drop and Kiss’ zone during the road works – especially for older students. I would not recommend it for our younger students at this point in time but it makes a great alternative to avoid the Marshall Street busy morning time. The gate will be opened at 8:30am each morning and locked at 9:05am. Students will still exit via Queen Street and walk down pedestrian access in the afternoons.

As you would now be aware the Rifle Street Bridge is closed to traffic but still has pedestrian access.

**IMPORTANT** – on Thursday and Friday we had 2 close calls with parents/carers crossing Queen Street at the top of the road work barricade. The barricade makes it very difficult for traffic to see pedestrians so please ensure you use the new temporary crossing area.

**Reminder** - Please note that as of Tuesday 3 February the Marshall Street gate on the classroom side of the Hall will be locked at all times and access into the school will be via Marshall Street Main Entrance and Queen Street. This is a necessary Safety Precaution and we apologise for any inconvenience. Please remember that Kindergarten parents/carers are permitted to meet under the small COLA near the Kindergarten classroom for the first six weeks of Term 1 until our Kindergarten students are settled.

Weekly Assembly

Our first Weekly Assembly for 2015 will be Week 4 and this year we are moving our assembly time to a Wednesday from 2-3pm. Each week the class performance will be advertised in the newsletter and the classroom teacher will notify the Student of the Week’s parents. Our Student Leaders are looking forward to hosting their first Weekly Assembly on 18/2/15.
Swimming for Sport

In last week’s newsletter we advertised that Swimming for Sport would not operate this week due to our Swimming Carnival – however, after the mix up last Friday Stage 2 will still have their lesson this Friday.

Reg Kelly Shield

Attention parents/carers. The Reg Kelly Shield cricket training has been cancelled for this Wednesday 11 February due to our School Swimming Carnival. Training will resume Wednesday 18 February at school from 3pm to 4pm.

Dungog & District Community of Schools – News

As you know Clarence Town Public School is a proud member of the Dungog and District Community of Schools and we have several initiatives that operate across all 8 schools. Each term the Principals meet to discuss programs, initiatives, plans and celebrations for our Community of Schools. These processes have operated very successfully over the past 8 years and 2015 is no exception! The programs and initiatives we will run in 2015 include:

- **Sorry Day Event** – all Aboriginal students + a friend and all Year 6 students from the Primary schools will join together at Dungog High School on Wednesday 25 February to participate in a day of healing as part of the anniversary of Sorry Day. The students will be involved in talking circles, storytelling, art, music, dance and a traditional Aboriginal Smoking Ceremony. The transport costs of the students to the High School will be covered by a grant we received at the end of 2014. Permission notes will be sent home next week.

- **A GATS program**, which will focus on gifted students across our schools in a variety of learning areas coming together to learn and develop their skills further. The program will include some combined face to face time as a whole group and then Video Conference and Adobe Connect for across school links. After trialling a Stage 3 Writing Program in Term 4 2014 run by Mrs Hazell at Paterson PS and a wonderful submission written by Mrs Mitchell from Gresford PS we were successful in gaining a grant from the DEC Rural and Remote Schools Initiative for $20,000. This will fund the program across our schools in 2015. I will keep you posted on the focus areas and progress.

- **LAST Network** – each term the Learning and Support Teachers (LAST) from each school meet to discuss ideas and develop common programs across the schools. A different school hosts these meetings and we also include specialised Professional Learning for the LAST teachers. I coordinate this group across our Community of Schools and have done so for the past 2 years. We are very proud of our Network which has been used as a model of excellence across our region.

- **I will also be training the staff at Gresford and Vacy Public Schools in 2015 in the Focus on Reading (FoR) program**. As you would be aware we have been running this program at Clarence Town Public School for the past three years and it is a great initiative that has improved our English results across the school. Dungog PS and Dungog HS also run the program and to expand it across our Learning Community I will be training the staff of Vacy and Gresford several afternoons each term.
Riley upholds the Flannery Tradition

Young Riley Flannery is upholding the tradition of the family and is the Fifth generation to attend Clarence Town Public School this year.

Two years ago his older sister Chloe started at the school with Riley carrying on the 125 year tradition.

William and Jane Flannery arrived in Australia in 1855 from County Galway Ireland with their 10 children.

James Pardy Flannery was the fourth child of William and Jane Flannery and he was 12 years old when they arrived in Australia. James married Eliza Gorton and their 7th child named James Leamington (Lee) Flannery was born in 1882 and he attended Clarence Town Public School from around 1888.

James married Gertrude Knipe and their 4th child, Basil Raymond Flannery, was born in 1913 and he attended Clarence Town Public School from 1919.

Basil married Iris Geir and their son, Robert John Flannery, was born in 1944 and he attended Clarence Town Public School from 1951.

Robert married Marilyn Stoker and their youngest child, Andrew John Flannery, was born in 1980 and attended Clarence Town Public School from 1985.

Andrew married Amber Schmahl and their son, Riley John Flannery, was born in 2009 and is the 5th generation Flannery to attend Clarence Town Public School this year 2015.

For 125 years, from 1888 – 2015, James Leamington (Lee) Flannery’s line has attended Clarence Town Public School.
Netball season for 2015 will be commencing shortly

We are holding registration days as follows for both Dungog Sub junior competition (4 to 10 years) commencing on 2/5/15 and Port Stephens teams (11 years and over) commences on 21/3/15
Registration days will be held at Dungog netball courts on Wednesday 4/2/15 from 5-6pm and Monday 9/2/15 from 5-6pm (this is final day of registration for players in Port Stephen comp)

Fees Are as follows:
6 and under $65
7-10 years $75
11-17 years $125
Junior player in senior team $135
Senior $155
Coach/manager $40

If unable to attend registration day please contact Katrina Watson on 0427923397 or Sam Rumbel on 0407953293