Term 1, Week 7

Student Achievement

Congratulations to all students for participating in the Schools Clean Up Australia Day last Thursday.

Great work Jack Boyton, Samara Archer, Ronin Elloy and Abbie Steel who represented our school at the 2016 Young Leaders Conference in Sydney last Monday. All 4 leaders did us proud once again – they are fulfilling their leadership roles with great responsibility and a wonderful attitude.

Principal’s News
Welcome to week 7 and a huge welcome back to Mr Kemp who returned to work today much to the delight of S2K and the Cricket Team! We are glad to have Mr Kemp back with us after his recent surgery.

We have had large numbers of students away sick in the last week and several staff too! Please keep an eye on your children and if they are unwell they may need to stay at home to recuperate. Students and staff have been suffering from a stomach bug and a flu like virus.
Last Friday our Stage 2 and 3 students represented our school at the local Aus Tag Gala Day and I mentioned above they represented our school well. I would also like to thank Mr Lofts, Mrs Price and Mrs Wade for organising and attending the sport excursion and the parents who volunteered their time to transport students and support the teams on the day. This support is vital to us being able to give our students such a broad range of opportunities and once again shows the strong links across our school and community.

We also participated in the annual Schools Clean Up Australia Day last Thursday as a whole school. Thank you to Mr Lannigan and Miss Ellis who coordinated the event and all the students who did a wonderful job cleaning up around our school site. It is very important for our students to understand the long term impact of littering and their role in preventing it in and around our school, community and local environment. The students also participated in a colour in competition and the winners will be announced at tomorrow morning assembly.

This week we have our:
- Swimming for Sport Stage 3 (Wednesday) and Stage 2 (Friday)
- Sporting Schools Tuesday (Softball) and Thursday (Netball) from 3-4pm
- Our Weekly Assembly will be held on Wednesday from 2-3pm and ES1L are excited about their performance.

Our school/parent/community partnership updates are:
**Fixed Equipment:** Unfortunately the official opening of our fixed equipment has been delayed to allow the rubber soft fall longer to cure and dry in this high humidity heat – we are hoping for tomorrow or Thursday!

**School Bus Service:** No change from last week with the bus service. If you have any specific questions please give me a ring at school or drop me an email: louise.blakemore@det.nsw.edu.au

**Before and After School Care:** Thank you to those families who returned the survey – I am now collating the results and completing the grant application to support the P&C implementing this program within our school – watch this space!
Fundraisers: The P&C bulbs order closed today, but we will accept any last minute orders but they must be at school by 9am tomorrow please! Attached to today’s newsletter is the next fundraiser which is our annual Easter Raffle Ticket books.

Community Event: Through the wonderful idea of Katie Bagnall and our P&C there has been a proposal to organise a Hoedown as a community event for the Clarence Town Community. Initially we were looking at this as a school organisation option, but after careful consideration and costings the event would be too big for the school to organise alone and now the proposal is for all local groups to join together to organise this event and the school will be part of this. **To begin discussion and organisation there is a community meeting this Sunday at 2:00pm at the Bowling Club for all interested groups and individuals.** This event is a wonderful opportunity for all of Clarence Town to come together and raise money for multiple groups and organisations.

I will keep you posted on these fronts and advertise start dates as soon as I know anything. I would like to thank the P&C for their hard work in supporting these projects within our school and community and all their wonderful fundraising organisation.

We are constantly reminding students of our PBL Values and school motto along with our Tawny 5 Rules and I would also encourage parents to use these words when celebrating positive behaviour and discussing negative choices with your child.

The 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

The School motto:
**Kindness  Honesty  Effort**

The Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Values:
**Learning  Safety  Respect**

Through working together we create the best opportunities and learning experiences for all our students. We are all also working together to ensure our students are well represented in our uniform to foster pride and respect in our school.

Have a great week.
Louise Blakemore
Principal
School Voluntary Contribution
Our school voluntary contribution has been set this year at $20 per student or $40 per family. This voluntary contribution is used to purchase books and resources for students. It would be appreciated if parents could pay this contribution as soon as possible.

Student Emergency Contact Details
All students received today an envelope with their child’s emergency contact details (pink note). Can parents please check all details and make any corrections necessary and return to the school as soon as possible. If the details are correct please initial the page and return.

Mathletics
All students are now using Mathletics in class. Mathletics helps students enjoy Maths and achieve great results. Students are able to access Mathletics via the internet at school and at home. Each student is given a unique user name and password to be able to log onto Mathletics.

As we believe this is an excellent aid to your child’s learning, the school will subsidise the cost of this program. Parents are asked to contribute $12 per student for the cost of this program. It would be appreciated if all payments for Mathletics could be made as soon as possible.

Asthma Care Plan
If your child suffers from Asthma we will require an Asthma Care Plan to be completed ASAP.

Working with Children Declaration
All volunteers in our school eg. Canteen volunteer, classroom helper, driving children to and from sporting activities etc. are required to complete a Working with Children Check Declaration. All declarations must have 100 points of identity attached to the declaration. Please note the office is able to photocopy the identity check when Working with Children Check declaration is returned. If you completed this form last year you are not required to complete another form as this last for 5 years.

Any parents who have completed the online Working With Children Check and has received a Working with Children Clearance letter, please supply the office with a copy of the letter. These parents are not required to complete the declaration. Please see the office if you have any questions.

School Cross Country Volunteers
This year we are going to run our cross country event off site to give the students a more realistic course on Thursday 10 March 2016. To be able to do this we require at least 7 volunteers for check points to help with supervision. If you can support this please contact Mr Lofts. Unfortunately if we don’t get enough volunteers this will have to be held in the school grounds.

Year 6 Fundraiser
Year 6 will be selling water ice-blocks on a Tuesday and Thursday at lunch time as part of their fundraising efforts. Ice-blocks are 50c each and a range of flavours are available.
**Year 6 Commemorative T-Shirt**
All Year 6 students were given this note today. Please return the Commitment Note and $20 deposit to school by Wednesday 16 March 2016.

**Application for Extended Leave- Family Holiday**
The Department of Education now requires parents/carers to complete an “Application for Extended Leave Form” when you are undertaking a family holiday during school terms, family business or bereavement. At Clarence Town Public School this form is required for leave of 5 days or more. Travel documentation, such as travel itinerary or e-ticket should be attached to the application if requested by the Principal. All application forms need to be completed before your leave commences and are available from the school office.

**Head Lice Alert**
It is the time of the year for head lice. There have been a few cases reported in the School. We encourage all parents to make Sunday night “Nit Night” by checking your child’s hair.

**Easter Egg Mufti Day**
Thursday 17 March 2016 is our Annual Easter Egg Fine Mufti Day. The students can come to school out of uniform and the ‘fine’ is a donation to the P&C Easter Egg Raffle. These donations will then be made into the 2016 Easter Raffle Prizes. Donations of Easter Eggs, as well as baskets and decorations are also appreciated. The raffle tickets were sent home today with your newsletter. The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 23 March after the Easter Hat Parade, which will be held instead of our school assembly.

**Book Club**
Book Club orders and money are due back Friday 11 March at 9am. If you are paying by cheque please make it payable to Clarence Town Public School. This is important as we do all orders online and must issue only one cheque.

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**Dungog & District Community of Schools – News Updates**

The Gifted and Talented Program will begin in the next week and the focus this term is Computer Coding. Mrs Kelson is working with classroom teachers to identify 3 -4 students from Stages 2 and 3 who would benefit from this Community of Schools project and Lucas Hawkin, Ava Chapman and Ronin Elloy will be representing Clarence Town Public School.