



Term 3, 2019 Mid - Term Newsletter

CALENDAR CHECK

Term 3

W6B Tue 27 Aug - Drama Practical Examination HSC

W6B Wed 28 Aug – Captains Speeches Assembly

W6B Wed 28 Aug – Multi Sports Day

W6B Thu 29 Aug - Social Justice Fundraising BBQ

W6B Fri 30 Aug – Jersey Day

W7A Tue 3 Sep – Enrichment Poetry Incursion

W7A Tue 3 Sep – Werrington Zone Futsal Gala Day

W8B Mon 9 Sep - Science Camp Canberra

W8B Tues 10 Sep - Bstreet Smart Yr10

W10B Wed 25 Sep - Year 12 Graduation

W10B Thurs 26 Sep - Year 12 Formal

Year 12 Dates:

Wed 25 Sep – Graduation Ceremony. The ceremony commences at 6.30 pm. Professional photos will be held in music courtyard from 5.30 pm. Graduation gowns can be collected from the careers office on Tues 24 Sep between 9.00 and 10.30 am.

Thu 26 Sep – Year 12 formal 6 pm.

Thu 17 Oct – HSC Commences

Tue 12 Nov – Student clearances between 9 – 11.15 am in the café.

Dates for Year 11

Thu 19 Sep – Fri 27 Sep – Preliminary end of course examinations

Mon 14 Oct to Fri 18 Oct – Australian Business Week

Mon 21 Oct – Commencement Year 12 HSC Year

PRINCIPAL REPORT

An exciting beginning to Term 3 for our school community, with student engagement and learning our primary focus for ***every student in every classroom***. Staff began the term updating their Anaphylaxis and CPR training. Our focus then moved to pedagogical practice, with presentations and group work around our HSC success plans, our school values, and the planning and implementation of our Homeroom/Mentoring Program to commence Term 4, 2019.

We have had the pleasure of hosting a Chinese Teaching group, the **Hebei Zhengding Middle School**. Our guests were impressed with our students and our school; they were thrilled that so many students greeted them with Nǐ hǎo, and how students were happy to share their stories of school life at St Clair HS. A great experience for our visitors, but more so a wonderful experience for our staff and students.

Week 3 saw us celebrate Education Week. Our Hospitality Students had the honour of serving the Premier of NSW, the Education Minister, Director of Schools and official guests at the official launch held at North St Marys PS. This year's theme was ***every student, every voice***. Our school celebrated with a CAPA showcase evening, including performances by our very talented students, and also our very talented staff. Our students Art displays stole the show with their talent and expertise.

Week 3 also saw our Subject Selection evening for Yrs 8 and 10, giving parents and students the opportunity to speak with staff about subject choices. A complex task, particularly for our Year 10 students as they begin planning for their HSC studies.

Week 4 we hosted the annual S.T.E.P.S Book Forum. A wonderful event attended by our local Primary Schools and High Schools. Students, both Primary and Secondary, are given the opportunity to present their interpretation of a set text and then discuss the context of their choices. Special thanks to Ms Smith for her organisation, and Jackie Hawkes (former SCHS librarian) for leading the event.

Our newly established farm area is beginning to take shape with the help of our community. We have been overwhelmed by the community support we have received and would like to continue to build this partnership. Community partnerships enrich the teaching and learning of our students in so many ways, providing valuable resources and learning outside the traditional 4 walls. Check out the "Boys on Board" report and photos further on in our newsletter.

As this newsletter goes to print our Year 11 students will be presenting their vision for our school community as leaders for 2020. We look forward to advising our school community of the successful leadership team.

On a final note we have had the great pleasure of nominating one of our school teams for a prestigious Department of Education Award. Our Learning and Support Team provide a crucial role in supporting our students to ensure they are able to access their learning. For some students this can be challenging due to circumstance and the team have developed a program aimed at 're-setting' the students' focus, ensuring they are able to transition into the mainstream classroom, and their learning, with success.

As we head into the second half of Term 3, our school community look forward to supporting our Year 12 as they begin their final preparations for their HSC examinations, and complete their final weeks of secondary schooling.

'Stay positive, work hard, make it happen.'

Mrs Julie Tegart

Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Subject Selections

At present Year 8 and Year 10 student are selecting their subjects for 2020. This is the first time that Year 8 will have any significant input into their curriculum. Parents and students are advised to take in as much information as possible to assist with this decision. There are a variety of resources available, including classroom teachers, Head Teachers, the Year Adviser and Assistant Year Adviser as well as the Careers Adviser. When the selections are collated, we will be able to see the curriculum pattern for 2020 emerge.

Trial HSC Examinations

During weeks 4 and 5 of this term, Year 12 completed their Trial HSC Examinations. For most subjects, this is the last formal examination until the HSC is held next term. Also during this period many students were required to submit their major work to begin the marking process. Congratulations to all students who have completed this major task. A special mention to all classroom teachers who have supported their students in this process, your dedication is highly valued.

Uniform

Students are reminded regularly of the uniform requirements and the procedures if they are out of uniform. Parents, on the whole, are supportive of our efforts. We take this opportunity to remind all students that the correct footwear for school is leather shoes. This is a Health and Safety Requirement. Students may be excluded from class if they do not wear correct shoes.

In addition, the wearing of hoodies has provided us with an additional challenge, both inside the school grounds and outside. We have found it difficult to identify students as being St Clair High School students. We again ask students and parents to support our Uniform Policy.

It is imperative that Year 12 students ensure they maintain their attendance and motivation, between the Trial Examinations and the actual HSC. This time allows courses to be finalised and more importantly class teachers can deeply analyse with students their Trial Examinations to provide advice to be acted upon for the HSC Examination results. Many of our staff will discuss with students that this is the time they are most likely to improve their results to raise their achievement into the next band.

Kaldor Public Art Projects 2019 – 50th Anniversary

Year 10 Visual Arts students have just completed their very first Public Art Project within our school environment. The aim of the Public Art Project was to enjoy working together in a collaborative way, formulating ideas, engaging intuitive thinking, challenging creative thinking and experiencing something new. This project allowed our students to bring a Public Art Project to life and to extend their understanding of what Public Art can be.

The students have installed a Contemporary Abstract form that displayed interconnecting and powerful lines, swirling and spiralling patterns and organic shapes by using recyclable materials such as the vibrant blue glass tiles. They had a chance to explore their creative and intuitive side and immerse themselves into the Public Art Project.

The students were introduced to the Kaldor Project archives through four videos resources, which features four key themes: Site/Environments, Scale, Community and Time. Lleah Smith the Coordinator of Kaldor Public Art Projects came out to our school on several incursions. She supported our students in the development and realisation of Public Art. Smith explained the Public Art Project and challenged our students on how to think critically, engage, inspire, encourage and support one another in their Public Art Project. Furthermore, it provided our students with meaningful partnerships and further development through engaging students and teachers from across 12 schools in NSW, The Art Gallery of NSW and the Arts Unit. The photos, videos and interviews will be used at the Kaldor Public Arts Project for the 50th year celebrations at the Art Gallery of NSW as a Learning and Teaching Educational resource.

Special thanks go to our wonderful, creative and talented Year 10 Visual Arts students of St. Clair High School. Together we have achieved an outstanding Public Art Project and provided our students with unique learning opportunities and experiences and had fun along the way.

Congratulations and well done to the Year 10 Visual Arts Students and Miss Rainsford!



AN EVEN OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

The Creative and Performing Arts Faculty have started Term 3 2019 with a bang by showcasing the talented musicians, dancers and artists in major regional, cluster and school-based events.

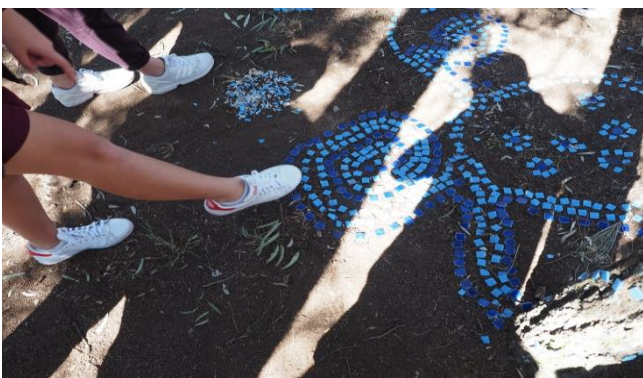
One of our major productions was our CAPA Showcase which is called “An Evening of Creative and Performing Arts”, which was held in our school hall on Wednesday the 7th August 2019.

The evening began with an art exhibition which displayed a range of 2D, and 3D works made by our most gifted and talented artists. Drawings, paintings, printmaking, ceramics, mosaics, wet and digital photography and Year 12 major artworks were among just some of the media practice on display. Conceptual practice covered themes that included landscape, still life, the built environment, portraits, representations of the circus and interpretations of animals using Aboriginal art making style.

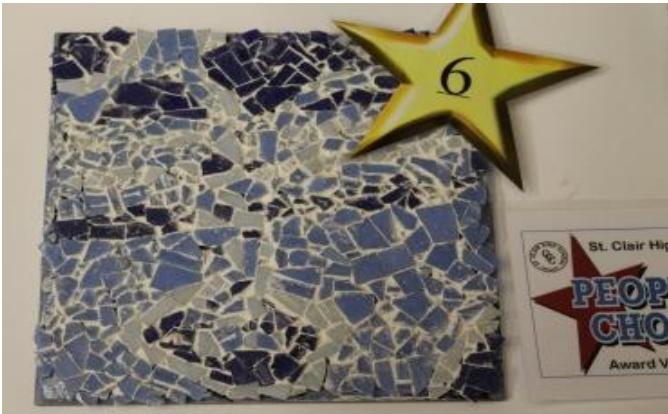
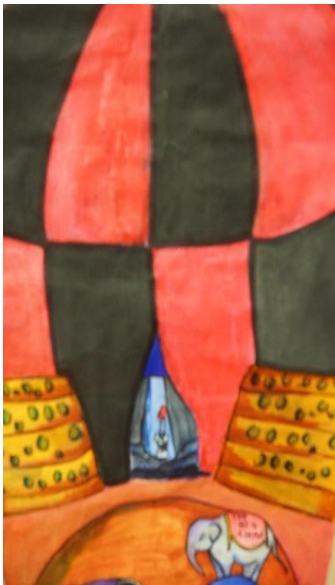
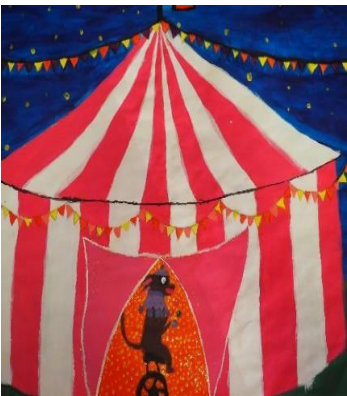
For the second time, we introduced the “People’s Choice Award”. It was a full house and the audience were given an opportunity to vote for their favourite artwork on the night. Zane Harrington’s artwork depicting a vibrant clown with a brightly coloured striped shirt was an overwhelming favourite and was the winner of the People’s Choice Award.

Also, that night we had a variety of dance and musical performances involving around 75 students ranging from Year 7 to 12. Some of the musical items included Stevie Wonder’s “Superstition” performed by the Year 11 Music class, Happy Feet’s “Bridge of Light” performed by Shannan Biscoe, Locked Out of Heaven performed by the Year 10 Music Elective class and many more, including soloist acts such as Tahlia Brown, Aaliyah Peniamina, Lynda Sua-Oto and Mafutaga and Pero Mika. We also had a Teacher’s Band perform Taylor Swift’s “Shake It Off” and “More Than Words” by Extreme. Mr Van Capelle and Ms Markou performed an expressive rendition of Nature Boy which features in the movie “Moulin Rouge”. The night was then seen out with an energetic performance by our SCHS Dance Troupe dancing in a contemporary hip-hop fusion style.

Many thanks must go to Ms Strouthos, Miss Rainsford, Ms Markou, Mr Van Capelle and Mrs Cenda for their organisational skills and encouraging our students. But special thanks go to our wonderful and talented students of St. Clair High School. Together we have achieved a lot and provided our students with unique learning opportunities and experiences and had fun along the way.



The following artworks were featured in the exhibition.





Images from the concert





STEPS CONCERT 2019 – PENRITH PANTHERS

St. Clair High School participated in this year's STEPS concert by performing Stevie Wonder's Superstition, playing African Drums and performing stage management duties. This was done before a sell-out crowd at the Evan Theatre at Penrith Panthers on Thursday 1st August 2019. Congratulations to our students!!

Some of our students during the day time rehearsals



LET'S CELEBRATE PUBLIC EDUCATION

Miracle Mau and Jasmin Seko represented our school at the "Let's Celebrate Public Education" Concert at Rooty Hill High School, to end a week-long celebration of Education week. The girls sang wonderfully as they performed songs individually and together with perfect harmony and provided a 20-minute-long pre-concert entertainment performance. Many people in the audience came up to the girls and congratulated them on their talent and said that they loved hearing them sing.

Also, St. Clair High School's Miss Brennan was a key-note speaker who made an inspirational speech in what it was like to grow up as a student in the Western Suburbs and then to become a teacher of the Western Suburbs.

Our school also helped in the catering of the concert, by cooking and preparing an array of yummy biscuits and chocolate fudge cakes which were snapped up in an instant. Our students looked very professional in their catering outfits and they were professional in serving members of the community. These lovely students were Riley Byrne, Mia Gallagher and Christofle Constantino. Well done everyone!!



BOYS on BOARD

In 2019, St Clair High School has launched a brand-new transition program called Boys on Board. Boys on Board is a strengths-based program that provides selected students with hands on experiences to develop transferrable work place skills such as trade literacy and numeracy, team work, communication, problem solving, critical thinking and physical trade skills and processes. The project that the Boys on Board have taken on this year is the re-design and construction of the school Agricultural Area known as the 'The Farm'.

During Phase One of this process students:

- undertook character and personality testing to identify their strengths.
- identified roles and branded their teams.
- identified mini projects to meet the school needs for the farm such as garden beds, storage, chicken coops etc. and
- researched, designed and planned these mini projects.

During Phase Two of this process, students have entered the construction stage where they have:

- worked in teams to clear work areas, assemble tools and equipment.
- worked with our School Farm Hand and qualified builder Mr Guy Humphrey to set out string lines using the 3, 4, 5 technique.
- worked with our community partner Bunnings Minchinbury to assemble garden beds and
- will commence working on irrigation, the refurbishment of our storage container and construction of the chicken coops.

A special mention to Shane Haber and his team for his excavation work and Bruce Harrington from Australian Native Landscapes for their donation of garden mix. We look forward to working with other members of our community throughout the project.

Mrs Catherine Bargmann
Transition Adviser



SOCIAL JUSTICE LEAGUE

This semester the Social Justice League has chosen to raise money for West Connect Domestic Violence Services. We are proud to support an organisation that assists women, children and pets fleeing domestic violence situations in our local area. The team were fortunate enough to have the CEO of West Connect, Catherine Gander, come and speak to us about what the organisation does, how it supports our community and where our funds raised will go. Our team were great representatives of our school and asked some fantastic questions.

The team is now busily preparing for our first fundraiser for West Connect Domestic Violence Services.



BOOK FORUM

The annual STEPS Book Forum for 2019 was held at St. Clair High School. All the schools in the STEPS community which are: Blackwell Public School, Clairgate Public School, Erskine Park High School, James Erskine Park Public School, St. Clair Public School and St. Clair High School took part in analysing and engaging in a meaningful discussion about the shortlisted picture books from the Children's Book Council Australia (CBCA). The selected picture books for this year were: Dingo by Claire Saxby, The Feather by Margaret Wild, Chalk Boy by Margaret Wild and Mandy Ord, Sorry Day by Coral Vass, The All New Must Have Orange by Michael Speechley, Cicada by Shaun Tan and Girl on a Wire by Lucy Estela and Elise Hurst. Each school had one designated book to analyse and produced a book trailer and art work piece to represent the book and its meaning.

Our school in particular had our Year 7 Enrichment class analysing our book which was Cicada by Shaun Tan. All students worked hard with their teachers Mr Dowd and Mrs Brady to get all requirements prepared for the day.

The main leader and advocate for the STEPS Book Forum is Mrs Jackie Hawkes; the longest serving former Teacher Librarian at St Clair High School, who even in her retired years has maintained her love and passion for reading and learning.

The Book Forum was presented in our new Auditorium in the Innovation Centre and we had 2 musical items presented from a range of students in different year groups with Mrs Cenda our music teacher. The performances consisted of an African Drumming ensemble called "Earthly Layers" which the students composed themselves. As well as Rachael Pontifex who performed the song 1000 years by Christina Perri.

We then finished off with a delicious morning tea which was served by some of our lovely Year 9 students helping Mrs Dasan in the Cafe.

On the day, we had some VIP's who attended, such as our school director Ms. Karen McSpeerin, our STEPS school principals and art educators from Lewers Art Gallery in Emu Plains, as well as teachers from Plumpton High School.

Overall the day was a huge success and I'd like to thank everyone who played their part in making sure the day ran smoothly.

Miss Smith
Relieving Teacher Librarian- SCHS





PASIFIKE L1FE MENTORING PROGRAM

Students participating in the *Pasifika L1fe Mentoring Program* had an opportunity to display some of the products of their weekly mentoring sessions with facilitator Albert Tevita of Christ Mission Possible at a Photo Gallery event held in the school auditorium.

The focus of the sessions has been on exploring how a small act can have significant results in supporting the students and others to have a better experience of school. This was captured in posters featuring symbolic images of the students accompanied by a key phrase. One such poster which encapsulated this was titled *tautoko*, which is a Maori word meaning to *give support*. Another poster carried the phrase *I CAN* – which conveyed a message about the small actions' students can take to support their peers.

The boys also presented a short recreation of an event from Maori history showing how a simple act of kindness helped to forge a lifelong friendship between an orphan English boy and a famous Maori chieftain family.

Congratulations to the boys who participated in the event.

