



# ST CLAIR HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

6 Endeavour Ave, St Clair 2759  
Phone: 96706700 Fax: 98343867  
www.stclair-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Not surprisingly we are well and truly back into our normal routines for this time of year. There is a lot of productive work happening in classrooms right across the school. Years 7 and 9 are just completing the 2018 NAPLAN tests and other year groups are gearing up for Half Yearly examinations and assessment tasks. Last year we achieved some great results with NAPLAN, with student growth exceeding that of growth across the state.

There is an enormous amount packed into this term, including the afore-mentioned tasks, as well as our first semester reports. For all students we have an expectation that study routines will step up as we approach the examination period, and we ask parents for support in emphasising with your children the importance of doing this. Revision of work covered during the day, completion of designated homework, assignments and assessment tasks, and a regular pattern of reading are all part of this process.

Next week the placement panel will be working through the many, many non-local enrolment applications we receive for Year 7 2019. Anyone who actually knows anything about our school and its qualities won't be surprised to discover that we are certainly the school of choice in this area. As has been the case in recent years we expect about 70 non-local applications and it takes our panel quite a while to go through these to determine who we will accept. For those who would like to understand a little more about why our school is in this position, you can find all the facts and figures in our Annual School Report which contains very detailed information about our school, our student profile and achievements, and our academic performance in all external examinations. It is available for download from the school website. I encourage all members of our community to read it as it really demonstrates just how well this school provides a terrific learning environment for the students.

Many parents have already downloaded our free St Clair High School phone app. It's a really quick and easy way to stay in touch and communicate with the school. For those who haven't downloaded it yet I encourage you to do so. For those who have, an upgrade has recently been completed which can be downloaded from either the Play Store for Androids, or the Apple store for iPhones. This is a very easy way to receive updates and alerts from the school! You should also follow the school on Facebook, we find that Facebook is used extensively in our community and by our graduates.

### ***Congratulations!***

Our student leaders represented our school with great dignity at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at St Marys RSL and at the St Marys ANZAC march. It is important that our students are involved in and aware of the significance of such events, and equally important that our community is aware of how well our students carry themselves on such occasions.

We have also had a lot of very positive media coverage in both local and metropolitan newspapers, recognising the wide array of student achievements at St Clair High. It's always a great delight to see our students recognised so publicly.

### **Building Update**

Hang in there, we have nearly made it! We should be in the last term of construction – this has been a great achievement not only for our school but our community. When I think about what we have achieved together, it brings a tear to my eye. I am so privileged to work in this work in this community.

The ball courts are due for completion at the end of this month. The rebound service has begun to be laid. The adhesive that will be used may create some fumes.

The canteen has moved back to its original location and we expect the Department's Demountable Unit will extract the first of our demountables this term.

The building is progressing well; the scaffolding will start to come down shortly so that you can see the architectural features. The date for handover is still 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2018, if this deadline is met, the first classes will take place Day 1, Term 3, 2018. A transition team has been engaged to assist with the move out of the demountables and into the new building.

The demountables will be moved out and the oval restored during Term 3.

The best way to keep informed will be through our normal communications channel and by attending our P&C meeting. Our next P&C meeting will be Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in the Common Room in the administration block.

Sally Smithard – Relieving Principal

CCC	CONTENT
2 - 8	Deputy Report , Pacifica Invention, Istem, Science Club, Clay Gulgong, Rumble Poetry
9 - 10	Reality Check, Pathways, Leadership PATHE, Tips
11 - 17	Change of Details Form, Calender of Events

# DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' REPORT

## NAPLAN

Year 7 and 9 will be completing their NAPLAN testing in Week 3. Miss Holt, HT Teaching and Learning, and the wonderful Learning Support team organised the tests and will provide students with the best opportunities to demonstrate their Personal Best. Families were provided with lots of supporting information leading up to these tests. In the media there is always lots of publicity regarding the pressure the exams place upon students or the results of the exams. However, this is just one measure used to assess a student's progress. The results are used as a diagnostic tool to identify areas individual students required extra assistance as well as identify particular strengths and areas for development for the different cohorts. We always remind students that NAPLAN is one test on one day – it does not provide a full picture of a student's ability. It does, however, provide us all with valuable information to support all students. Results will be available later this year. If any parent believes that their son or daughter needs additional assistance they should contact Mrs Sharma as the Learning Support teacher, or the year adviser of their child's year.

## Year 11 Camp

Mr Thurtell and a team of teachers will accompany Year 11 on their Cross Roads Camp at Tea Gardens this week. Students from previous years have always been full of praise and extremely positive about this fantastic camp. Those students who cannot attend will be provided with an alternate program organised by Ms Morrison. This program is a mandatory requirement for all Year 11 students and covers a wide range of material including team work, resilience and safe social behaviours. Congratulations to all staff and students involved.

## Assessment Period

Mid-way through Term 2 will see students in Years 7-10 involved in a formal assessment period. Many courses will take this opportunity to have students complete their Half Yearly Examinations. Attendance during this period is vital. Students are always invited to use the Homework Centre for additional support. This is open on Wednesday afternoons. We wish all students every success during this assessment period.

Students in Year 11 and 12 need to ensure that they regularly refer to their Preliminary and HSC Assessment guides and organise their time effectively in order to meet individual subject assessment requirements. Please ask questions if you are unsure of anything. In the senior years processes do change due to requirements of NESA for the HSC credential. If senior students are absent for a formal assessment task they must follow the correct processes, including providing a medical certificate and completing a misadventure form. The school should also be contacted on the day of an assessment task if a student is unable to attend.

## Wearing of School Uniform

Thank you to the many parents who ensure their children come to school in their full school uniform including the wearing of enclosed leather shoes on a daily basis. It is expected that students wear school uniform during school hours, travelling to and from school and when engaged in school based activities out of normal school hours unless indicated otherwise by the Principal. We are fortunate to have a school uniform shop operated on Tuesday by the friendly staff which enables parents to purchase uniform items. You can also purchase second hand uniform from Mrs Owston at a reasonable price. We as a staff and community actively promote the wearing of school uniform and leather shoes. PE shirts are not a part of regular school uniform and should not be worn to school by students but brought to school and changed into for PE and Sport. Positive comments are made regularly to our students who support the school ethos, have pride in their school and represent it well.

Inadequate footwear can be a Work Health and Safety (WHS) issue for our students and may prevent them from actively participating in their learning and satisfactorily achieving their learning outcomes. The responsibility for managing the implementation of a school uniform should be shared by the school, parents and students.

Continue next page:

#### Parent's Responsibilities:

- Ensure your child has their full school uniform
- Encourage and support the wearing of full school uniform
- Approach the school if you are experiencing difficulty or you can apply to the school for assistance

#### Student's Responsibilities:

- Wear their uniform with pride at all times
- Bring their PE shirt and sports shoes to change into for sport and PE lessons

#### School's Responsibilities

- Provide some support for students experiencing financial difficulties.
- Communicate with parents any concerns.
- Comply with all WHS requirements.

If you ever have any concerns or enquiries about aspects of our school, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mrs Shepherd (Deputy Principal for Years 8, 10 and 12)

Mrs Dickson (Relieving Deputy Principal for Years 7, 9 and 11)

## *Invitation to Morning Tea*

### *Vala'aulia mo se ipu ti mo matua*

Malo el lelei, Talofa, Kia orana, Bula vinake, Kia ora, Ulu tonu mai, welcome.

Parents/caregivers and extended families (including the little ones) of our Pasifika and Maori students are invited to morning tea to be held at the school on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 from 10 – 11AM. Please come along to join us in a relaxed atmosphere where you can chat with other parents and the staff as well as enjoy some delicious treats. There will also be student performances from our talented students.

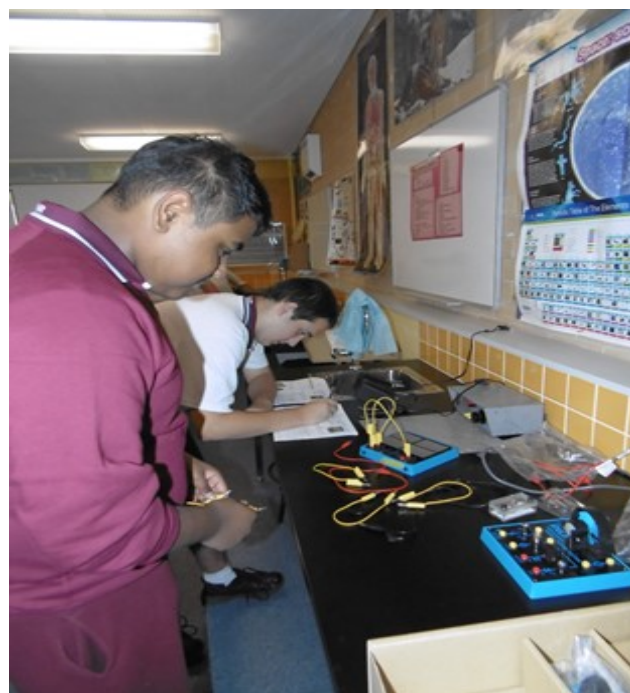
Invitations are being sent out or a being given to your child to take home. For catering purposes, please RSVP to Ms Saisithidej (Ms S) or ask your child to let Ms S know. The school hopes to see you there.

Jackie Saisithidej, Pasifika Co-ordinator



### iSTEM

This exciting course is being offered for the first time to students in Year 9 as an elective. St Clair High School is one of a few schools across Western Sydney to receive endorsement to run iSTEM. iSTEM is a course focused on future technologies. Students have been developing their skills in the area of STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) which research indicates is the fastest growing field in the world. It offers hands on learning experiences through inquiry based learning activities where problem solving skills are integral to the students' development in 21<sup>st</sup> century learning opportunities. Term One has seen students working with ASTE renewable energy kits to solve problems relating to electric circuitry and solar power. This term will see the class delve into the world of Mechatronics and robotics using the Lego EV3. We will also be exploring the Engineering and Science concepts behind the rides at Luna Park.



## SCIENCE CLUB

This year a number of students have attended a weekly Science club during lunch to participate in exciting hands-on Science experiments. The group of budding scientists have planned and run experiments including making slime, erupting volcanoes, elephant's toothpaste, and lava lamps. We're looking forward to many more innovative and interactive experiments this term!



## CLAY GULGONG: TAKING IT TO THE WORLD

Clay Gulgong 2018 launched the first National juried K-12 ceramics exhibition and competition. It was held at the Memorial Hall Herbet St, Gulgong and the opening was on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. Keith Brymer Jones from the BBC Great Pottery throwdown opened the exhibition. He was so impressed by the calibre of the works that they received. Three of our Visual Arts students from St Clair High were selected for this exhibition they were Jennifer Pruyne and Isabella Aldeguer from Year 8 and Dakota Ashby from Year 11. This was such an honour to be included in this National Exhibition. I am so proud of the girl's achievements, their ceramic works were viewed and admired from the community of Gulgong and famous Delegates from all over the world. Well done and Congratulations Miss Rainsford.

**Below Ceramic Artworks of Janet Mansfield and Chester Nealie artworks and the students artworks are that were selected for the K-12 Exhibition at Gulgong.**





# The Rumble poetry slam

Congratulations to Year 9 student Cameron Edwards for his participation in The Rumble – a youth poetry slam running as part of this year's Sydney Writers Festival. Cameron is a veteran of this competition, entering his first slam when he was only in Year 7. Cameron performed his piece on the universal theme of surviving heartbreak which was well received by the audience.

Jackie Saisithidej





## REALITY CHECKING CAREER PATHWAYS

Some of our Year 9 and 10 Pasifika and Maori students received a shock upon discovering much they would need to earn to live the lifestyle they wanted. These students were part of a workshop delivered by Western Sydney University's PATHE Program aimed at encouraging students to reality check and plan their career options.

Students warmed up with a fun icebreaker activity that required lightning fast reflexes before Anna Sietu, PATHE Project Officer took them through "The Good Careers Guide" to explore their options. Thank you to Helen Tavana, PATHE Student Ambassador for sharing her story of her pathway to tertiary education.

**Jackie Saisithidej, Pasifika Co-ordinator**



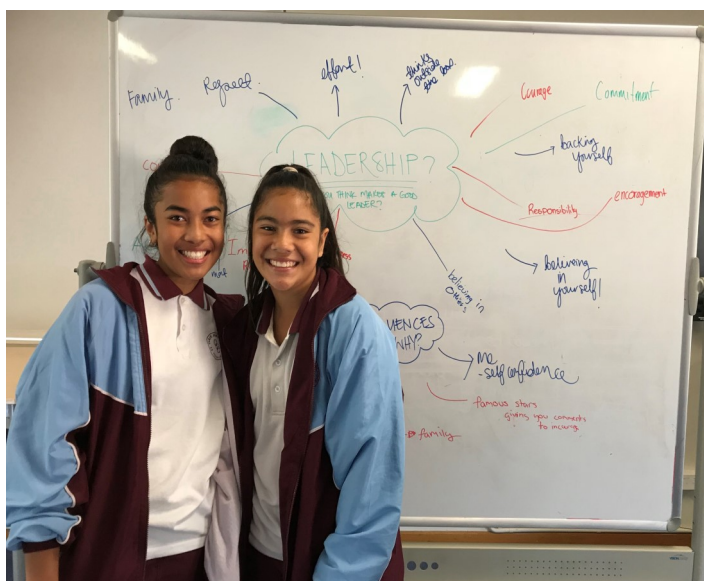
# Leadership PATHE

A small group of Year 7 and Year 8 Pasifika and Maori students participated in a workshop facilitated by PATHE Student Ambassador Helen Tavana from Western Sydney University. Helen shared her story of the pathways that lead her to study at university. Many of the students nodded in agreement with some of Helen's stories about balancing school life with the cultural demands of family life.

The students also shared stories of the positive role models in their lives. They then discussed the qualities of a good leader. Students reflected on how they could be leaders and role models for others in their family and at school.

Thank you to WSU's Pasifika Achievement to Higher Education Program for continuing to support Pasifika and Maori students at our school.

Jackie Saisithidej, Pasifika Co-ordinator



### Some safety messages – please help!

From time to time it's important to remind everyone about some things that need constant attention. We ask every parent for your understanding and support in relation to the following;

- Full school uniform includes the correct footwear. No parent should allow their son or daughter to come to school without safe footwear for practical lessons.
- Deodorant sprays are a health hazard to some of our students and staff. Please understand that some people suffer from Asthma and other related respiratory conditions and spray deodorants can cause a serious risk to them. Please don't allow your children to bring these to school. Also, if your child does suffer from Asthma we ask that you provide the school with your child's Asthma Action Plan. Pro-formas are available from our Head Teacher Wellbeing, Mrs Owston.
- Please be aware that the school day starts at 8-30am. Students are expected to be at school when the warning bell rings at 8-25am, ready to start period 1 at 8-30am.

### *FACEBOOK or Whatever!*

**It is not OK for students or their parents to make defamatory comments about other people online. There is no excuse!**

One of the greatest challenges facing all schools at the moment is the use and abuse of social networking sites like Facebook, Ask, Snapchat, Instagram and others. We constantly provide opportunities for parents and students to understand how to be safe online.



We need your help and understanding.

We need you to ensure that you and your children understand that comments made online can not only be hurtful, but also illegal!

The school, and individuals at the school including staff, is completely entitled to take legal and / or disciplinary action if they are the victim of online vilification.

Our school has also updated its Student Welfare Policy to incorporate information about Cyber Bullying and responsible Digital Citizenship. We regularly remind students about their responsibilities and hope that all parents will also reinforce the need for responsible online behaviour.

#### **Homework help**

Do you struggle to understand your child's homework? Does your child need to practise their spelling and times tables? Are you looking for inspiration for projects and assignments?

The free School A to Z app has been created by the Department of Education and Communities to help parents and their school-aged children, wherever and whenever they have homework and study questions.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/school-a-to-z>

#### **Homework and multi-tasking**

Somewhere along the line we seemed to have absorbed the idea that teenagers can multi-task perfectly because they're digital natives. Can kids really do their homework and multi-task?

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/using-technology/homework-and-multitasking-can-it-be-done>

#### **Helping your daughter say no to peer pressure**

Your daughter's school friends are her closest confidants and her meanest critics. Experts on teen girl angst share their wisdom on taking the heat out of peer pressure.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/behaviour/helping-your-daughter-say-no-to-peer-pressure>



**NILS (No Interest Loan Scheme) is enabling families to meet Essential Education costs.**

NILS loans can be used for Educational expenses including: Fees, Text Books, Uniforms (with school logo), Camps & Laptops. (All items must be new, not second hand).



**NILS loans have No Interest, No Fees and No Charges.**

- Loan amounts are between \$300 – \$1,200.
- Repayments are negotiated at an affordable amount over 12 months.
- Clients must have a health care card/pension card or be on a low income (under \$45,000 a year).
- Lived in the same area for a minimum of 3 months.
- Show a willingness and capacity to repay.

**NIL loans are also used for essential goods and services including: Whitegoods, Furniture, Health Items, Car Registration and Repairs etc.**

BRING YOUR FAMILY ON A WORLDLY AND EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURE  
BY BECOMING A

# Volunteer Host Family



SOUTHERN CROSS  
CULTURAL EXCHANGE

## WELCOME HOME A "BROTHER OR SISTER" AND HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT

In July and August of 2018, Southern Cross Cultural Exchange will be welcoming students from France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Finland and more for their Australian Student Exchange. We are currently looking for a few more volunteer host families.

### Would you open your home to an international student for a period of 3-10 months?

Expose your family to a new culture, a new cuisine, and sometimes even a new language!  
The educational and cultural experience of hosting a student is incomparable.

You will be supported along the way by SCCE staff and Local Coordinators and SCCE works closely with your family to match you with a student of like-minded interests.

Host a student and **EXPERIENCE YOUR WORLD** from your own home!  
Please contact Cheryl on the information below to discuss this opportunity further.



1800 500 501



cheryl.p@scce.com.au



@scceaust #thisisscce

### Some safety messages – please help!

From time to time it's important to remind everyone about some things that need constant attention. We ask every parent for your understanding and support in relation to the following;

- ✓ Full school uniform includes the correct footwear. No parent should allow their son or daughter to come to school without safe footwear. Deodorant sprays are a health hazard to some of our students and staff. Please understand that some people suffer from Asthma and other related respiratory conditions and spray deodorants can cause a serious risk to them. Please don't allow your children to bring these to school. Also, if your child does suffer from Asthma we ask that you provide the school with your child's Asthma Action Plan. Pro-formas are available from our Library SASS staff to assist you in the preparation of this important document.
- ✓ Please be aware that the school day starts at 8-30am. Students are expected to be at school when the warning bell rings at 8-25am, ready to start period 1 at 8-30am. Please remember that staff are not on duty until 8.15am.

### *It's dangerous!*



Deodorant sprays are a health hazard to some of our students and staff. Please understand that some people suffer from Asthma and other related respiratory conditions and spray deodorants can cause a serious risk to them. Please don't allow your children to bring these to school. Also, if your child does suffer from Asthma we ask that you provide the school with your child's Asthma Action Plan. Pro-formas are available from our Library SASS staff to assist you in the preparation of this important document.

*Have you changed your address or phone details?*

*Please let us know the new details immediately.*

*If you don't let us know, and something happens to your child requiring us to contact you urgently ....*

*f there's an emergency we need to be able to reach you!*

### **Homework help**

Do you struggle to understand your child's homework? Does your child need to practise their spelling and times tables? Are you looking for inspiration for projects and assignments?

The free School A to Z app has been created by the Department of Education and Communities to help parents and their school-aged children, wherever and whenever they have homework and study questions.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/school-a-to-z>

### **Homework and multi-tasking**

Somewhere along the line we seemed to have absorbed the idea that teenagers can multi-task perfectly because they're digital natives. Can kids really do their homework and multi-task?

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/using-technology/homework-and-multitasking-can-it-be-done>

### **Helping your daughter say no to peer pressure**

Your daughter's school friends are her closest confidants and her meanest critics. Experts on teen girl angst share their wisdom on taking the heat out of peer pressure.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/behaviour/helping-your-daughter-say-no-to-peer-pressure>

### **Managing risk-taking in teen boys**

Today's 'Nintendo' generation of teen boys get to save the world every day on the computer. In the real world, they can be forbidden from going down the road alone.

It's a conundrum parents need to be aware of because without the chance to take part in real adventures, things can become a bit dull – teen boys' desire to explore life can get out of hand if they're not given some space to do it safely.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/behaviour/managing-risk-taking-with-teen-boys>

# Homework Centre

## for homework help

Does your child need a hand with his or her homework?

Has an assessment or assignment got them stumped?

What about getting some handy study hints?

Need study space?  
Access to printers?  
computers? internet?

- Get your child along to the Homework Centre in the school library.
- Staff will be available to help St Clair High students with their homework, assignments and with study skills.



**WHAT:** Homework Centre

**WHERE:** School library

**WHEN:** Every Wednesday

**TIME:** 2:35pm -3:45pm

**COST:** It's FREE!

**QUESTIONS:** Contact

Ms Saisithidej (Ms.S) on  
9670 6700 at the school.



**TERM 2 2018****Week 3- A**

Tue	15/5	Naplan Testing online (all week) P&C meeting
Wed	16/5	Formal Assembly Yr 7,9 and Yr11 Year Assembly Yr 8, 10 and Yr12
Fri	18/5	Atheletics Carnival

**Week 4 - B**

Mon	21/5	Naplan Testing (all week)
Tue	22/5	Year 8 2nd dose Vaccinations Year 10 & Year11 Men Vaccination
Wed	23/5	Formal Assembly Yr8,10 and 12 Year Assembly 7,9 and 11
Thu	24/5	Year12 Ancient History Excursion

**Week 5 - A**

Tue	29/5	ICAS Science Competition
Wed	30/5	Formal Assembly Yr 7,9 and Yr11 Year Assembly Yr 8, 10 and Yr12

**Week 6 - B**

Mon	4/6	Year 9 and Year 10 half Yearly Exams (all week) Careers / VET World Skills
Wed	6/6	Formal Assembly Yr8,10 and yr12 Year Assembly Yr 7, 9 and 11

**Week 7 - A**

Wed	13/6	Formal Assembly Yr 7,9 and Yr11 Year Assembly Yr 8, 10 and Yr12
-----	------	--

**Next P&C Meeting  
and report from  
previous meeting,  
check out the  
following link for  
lots of  
information!**

[www.sites.google.com/site/schspandc](http://www.sites.google.com/site/schspandc)



Please be aware that the school day starts at 8.30am. Students are expected to be at school when the warning bell rings at 8.25am, ready to start Period 1 at 8.30am.