



## ST CLAIR HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

At the time of writing this month's newsletter our Year 12 students are in their final weeks of preparation before the Higher School Certificate examinations and the end of their years at St Clair High School. They have been a terrific group of students and we wish them all the best as they study hard in the lead up to the exams early next Term.

We must never lose sight of what matters most, and that is ensuring that every student has access to the best possible educational experience every day. We **all** share a responsibility in delivering this. As Principal I place a great deal of emphasis with all of our staff on developing the expertise to perform their work to a high standard. I also expect every parent to fulfill their side of the partnership by ensuring that each son or daughter has the necessary material to do their work, brings it to school, is in full school uniform and is ready to work hard every lesson.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer a friendly reminder about payments of school debts. We are of course all coming into a fairly expensive time of year as Christmas approaches and some parents can take the attitude that their child's school debts can wait until later to be paid. Just keep in mind that these debts mount up and some parents get overwhelmed when they reach the point of finalisation of payments in the senior years. Please let me know if you need to apply for the very limited Student Assistance funds we have, or if you would like to enter into an Installment Agreement. Keep in mind that Subject charges are **not** voluntary contributions and must be paid.

On another note, a very exciting event at this time of year is the election of our incoming Captains and Vice Captains. The process we instituted a few years ago is quite rigorous and involves an application, a formal interview, a speech to the whole school and then an election. It is a challenging one for the nominees, but is very valuable for the school. The caliber of every one of the

students who nominated for the incoming roles this year was again outstanding. It gives me great pleasure to announce that our new School Captains are Emily McMillian and Dean Zammit, and our Vice Captains are Kaylee Su, and Ali Mutter. For the first time I am proud to announce we have elected 4 Prefects Brayden Kitchener, Asim Ali, Zaineb Al-Uqabui and Kayla McGrath. This is a great honour for them and I am confident that they will be outstanding ambassadors for our school.

I would like to make special mention of our outgoing School Captains Tara Ryan and Jeremy Dekit and our Vice Captains Yara Bokany and Razeen Mahmood. I am delighted to say that they have done an absolutely fantastic job over the last 12 months. On behalf of the whole school I thank them for their efforts and wish them every success for the future.

Year 11 are currently completing their final examinations of the preliminary course before they commence their final year of schooling in Term 4. This will commence with what is regarded at St Clair High School as their rite of passage with Australian Business Week (ABW) running in week 1. We would love to see as many parents as possible at the ABW dinner on the following Monday. Mrs Beslic will send out invitations to parents.

As we move into the Spring holidays I would like all our students, staff and families a wonderful school holiday period.

Karen Shepherd  
Relieving Principal

CCC	CONTENTS
2 - 5	Deputy Principals' Report, STEPS Book Forum Maths News, Maths Club
6 - 8	Operation Art 2018, Nagoya Sister City Exchange in Japan
9 - 11	Calendar of events

# DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' REPORT

## Subject Options for 2018

At present the timetable team are finalising the curriculum matrix for 2019 and students in Years 8 and 10 will be told which courses will be offered. A lot of time goes into creating a timetable that caters for the broadest range of options available and we thank the timetable team for all of their work in completing this. Students transitioning into Year 11 in 2019 who wish to study a TVET course offsite will complete this as an additional subject to ensure that we can continue to offer all students the best range of curriculum options.

## Dates for Year 12

This is an exciting time of the year for Year 12 as they begin the countdown to some key significant milestones in their education. Year 12 Graduation, Year 12 Formal and the completion of their final exams as secondary students mark the end of their time as high school students, and the graduation and formal are marquee events in the school calendar. Staff look forward to celebrating these milestones with Year 12 before they begin their final preparations for their external exams. Year 12 are reminded of the following dates:

Wednesday 26 September: Graduation Ceremony. The Ceremony commences promptly at 7pm.

Thursday 27 September: Year 12 Formal

Thursday 18 October: HSC commences

## Dates for Year 11

Year 11 are currently completing their final exams for their preliminary courses. They will return in Term 4 and complete the Australian Business Week (ABW) Program in Week 1 before commencing their HSC course work. This is a fantastic initiative that builds resilience and develops skills such as time management, working collaboratively and thinking critically. These are skills that will transfer into the completion of the HSC course work and assist students to attain their personal best. Please be reminded of the following key dates:

Australian Business Week: Monday 15 October to Friday 19 October 2018

ABW Dinner: Monday 22 October 2018

Commencement of Year 12 HSC year: Monday 22 October 2018

## NAPLAN 2018

Students in Years 7 and 9 have been issued with their NAPLAN results. Any student who has not yet received their results should see Mrs Dickson. These results provide invaluable information regarding each student's literacy and numeracy skills and support staff to develop targeted teaching programs to ensure we are consistently improving student skills.

## Uniform

Students are reminded regularly of the uniform requirements and of 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 for all practical subjects. This is a Work Health and Safety Requirement. Students may be excluded from class if they do not wear the correct shoes.

It is imperative for everyone's safety that all students are easily identifiable by wearing full school uniform and as the warmer weather starts students should no longer need to be wearing any jumpers, let alone jumpers that are not the correct colour. We appreciate your support in ensuring everyone's safety and wellbeing.

## End of Term

All students are finalising their course work for Term 3 and are undoubtedly looking forward to the holiday break fast approaching. We wish all students and their families a safe and restful break and look forward to seeing you all in Term 4.

Mrs Dickson – Relieving Deputy Principal for Years 7, 9 and 11  
Mrs Beslic – Relieving Deputy Principal Years 8, 10 and 12

## STEPS Book Forum 2018

As part of the St. Clair and Erskine Park Schools (STEPS) learning community initiatives, the primary and high schools of the St. Clair area joined together for the fifth year running to celebrate Book Week 2018.

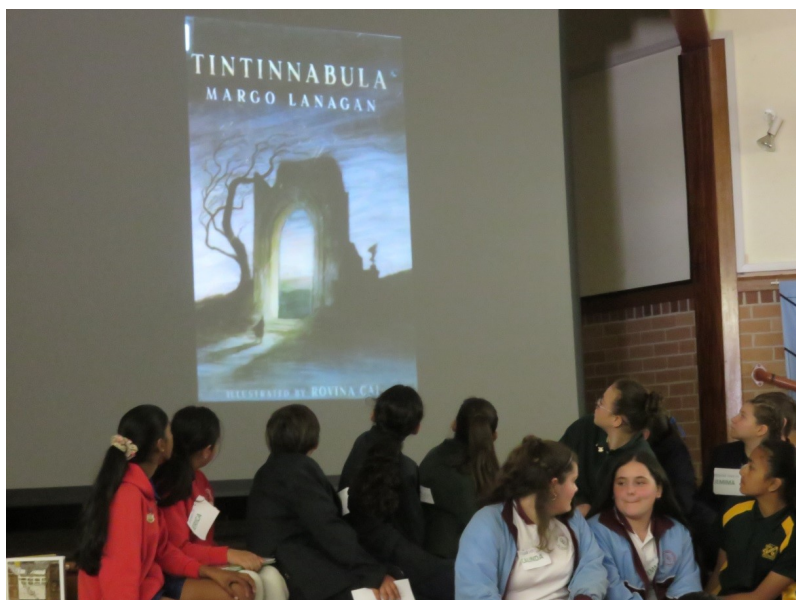


This year's event was hosted by James Erskine Primary School in their school hall on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Students ranging from Year 5 to Year 8 participated in a discussion forum analysing and celebrating the books that were shortlisted by the Children's Book Council of Australia for the 2018 Children's Book of the Year





Each school is allocated one of the shortlisted books and engage in a range of activities in preparation for the Book Forum event. St. Clair High School was allocated the book “Tintinnabula” for which illustrator Rovina Cai won the Crichton Award for New Illustrators. A fantastic book trailer promoting this book was created by our students, Calinda Surene and Emma Tidyman from Year 8 and Rinoa Laranang and Hannah Rutledge from Year 7.



Rinoa and Hannah also participated in creating an artwork based on the story in “Tintinnabula”. The large artwork was displayed for the event in the hall of the host school, James Erskine Primary school. Well done Rinoa and Hannah

Calinda and Emma were the speakers representing St Clair High school on stage for the official Book Forum session. Both students confidently discussed themes, language and visual literacy elements of each book.

The thoughtful discussions by all student speakers demonstrated the joy of reading and appreciation of books in front of an audience comprising students, parents, grandparents, teachers and principals. Well done Calinda and Emma.



Mrs. Jackie Hawkes did a great job on the day as moderator and the event was generously supported by Heike Boughton from Dymocks Books, Penrith.

Mrs Saunders  
Teacher Librarian

## MATHS NEWS

Just a quick reminder for students to come to every Mathematics lesson fully prepared so they can achieve their personal best. This means they must come to every lesson with the correct equipment and it is imperative that they bring a scientific calculator. The school preferred calculator is Sharp. It is sold at the front office at a cost of \$20 each. This calculator will see your child through to the HSC. Mobile phones are not permitted for use in class and therefore cannot be used as a calculator.

Here is a complete list of equipment needed:

- “ Approximately 200 page exercise/ 5mm grid book. (What your child prefers)
- “ Sharp Calculator
- “ Geometry set
- “ Pens: red, blue and black
- “ Pencils: 2B or HB
- “ 30cm Ruler, Eraser, Sharpener.

If you have any concerns please contact your child's Mathematics teacher.

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## Maths Club

'Maths Club' has been running for the past 3 terms on Tuesday afternoons from 2:30 to 3:30pm. Our wonderful Mathematics teachers volunteer their own time to tutor students who have difficulty with some of the concepts taught in class.

We work on topics that students are studying in class as well as concepts students struggle with. This term, we have invited Year 8 to come along, to improve their own understanding of particular topics. Teachers have also invited students of Years 9 and 10 to mentor students attending 'Maths Club' so as to develop their own leadership skills.

Students are able to just turn up to Maths club. If you are interested in your child attending Maths Club or would like more information, please call us through the office.

## Operation Art 2018

### **Congratulations**

Four of our students Jennifer Pruyn, (Year 9), Grant Perez (Year 10) 2017 Kawthar Ibrahim and Christina Kavouras (Year 8) had their artworks selected for Operation Art, which is on display at the Armory Gallery, Sydney Olympic Park on the 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2018. More than 10,000 visitors are expected to view Operation Art. Over nine hundred entries were selected this year from all over NSW. All of above students have also had their artworks selected for this major exhibition. I would like to congratulate all our exhibiting artists and thank you for being part of this unique project – it is always a wonderful opportunity to recognise the many achievements and talents of our students and a huge honour for them to exhibit their artworks. Well done and Congratulations.

### **Further selected Awards from Operation Art 2018**

Kawthar Ibrahim Category Touring has selected us for the Art Gallery NSW and then it will end up after 12 months of touring on display at the Childrens Westmead Hospital in the permanent collection for this is a worthwhile opportunity for young people to create artworks for sick children in hospital.

Jennifer Pruyn Art Bank

Congratulations to these students.

Doris Rainsford (**Visual Arts Teacher**).







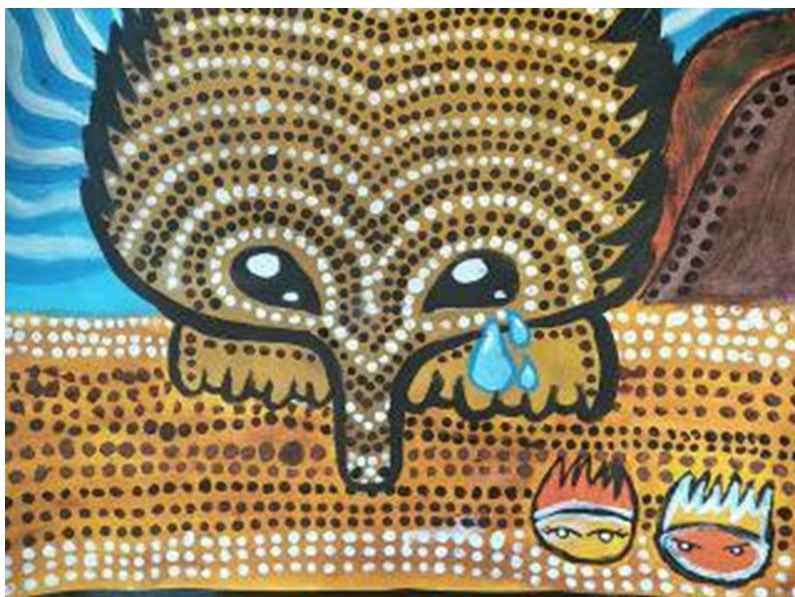


## 2018 Nagoya Sister City Art Exchange in Japan

The City Art Exchange exhibition will featured outstanding artworks from NSW Public Educational Schools. The artworks selected will be exhibited in Nagoya, Japan. **Museum of Nagoya, Japan.** 130 artworks were submitted to Dianne Reichelt in Dubbo from the Nagoya Exchange Only 80 could be selected with two artworks from each schools, which was a hard task for the team. These artworks are generously donated by the Year 7 students to hang at the Children's Hospital in Japan.

These artworks were inspired by the Aboriginal Unit where the students have to study Australian Animals that were inspired by the signs and symbols in the landscape. They used a variety of mixed media to enhance the artworks.

I am so proud of the two Year 7 students from our school; it is such an honour to be selected and also to be given the opportunity to exhibit their artworks in Japan and become an International artist were their artwork will be in their permanent collection for the **Nagoya Sister City Art Exchange.** **Congratulations to Praphot P and Miss Rainsford** (Visual Arts Teacher). Please find below photos of the artworks that will be sent to Japan for Nagoya.





## **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. Fashionable canvas shoes, no matter what colour are not safe and should not be worn to school under any circumstances. Yes, everyone, both junior and senior students!
- ◆ 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.

*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 ....*

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

## **In the interest of safety, please help us out!**

From time to time it's understandable that your son or daughter may become unwell at school. We have strict procedures in place to manage these situations. This involves contact by the school administrative staff to a parent, caregiver or emergency contact person. This contact must come through the school, not directly to you from your son's or daughter's mobile phone. There have been some occasions when students have used their phone from a classroom (which is in breach of school policy anyway) and asked a parent to come to school to collect them. When the parent arrives, the school is unaware that the student is sick or has called the parent. Please ensure that if your child calls you, that you refer them to the front office and then contact the school to advise them of the call you have received before coming to the school.

## **A word of caution!**

Most people get pretty excited about the amazing advances we are exposed to in the area of technology. Digital cameras, mobile phones that can do just about anything and cute little listening devices are all amongst the array of things to which we have easy access. Like most things though, there can be a catch. All students and parents need to be aware that it is potentially a breach of privacy legislation to take photographs or make recordings of any sort without the knowledge of the subject. That is especially the case if the photo or recording is distributed in any way without the consent of the subject. This includes the posting of such images on the internet in places like You Tube or Facebook. Please ensure that your children are aware that they should not take and "post" photos or videos of other people without their consent.

# HOMEWORK

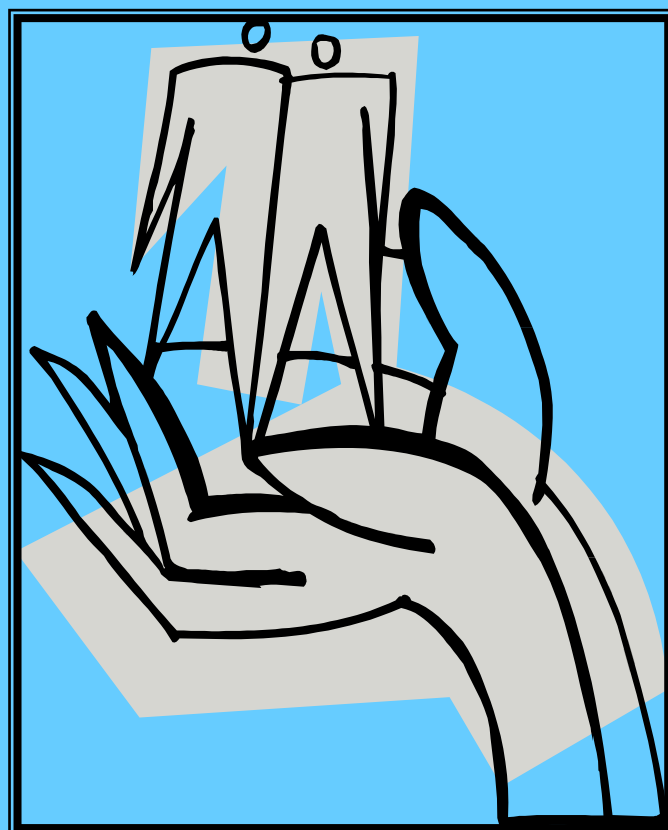
## for homework help

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

Has an assessment or assignment got them

What about getting some handy study hints?

Need study space?  
Access to printers?



- 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 3 2018****Week 10 - B**

Wed	26/9	Year 12 Graduation Night
Thu	27/9	Year 12 Formal @ Twin Creeks

**TERM 4 2018****Week 1 - A**

Mon	15/10	All students and Staff return
Tue	16/10	ABW Week
Thur	18/10	HSC exams start (all week)

**Week 2 - B**

Tue	24/10	Gatehouse Girls visit to Banks PS Period 1&2
Wed	25/10	Youth Pitch @ Westmead Hospital

**Week 3 - A**

Tue	30/10	Gatehouse Girls visit to Banks PS Period 1&2
Wed	31/10	Year 11 Reports issued

**Week 4 - B**

Mon	5/11	Year 10 exams in Hall
Fri	9/11	HSC finish today

**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)



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