Premier's Reading Challenge
2014 has again been a very successful year with 37 students receiving gold awards and 192 students participating in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. Well done everyone.

Presentation Assembly
Friday 5th December is our Presentation Assembly where students receive certificates for outstanding academic achievement, improvement, citizenship, attendance, etc. In each class one student will also receive a medallion and the opportunity to choose a special book from a selection in the library. The new school leaders and special Honour Board Prize winners are announced and our Dance group and choir will also be performing.

All parents and carers are welcome to attend the assembly. Students who are receiving awards have had a letter posted home inviting the parents to attend.

This assembly starts at approximately 9.30am and is held in the St Clair High School Hall. All of our students will be seated before the doors open

for parents to enter.

After the assembly the 2014 and 2015 school leaders, medallion winners and their families are invited back to our school library for morning tea.

Planning for 2015
We are about to organise classes for 2015. To assist in this organisation could any parent whose child will be leaving St Clair PS to attend another primary school in 2015 please notify the office.

Long Family Holiday
We realise that some families need to take holidays outside school holidays. If your child is going on holidays early or returning after 28th January 2015 (first day for students), please notify the office in writing. If your holiday is longer than 15 days please complete an Attendance Exemption Form (available from Mrs Healey) and return to school at least 5 days prior to your holiday.

Dance Sport
Our very talented Stage 2 & 3 Dance Sport teams performed at the championships at Penrith Valley Sports centre on Tuesday 18th November. There were 22 schools competing so it was very competitive. Congratulations to the students who made it to semi-finals and finals. A big thank you to Mrs Gilbert and Ms Egger for coaching the teams and for giving up many lunchtimes to practise. Photos page 6.

Assembly News
- MONDAY 1 Dec - No Assembly
- FRIDAY 5 Dec - Presentation Assembly @ St Clair HS
- MONDAY 8 Dec - Merit Awards & Last chance to trade up.

Judy Loader
Principal

P & C Meeting
Tuesday 10th February
7.00pm in the Staffroom
**Merit Awards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class 1</td>
<td>Tayla Martin, Drew Grant, Jasmin Seko, Lachlan Vecchio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 3</td>
<td>Evita Isaak, Matthew Isaak, Emily Mills, Nia Tautua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 4</td>
<td>Kadeesha King, Jamie Jackson, Liam Keogh, Zuzanna Najda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 5</td>
<td>Mark Isaak, Tyson Brown, Genevieve Russell, Kyle Pollard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 6</td>
<td>Mackenzie Wilkie-Smith, Tia Simpson, Chelsey Savill, Jayden Maalouf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 7</td>
<td>Kallum Nash, Isaiah Bangius, Aaliyah Nikua, Annalise Vorhauer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 9</td>
<td>Keely Loeckenhoff, Jewel McArdle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 10</td>
<td>Seth Garrow, Bryzbyn Walraven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 11</td>
<td>Yusuf Karasu, Emily Cunningham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 12</td>
<td>Brandan Thurgar, Katrina Elias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 13</td>
<td>Kiara Keogh, Jasmine Pajarin, Matilda Vorhauer, Hendrix Gundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 14</td>
<td>Elazaya Young-Ngaha, Brayden Brown, Sarah Roser, Zachary Maalouf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 15</td>
<td>Joshua Richardson, Matoisha Kalepo, Morgan Savill, Ciaren Contreras Rios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 16</td>
<td>Krystal Boyd, Malakai Wilcox, Mackenzie Hodgkinson, Brayden Sultana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 18</td>
<td>Jenny Alexandrou, Sophie Grech, Addison Shaw, Portia Young</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Principal’s Awards**

**Congratulations:**

Qiyara Young-Ngaha, Mark Isaak, Aaliyah Nikua, Lachlan Vecchio, Alexa Bangius, Brandan Thurgar, Amara Wright, Annalise Vorhauer, Cameron Simmonds-Roberts, Harman Nijjar, Jenny Alexandrou, Hannah Bonwick, Hailey Kendrick

**For trading 5 Mini Merit**


**The Choir**

Our school choir entertained us at our assembly last week with their beautiful tones.
P&C News

We still have some showbags left for sale. Remember Christmas is only 4 weeks away and these would make great stocking fillers and you won’t even have to tackle the shops! If you are interested order forms were sent home but if you do not have it just write your order and add the correct money to an envelope and put it in the black box near the office. If these are for Christmas and you would like to keep them a secret please just let us know and we will arrange discrete delivery to you.

These are the show bags that are available:
- Cadbury Dairy Milk $5.00
- Zappo $5.00
- Wicked Fizz $5.00
- Best Friends Forever $6.00
- Tricks & Jokes $6.00

We have had some VERY hot days in the recent weeks and would like to remind parents to ensure that their child has a hat. Children are not allowed to play on the oval without a hat. Also a handy hint is to only half freeze their drink bottles then they will still have a cold drink at recess and by lunch the rest will be defrosted. A little roll on sunscreen is also a handy thing for the kids to have in their bags.

Canteen Volunteers needed for 2015

We would also like to ask for volunteers in the canteen for next year. We are only asking for one day a month to help out. The duties are very simple and full training is given. Think how exciting it would be for your child to see you during the day at the canteen!!! If you are interested please call the canteen phone: 0455 098 523 leave your name and phone number and Kimberley our canteen manager will contact you.

Also the canteen always has stock of delicious cold treats ranging from only 50c!! We are trialling some brand new ice blocks for the kids to enjoy, Lemonade Twists for $1.20ea and Mini Callipo’s for $1.20ea.

We have set up a Facebook page to notify our families of upcoming events at school. Check it out at: http://www.facebook.com/stclairpublicschoolpandc

Next Meetings – 7pm in the Staffroom - Tuesday 10th February 2015

Assembly Item

Our wonderful Kindergarten Classes 16 & 18 reminded us just how close Christmas is with their item this week at our assembly. It was wonderful to see our hall packed with parents who joined us to see this great Christmas Item. Well done Kindergarten.
School Banking
The last day of School Banking for this year will be Monday 8th December 2014.

School Website
Please check out the school website: http://www.stclair-p.schools.nsw.edu.au. For information about upcoming events check the Calendar or Newsletter tabs, for copies of permission notes check the Notes tab and of course check out the Photo Gallery to see lots of photos of different events.

If there is something you would like to see added to the school website and it abides by DEC policy please let the school know by dropping us an email or sending a note to the office.

MIDWEEK EXTRAVAGANZA TERM 1:
WACKY SCIENCE CLUB

Have you ever wanted to create weird and wacky science experiments? To examine gross super slime, gigantic bubbles and gruesome body bits? What about making dry ice and water cannons or radical water rockets that land with parachutes?
Well, you can do all this and more with at the Wacky Science Club with ‘The Crazy Scientists’ each week at Penrith Library!

Where: Penrith Library Theatrette
When: Thursday 5 Feb - Thursday 2 April
Time: 4.15pm - 5.15pm
Cost: $135 for the term
Contact: Barjinder on 4732 7890 or blaur@penrith.city.nsw.gov.au to book your place.

We need a minimum of 20 children to run the Wacky Science Club.
The Christmas Experience

From the producers of Bethlehem

Saturday & Sunday • 13th & 14th December 2014
4.30PM Gates Open to The Experience. Carols Begin at 5.30PM.

Reserve your free priority seating at inchurch.com.au/christmas or just turn up (if available) seating on the night. Free parking.

A unique carols Experience with a trip through time into the village of Bethlehem 2000 years ago. Experience the culture, the people, the event that changed History.

This is a FREE event however beware, the Tax Collectors will take a gold coin gift for our charity Westcare.

The marketplace will be open after the carols for dinner & snacks:
inchurch.com.au • 4736 3000 • Simeon Rd, Orchard Hills

Imagin3 C3hurch
Community Connection
Westcare

Centre For
Emotional Health
Changing Lives

Parent Questionnaire for the PAVe Project
(Peventing Anxiety and Victimisation through education)

Students with parental consent have now completed the PAVe survey at school. We would like to invite parents of these children to complete the PAVe parent survey.

This online survey will take about 12 minutes to fill out. Please go to http://bit.do/pave4parents to complete the survey.

Alternatively, you can collect a paper version of the questionnaire from your school.

The information you provide will assist us evaluate programs that reduce peer victimization and anxiety in schools and also evaluate the health impact and costs to run these programs. The information will assist us plan future support for families to prevent victimization and anxiety in children.

The PAVe team and (name of school) thank you for participating in the PAVe Project.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr Sally Fitzpatrick (0850 8097) or paveadmin@mq.edu.au

Experience The Magic Of Hosting

World Education Program (WEP) is inviting Australian families to experience another culture within their own homes by becoming volunteer host families. Choose the right student for your family and get a glimpse into the life of another culture without having to leave the comfort of your home.

Nino (15) from Thailand enjoys playing basketball, golf, swimming, camping, reading Japanese manga, drawing and playing the piano. He is excited to learn all about Australian lifestyles and to meet new people.

Giallo (17) from Italy loves music! He plays both the electric and acoustic guitar. As well as link, guitar is extremely athletic and previously played basketball, soccer and volleyball. He currently enjoys going to the gym and also does aerobics gymnastics.

Getting to know your student before he or she arrives brings fun and stay to everyone involved. Take the next step and contact the today to receive a full information pack for your family, including student profiles.

- Sylvia Kelly, Inbound Program Manager

Enrich your home with a curious exchange student in January 2015

Request student profiles now to find out more!

www.wep.org.au  1300 884 733  info@wep.org.au
Sydney Dance Sport Championships 2014

On Tuesday 18th November 2014 the members of St Clair PS DanceSport team travelled to Penrith Sports Stadium to participate in the Sydney Dance Sport Championships. The event was attended by 22 schools from the Sydney metropolitan area. The members of our team were:

**Stage 2**
- **Samba**
  - Hannah Rutledge & Brock Smith
  - Angelina Gardner & Brodie Zeall

- **Slow Rhythm**
  - Zoe Mazurkiewicz & Troy Patea
  - Chelsey Savill & Nathan Price

- **Australian Barn Dance**
  - Lily-Jean Hodgson & Tyrese Coban

- **Stage 3**
  - **Cha Cha**
    - Kadeesha King & Jake Whelan
    - Hayley Dowds & Melroop Nijjar
  
  - **Waltz**
    - Cheyenne Birchall & Dylan Wilson
    - Gabriella Black & Joseph Santos
  
  - **Gypsy Tap**
    - Jasmin Seko & Christian Solomon
    - Beondce Kalepo & Corey Daley

Everyone tried very hard in all their events and enjoyed the day. Angelina & Brodie, Kadeesha & Jake and Jasmine & Christian were semi-finalists in their events while Hannah & Brock, Chelsey & Nathan, Caitlyn & Santini and Beondce & Corey made it through to the finals in their events.

Hannah & Brock placed 5th overall out of 44 couples in the Samba which was a fantastic effort. The Junior DanceSport Team was also placed 5th overall.

We would like to thank all the children who have worked hard throughout the year to learn the dances.

Congratulations St Clair PS Dance Sport team. You are all champions!
The simplest way

...to make a Christmas centerpiece.

Get creative these holidays with a fruit and veg inspired centerpiece for your Christmas feast!
The picture on the right uses layers of baby tomatoes, rosemary and cheese but you could use:
- Layers of thinly sliced green and red capsicum, with slices of carrots in between
- Baby tomatoes and basil
- Kiwi fruit, watermelon, rockmelon
- Use mixed berries: blueberries, strawberries, raspberries.

If you have fruit + veg on your table, you’ll be surprised how quickly it will be eaten. For more inspiration – like us on Facebook – details below. Merry Christmas!

For more information visit www.eatittobealit.com.au or join us at facebook.com/eatittobealit

The simplest way

...stay healthy over Summer.

Summertime = BBQ time in Australia.
Here are five ways to make your barbies as healthy and delicious as possible.
- Limit or avoid processed meat like sausages and bacon.
- Use lean cuts of meat.
- Make sure half your plate is filled with vegies.
- Cook veggies like eggplant, zucchini and capsicum straight on the BBQ (or as part of the kebab in picture).
- Make a few salads to serve on the side.
- Freeze fruits like grapes and berries make a delicious treat for a dessert on a hot day.

For more information visit www.eatittobealit.com.au or join us at facebook.com/eatittobealit

The simplest way

...to be SunSmart!

Showing children that you wear sunscreen is the best way to teach them about our harmful UV rays.

Children imitate adult behavior – both good and bad. When it comes to sun protection, setting the best example is important for teachers and parents.

What should you do?
- Wear a sun safe hat.
- Wear a shirt with a collar and sleeves.
- Apply sunscreen before going outside, and then at regular two hour intervals throughout the day.

Be SunSmart and your children will follow your lead. Enjoy the holidays!

For more information visit www.sunsmart.com.au or call 9334 1751

The simplest way

...make Christmas healthy

Christmas is full of temptation: from bowls of chocolate, to puddings to pavlovas.

It’s important you still aim for two serves of fruit + five serves of veg, every day.

Try and restrict your family’s treats until Christmas Day, and follow these three steps for healthier choices:

1. Serve vegie sticks with vegie dips as a starter, so you fill up on healthier food first.
2. Serve a large fruit salad or fruit kebabs alongside dessert.
3. Make sure half your plate is filled with vegies (think roasted or raw salads).

For more information visit www.eatittobealit.com.au or join us at facebook.com/eatittobealit
This year has been great and I cannot believe 2014 is about to end. Indeed, time flies when you’re having fun! Last week we had the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden training at St Clair and as always, visitors enjoyed their time in the kitchen and marvelled at our beautiful garden whilst learning new things. I am looking forward to seeing the staff again next year!

This week we managed to cook Vegetable Stir Fry and our favourite Vegetable Tart. Thank you to the students who contributed zucchinis. It’s so wonderful to hear about a few students starting their own gardens at home and also cooking with their parents. Keep up the good work and let me know what dishes you cooked during the school holidays!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for working so hard in the kitchen. To all the Year 6 students, all the best and enjoy high school. See you all at your farewell!

To all parents, teachers and volunteers who helped and contributed goods to the program. a big thank you to all! May you all have a fun, safe break.

Thank you! Happy cooking everyone! Cazendra.

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**St Clair PS Playgroup**

Parents, carers, babies and children aged 0 to school age come and relax in a friendly environment. All welcome!

Fortnightly on Thursdays from: 9.15 to 11.00 am

Where: Room 20

Dates: Thursday 11/12/14

Contact: St Clair Public school- 9670 1966 or Catherine Harding – 4732 7914

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**Email Address**

St Clair PS continues to try to improve its digital communication with parents. If you would like email notifications for the Newsletter, notes or other important events happening in the school in 2015, please supply or update your email address below.

Child’s name______________________ Class ___ Parent name: __________________________

Email: ……………………………………………………………………………………………

Please print clearly
It seems summer has come early with 44 degrees last week and huge storms the same day! Luckily I had reinforced the chooks' shade cloth with some rattan screens salvaged from the side of the road so they managed to stay relatively cool. Also, the wonderful people who attended the SAKG Advanced Workshop training last week helped me enormously by putting up the shade cloth over most of the garden. With so many hands it only took a couple of hours instead of a weeks work doing it on my own - I am so grateful for that! While it doesn't look particularly elegant, it is incredibly effective at preventing the garden being scorched by the hot summer sun, lowering the temperature by at least 5 degrees.

I was so proud of some boys who called me over last week to rescue a praying mantis which was on the CO-LA. It was lovely to see them respecting even the minor creatures in the garden, and the praying mantis now has a safe home in the garden. There are lots of valuable creatures in the garden including the St Andrews Cross spider that lives in the chook yard (see photo) and it is wonderful to see the kids losing their fear and becoming interested in the "creepy-crawlies".

Thank you also to those lovely children who enjoy coming down to the garden to help out during their lunch times - it is great to see their enthusiasm and I am always delighted to hear how many kids have their own vegie patch at home, or are putting in a vegie garden. Another generation of budding gardeners reconnecting with nature and staying healthy as well. It is so rewarding to hear that this great program is having such a positive effect.

Until next time, happy gardening

Juanita

Special Thank You To Our Supporters of the Stephanie Alexander Garden Project

- Minchinbury Fruit Market for the donation of fresh vegetable leaves for chooks.
- Austas for the large wooden boxes
- Camden Farm Mushrooms - for free delivered mushroom compost
- To all the parents and community members who have donated items, volunteered in the garden or purchased produce from the garden