L3 – Kindergarten and Stage 1
Our Term 3 Kindergarten and Stage 1 reading and writing results are outstanding and are well above state average, as well as being significantly above the data from the other schools in this network. Well done K-2 teachers and a fantastic effort to the students.

Book Character Parade
What a wonderful array of costumes the staff and students displayed at our Book Character Parade. The kids looked great and I would like to thank all of the parents for all of their hard work in organising the costumes. The Book Fair was a great success and I’m sure the parents loved the bargains. Photos on Page 4.

Art Sale
I would like to thank all of the teachers for guiding the students in making fantastic works of art. These were on display in the Hall on Monday for the Assembly and Tuesday for the Book Character Parade. Remaining pieces will be on display in the Hall for 2 more weeks. I’m sure as parents you will love to own these beautiful and creative pieces. Many parents have already purchased their child’s art. For a small donation you too can be the proud owner of your child’s masterpiece. Please make your donation to the office or placing your donation in an envelope with your child’s name & Art Sale written on the outside and placing it in the black box.

P & C Meeting
Tuesday 24th November
7.00pm in the Staffroom

Calendar
Thursday 15 Oct to 12 Nov
Cricket Clinic
Friday 16 Oct to 20 Nov
2016 Kindy Transition
Monday 19 October
Stage 3 Milo Blast Cup Cricket Finals
Tuesday 20 October
PSSA GALA Day
Wednesday 21 Oct to 9th Dec
GOT IT Program
Tuesday 27 October
Amazing Me Growing Up sessions
Wednesday 1 November
Remembrance Day Service
Tuesday 24 November
P&C meeting
Wednesday 25 November
P&C Disco
Friday 27 November
2016 Kindy Orientation

Newsletter available online @ www.stclair-ps.schools.nsw.edu.au
**Principal’s Awards**

*Congratulations:*
- Zachary Maalouf,
- Jamie Jackson,
- Faran Ahmad,
- Phillip Nguyen,
- Zuzanna Najda,
- Joshua Richardson

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**Merit Awards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Students</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Darcy Evans, Eddie Faamausili Paese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dilara Elma, Kaiden Murphy</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Giselle Russell, Cydel Hemara</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sarah Chavez, Zachary Maalouf</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chelsey Savill, Concetta Mayol</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Yusuf Karasu</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Angus McArule</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Brenden Stephen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Jewel McArule</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Will Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Chelsea Brown, Sarah Roser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Sandra Stancev, Aiden Coban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Jenny Alexandrou, Harley Shepherd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Amy Tidyman, Ethan Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Marina Youssef, Harrison Bonwick</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Enrique Greveno, Kallen Warner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PBL Awards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Angello Laranang</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Eden Devonshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Giselle Russell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dakota Garrow</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Faith Gravina</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Riley Brown</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Jordan Mitchell</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Abdullah Al Shamri</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Seth Garrow</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Denis Crowley</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Jasmine Rutledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Jordan Williamson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Dean Collins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Bowen Gurney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Jason Shaw</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**For trading 5 Mini Merit**

Liam Ommundson, Scarlett Bell, Kayla Fairweather x 2, Joshua Hill, Zuzanna Najda, Flynn Dalrymple, John Ah Mann x 2, Hayley Spagnol, Aaliyah Nikua x 2, Annie Vorhauer, Jericho David, Makaylah Pinches, Zachary Maalouf x 3, Maddison Roth, Rathushaun Muraledaran, Ivana Vaotuua, Rinoa Laranang, Crystal Druery, Bryce Fairweather, Grace Simpson, Mia Wierzbiicki, Kayden King x 4, Skye Robertson, Nate Wright, Enrique Greveno, Kayley Mitrovic, Jayden Maalouf, Muqeet Nisar, Jonalyn Dizon, Madison Belbin, Ruben Hughes, Joshua Lane, Faran Ahmad, Amy Tidyman, Ceiren Wells, Bowen Gurney, Kaito Forrest

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**Have Your Say**

We are currently asking parents to contribute to the Partners in Learning (PIL) Parent survey as part of our whole school evaluation and future learning needs of our students. Parents who have supplied their email address to the school have had the survey link sent directly to them. If you wish to contribute to the survey go to https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/j_acegi_security_check?j_username=parent17255&j_password=St4531

Please copy and paste the link into your internet browser. This will ensure the survey launches directly to page one of the survey. Survey has been extended to 29 October 2015
Thinking of applying for a government selective high school for Year 7 entry in 2017?

You must apply online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement

Enrol now for Kindergarten 2016
Call into the Office or phone the school for an enrolment application.

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**Key Dates**

Tuesday 13 October 2015 - Applications website opens
Monday 16 November 2015 - Application website closes
NO late applications will be accepted

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**Year 6 Walkathon**

Thank you to all of the students and their families who participated in the Year 6 Walkathon last term. We had a fantastic response raising over $4000. Year 6 are using some of this money to purchase a new lectern with an attached microphone, so as to improve our assemblies.

Students received a ticket for each $5.00 raised. Congratulations to the following students who were the lucky winners from these tickets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Prize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emma Tidyman</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Smiggle Voucher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Dale</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Museum of Fire Family pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine De Laza</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Basket Ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cydel Hemara</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ipod Shuffle, Totem Tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Chavez</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Museum of Fire Family pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylah Williamson</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Museum of Fire Family pass Ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Beardmore</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea Brown</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tayla Russell</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Smiggle Voucher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexa Banguis</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Soccer Ball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Hoven-Leonow</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Soccer Ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Williamson</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Basket Ball, Bouncy Ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hendrix Gundy</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Museum of Fire Family pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasmine Zorbas</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Banguis</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Banguis</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Bouncy Ball</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Surenne</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Soccer ball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashton Wasley</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony JT Elia</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Football</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Kindergarten 2016 Transition Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 16 Oct</td>
<td>9-11am</td>
<td>Getting to know you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Morning Tea supplied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 23 Oct</td>
<td>9-11am</td>
<td>Coming to school</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Guest Speaker- Psychologist from Got it program</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Parenting skills and emotional development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 30 Oct</td>
<td>9-11am</td>
<td>What’s in my bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Guest Speaker- Speech Therapist- Kylie Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 6 Nov</td>
<td>9-11am</td>
<td>Friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Guest Speaker – Healthy Lunches - Nina Tan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13 Nov</td>
<td>9-11am</td>
<td>Things I can do at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Guest Speaker – Occupational Therapist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20 Nov</td>
<td>9-11am</td>
<td>Feelings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Road Safety Education Officer - Suzanne Gibson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27 Nov</td>
<td>9-11am</td>
<td>Orientation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>St Clair Public School 2016 Kindergarten students and parents/ caregivers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Art Sale

Thank you to all the parents who purchased their child’s art work. Art works will continue to be available for another 2 weeks. Unsold art works will then be destroyed.
A Message from our Sponsor Child

Petro would like to say “Jambo” (Hello) from Tanzania and would like to say “Ahsante sana” (thank you) to our SRC for their support.

This year’s sponsorship money has helped provide the children and the families from the Nakombo community with:

- Improved health care through the provision of mobile health clinics.
- Nutrition education for all the mothers to ensure all children have adequate and proper food.
- Training in the importance of horticulture, resulting in the community garden becoming a model to other communities.
- Training in the care and breeding of livestock and the purchase of a large herd of cattle.
- Quality school and public toilets.

AMAZING ME is coming to school

WHEN: 6.00pm Tuesday 27th October 2015
WHO: Parents and Students in Years 3 to 6
WHERE: Library

This year, once again St Clair Public School will be holding the AMAZING ME education seminars to support our school community. The program will be held on Tuesday the 27th of October and aims to provide information to children in the important area of personal development. Whilst not compulsory, it is highly recommended that all parents take up this opportunity even if your child is nervous or embarrassed, or would prefer not to attend.

Our AMAZING ME educator will be Rowena Thomas. Rowena is a teacher who has had over 20 years experience in this area. Rowena’s talks are always lively and informative.

The first talk will focus on the difference between girls and boys bodies, reproduction and birth. (6-7pm) and is for Years 3 and 4.

The second talk for Years 5 and 6 (7-8pm) will focus on the difference between girls and boys bodies and puberty.

All presentations are given in an age appropriate manner.

Children must be accompanied by one of their parents as the evening seeks to encourage parent and child discussion. The talks will be held in the school library and will cost $15 per family for one session and $20 for two sessions per family. The children do not need to wear school uniform on the night.

Notes have been sent home with all Year 3 to 6 students. Extra notes available from the Office. Please complete your response slip along with the correct payment (sorry no credit cards) and place in the black box outside the Office.
She may be made of fibre-glass, but Moolissa Clairabell, has certainly made a name for herself at St Clair PS since she was primed, painted and primped as part of Dairy Australia’s Picasso Cows program!

As part of our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program and classroom nutrition education, students have spent the last two months learning all about the Australian dairy industry and the benefits of consuming dairy foods such as milk, cheese and yogurt for good health and well being.

Armed with glue, paint and loads of enthusiasm, our students chose the ‘Farm to Plate’ theme as their dairy learning focus, which saw Moolissa Clairabell transformed from a white blank life-size fibreglass cow, into a piece of art with an important educational message!

Each student created their own or shared in making a patch for Moolissa Clairabell, these patches were carefully glued onto her and then students carefully painted around the patches with black paint. Juanita and Mrs Condie then lacquered her to give Moolissa a shine and protect the art work from the weather.

The students documented their experience from start to finish in a digital learning journal which we showcased alongside Moolissa Clairabell at the Picasso Cows presentation day on Wednesday 7th October at Blacktown RSL together with other participating schools in the region. The students who attended the presentation participated in some fun activities including a speed milking activity.

While we didn’t win the title, our students thoroughly enjoyed showing off their new creation and all of their hard work. We are exceptionally proud of their efforts and they are certainly considered winners at St Clair Public School.

Moolissa Clairabell is now a permanent member of our school community. If you haven’t seen Moolissa Clairabell in the flesh, you’ll find her moo-ving around the school grounds, so be sure to keep an eye out!

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**Thank You**

A BIG thank you to Woolworths and all of the parents who shopped at Woolworths and donated their Earn & Learn stickers to the school. The school has been able to receive $1093.00 worth of Science based construction materials. We will receive a Super Value set of Mobilo, a Jumbo Interstar set for the Library and K-net Building and Machine sets for Stage 3, as well as a Magnet Tiles set for Stage 2.

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**Get ready for your dream job!**

Penrith City Council is planning a project for parents who want to:  
Return to paid work or start a new career  
Gain confidence and develop new skills  
Have fun and meet new people  

The project will happen in 2016  
Join us for a free morning tea to find out more and to see if you may be interested  
**Wednesday 4 November**  
9.30 – 11.30  
Bennett Rd Public School in the Main Hall  
Free child care can be provided on request  
Please RSVP by Monday 2 November (this will assist us with catering)  
Contact Jessica Kidd 4732 7750
P&C News

We hope everyone enjoyed the school holidays – only one more term to go for 2015!!

Fundraising
All P&C fundraising this year will be going towards assisting our school purchase iPads. Your help makes a huge difference to our school.

Christmas Disco – We are having a Christmas Disco on Wednesday 25th November from 4.30pm to 6.00pm.
Cost is $5.00 per student and tickets need to be purchased prior to the disco. “Miss Groovy Gilbert” will be our guest DJ for the night.
Come dressed in your favourite Christmas attire and enjoy a fun night of dancing.

Please note: Only students currently attending our school are able to come to the disco. Notes will be sent home shortly.

Canteen

Important Notice: The canteen is closed on Wednesdays until further notice – this means NO lunch orders are available.

The canteen is still in need of more volunteers to help out. If you can help in any way, please contact Kim Burrell on our canteen phone on 0455 098 523 or you can enquire at the school office. Just one day per month is all we need – remember the old saying – “Many hands make light work”.

Fundraising Events still to come
Term 4 – Christmas Disco 25th November 2015

Next Meeting: Tuesday 24th November 2015 7.00pm in the staffroom – everyone is welcome to attend

Got It! Tip of the Week

For a lot of parents, their child’s challenging behaviours can be hard to understand and frustrating to manage. It is important to remember that a child’s difficult behaviour is a way of expressing their emotional and physical needs. It can sometimes be tricky to know what your child is trying to communicate with their behaviour; however thinking about the emotional needs behind the behaviour is a great place to start. Emotions guide our actions and being aware of our feelings and the feelings of others means we are able to handle our moods better, bounce back from emotional events faster, are healthier, get along better with people, and manage our behaviour better.

Got It! Tip of the Week

Notice emotions both in yourself and in your child, especially when they are at a low intensity. Simply recognising your emotions and the cues you get from your body will help you become sensitive to your child’s experience of an emotion. Once you’re aware of your child’s feelings, you can then begin to support your child to manage them. You may wish to keep an emotion diary to write down thoughts and feelings that come up for yourself and your child throughout the day. These diaries can be helpful to be aware of your emotions, your child’s emotions, the cues you get from your child’s body language, what you say and how your child responds.

BOOK Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Child : The Heart of Parenting by John Gottman

DVD Emotion Coaching: Four Parenting Styles and Five Steps of Emotion Coaching
Astronomy Night
A Night in the Life of an Astronomer
Saturday 17 October (8pm – 10pm)

Through a visual journey, you will travel with astronomer Dr Lee Spitler on an observing trip to the remote 6.5-metre Baade Magellanic Telescope. In the still Chilean night, you will collect astronomical data to hunt for galaxies billions of light years away from Earth. Learn about the trials and tribulations of a professional astronomer.

The evening will also include a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and an opportunity to view the night sky through the observatory’s telescopes.

Cost: $18.00 Adult, $12.00 Child/Concession
$50.00 Family

Bookings are essential: Book online:
Enquiries: Phone (02) 4736 0135 or
e-mail r.mccourt@uws.edu.au
Office Hours Mon, Wed, Thurs 8,30am-3.00pm
Animal Welfare League NSW
BOARDING

The Animal Welfare League Shelter at Kemps Creek offers comfortable boarding for your dog - great if you are heading away over Christmas.

Our team is dedicated to making your dog feel at home and happy during their stay with us. As a non-profit organization with a 55-year history, you can be assured that your dog will receive the best care. We have extremely qualified and experienced Shelter and Veterinary staff who treat all the pets that come into our care like part of the family.

All money raised from our boarding program goes directly to helping abandoned and neglected companion animals.

We offer affordable prices – for daily rates or to view our facilities and more information visit www.awlnsw.com.au

Contact Us: 02 8888 3305 or help@awlnsw.com.au

*Current recommendation is to have your dog and any other dogs you may have microchipped when boarding your dog.

For more information call Erin on 4731 8028.

WHITE RIBBON DAY
TWILIGHT RIVER WALK
Wednesday 25th November 2015
5.30PM - 7.30PM

Penrith Council is proud to support White Ribbon Day to help bring an end to violence against women in our community. Join us and show your support at this free community event.

Current statistics show that nearly three women are killed every week by a former or current partner. Too many Australian women live with fear and violence. It could be your mother, wife, sister, daughter, friend, partner, colleague... Stopping the violence is everyone’s responsibility.

Food stalls and live music at Tench Reserve until 7:30pm.

FREE SHUTTLE BUS BACK TO WEIR RESERVE FROM 6.30PM. WHITE RIBBON MERCHANDISE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE EVENT WITH ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO THE WHITE RIBBON FOUNDATION.

For more information contact Erin on 4731 8028.

ORAL HEALTH SERVICES
FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS

General dental treatment for children under 18 years of age is free at NSW Public Dental Health Clinics.

CALL TODAY

Phone: (02) 4734 2387 or 1300 769 221
The team at Lamrocks Solicitors has been helping people from across the Nepean and Blue Mountains region for over 100 years.

If you need advice or assistance with a legal issue, contact the experienced lawyers at Lamrocks for friendly, professional advice that offers real value-for-money.

Our office is conveniently located in Penrith, with parking outside the door, so you don’t have to travel into the city to get the best advice. Our professional staff are highly experienced in their chosen fields of law and can quickly identify the key issues in your matter, and how best to address them.

Please contact our friendly staff if you, or someone that you know, requires assistance with

Property & Conveyancing - Family Law
Compensation Law - Wills & Estates

Contributing to the community since 1882
The simplest way
...to be SunSmart in spring.

Did you know that during spring you need to protect your skin from the sun every day?

In most parts of NSW, the UV level is 3 or above during spring. This means that even on cooler days, you need to protect your skin in five ways: "slip" on sun-safe clothing; "slap" on SPF30+ or higher, broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen; "slop" on a broad-brim hat; "seek" shade; and "slide" on sunglasses.

How do you know if the UV level is 3 or above in your area?

Download the SunSmart app! The app provides recommended sun protection times, a calculator to check if you’re using enough sunscreen, and a tracker to find out if you’re getting enough UV exposure to help with your vitamin D levels.

To help keep your kids safe, check your schools’ SunSmart status by heading to www.sunsmartsnsw.com.au

The simplest way
...to be SunSmart!

Unlike sunscreen, clothing can’t be wiped or washed off, making it one of the best ways to protect your skin from damaging UV radiation.

For best protection choose:
- Shirts with collars or high necks, and sleeves
- Trousers or longer shorts and skirts that come to below the knees
- Clothing that is loose rather than stretched across the skin
- Look for fabric that has a close, dense weave
- Dark colours (navy, black, dark red) absorb UV rays and prevent them reaching the skin better than white and light colours

To help keep your kids safe, check your schools’ SunSmart status by heading to www.sunsmartsnsw.com.au

The simplest way
...to create a simple spring meal.

This easy and delicious vegetable stir-fry can be enjoyed hot dinner, with leftovers served cold in kids’ lunch boxes!

Ingredients (serves 4)
- 1/2 cup pasta (penne/bowtie/ties/penne)
- 100g mushrooms, sliced
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 medium tomato, chopped
- 6 eggs, whisked
- 1 medium zucchini, sliced thinly
- 2 tbsp parsley

Method
- Preheat oven to 180°C. Grease 20cm cake pan.
- Boil pasta in water until tender. Drain.
- Heat oil in a large frying pan, cook onion, zucchini and mushrooms until just tender.
- Combine all ingredients in large bowl. Mix well.
- Pour mixture into prepared pan. Bake for 45min.

Serve with a side salad.

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

The simplest way
...to make tabbouleh.

Ingredients
- 1 cup cracked wheat (bulgar)
- 2 large ripe tomatoes, sliced
- 1 small cucumber, diced
- 3 spring onions, finely sliced
- 1 bunch parsley, chopped
- 1 bunch mint, chopped
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp olive oil

Method
Cover the cracked wheat with water and soak for 15 minutes. Mix with remaining ingredients and serve chilled. Makes a great addition to your kids’ lunch box – add to sandwiches/wraps or send in a small container.

Tips
For best results, use flat leaf parsley when available.
For a more substantial meal: add 425g can drained chickpeas; or serve with grilled fish or meat and flatbread.

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

The Eat It To Beat It program is supported by the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District Live Life Well @ School Program.
Coming back from school holidays is always great. The garden has produced abundant vegetables due to this perfect warm weather. The snow peas, beetroot, broad beans, lettuce, celery, parsley, shallots and eggs were all plentiful. Some of the snow peas got a little mature during the break but of course, here in the kitchen, we do not waste anything. One of the standout dishes we made with the snow pea pods was pesto. We mashed and sauté the pods with garlic, salt and pepper then added parmesan cheese, olive oil and rocket. We served the pesto snow peas and rocket with toasted bread rolls. It was absolutely delicious! Another dish we cooked was our baby beetroot salad. We made sure that we harvested the perfect size beetroot for this particular dish because we wanted the sweetness, not the earthy taste that beetroot usually has. Beetroot is one of the root vegetables that kids, and even adults, least enjoy. Baking the beetroot with a little honey, olive oil and salt made this salad extra special. Did students eat it? I think they licked the plates!

For the next 2 weeks, the kitchen focus for Year 5 and 6 is about bacteria. Mrs Condie and her class are having a great time learning about the good and bad bacteria, while in the kitchen we made our own yoghurt. Students were keen to learn about this subject and were so excited about making yoghurt from scratch! We are also excited about next week as we are going to make desserts from the yoghurt we made this week. The kitchen focus for Years 2, 3 and 4 is about photosynthesis. Learning about this subject encourages students to appreciate the importance of treasuring our plants and trees. Everyone loved our lessons this week and we are certainly looking forward to learning more next week.

Happy Cooking! Cazendra

Thank you parents for contributing items we need for this program. Our Kitchen Garden program is always in need of further assistance from the parents, community and local businesses.

If you are wishing to donate items we need items such as:
Cheese  Butter (unsalted)  Brown Rice  Plain & Self-raising Flour

Also needed are jars with metal lids—to be used for preserves and jams.
I had a very busy time over the holidays, putting the shade cloth over the whole garden - a massive job made easier by Mark's height and help! Thank you, Mark. The new poles installed at the working bee are fantastic as the backbone of the whole structure. The shade cloth wasn't up a minute too soon as we've had horrendously hot days, reaching over 40 degrees on at least 3 or 4 days since then. Last Monday, the thermometer said 35°C in the shade, and 43°C in the sun!!! Having the shade cloth up means the garden doesn't get scorched, our water consumption is less and plants produce more which is a huge benefit for the 6 months it's up. As this summer is predicted to be extremely hot and dry due to the El Nino effect, the shade cloth will make all the difference between having enough produce to supply the kitchen or having to buy lots of things. As well as not having to water as much, means we are having less impact on the environment as well.

As well as the shade cloth, a few boxes were replaced, including 2 wicking beds - heavy, hard work shovelling soil and blue metal on 33°C degree days! Two have been planted out with zucchini, cucumber, lettuce and scarlet runner beans. A passionfruit which was struggling in the wicking bed is coming along nicely, within the couple of weeks it's been in its new home. There are another 6 boxes which need replacing fairly quickly, including another 2 wicking beds - at least the shade cloth is up to reduce the heat! We get between 12 - 18 months from each box and luckily we have a ready supply from our good friends at Austas. They are now giving us laminated style boxes so hopefully they will last even longer and this means less work maintaining the structure of the garden and more time to grow and produce!

Experiencing spring in a garden is one of the delights of the year. Watching the fruit trees blossom and produce tiny fruit which grow and swell with each passing day is amazing. We now have grapes on our vines for the first time (thank you Veronica), loganberries, lemons, limes, tangelos, apricots, nectarines, and one of the passionfruit vines has its first buds! Unfortunately, as the fruits develop, the birds have begun 'taste testing' for ripeness, which has led to the latest big job - creating a structure for the bird net which was put up on that 43 degree day!! Thanks to Mark again for his help. So now our apricots, nectarines, peaches and apples will be safe from the depredations of corellas, cockatoos and noisy Mynas. Hopefully we will have lots of delicious fruit for summer. It's now time to plant watermelon, rockmelon, corn, basil, vegetable squash, Jerusalem artichokes, sunflowers, climbing spinach and pumpkins, as well as replenish stocks of carrots, rocket, lettuce and silverbeet.

We have been harvesting lots of beetroot, lettuce, snow peas, silverbeet, kale, carrots, celery, shallots, rocket and the chickens have celebrated spring by laying an egg each every day. It's so good to see children changing their eating habits and enjoying healthy clean food. One recent success was having one child, who rarely tries anything, eat some salad and declare it "delicious, 10/10!"

Our cow Moolissa Clairabelle is now comfortably placed in the school garden. We didn't win the prize, but the kids had fun on the day. Thanks to Mrs Renshaw for the use of her trailer to take her to and from the judging.

If anyone has time to volunteer for an hour or two in our garden, I would love the help as my regular helper has now got a job and can't help out as much. No experience is necessary and the joys of gardening soothe the nerves and replenish the spirit. One of the latest diagnosed conditions is NDD - Nature Deficit Disorder, where people become stressed and depressed due to long hours indoors, looking at screens and under artificial lighting. Doctors are actually prescribing time in nature to combat this illness!! Come to the garden and reduce your chance of getting NDD (lol).

Until next time, happy gardening! Juanita
What did the Gonski Review recommend?
The Gonski review recommended that schools be funded according to the needs of their students and what was required to educate each one of them to a high standard.

Each school would get a base level of Commonwealth and state funding, plus additional money or loadings to take into account the school’s size and location and the individual needs of students (such as whether they are from a disadvantaged background or have a disability).

**THINGS YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT GONSKI SCHOOLS FUNDING**
The Gonski Review found that Australia is investing too little in schools, and that the way we distribute the money is neither fair nor effective. The Gonski funding arrangements are designed to ensure that the right resources are in every school to give children the individual attention and support they need to excel. The six-year Gonski agreements the Federal Government signed with five States and Territories began in 2014 and were designed to bring schools up to an appropriate level of resources in six years.

**THE THREAT TO GONSKI**
The Federal Government has refused to honour the signed Gonski agreements or even require State and Territory Governments to spend the Gonski funding on schools. Its refusal to pay its share of the last two years of Gonski funding will leave schools across the country without the resources they need to educate every child to a high level. This decision will cut $2.8 billion from public schools alone – enough funding to pay for more than 20,000 teachers.

**WITHOUT GONSKI SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS WILL BE LEFT BEHIND**
Gonski is all about bringing every school up to the level where it has the resources to properly educate every child. Without the full funding, children in schools will continue to miss out on the support and attention they need to reach their potential. The worst-affected will be the ones who stand to gain the most from Gonski: children with disability, those from disadvantaged and non-English speaking backgrounds and Aboriginal students.

We cannot as a nation accept a situation where some students are educated in schools which are properly resourced while others are held back by a lack of resources.

**All governments and all political parties need to support this once-in-a-generation opportunity to work together and properly resource our schools.**

**GONSKI FUNDING AT ST CLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOL** has allowed us to:

- Purchase a significant number of additional reading books for Stage 1 and Kindergarten and the support classes.
- Purchase additional resources needed to successfully implement L3 & TEN.
- Supplement the cost to parents for the online learning programs, such as Mathletics, Reading Eggs, Reading Express and Bug Club.
- Supplement the cost for the sports clinics.
- Supplement the cost for buses for excursions or extra curricula outings.
- Supplement the Song Room Program and paid for a set of African Drums.
- Employ additional SLSOs (teacher’s aides) to work in classrooms to support student learning.
- Employ an additional Learning and Support Teacher – Terri Mackenzie who is working specifically with Stage 3, allowing Mrs Beggs to work with Stage 2 and Ms Young to work with K-2 and teach Reading Recovery.
- Pay for L3 and TEN (Targeted Early Numeracy), Professional learning for Kindergarten & Stage 1 teachers, as well as pay for casual teachers to release them from class for this training.
- Release Mrs Watchman 2 days per week from a class so she can train the teachers in TEN as well as support the implementation of TEN & L3.
- Support the implementation of TOWN in Stages 2 & 3 through releasing teachers to demonstrate lessons.
Staff Car Park

Parents are again reminded that they are not permitted to drive into the school grounds or car park and there is strictly no parent parking on school grounds other than those with a school parking pass.

Student Safety

Students and parents are reminded to use the pedestrian gate when entering or exiting the school. Please do not use the car entrance gates.

Early Arrivers

The school playground is not supervised before 8.30am and no students should arrive before this time. Any student who arrives before this MUST sit on the steps or seats outside the office.

Car Parking and Stopping

For the safety of all students, parents are reminded that it is unsafe and illegal to stop on the school crossing outside the front gate. It is also very dangerous to stop in the ‘NO STOPPING’ zones to drop off your children. Please obey all parking signs around the school.