POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR LEARNING FOCUS
PBL encourages positive behaviour from students, which has been shown to improve their self-concept and motivation to learn. The focus is Be A Learner, Participate in All Activities.

Debating
Our Debating team again performed admirably at last week’s debate against James Erskine Public School. St Clair has finished third in our pool and will debate James Erskine PS again in the pool semi finals on the last Thursday of this term. Wishing the team all the best.

Picasso Cow
Mrs Condie would like to thank all of the students who submitted a name for our Picasso Cow. There were many names submitted and Moolissa Clairabelle was chosen as the cow’s name. We would also like to thank all of the students for their excellent artwork. Moolissa Clairabelle is now totally covered in beautifully decorated patches. Mrs Condie and Juanita have completed the painting and sealing of the artwork, so Moolissa Clairabelle will be ready to be judged in Week 1 Term 4. More information and photos on pages 14 & 16.

District Athletics Carnival
Congratulations to all of the students who represented the school at the District Athletics Carnival. You all tried hard and showed excellent behaviour and sportsmanship. Congratulations to Jasmin Seko who has qualified for the Zone Athletics Carnival.

Father’s Day stall
A big thank you to all the volunteers and the P&C who made the Father’s Day stall a big success. There were some great gifts and I hope all the dads have a great Father’s Day.

Judy Loader Principal

Calendar
Friday 4 September
Kindy 2016 Interviews
Monday 7 September
Walk-a-thon
Wednesday 9 September
Zone Athletics Carnival
Thursday 10 September
Stage 2 Basketball Gala Day
Premier’s Spelling Bee
District Finals
Friday 11 September
Kindy Farm Excursion
Monday 14 September
Public Speaking Finals
Wednesday 16 & Thursday 17 Sept
Stage 2 Camp Activities
Friday 18 September
Last Day Term 3
Monday 21 Sept to Monday 5 Oct
School Holidays
Tuesday 6th October
Students return for Term 4
Wednesday 7th October
Picasso Cow Presentation
Tuesday 13th October
Book Character Parade
P&C Meeting
Wednesday 14th October
District Public Speaking Finals
## Principal’s Awards

**Congratulations:**
Jean-Marcel Bergerot, Hannah Bonwick, Morgan Savill, Anne Avecilla, Dakota Ross, Harshiv Sharma, Joshua Pajarin,

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class 1</th>
<th>Kyle King</th>
<th>Jamie Jackson</th>
<th>Bella Lemafua, Bradley Reid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class 3</td>
<td>Christian Solomon</td>
<td>Riki Minaca</td>
<td>Isabella Stein, Luron Patea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 4</td>
<td>Mark Isaak</td>
<td>Troy Patea</td>
<td>Tia Simpson, Rabeet Nisar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 5</td>
<td>Anne Avecilla</td>
<td>Jean–Marcel Bergerot</td>
<td>Skye Robertson, Kallum Nash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 6</td>
<td>Kyle Pollard</td>
<td>Steven Nguyen</td>
<td>Mackenzie Berrier, Darcy Strike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 7</td>
<td>Riley Brown</td>
<td>Talen Berry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 8</td>
<td>Jordan Mitchell</td>
<td>Shayne Shahla</td>
<td>Biya Binson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 9</td>
<td>Abdullah Al Shamri</td>
<td>Emily Cunningham</td>
<td>Cooper Jarvis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 10</td>
<td>Shanayah Murphy</td>
<td>Jewel McArdle</td>
<td>Sarah Clarke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 11</td>
<td>Koleby Thompson</td>
<td>Will Taylor</td>
<td>Ralph Lozada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 12</td>
<td>Pranav Sharma</td>
<td>Elazaya Young-Ngaha</td>
<td>Hennah Simi, Denis Crowley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 13</td>
<td>Hannah Bonwick</td>
<td>Morgan Savill</td>
<td>Joshua Richardson, Alex Lynch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 14</td>
<td>Matilda Vorhauer</td>
<td>Lucas Anderson</td>
<td>Jack Sabbath, Nate Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 15</td>
<td>Rochelle Chammas</td>
<td>Matilda Roberts</td>
<td>Kayley Mitrovic, Riley Watt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 16</td>
<td>Andrea Marks-Green</td>
<td>Madison Belbin</td>
<td>Bowen Gurney, Tito Esekia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 18</td>
<td>Jericho David</td>
<td>Harmony Lemafua</td>
<td>Lillie Brown, Jai O’Connor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**For trading 5 Mini Merit Awards**

Kaito Forrest, Maison Roberts, Jack Woods, Jenny Alexandrou, Christina Pandelios x 2, Steven Nguyen x 2, Harrison Bonwick, Cameron Simmonds-Roberts, Seb Santos, Kyle Pollard x 2, Anne Avecilla, Mia Nikua, Jasmine Rutledge, Hannah Bonwick x 2, Matilda Roberts, Sharni Hayes, Craig Black, Joshua Pajarin, Sophia Clark, Chloe Giddy, Shanayah Murphy, Chelsey Savill, Pranav Sharma, Faith Gravina, Bianca Gravina, Billy Pandelios, Seth Garrow, Isaiah Banguis, Dakota Ross x 2, Faran Ahmad, Seb Santos, Zahra Mehdi, Jayanaha Leuluso’o, Hayley Spagnol x 2, Emily Cunningham, Sarah Beardmore, Abdullah Al Shamri
Panthers Eat Well, Play Well, Stay Well Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>William Surenne, Jason Shaw</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Brayden Sultana, Jawad Mehti, Lucas Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Sarah Roser, Seb Santos, Phillip Nguyen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Darlene Faamausili Paese, Kierra Collins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Erin Dale, Eliza Babikr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Raghav Puri, Seth Garrow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 6 Freddo guessing competition
Winner Jayden Wells Class 14 with a correct guess of 91 Freddos.

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

Thank you again for supporting the school to earn new educational equipment. We are now past the half way mark of the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. Please continue to collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers each time you shop at Woolies. Remember – if you are not offered Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers when you shop, be sure to ask for them.
Customers will get a sticker for every $10 they spend. The more you collect the more educational equipment we can redeem.
Stage 1 Zoo Excursion
Stage 1 Zoo Excursion
ST CLAIR PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION 2015

As an integral part of the Listening and Talking syllabus, students in Year 3 – 6 will once again practise their skills in the St Clair Public Speaking Competition. Below are the topics and criteria to help your child plan, practise and present their speech.

TOPICS:
- Year 3 – What I Would Change!
- Year 4 – An Australian Story
- Year 5 & Year 6 - Open Topic

CRITERIA:
- CONTENTS OF SPEECH
- VOICE PROJECTION
- SEQUENCE
- PERFORMANCE/PRESENTATION

Note: a 10 point deduction from each judge will occur if the student:
- uses props
- uses exaggerated body actions or tone
- doesn’t stand still

TIME
- Years 3 & 4 duration of speech is 2 minutes (5 seconds either side)
  (loss of 1 point for every 5 seconds, or part thereof, outside this time)
- Years 5 & 6 duration of speech is 3 minutes (5 seconds either side)
  (loss of 1 point for every 5 seconds, or part thereof, outside this time)

NO MICROPHONE to be used.

Class speeches will be presented in the weeks leading up to the final on Monday 14th September (week 10) according to each teacher’s timetable.

All students in Years 3 – 6 are expected to plan and present their speech at a class level.

Parents are invited to attend the School Finals in the Hall on Monday 14th September commencing at 1.45pm.

Class 3 Assembly Item

Class 3 entertained everyone at last Monday’s assembly. Their interesting miming display of many popular songs certainly had the audience in hysterics.

Well done Class 3!

Swim School

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the Department of Education’s Learn to Swim Program. All students tried hard and made progress. It’s great to see so many participating. Remember to keep practising so you don’t forget the skills you have learnt.
P&C News

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.

Our 5c drive is coming to an end!! – As mentioned above all of the funds raised this year go towards purchasing Ipads for the school. The last collection day will be Friday 4th September. The 5c pieces are to be taken to your child’s class. The winning class will be announced at the school assembly on 7th September and the class party will be held on a date to be determined by the class teacher. There will be no further updates until the announcement at assembly next Monday.

Father’s Day – Our Father’s Day stall was held today and we hope all our dads like their gifts. We would also like to take the opportunity to wish all our school dads and grandfathers a very Happy Father’s Day on Sunday.

We are also planning a “Christmas Disco” in late Term 4. More details will be provided as soon as possible.

Just a quick note, that the school P&C are only able to accept cash or cheque for our fundraisers – unfortunately we do not have any eftpos facilities!! Cheques need to be made out St Clair Public School P&C Association.

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

The canteen is in URGENT NEED for more volunteers to help in our canteen, if you can help in any way, please contact Kim on the canteen phone 0455 098 523 or you can also enquire at the school office.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 13th October 2015 – everyone is welcome to attend – 7pm in the staffroom.

Fundraising Events
4th Sept - End of 5 cent drive
Term 4 - Christmas Disco

Next Meeting Date: - Tuesday 13th October 7.00pm in the staffroom.

Future P&C Meetings (7pm in the staffroom) – EVERYONE IS WELCOME
Term 4 Tuesday 13th October Tuesday 24th November

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_accegi_security_check?

Please copy and paste the link into your internet browser. This will ensure the survey launches directly to page one of the survey. Survey closes 16 October 2015

MindQuest 2015
Glenwood HS, Cnr Forman Ave and Glenwood Park Ave Glenwood 2768
Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th November 9.30am-3.30pm

On Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th November 2015, the seventy seventh MindQuest program will be held for gifted and talented primary students from Years 1 to 6 at Glenwood HS. These include gifted and talented students, gifted underachievers and students with well above average ability with a special interest. Students will have an opportunity to participate in over 36 exciting, fast paced courses in the two day program. They include courses in chemistry, earth sciences, drama, Lego robotics, chemistry and much more. Most of these highly successful courses have been run in the past and students' evaluations suggest that they have been challenged and enriched by the experience. The cost of the weekend is $180 (including GST).

More information and brochure available from stand in school office or call Shelagh 02 4232 2494
Closing Date: Monday 12th October 2015
WSU PENVIRTH OBSERVATORY
Western Sydney University
Great Western Highway, Werrington North
Building AO

Astronomy Night
Saturday 5 September (7pm – 9pm)
BLACK HOLES

Black Holes are the greediest consumers of the universe! They have such a large gravitational pull that if you get too close, nothing can escape them - not even light! We look at what exactly they are, where they come from, how to see them, and what mysterious effects they cause.

Saturday 19 September (7pm – 9pm)
Special Event: Professor Fred Watson
Light Flight – from Camera Obscura to Quantum Photonics

Professor Fred Watson, well known for his astronomy spots on ABC radio will be giving this special presentation.

The evenings 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 (weather permitting). Our program will run regardless of the weather.

Cost: $18 adult, $12 child/concession and $50 family
Bookings are essential: Book online: western-sydney.edu.au/observatory, What’s On
Enquires: Phone (02) 4736 0135

GIRLS SOCCER DEVELOPMENT CLINIC

ST MARYS CLINIC
Venue: Cook Park, Wilson St, St Marys
Date: 21 & 22 Sept
Time: 9am to 12pm (both days)
Age: Girls 8 to 15
Cost: $45.00
Program number: 0073770
Book now Ph: 131302

Come and learn some tricks from W-League and Australian representative players and work on your skills these school holidays.

These clinics will boost your knowledge of football (soccer) and develop your ability. Drills sessions will focus on development your kicking, passing, defending, attacking, heading, shooting and team work skills.

The clinics will be conducted by a selection of the following W-League players:
• Melissa Caceres: Sydney FC player having represented the Australian under-20 side
• Rhianna Pollicina: Western Sydney Wanderers player and former Australian under-17s team
• Olivia Price: Sydney FC player and current Captain of Australian Matildas under-20s team
• Lorena Bugden: Western Sydney Wanderers player and former NSW Girls All Schools who has also played in Spain
• Renee Rollason: Sydney FC player and most W-League appearances from current players; Game Development Officer for Football NSW
• Amy Harrison: Sydney FC player and current Australian Young Matildas captain, W-League Young Player of the Year 2014/15.

Note: You’re welcome to take selfies with the W-League players and obtain their autographs upon completion of the clinic!
Holiday Activities @ Your Library

Penrith City Library
School Holiday Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henna Workshop</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>Tuesday 22 Sept</td>
<td>For 10 to 15 year olds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archibald - Awesome Circus Musical</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>Wednesday 23 Sept</td>
<td>For the whole family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage Crazy Drama workshop</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>Wednesday 23 Sept</td>
<td>For 5 to 125 year olds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartoon Animals</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>Thursday 24 Sept</td>
<td>For 6 to 10 year olds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making Up Manga</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>Thursday 24 Sept</td>
<td>For 11 to 14 year olds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Robots Workshop</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>Tuesday 29 Sept</td>
<td>For 5 to 10 year olds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mime and Magic Show</td>
<td>$ 5</td>
<td>Wednesday 30 Sept</td>
<td>For the whole family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embroidery workshop</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>Thursday 1 Oct</td>
<td>For 7 to 13 year olds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For Tickets: ph 4732 7891 or visit Penrith Library

St Clair Library -
Art Workshop | Free  | Saturday 26 Sept | For 6 to 12 year olds

Collect tickets from St Clair Library

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST AN OVERSEAS EXCHANGE STUDENT

Learn about another culture, learn a new language or perhaps improve your culinary skills

Hosting - An Experience for Life

Student Exchange is looking for host families across Australia to welcome overseas students into their home

Visit [www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student](http://www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student) or call 1300 135 331 for more information
Sydney’s largest school holiday program returns this spring school holidays! There are a bumper 70+ fun filled activities to keep kids active, outdoors and entertained. A range of activities are free or under $25, making it affordable to discover Sydney’s most exciting playground this holidays.

Archery – Kids on Target & Little archers
All Day Holiday Recreational Program
Science, cooking, writing workshops
Gymnastics
Circus Skills & Flying Trapeze
Circus Solarus Kids Games - FREE
Park patrol - Mighty Minibeasts
Sport & adventure camps
Walk and squawk—NEW
And lots more
Full details at www.kidsinthepark.com.au
The simplest way...

...to make a healthy Red Bean dip.

**Ingredients**
- 1 can of Kidney Beans
- ½ cup reduced-fat natural yoghurt
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Pinch salt and pepper
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 tablespoon diced spring onions and ½ cup diced avocado (optional)
- Vegie sticks to serve

**Method**
- Rinse and drain kidney beans
- Place beans, along with yoghurt, olive oil, salt, pepper and cumin into a food processor and blitz until smooth
- Spoon into a bowl, and top with spring onions and avocado, if desired
- Serve with vegie sticks...delish!

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 Life Live Well School Program.

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The simplest way...

...to make pizza, healthy!

**Healthy pizzas** are easier to make than you think...

**What you need**
- Multigrain English muffins/pizza bases
- Tomato paste
- Diced veges, i.e. diced mushroom, diced tomato, diced capsicum, pineapple pieces, grated carrot, olives
- Reduced-fat grated cheese

**Method**
- Spread tomato paste on muffin
- Place veges on top and sprinkle with cheese
- Bake in oven/under grill until cheese melts and is golden...watch your kids enjoy eating veges

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 Life Live Well School Program.

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The simplest way...

...to pack a healthy lunch box.

Remember your daily target for fruit and vegies? Everyone should aim for 2 serves of fruit and 5 serves of veges, every day.

Sounds hard, but it’s easy if you include fruit and veg across the day...try these simple ideas:

- **Pack vegetable sticks** — try carrots, celery, capsicum and cucumber — with hummus and vegetable based dips (like pumpkin, beetroot, spinach or red bean)
- **Add a small 150g tin of baked beans** to your child’s lunch box
- **Leftovers** are an exciting lunch box addition: try packing fried rice, vegie stir-fries or some vegie frittatas — they all taste great cold!
- **Make a fruit salad** — use whatever fruits you have in the house, children prefer small pieces of food.

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 Life Live Well School Program.

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The simplest way...

...to make a healthy after-school snack.

Most kids are starving as they walk through the door — and reach for processed or packaged snacks for a quick hunger fix. Get them to head to the fruit bowl, or vegie box in the fridge, instead...it’s healthier, and will leave them fuller for longer. Try:

- Asking your kids to pick a vegetable and fruit, and cut both into smaller pieces
- Adding a vegie dip to keep it interesting
- Making a fruit salad
- Adding a reduced-fat yoghurt and a sprinkle of muesli
- Visit our website for great muffin recipes

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 Life Live Well School Program.
St Clair Public School Walkathon 2015

When: Monday 7th September
Time: 10.00 am

Parents are invited to join their child/children in walking the course or watching the children walk from the artificial grass.

The walkathon will be followed by a P&C Sausage Sizzle (pre-ordered only) lunch.
At 11.00am Pre–ordered sausage sandwiches will be sent to the classrooms in the lunch order baskets.

Please note students will be having lunch from 11.00am to 11.50am and morning tea from 1.35pm to 1.55pm.

Please pack your child an extra bottle of water for the walkathon.
Please send your child in sensible walking shoes (joggers) and with a hat.
Please return your child’s sponsor card so it can be marked off as completing the Walkathon

The purpose of the ‘Walkathon’ is to raise as much money as possible for the Year 6 Farewell and the Year 6 gift to the school. For every $5.00 that the student returns to the school office they will earn a ticket into the ‘Major Prize Draw’.

Prizes include: Sports equipment, games and vouchers.
The 2015 Book Forum was held at Blackwell PS. The panel of students discussed each of the Children’s Book Council’s Picture Book of the Year nominations. This included a digital book trailer and art work about one book.

Art work about each of the books is on display at St Clair Library.

Stage 2 Had their own Book Forum where they discussed the Children’s Book Council Picture Books.
BOOK CHARACTER
PARADE,
GRANDPARENTS DAY
AND ART SALE!

St Clair Public School invites all Grandparents (and any other family or friends) to attend the school on

Tuesday 13th October.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE DAY?

* Book Character Parade - This will begin at 9:45 and be held in the hall and on the bottom hard court (weather permitting).

* Art Sale - Students will create a piece of art that will be on display in the hall. At the end of the parade, family and friends are invited to purchase their child's art. Money raised will help purchase wooden 'Friendship' benches for the students to enjoy on the playground.

* Book Sale - Mrs Burke will have a selection of books to sell for those interested. These books will be available for purchase from 9:00am.

* Morning Tea - Pack some morning tea and enjoy spending recess with your children!

Picasso Cows 2015

Kids, a cow, paint and glue. Curious? Over the last 6 weeks St Clair PS has been bringing the farm to the classroom with the Picasso Cows program.

The program celebrates one of Australia’s biggest agricultural industries, the dairy industry, and also teaches kids that milk doesn’t just come from the supermarket!

The kids from Kindergarten to Year 6 have designed patches for our life-sized fibreglass cow in the theme of Farm to Plate. The students have been documenting their findings from start to finish in a learning journal. It’s interactive fun with an important educational message.

We often hear from nutrition experts that Australian children aren’t having enough calcium every day and that dairy foods such as milk, cheese and yogurt are one of the biggest sources. Despite this, most primary school kids aren’t having enough. This program will tie in with our classroom nutrition education, teaching children about the importance of the five food groups, including dairy foods, for good health and wellbeing.

And that’s not all! Our school is one of several schools in Western Sydney participating in Dairy Australia’s Picasso Cows program! At the end of the program there’ll be a presentation day and the winning school will be awarded $250.
We have been having a great time cooking in the kitchen as our current kitchen focus is international food. At St Clair PS we are a multi cultural school and that makes it fun and exciting as the students share and talk about what their parents cook and what they like to eat from their cultural background.

So far we have cooked and made Vietnamese Fresh Spring Rolls, Chinese Vegetable Stir-Fry, Lebanese Tabouleh Salad, Chinese Egg Noodle Soup, Lebanese Hummus and Garlic Sauce, Italian Pizza and Thai Style Curry. The aromas coming out of the kitchen are absolutely divine!

Of course we wouldn't have been able to cook all this food without our beautiful garden produce. Thank goodness our chickens lay a good number of eggs. Eggs plays a big part of the kitchen garden program as we use so many of them. Our pasta and egg noodles were made fresh from the kitchen by the students. Last week we also harvested some of the vegetables, such as cabbage and snow peas. The 3 days of rain has really helped the garden and boosted the soil for our spring vegetables. How exciting!

Thank you to all who participated in the kitchen, I hope you have had fun and I'm looking forward to seeing you all next week!

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.

Happy Cooking! Cazendra

If you are wishing to donate items we need a continuous supply of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>White sugar</th>
<th>Brown sugar</th>
<th>Flour</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olive Oil</td>
<td>Vegetable Oil</td>
<td>Cheese</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also needed are jars with metal lids - to be used for preserves and jams.
First of all a huge thank you to the two fathers who turned up to the working bee. Darren Wood (and Jack!) did an awesome job overseeing the concreting of the poles for the shade cloth, as well as, helping. John Chammas, who was fantastic at cementing the frog pond base. Frog spawn and froglets are hopefully arriving next week, to take up residence in their lovely new environment. A huge thank you also to Lisa Brooks and her son Mitchell, and my son Damian, who worked hard shovelling soil and gravel while replacing a wicking bed. Another huge thank you to Sue and David Condie who laid the foundation for the frog pond and then continued their hard work by cementing the edges of the new path. Thank you also to Mick & Bridget Avgostakis who chopped the heads off the pawpaw trees, tidied up the banana circle and helped to finish cementing the path. Every job I had listed got done and I am exceedingly grateful for your generous help. Thanks also to Mrs Loader for supplying hungry workers with some great food!

It’s always wonderful to acknowledge the generous contributions of the businesses who support this school, especially Metwest Engineering who donated close to $3000 worth of steel, frames and a new bench for the garden. Also Austas Machinery who provide us with our boxes and Camden Farm Mushrooms for their great mushroom compost which we use to grow our vegetables in. Without their donations our garden would not be the beautiful productive place it is.

The focus for the past week has been the decoration of the Picasso Cow. Each class was asked to provide some artwork on the theme of ‘From Farm to the Plate’ and there were some amazing, quirky, creative pieces, which are now enshrined on Moolissa Clairabelle cow. It was a time consuming process but lots of fun and I know the kids will have a wonderful time finding their piece of art. After each piece was glued in place, the spaces between were painted black, then the whole cow was sealed and finally painted with 3 coats of marine varnish to protect her from the elements. Judging will occur soon, and we can't wait to see if Moolissa takes the prize! I'm sure her bright colours and gorgeous eyelashes will win over the judges.

The temperature in the garden has already reached 30 degrees on Tuesday, despite a predicted top of 22, so it's time to get the shade cloth ready for its installation on the poles. Hopefully the kids and I will work on it over the next week or so and I can put it up before the weather gets too much warmer.

Another banana tree near the canteen has a heart unfurling, showing promise of lots more bananas. Our first bunch is coming along nicely, so there will be plenty of bananas ready towards the end of this year and early next year, ready for the kids’ to enjoy.

After an exhausting 2 weeks, it's now time to start focussing on changing over at least 3 more boxes and planting seeds and seedlings to make the most of spring. Amazingly, some chamomile seeds I sprinkled over the garden last year (with no result!) have grown this year so we will be enjoying some delicious soothing chamomile tea, with our great food.

Until next time, happy gardening! Juanita