Dear Parent/Carer, Students & Friends of San Clemente

Last year I had the pleasure of attending a conference in Melbourne focussed on Adolescent Mental Health and Wellbeing. The thrust of that conference was awakened in me at the weekend when I watched an advertisement on TV for a documentary about the sexualisation of our young girls. My anger at what I saw has since mellowed and a more reasoned response has replaced it. One of the keynote speakers was Steve Biddulph. It is no surprise that, given his warmth, common sense and easy style, he has become one of the world’s most popular parenting gurus. His book, Raising Boys, has sold more than 4 million copies and had been translated into more than 30 languages. So it was perhaps only a question of time before he would turn his attention to girls. Raising Girls is his latest and most recent book.

When Biddulph says that “never before has girlhood been under such a sustained assault”, he is right. Young girls have become a soft target for business; messages propagated through television and advertising tend to accentuate female sexualised imagery and their bodies rather than their brains. Consequently, everywhere a young girl goes “she sees messages that make her feel she is not good enough”. Biddulph says.

The distress of young girls is clearly visible in the rising rates of mental health problems, binge drinking, eating disorders and the growth of bullying in schools and social media. Girls are now expected to be all things: attractive, thin, good, successful, happy, kind, loving, self sufficient; perfect, in other words, within an imperfect world that still does not give women the equal status they deserve. Biddulph’s advice to parents is full of common sense. Avoid toys that imply to a girl that looks and clothes are what matter. Dress young girls in outfits that are practical rather than too girly. Surround your daughter with other adults, aunts and friends to whom she can talk—good counsel that could be equally applied to boys.

As a father of three young women, I see how hard it is for young women of their generation to be honest about who they are and what they want from life, to confront others and say what they think rather than what they feel they ought to say just to be liked. I see how girls are still socialised to be selfless, stepping back from opportunities with the presumption that “she doesn’t deserve it”, or “isn’t up to it”, whereas young men never think twice about their right to achieve.

Raising girls and boys in a world that is still unequal in the treatment of men and women requires a very particular kind of parenting. We have to work hard to help both our sons and daughters understand how we are socialised to behave in certain ways according to our gender. It is only when we find the strength as individuals to chip away at these pernicious stereotypes that we can hope to change them.

Thank you to all staff, students and parents for the hard work during what has been a hectic term. Much as been achieved. Enjoy the winter holiday break.

Peace and Best Wishes

Tony Kelly, Principal

True Friendships Are Worthwhile.

In schools, in work places and in sports teams, relationships are the key element. This is why Wayne Bennett is so respected. It is because of his understanding of men who play in the teams he coaches. He knows there is more to a person beyond their football skills. He understands just how important the relational-emotional world of his players really is and what can happen if this is not attended to. We all have friends and our friends are important. It is a two way street; they are important for us and vice versa. Friendship has to be mutual, evenly balanced; built upon trust and common understanding.

However, sometimes there are things friends choose not to tell one another, because of a need for privacy, or because of embarrassment, or because they believe their friends could never understand. What we need to be aware of is there may be other things happening in our friend’s lives. We see the person before us - our friend. That doesn’t mean we know the whole person and this we need to respect. We don’t know everything about others, we only know our own story.

Protecting our friendships is an investment into our lives and the lives of our friends. I cannot imagine anyone coping well with school without their friends; therefore how we treat them is critically important, for their sake and our sake. Treat others as you yourself want to be treated - this is the gold standard. Great friendships are a gift. For each true friendship which exists, both individuals need to be true, equal, respectful, considerate. It is why some friendships collapse; because one party becomes too self-absorbed and considers their friends less than themselves. It is always in the giving we receive in life and this very much applies to our friendships as well.

John O’Callaghan, Pastoral Care
Assistant Principal—Teaching & Learning

Term Two is drawing to a close and the holidays are a much welcomed break for many hard working staff and students. It has been particularly busy on the teaching and learning front with many exams and other major assessments being held in the lead up to reports. The majority of students should be congratulated on the way they have responded to the academic workload over the semester. The upcoming holidays are a great opportunity to rest from our vigorous workloads and for us all to take some time to connect with other things we enjoy doing away from school. Perhaps family, friends or even the environment around us. While it is important for students to keep learning throughout the holidays so as to continue with their progression, learning can take place in many ways. At times, a break from traditional learning and connecting in other ways can be more advantageous. I encourage all students to take this time to refresh, recharge and prepare for a busy Semester Two filled with challenges and achievements.

Semester One Reports are in the process of being sent out. Families should receive these any day. Reports are a summary of each student’s achievements and suggested ways in which improvements can be made. Please carefully read and discuss your child’s report with them and put goals in place to continue and develop success. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers should they wish to discuss any particular aspects of the report.

The Semester One Academic Awards will be held on Thursday July 16th in St Columbans Church. Parents are invited to attend. Invitations to parents of award recipients will be sent this week with reports. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the success of high achievers, not only on results but effort.

Next term will see continued preparations for 2016. Year 10 students have already had a visit from St Francis Xavier’s Executive to start the process for transition to that school. There is also a HSC information night here at San Clemente run by Mr Mitchell Allan the Carers Advisor on 24th June. This is a great opportunity for parents and students to gain a deeper understanding of the HSC, and what courses and avenues are available for students. Over the next weeks they will need to make initial decisions about their subject choices. The process will move fairly quickly.

Year 8 have all received their elective booklets to start considering the subject choices for 2016. They all must continue studying the mandatory subjects however each student will also study two electives. An Elective information night will be held early next term to give students and parents more information regarding choices available and how this process works. This is not meant to be a career choice. Students will be encouraged to choose a subject which interests them. At any time if your child would like to know more about an elective they should ask the relevant Teaching and Learning Coordinator.

Have a wonderful, safe, and restful holiday. God Bless.

Mr Marc Romano, Assistant Principal, Teaching and Learning

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Assistant Principal—Wellbeing

It was wonderful today to welcome so many parents to San Clemente for our PosED Open Day. For those who attended, I sincerely hope you left the school feeling reassured that your children are in a very good school; a school that endeavours to nurture the individual and provide them with skills to lead a thriving and rewarding life. Undoubtedly, we achieve the best outcomes for our young people when a strong, respectful and collaborative parent-school relationship is forged.

Dr Steve Zolezzi from Knox Grammar School has played an integral role in supporting San Clemente with the introduction of Positive Education. In addition to the valuable training he has provided for staff, he is a constant source of both wisdom and advice on many levels. I read with great interest recently an article he wrote on the importance of what he titled ‘positive parenting’. As a great admirer of Nelson Mandela, his article particularly caught my eye when acknowledging some life lessons this Nobel Peace prize winner has left us in relation to parenting. Steve has referred to five “parenting gifts” below from Mandela.

⇒ “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Education begins at home. You are your child’s most significant teacher and through your example your children will learn their most valuable lessons in life. If you want your children to read, be a reader yourself. If you want your children to be curious, let them ask questions and expose them to a rich learning environment.

⇒ “The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.” Being positive and persevering teaches children to overcome fear and persist in the face of adversity. Failure should be seen as an integral part of learning. An opportunity to try again or choose a different path.

⇒ “There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.” Be ambitious and strive for excellence in all that you do, showing your children that they too can be successful.

⇒ “As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.” When we shine, we impact on the people around us who strive to follow in our footsteps. Be the kind of parent your children want to boast about. Be a leader in your home and in your community.

⇒ “As a leader... I have always endeavoured to listen to what each and every person in a discussion had to say before venturing my own opinion.” Take time out of your busy life to listen to what your children are saying. Be patient and give them time to tell you their news and express their feelings. Listen without criticising.

As a dad of three young girls, I am the first to acknowledge that parenting can be a tough journey! Like you, I want my children to develop qualities that will enable them to enjoy joyful and fulfilling lives. An awareness of their strengths and those around them, empathy, the ability to not only give but forgive and happiness cultivated through genuine gratitude to name a few. Recent studies have indicated that the strongest predictor of a satisfying adult life was a child’s emotional health, followed by social behaviour. While such emotional and social development transpires naturally in life, we, as adults, have a significant influence.

Mr Scott Donohoe, Assistant Principal, Wellbeing

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Award Presentations—Thursday 16 July—Program

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Year 9 News

Last week Year 9 viewed a drama production titled “Cheap Thrills” by the Brainstorm Production Company. It was a very entertaining performance conducted by only one actor. The production focussed on relationships and situations that teenagers may face in today’s society. It highlighted the dangers of drugs and alcohol, peer pressure, decision making and help seeking behaviours.

Throughout the production Year 9 laughed, smiled and were very receptive to the messages being conveyed. Teenage years are not easy, especially with so many pressures in today’s society affecting youth. It is vital that myself, San Clemente, parents and carers do all we can to ensure that the young men and women of Year 9 are guided throughout these difficult years. Communicating, being a presence, providing support, love, care and affirmation as well as not being afraid to use the word NO are some ways we can assist our young people.

At our year assembly this week I spoke at length about leadership and the potential that all year 9 students have to be leaders. We can not all be on the year 10 leadership team, however, we all have the potential to fulfill leadership roles at San Clemente. I asked Year 9 to ponder what they felt they had to offer as a member of year 10 in 2016. I also handed out many bronze and sporting awards and it is magnificent to see Year 9 being rewarded for their efforts. I also spoke about uniform expectations. It is expected that students will be in attendance at school in the correct uniform. I appreciate the support from parents in ensuring that your child is dressed in the appropriate uniform for school. Please do not hesitate to call or email me if I can be of any assistance.

I would draw your attention the headspace website www.headspace.com.au. It has valuable information and links that are available to access. There are also options to speak to a professional on line as well. High fives for this fortnight!

Maria de Souza Braga for earning a Bronze award and she has only recently enrolled. What a start to school life at SCM!

Riley O’Donnell, who has been away from the Newcastle district for some time and has returned to school at SCM. Welcome back to Riley O’Donnell who enjoyed his overseas travel.

Parents of Year 9, if you have any concerns at all please contact me by email kate.tolfree@mn.catholic.edu.au or phone at school on 40147300.

Mrs Tolfree, Year 9 Wellbeing Coordinator

Infections reported at School

Impetigo
A highly infectious skin infection that is more commonly referred to a “school sores”. The sores usually develop under the nose and on the face, but can also occur on the arms and legs. The sores usually start as itchy red blisters which then burst leaving red and weeping skin. This area usually then becomes covered with a yellow “honey” colored crust. Child should be seen by a Doctor.

Headlice and Nits
Itching and scratching is an indicator but not a sure sign of head lice. The best places to look for head lice and nits are close to the scalp, behind the ears and at the back of the neck. The best way of finding (and removing) head lice is by putting hair conditioner on to hair, combing though with a fine-toothed head lice comb, then wiping this on paper towel.

Year 8 News

It is hard to believe Term 2 is coming to a close. Year 8 have again this term, conducted themselves in a manner they should be proud of and continue to try their best in all areas of school life.

Year 8 are approaching a very exciting time. Elective Subject Choices that they will complete in Years 9 and 10. This will be taking place in Term 3. Information about the various subjects on offer went home this week and there will also be a Parent Information Session early next term. Please take time with your son or daughter to discuss their choices. As I reinforced to all Year 8, it is important to make informed choices and pick subjects they are interested in rather than what their friends are doing.

Reports will be mailed home this week. I would encourage you to sit down with your child and celebrate their achievements, but also identify some areas to focus or improve upon for the second half of the year. Using a sporting analogy, we are only at half-time. There is still ample opportunity to keep up the great efforts or comeback and finish the year strongly.

In conjunction with reports, Semester One Academic Awards will be held on Thursday, July 16th. This is an opportunity to celebrate the efforts and achievements of Year 8 students. You will be notified via mail if your son or daughter is receiving an award. I would encourage all parents to attend this affirming occasion.

During the last two weeks, Year 8 have been undertaking a ‘Gratitude Challenge’. This is where every day they are asked to mindfully appreciate something good in their life. It has been wonderful to read so many heartfelt responses. We even had some brave students share their ideas at assembly last week and speak at the PosED Open Day. Congratulations to Emily Colville, Vincent De Gail, Oscar Lavis, Manaia Matoka, Bethany Smith and Olivia Smith.

The House Competition has just approached ‘finals fever’. I have been so proud of the Year 8 students involved in various areas of schooling life and contributing to the score board. The keen sense of friendly rivalry and pride in the students for their House is always evident.

It was an absolute pleasure to hand out over 50 Bronze and Silver Awards at our Year Meeting last week. The contributions and efforts of the students are very impressive.

Congratulations to Tara Walker who secured San Clemente’s first Gold Award for the year. She is recognised for her mature approach to all areas of school. Tara has had perfect attendance and uniform since Year 7 and is polite and respectful to all peers and staff. Well done Tara, on this impressive achievement!

I wish all Year 8 students and families a very safe and relaxing holiday. Rest up and come back ready to start the second half of the year.

Year 8 Quiz: Who is currently winning the House Competition?

The first person to see Miss Cram in the playground with the answer will receive a prize.

If you have any questions or queries please email on mere-dith.cram@mn.catholic.edu.au or call on 40147300.

Meredith Cram, Year 8 Coordinator
Year 10 News

As I sit here to write this article for the newsletter, I cannot believe that Year 10 are now at the half way mark of their final schooling year at San Clemente. I do not know where the time has gone, but I can only predict that the second half of the year will fly by equally as quickly.

Year 10 this is the perfect time to reflect on the year so far. You should be asking yourself questions such as;

Am I working to my potential? Am I challenging myself? Can I increase my efforts? Am I leaving the impression I want to? …..

Only each of you can answer these questions honestly. For many of you, I know the answers will be Yes. For some however, yes will not always be the answer. It is not too late Year 10. To use a sporting analogy, the second half is about to kick off and the game can change and be won if you apply yourself. For those students who are ahead at half time, don’t sit back and rest on your achievements; continue to push yourself until the final whistle. All I ever ask of you Year 10 is to give your best in everything you do. The challenge is there for us all.

I would like to commend Year 10 on their excellent participation, attitude, maturity and behaviour at last week’s Retreat at Collaroy, and thank them personally for making my retreat experience, AMAZING. Retreat is often defined as “an act of moving back or withdrawing”, but retreat, as far as I am concerned, is not so easily defined. Yes it is withdrawing, but it is also happiness, laughter, self reflection, friendships, communicating, team work, affirming, spiritual, emotional and togetherness. As Year 10 Coordinator, it was a joy to see Year 10 uniting as a form, supporting one another, laughing, smiling, friendships being formed and old ones being strengthened. There was also time for reflection, taking time out from our hectic lives, evaluating where we are currently at in our lives and the challenges that lie ahead. It has definitely been the highlight of Year 10 so far and it has left me feeling even more positive about this wonderful year group and inspired. It is important Year 10 as a year group that retreat is not forgotten and we continue to build on this spirit and unity. As much as I would love to go into detail about the activities that occur at Collaroy, the rule is “What happens at Collaroy stays at Collaroy” so it isn’t spoilt for the next year ten year group.

In advance I would like to thank the parents and students who attending the San Clemente HSC Information Evening on Wednesday night, hosted by Mitch Allan, the school’s careers advisor. Making career and subject decisions that will influence your life can be a stressful and confusing time for students and parents. The opportunity for parents to gain information regarding HSC subject selection, the HSC itself, ATAR ranking, TAFE and VET courses is priceless. I would also like to thank Mr Allan for all the work and guidance he provides to Year 10 and parents. A reminder that for students attending SFX, Monday 20th July is the compulsory Subject Information Evening at SFX for students and parents. This commences at 6.30pm. Subject Choice forms for SFX are to be completed online no later than Tuesday 4th August.

To assist Year 10 with their subject selections, early next term I will be organising a lunchtime session at San Clemente for Year 10 students, where they will be able to talk to variety of teachers and subject coordinators about HSC subject choices and courses in a relaxed but informative environment. Year 10 last year found this to be an extremely valuable experience as their teachers are the ones who know them best and their advice is genuine with the student’s best interests at heart.

Finally I would like to wish Year 10 and their families a safe holiday. I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead for Year 10 and working closely with the entire year group and parents.

A final thought, remember Year 10, “We find in life exactly what we put into it”.

Patrick Doyle Year 10 Coordinator

Careers Corner

Welcome to the final Careers Corner for Term 2. There have been a variety of Career “happenings” throughout the last fortnight, with both Years 9 and 10 students being kept very busy during lessons.

In the classroom:

Year 9 – students have been polishing off their resumes and becoming familiar with typical interview questions. Students have also been familiarising themselves with appropriate interview attire and the overall importance of a positive, and confident, first impression.

Year 10 – students have been looking closely at their subject selections for next year and the importance of putting together a challenging, yet achievable, program of study.

Year 10 students have also been issued with their SFX information packs. Students received these after meeting with members of the St. Francis Xavier’s Executive Team last Tuesday.

Each pack contains;

⇒ A student handbook – containing subject specific information
⇒ Student Induction Program information – very important dates
⇒ 2015 Subject Information Evening – Rooms and Times of Presentations
⇒ Disability Provisions Information and Application Form

Lastly, please be aware that the annual HSC information evening for parents/guardians is on Wednesday 24th June (Week 10) at San Clemente in rooms D1 and D2 starting at 6.30pm. Please refer to the flyer in this week’s newsletter for further information.

Good luck to all Year 10 on Retreat 2015 – it is sure to be the highlight of a very busy year so far!!!

As always, a friendly reminder to ALL STUDENTS in Years 9 and 10 to;

Check daily, Read carefully, and Respond promptly!!!

Mr Mitch Allan – Careers Advisor (Acting)

English News

Year 9 Romeo and Juliet Excursion to the Sydney Opera House

A reminder to our Year 9 students to return their signed permission forms to their English teacher this week! We are off to the Sydney Opera House to view The Bell Shakespeare Company’s Romeo and Juliet. This is a compulsory excursion as the study of Shakespeare is mandatory in Stage 5 English and we want our students to be supported in their learning by viewing live theatre. The English staff look forward to accompanying the cohort on Thursday 23 July. All students are required to wear full academic uniform and bring a packed

Patrick Doyle Year 10 Coordinator
Year 7 News

“Choose to be optimistic, it feels a lot better.” Dalai Lama

Hope: a feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen; a feeling of trust.

Optimism: hopefulness and confidence about the future or the success of something.

Two things this week gave me great Hope and Optimism about the future of San Clemente and young people in general.

Firstly, this week’s Year meeting marked the half way point for Year 7 students in 2015. Gone are those anxious, nervous young people who sat in front of me 2 Terms ago. I continue to be reminded of the positive contribution this group provides to our community. Their happy nature, willingness to contribute and connection they have made are signs of a thriving group. Mr Kelly made the point that they have set the bar extremely high, with great things to come. This group of students has demonstrated to our entire community that the future of San Clemente is in fine hands.

Secondly, I had the pleasure of joining Year 10 on our school retreat. Once again our ministry team provided an amazing, spiritual and community based experience. What struck me most during these three days was the level of engagement and lack of disconnection shown by our young leaders. The students of Year 10, 2015 can forever be proud of their spirit, their connection with each other, their engagement with staff, respect of the land. It was incredibly refreshing to see young people off their devices and connecting through conversation, music, laughter, sharing and play. For all the negatives often said about teenagers and the future of young Australians, I couldn’t help leaving Collaroy without a sense of ‘Hope and Optimism’ for our future.

Hope and Optimism, key concepts in our PosEd program, are essential ingredients in leading a happy and fruitful life. Being optimistic is not as simple as “thinking positively” but many psychologists believe – this is a good start. Chris Peterson describes it as “the velcro effect” – everything sticks to it. Being optimistic, or full of hope, can have several benefits: less anxiety, depression and distress; more effective coping; higher life satisfaction and well-being; stronger immune systems. Contrary to what people may believe, optimists don’t ignore the negative. They are more likely to take on challenges, are more action oriented and generally have more “grit”. The founder of positive psychology, Martin Seligman, believes even the most pessimistic of people have the ability to turn this around and become hopeful, positive and happy people. Perhaps they need to join our Year 10 retreat, or visit our next Year 7 meeting to see the positives in our community, and realise the goodness amongst us and that lies ahead.

Shout Out #1: Year 7 continue to earn Silver awards. Fantastic contributions from these students who thoroughly deserve their recognition: Bailey Wade, Sophee Kerslake, Sarah Malone, Pearl Dafo and Sharni Tilbrook.

Shout Out #2: Today at our PosED Assembly, two students were recognised with Principal’s Commendations. Both students have made significant contributions outside of the classroom. Nick Westbury has taken on the role of Flag Monitor and has consistently assisted in this area. Each day Nick raises and lowers our flags with great care. Well done. Jaxon Menz is our canteen monitor. Jaxon collects lunches from canteen and distributes. He has done this each day with a huge smile on his face. Great work Jaxon.

Nathan Beckett, Year 7 Coordinator

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data—Census 2015

Our school, as with every school in the country, participates in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data for students with a disability (NCCD). The NCCD was part of a commitment by both the C/W Labor and Liberal governments to provide additional and targeted funding to assist students with a ‘disability’ in schools.

Every year our school is asked to send details and data to the C/W government indicating the students within our school community who meet the criteria for the NCCD scheme. All information remains strictly confidential.

The term ‘disability’ has a very broad scope and includes students who have a condition or learning difficulty/disability which has an ongoing functional impact on their learning at school. These students would have adjustments made to their participation or curriculum and learning by their teachers in order to allow them better access to the curriculum at school. Teachers are asked to identify those students in 8 broad disability categories: Intellectual, Neurological, Physical, Sensory, Medical, Mental Health and Learning. For each of these identified students the school is asked to produce an Individual Plan (IP) which outlines WHAT and HOW adjustments are made for the student within the school.

Every year we must identify and reassess these children and, with parental approval, we include a child on the NCCD list which is forwarded to the Commonwealth Government. This list is meant to give the Government a true picture of the extent of students with both specifically diagnosed and more general disabilities throughout the country and provide appropriate funding to better support these students at the school level.

Mr Kelly will shortly be sending home more information about the NCCD. If your child has been identified in this broad group you will have the option of accepting his/her inclusion in the census or opting out of the NCCD process if you feel the broad disability term and process does not apply to your child or if you simply would prefer not to participate for personal reasons.

Once you receive this information please feel free to contact myself, or the staff mentioned in the upcoming NCCD information letter, if you require any further detail or clarification.

Kevin Askie, Learning Support Coordinator.

New site for Student Photos & Oxford eBooks

There’s now a site with all the photographs from student events – such as the nearly thousand from the Year 7 camp, as well as all the photos from the Year 8 camp and the Swimming carnival. There’s a link leading to the site from the School Website Photo Galleries page. The site is only available to students, as it needs the student email and school password to enter it.

The site also has PDF files of the Oxford eBooks for students to view and download – there’s a link to this page on the School Website Assessments page.
San Clemente Parent/Guardian—HSC Information Evening

On Wednesday 24th June San Clemente will host a Parent/Guardian Higher School Certificate Information Evening. It will be held in the Library at 6.30pm.

Parents/Guardians who wish to know the basics of the HSC are welcome to attend. The evening will cover the basics of the HSC Rules, ATAR, University, TAFE, Apprenticeships, TVET, SBAT’s and much more.

There is also a compulsory St Francis Xavier’s College HSC Subject Information Evening scheduled for Monday 20th July—Week 2 Term 3 that will specifically target individual subject information. The night will commence at 7pm in the SFX College Hall.

The Term 4 appointment times will also need to be made that night.

San Clemente HSC Information Evening
Wednesday 24th June
San Clemente in Library
6.30pm

Aboriginal News
On the 9th June, Year 7 and 8 students visited the Yamuloong Centre at Garden Suburb. The visit provided the students with the opportunity to learn more about their Aboriginal history and culture.

Whilst exploring the bush surrounds, students tasted various types of bush tucker and learnt about foods Aborigines ate from the land. Students also participated in an art session where they learnt how to draw traditional symbols such as the emu, waterholes and fire. The highlight of the visit was the demonstration of artefacts including traditional spears, boomerangs and other weapons and tools.

At the end of our tour our guides demonstrated how to make fire using a stick and bark. We were all amazed at the effort, skill and teamwork involved in order to make flames!

Year 10 Aboriginal students also participated in a program at Newcastle University called “I Believe”. The program provided students with a gainful insight into University life including pathways of entry and also promoted an awareness of who they are as Indigenous people. Thank you to Mrs Isherwood, our Aboriginal Support Officer, for helping to organize and accompany students on our trips outside of school.

Ms Rutherford Aboriginal Support Teacher

Refugee Week
Last week HP1 celebrated Refugee Week by visiting Penola House. Refugees come to Australia to have a safer life for their families and Penola House provides a place of friendship and helps them learn new skills. The staff made us feel very welcome and shared afternoon tea with us and some of the students learning English.

We learnt that Penola House provides support to refugees from all over the world by helping them find housing, assisting with their English language classes and distributing donated goods.

How can we help? Penola House needs donations of linen, children’s clothing sizes 5 to 11, and kitchen crockery, cookware and utensils. You could even volunteer some time.

Melissa Sebastian
The boys started by playing 3 hard fought games on the same day. The first 2 games were very tight and late tries to Thomas Ingram in both games got the boys over the line. Having won our first 2 games (as did St Pius) the third game was a do or die match. The winner would progress to the next round. The boys turned up in defence and there were some great driving tackles from front rowers Augustus Cutts and Jacob Alchin. This made way for Harry Klitgaard and Nicholas Hartin to put David Aoake-Tiamu and Siale Holani into holes and helped us beat St Pius for the first time in a number of years. We will be moving onto the quarter finals.

The boys next assignment was to take down the current Knights Knockout champions at this age, St Joseph’s Lochinvar. It was a 6pm game, in the wet and yet the boys were very keen to do well with their parents watching in the cold. The first five minutes was all Lochinvar attacking 5 meters out and the boys kept them scoreless. After 10 minutes the 2 teams were locked at 4 all, thanks to Thomas Ingram scoring a try. The 5 minutes before halftime, the bigger side broke a few one on one tackles and the score was 20 to 4. The boys came out strongly and tried their best with some great individual performances from Joshua Wheatley, Luke Costello and Daniel De Ridder. However the boys journey ended in a 34-4 loss. Well done to all, it was a pleasure being part of this year’s team.

Mr P Mlotkowski, Coach

Girls Bill Turner Trophy

The following summary of the Girls Bill Turner Soccer team was read aloud at last week’s assembly by Georgie Craig and Josie Jamadar:

After a 4-3 victory over Merewether High in Round 1 of the Bill Turner Trophy, we played Macquarie College in Round 2. This was a massive game for our team as we had been knocked out of the competition by Macquarie College last year and the year before. In torrential rain and howling winds, we were victorious 4-0 with goals to Georgie Craig and Cohdy Smyth, setting up a Round 3 game against St Philip’s. Unfortunately, we were defeated 5-3 by a talented opposition, with Georgie Craig (2) and Yasmin Popovic the goal-scorers. Congratulations and thank you to the entire team for their efforts in the 3 games. This was the furthest the San Clemente girls’ team have made it in the competition.

Mr P Mlotkowski, Coach

Swimming and Water Safety Program

The Department of Sport and Recreation are interested in running a swimming and water safety program for students from NON ENGLISH SPEAKING BACKGROUNDS. The program is FREE and students will be taken to an indoor pool for swimming and water safety exercises and to the beach to learn about rips and currents. The course will run in sport time in Term 3 if we have enough students interested. Please email gay.mcdonell@mn.catholic.edu.au or phone the school to register your interest in participating in this vital program. Parent / Guardian permission notes will be sent home if the program goes ahead.

Gay McDonell, EALD-English/Additional Language/Dialect Teacher

Cheerleaders

The Panthers have all worked so hard this term - during their sport time, in lunchtimes and at home practicing - in preparation for this first competition which will be a warm up for the State Finals in Sydney in September.

They have shown all the qualities necessary in a team sport - commitment, team work, mentoring, discipline, communication, reliability, cooperation, flexibility, respect and support. The Panthers were awarded 2nd place on Saturday being narrowly beaten by a club – not a school team.

They must have been good .... because our team were AMAZING!!!! They nailed every stunt and all their hard work and effort paid off.

The 2015 San Clemente Panthers are:

Year 7: Faith Daley, Anabella Marino, Ruby Pearson
Year 8: Vivian Bartos, Ella Callen, Georgia Clements, Grace Compton, Angel Dobson, Tia Langdon, Georgia McLeod, Madeleine O’Connor
Year 9: Tom Baker, Madeleine Drummond, Taylah Forrester, Isabella Hawke, Lara Maxwell, Lauren Mulholland, Jessica Kate Paterson, Chloe Simpson, Brittany Wilkins

Ms Julia Nolan, Coach

Mr N Marsh, Coach
Marine Studies Excursion

Students of Year 9 Marine Studies and select ‘diligent science students’ filled a coach and travelled to Darling Harbour, Sydney. The first stop was the largest screened cinema in Australia: Imax. Students were entertained and informed by two 3D educational documentaries; ‘Great White Shark’ and ‘Under the Sea’. The programs supported what has been learned in the classroom, presenting information relating to various fish species, their place in the marine ecosystem and the impacts humans are making to them and their environment. After the 3D films, students ate lunch by the pretty harbour and then proceeded to be mesmerised by the wonder within SeaLife Aquarium. Students watched in awe as they came close and eyeballed the vast array of marine creatures on display before them. Some favourites among the students included the dugongs, fairy penguins and of course the various types of rays and sharks.

Conservational aspects relating to marine animals and their environments was a repeated and reinforced theme throughout our visit at the aquarium; these build on the values that students have been developing in the classroom, and made the cold, early start, well worth it.

Mr Damian Rozenfeld, Marine Studies

VISIT FROM OUR SISTER SCHOOL IN JAPAN

KOBE KAISEI GIRLS HIGH

In week 2 of Term Three we will welcome a small group of 11 students and one teacher, who will experience a taste of school and family life in Australia. St Marys Gateshead will take care of the other half of the group. They arrive on Friday July 24 and depart for Sydney on August 4.

The activities that the students will participate in are: cooking, art, English slang, conversation and quizzes, sandboarding at Birubi, Oakvale Farm and an Aboriginal Experience.

There will be cultural performances from both the Japanese and Australian students eg dance, calligraphy and music. Overall, it should be an interesting and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

A big thank you to the families of: Emma Higgins, Madeline and Annalise Norton, Caleb Faragher, Tianna Martin, Isabella Hawke, Malcolm and Russell Nyboer, Manaia Matoka, Isabella Mulligan, Aimee, Bryce and Nic Zerbes and Hannah Sam for being such generous hosts.

Agriculture News

Students in Year 7 and 8 Agriculture have had an exciting finish to the term with the arrival of six healthy baby chicks. Students were involved in the whole process; from the collection of fertilised eggs from our own hens, to the 21 day incubation phase, and finally to witnessing of the hatching process! The chicks are now housed in a new heated glass enclosure which will remain in the classroom while the chickens are young. Students have observed feather patterns and tried to determine the gender of the chickens. This is a difficult process as I discovered this year when, what I thought was a hen ended up being a rooster, which was kept and is now the chick’s father.

Now that San Clemente has its own incubator and heated glass brooder, it is envisioned that future Agriculture classes will experience the joy and beauty that is observing an egg develop into a new life. When older, the chicks will be given away to students who show an interest and can accommodate them, subsequent to parental permission. Students undertaking Agriculture will have priority. Register your interest with me. Please note, the gender of the hand-reared chicken cannot be guaranteed.

In the garden students are about to harvest some new potatoes, with the school-grown produce planned to end up cooked in either the canteen or Food Technology kitchen. Beans, celery, various herbs, chillies and bok choy will soon be ready for harvest also. I hope students find an opportunity in the upcoming holidays to sow some seeds or transplant a seedling and perhaps even start a home vegetable garden. I have broccoli seeds from a few years ago that are ready to go for any keen students.

In Term 3, the Agriculture Department will embark on its first outdoor hydroponic venture. Parents/carers with experience and know-how in setting up a successful hydroponics enterprise are encouraged to contact me to assist in getting our equipment ready. Your help will be greatly appreciated: damian.rozenfeld@mn.catholic.edu.au

Mr Damian Rozenfeld, TAS

From the Sports Desk............

Term two has been successful for both representative and recreational sports. A number of students gained places at NSWCCC Level, as reported after the events took place. Friday rep sports were hampered by the weather and grand finals did not take place. Excellent results from Junior Boys Oz Tag and Senior Boys Basketball. Staff were impressed with the participation and general behaviour of students in all activities. Thank you to staff and students who help to make the afternoon enjoyable and successful.

Mrs Daly, Sports Coordinator
Come with me and you'll be in a world of pure imagination. Take a look and you'll see into your imagination. We'll begin with a spin travelling in the world of my creation. What we'll see will defy explanation.
An evening with Dr. John Irvine

Dr. John Irvine is one of Australia’s most prominent child psychologists. If you enjoyed listening to Dr. John last year, come back for

“More: anxiety, what to look for & what parents can do to support their children”

Light refreshments served from 6.30pm

Entry - Gold coin donation with all proceeds to benefit charity

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<tr>
<th>June 23</th>
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<td>Tuesday 23 June, 2015</td>
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<td>St James’ Primary School</td>
<td>St Brigid’s Primary School</td>
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<td>Skellator Stock Route, Muswellbrook</td>
<td>52 Irrawang Street, Raymond Terrace</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Joseph’s Primary School</td>
<td>The Factory - St Plus X High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 St Joseph’s Drive, Taree</td>
<td>Park Avenue, Adamstown</td>
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All welcome - registration essential
Visit [www.mn.catholic.edu.au/drjohn](http://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/drjohn) to register today

Some venues have limited parking, please bring a torch.

For further info, contact
Cath Garrett-Jones
Parent Liaison and Resource Officer
P 4979 1303
E cath.garrett-jones@mn.catholic.edu.au
SRC NEWS!

A Year 9 SRC member Malcom Nyboer has brought forward an initiative and would like the San Clemente community to get involved. It involves supporting an organisation called, ‘Shoes for Planet Earth’.

Shoes play such an important role in everyone’s lives – can you imagine not owning a pair? Many people have nothing to keep their feet warm and clean and we can all do our little bit to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Please help us to deliver your shoes as quickly as we can by following the guidelines below:

1. SPORTS SHOES only please.

2. NO HOLES AND GOOD SOLES. It is not worth shipping shoes to orphanages if they are broken! We want to send shoes that will last a whole winter.

3. CLEAN! Would you like to receive a dirty pair of shoes? They can be hand scrubbed or washed on a short cold cycle in the washing machine. Best dried in the sun stuffed with newspaper – no tumble trying please as it destroys the shoe.

No broken backs - No broken or missing soles - No holes - Inner soles and laces please

4. TIED TOGETHER in matching pairs so we can find the other half amongst all the hundreds of shoes we have. No individual pairs in plastic bags or boxes please – just more to throw away.

5. SHOE LACES & INNER SOLES – yes please.

6. THANK YOU for helping us to change the world one pair of shoes at a time.

Please support this cause by bringing shoes that fit into the above criteria to the front office at school.

SRC TEAM
**Calendar Dates to note**
23 June Marine Studies Excursion
24 June HSC Parent Info Evening Yr 10
24 June PosED Parent Day
25-26 June Duke of Edinburgh Journey
25 June Immunisation Yr 7
25 June DIO Basketball
26 June End Term 2
13 July School Resumes
16 July Academic Awards
21 July P&F Meeting
23 July Yr 10 Music Elective Excursion
23 July Yr 9 Eng & 10 Drama Romeo &Jul
24-3 Aug Japanese Students Visit
30 July Athletics Carnival
30 July Dio Netball
30 July Dio Rugby
5-8 Aug CAPA Immersion
11 Aug Dio Athletics
18 Aug CCC Netball
19 Aug Yr 10 Debating
24-28 Aug Ski Trip
2 Sept Year 6 Information Evening

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**House System Update**

On Wednesday 24th June during the PosED@SCM open day, the House events came to a close for Semester 1. In the finals for the lunchtime sport competitions, Calaroga were victorious over Sienna in Years 7/8 Volleyball and Castle defeated Aquino in Years 9/10 Touch Footy, earning 20 points each for their respective houses. Aquino and Castle conquered the MasterChef competition with their Chicken and Bacon Roulades and Choc-Caramel Brownie Pudding dishes deemed the tastiest by Mr. Kelly, Mr. Doyle, Mrs Rutherford and Miss Di Prinzio. The first Gold Award for 2015 has been presented to Tara Walker (Year 8) – also earning 50 points for Sienna! – for her diligence in class and contributions to the San Clemente community. Well Done, Tara! Wednesday’s whole school assembly concluded with war cries from each house, displaying the school spirit and friendly competition that has been present throughout all forms of competition.

The halfway point of this year’s competition has been reached with Calaroga holding a narrow advantage over Castle with Sienna and Aquino not far behind! With the Tony Kelly Cup and a Movie/Pool Day in Term 4 at stake, the competition is still wide open!

**House Points**
- Calaroga: 1242
- Castle: 1232
- Sienna: 1188
- Aquino: 1164

Next term, the lunchtime competitions will resume with Soccer for Years 7/8 and Dodgeball for Years 9/10. As always, students are encouraged to keep striving for Bronze/Silver/Gold awards and participate in extracurricular activities to earn points for their house.

Mr N Marsh, House Coordinator

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**SFX Blazer:** Excellent condition and dry cleaned. Ladies small (size6/8) $50. Phone 0431 384 743

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Thank you volunteers for your continued support of our Canteen