Dear Parent/Carer, Students & Friends of San Clemente

Welcome to the new school year. It is a great privilege to be Acting Principal of San Clemente in 2016. Late last year, Mr Tony Kelly was appointed to the Catholic Schools Office as Acting Assistant Director. Tony has been a wonderful leader of our school community for over a decade, playing an integral role in developing a unique culture of which we are all very proud. I would like to thank Mr Kelly for all he has done for our staff, students and families and wish him a successful and enjoyable year ahead. Mr Kelly will maintain a close association with us, as San Clemente is one of the schools he will oversee as an Assistant Director.

I would like to warmly welcome all of our new families. I can assure you that you are joining a caring, compassionate and thriving community. I offer a particularly warm welcome to all of our Year 7 students and their families and congratulate them on an outstanding start to their high school life. We are delighted with how quickly they have connected with their new school community. May your journey with us be an exciting and rewarding one. The next four years will be a time of significant personal growth, learning and I am sure, fun!

With Mr Kelly’s departure to the Catholic Schools Office, there have been some changes to the School Executive. Supporting me on the School Leadership Team this year are:

- Marc Romano (Assistant Principal – Teaching & Learning)
- Mr Nathan Beckett (Assistant Principal – Wellbeing)
- Mrs Rose McAllister (Teaching & Learning Coordinator – Religious Studies)
- Mrs Emma South (Positive Education Coordinator)

Additionally, it is my great pleasure to welcome new staff members to the San Clemente community. I am sure their time at San Clemente will be a rich and rewarding experience:

- Miss Marianne Walsh – Science/Mathematics & Religious Studies
- Erin O’Dwyer – Mathematics
- Ms Kristy Old – Mathematics
- Mrs Geraldine Hook – Creative & Performing Arts
- Mr Bryan Rowe – Aboriginal Education Support Teacher
- Mrs Anne-Marie Kelly – Religious Studies / HSIE (returning from 12 months at St Paul’s Booragul)
- Mrs Sheridan Pruteanu – HSIE (returning from 12 months at St Mary’s Maitland)

2016 marks the 800 year jubilee of the Dominican Order. In the year 1216 St Dominic Guzman introduced the grace of the Dominican life into the world. Next year, in 2917, San Clemente will proudly celebrate its centenary of Dominican education. It was almost 100 years ago that a group of Dominican Sisters established San Clemente on our site as a boarding and day school for girls. Today, in the spirit of its founders, the San Clemente community continues to live out the call of St Dominic’s to ‘praise, to bless and to preach’. Through his words and actions, St Dominic provides us with a model of Christian living. We remain part of the Dominican Family and strive to live out our school motto VERITAS, or TRUTH.

This year one of our key themes is expectations. In my experience in education, when the bar is set high, students respond to the challenge. Quite often, our young people underestimate their abilities. I sent an article to staff at the end of the holidays on ‘Expectations for Students’ which was published some time ago in the Educational Research Information Centre. It states:

“Research clearly establishes that teacher expectations do play a significant role in determining how well and how much students learn. Teachers’ expectations for students – whether high or low – can become a self-fulfilling prophecy. That is, students tend to give to teachers as much or as little as teachers expect of them.” We are committed to raising the bar academically at the School and we have set the challenge to our students. 2016 will be a year of no regrets!

I encourage all parents to be actively involved in their child’s education. There is a huge amount of research data that states that when parents are involved in their children’s education at home, their children perform better at school. This performance is further enhanced if there is a good relationship between teacher and parent based on mutual respect. Our open door policy encourages ongoing communication between the School and home.

San Clemente has a very dynamic and innovative staff and some recent initiatives reflect this. In 2015 our school became a Positive Education school. Additionally, we have introduced a ‘Learn to Learn’ program. For the first two weeks of school, all students will take part in this new initiative. The aim is to give students the necessary tools to achieve as best they can academically, covering topics such as organisation, effective learning environments, email protocols and electric calendars, term planning, study skills and goal setting.
Welcome back to San Clemente all of Year 8 – 10 and a special welcome to the Year 7’s who have settled into high school very quickly and smoothly. We have great expectations for all our students this year and 2016 is shaping up to be an exciting year, full of endless possibilities.

When thinking about the expectations I have for the students this year I still believe that the Board of Studies requirement of working with diligence and sustained effort is a priority. I hope that all students accept that challenge, put in a constant and earnest effort to accomplish the best grades they can through persistence. I look forward to reading their reports and working with them in achieving this goal.

I’d like to congratulate the following students from Year 10, 2015 who received the ROSA award at our school assembly last week from Mr Gerard Mowbray and Mr Tony Kelly, Assistant Directors of the Maitland – Newcastle Diocese. Ashlee Anderson, Sienna Breen, Samantha Callan, Jordan Clarkson, Lewis Mason, Jesse Taggart, Beau Valentis and Sabrina Willis. These students received the award for achieving 6 A’s in their final Year 10 results, an outstanding effort. All the staff at San Clemente wish them all the best as they now prepare for their HSC next year. Mr Mowbray in his speech of congratulations challenged the current Year 10 students that next year he return to give out more of these awards. Less than two percent of year 10 students in the diocese receive this award, for San Clemente to have eight in 2015 is an outstanding effort. That is over four percent of the year group.

I encourage all students to read over their Semester 2, 2015 reports. Take note of any areas of improvement that may need their attention, or areas that will aid them in gaining an improvement in grades. A new year means a fresh start, an opportunity to improve in all areas. Don’t let last year’s advice from teachers be forgotten over the Christmas break. Assessment schedules and tasks are currently being printed and will be up on the school web shortly. Each student will be receiving a booklet that contains a schedule and all their tasks for the term. This booklet is to help students prepare and plan the term ahead. Parents are encouraged to look at this booklet and work with students to ensure that they stay on track. Staff, parent and students all working together will help all students have a greater chance of success. The assessments in the booklet have what week each task is due, specific due dates in that week will be given out by classroom teachers.

As always students are encouraged to ask their teacher questions if they are unsure or require help. If there is ever a concern parents please make contact with the relevant Teaching and Learning Co-ordinators (TLC’s). This will ensure issues can be resolved promptly.

As Year 9 students are settling into their classes a number are still changing electives. If you require a subject change can you please see me as soon as possible for the required form. The further into the year we progress the more difficult it will become to change as classes would have progressed too far in their work. I also ask students to give careful consideration of the reason for their change and make a decision based on what’s best for their learning.

I wish everyone a great year, I look forward to meeting all students and observing them meeting the expectation of working with diligence and sustained effort.

Mr M Romano, Assistant Principal, Teaching and Learning
Assistant Principal, Wellbeing

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

Aesop

It is with great excitement that we begin another year at this wonderful community, San Clemente. This is my 15th year here and I still feel a sense of anticipation and eagerness, such is the dynamic nature of our school. Perhaps more so this year as I step into the privileged and honoured role of Assistant Principal (Wellbeing). With 11 years’ experience as a Student Coordinator my focus has always been on Student Advocacy, and my philosophy has not changed. I hope this year to assist parents and staff as they work closely with the needs of all of our students. The students, families and staff at San Clemente are very special and there is something about the atmosphere of this community that is energising and motivating. It is a feeling that is not easily articulated and in my address to students at our first assembly I found it difficult to express why this community continues to thrive. On reflection I put it down to one particular aspect – KINDNESS.

I was reminded of this aspect of our community on the first day of Year 7 for 2016. One of our Year 7 students, new to the area, was standing on her own, looking rather lost and down. Three of our Year 10 Peer support students ‘took notice’ of her, asked what was wrong. She explained that she didn’t know anybody at the school and had no one to sit with at lunch. Without hesitation the girls led her to other students, introduced her, sat for a while and ensured she was safe, comfortable and happy.

I also received an email from a Year 7 parent who spoke of some Year 9 boys helping her son on his first day of catching the bus. These acts of kindness are not to be ignored, and as the quote above says – “No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” Indeed it’s these very acts that make good communities great.

A recent article from Berkeley University highlighted the importance of practicing and teaching Kindness in schools. Their study showed that when recognising how to be kind and explicitly teaching kindness (as we do through our PosED sessions) that we can “help build a sense of connection among students, teachers and parents. Learning to strengthen their attention and regulate their emotions are foundational skills that could benefit kids in school and throughout their whole lives.” Author of the study, Professor Richard Davison also suggested that kindness has the potential to “improve kid’s grades, cognitive abilities and relationship skills.”

In the spirit of Kindness (and safety) there have been some adjustments made to the daily bus arrangements. A large percentage of our students bus to and from school and it is an area of constant concern for staff and parents. Whilst students at SCM are generally well behaved and respectful on our buses there can still be issues from time to time. Student safety MUST be of paramount priority and we have altered the order in which students are “seated” on buses. As of 2016, students will enter the bus starting with Year 10 students (our leaders), then Year 7, Year 9, Year 8 lastly “extras”. In terms of “extras” it has come to our attention that some students are utilising our buses to go to alternate venues eg swimming, dancing, gym. These students CANNOT take the seat of a student who is designated to travel on that bus to their home. We will monitor closely that all students are catching the correct bus to their correct region.

Lastly, there are a couple of uniform issues I would like to address from the start of this year. Last year there was a letter sent to all parents. I have paraphrased below some clarification of school expectations. It is hoped that all students and parents can support these expectations.

1. Facial piercings – From the beginning of 2016, students will not be permitted to cover them. The school endeavours to work with the students by permitting discrete/invisible’ replacements only to prevent infections or closing but they are not to be seen. If a student chooses to wear a facial piercing, he/she will receive an infringement and on the third occasion will be internally suspended at school. Any further infringements will result in a meeting with the Year Coordinator and Assistant Principal and, if necessary, the Principal.

2. Shoes –
   ☐ School: Must be black leather lace-up style. High-top and Canvas shoes are not permitted.
   ☐ Sports: Joggers (Vans or Volleys are permitted which must be predominately black or white in colour).

3. Hair – Extremes of style and/or colour (girls and boys) are not acceptable.

4. Socks – Only white socks are acceptable with both academic and sport uniforms.

5. Skirt – Must be no more than 5cm above the knee. At times, they are rolled up or altered. This is not permitted.

6. Sport Shorts – These are not to be altered. The Uniform Shop (Alinta) now stocks specifically designed shorts for girls which are both a better fit and more comfortable.

7. Sport Uniform – Only to be worn on days in which students have practical PDHPE lessons and Fridays.

I look forward to working with all families throughout 2016.

Year 7 News

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all Year 7 students and their parents/carers. Year 7’s first full week at high school is coming to an end and I am sure you are breathing a big sigh of relief as, “Yes they have survived it”. Please feel reassured that it is normal if your child has been anxious and/or overwhelmed this week. High school is a big jump, leaving the comforts and familiarity of primary school and entering an entire new school system. New staff, structures, different teachers and rooms every lesson, new transport arrangements etc. In saying that, I have been very impressed by the way Year 7 has adapted to this major change in their life.

It was fantastic to see so many parents and guardians at St Columban’s Hall on our first day and I look forward to working closely with Year 7 and their families. As I mentioned in my address last Friday, a year coordinator in my opinion is a privileged position that entails great responsibility and provides many personal rewards. I can assure you that I will exert all my energy this year to ensure that your son/daughter is cared for at San Clemente, with their best interests always my number one priority. If you have any concerns at all about your child’s welfare, general progress or require information regarding examinations, excursions or upcoming events PLEASE contact me by e-mail patrick.doyles mn.catholic.edu.au alternatively the schools phone number is 4014 7300.

Year 7 have been inundated with information notes over the last week including; (family details, sport information, Year 7 Camp and “Connected and Active” beach days, school photos). I would like to thank parents for the swift return of these notes. Please ensure that all permission notes are returned by Monday at the latest.
At Year 7’s year meeting this week I read to them a reflection titled “The Star Fish Story”. It explained how an old wise man would walk along the beach each morning just before sunrise. One morning he noticed a young man in the distance throwing objects into the ocean. As he drew closer he realised the young man was throwing star fish back into the ocean. The wise man asked the young man why he was throwing starfish back into the ocean. The young man replied; “The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die.” The wise man remarked; “But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!” The young man then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the ocean. He then said to the wise man, “It made a difference for that one.”

I encouraged Year 7 to do something that will make a difference in another person’s life, such as telling their parents and family that they love them, helping out a friend even thanking a teacher for the lesson just taught to them. And in return their reward may be a beautiful smile, a thank you and the goodness they will feel inside from making a difference.

Year 7 have a very busy time ahead with a number of upcoming events listed below: “Connected and Active” – Students will be travelling to Nobby’s Beach in their House groups for an afternoon of activities either next Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. This will enable students to get to know each other, connect with staff and their mentor group and to have some fun. Students are allowed to wear their sports uniform on the day of their planned excursion, however as Tuesday is school photos, students attending the beach on this day MUST pack their sports uniform in their bag. School photos for Year 7 take place next Tuesday 9th February in the morning. Full academic uniform is required.

Year 7 Camp is fast approaching. Medical and behaviour information forms MUST be returned no later than Monday 8th February. The camp takes place at Southern Cross Education Centre, Somersby on the 24th, 25th and 26th of February. If you have any concerns about the camp, please contact me.

Finally, I ask parents to support the school in our efforts to ensure the correct school/sports uniform is always worn. The majority of Year 7 is maintaining this standard and I commend them and thank parents for supporting the school. However, some students have been wearing black trainers/canvas/suede shoes instead of black leather school shoes with their academic uniform. Socks must be white and above the ankle with no logos or advertising. If you have any concerns or confusion regarding the schools uniform policy, please contact me.

A final thought for Year 7, “I have learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel”.

Patrick Doyle - Year 7 Wellbeing Coordinator

Positive Education – What does that mean for me?

San Clemente is a Positive Education School. A school that is not focused solely on teaching traditional skills, but one that teaches students skills that will help them to lead a flourishing life.

We do this through a variety of avenues...

A whole school approach where these positive education skills, the five ways of wellbeing and the common language are part of every lesson, liturgy, assembly, retreat and school camp. At lunchtime, recess, between lessons and travelling to and from school, students and staff are encouraged to live these messages: all day, every day. We expect that you will see this reflected in your home life.

Mentor sessions, that in 2016 will be run across all year levels, where students are encouraged to identify and work with their own strengths and identify strengths in others. Relationships that boost students up are encouraged, communication skills are enriched and solid connections are formed.

A focus on staff and student care, where all members of the school community will be welcome to participate in mindfulness activities during lunch breaks. Throughout the year all will be asked to take notice of others within our community and express gratitude for everyday blessings.

A house system that provides students with the opportunity to actively connect with their community across a range of competitive activities. The house system, with an annual battle for the Tony Kelly Cup, sees students work to their strengths, competing in Maths competitions, Visual Arts challenges, performance opportunities, debating, Science competitions, lunchtime sport competitions, talent and cooking challenges, Athletics and Swimming carnivals and the collection of Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

There will be many opportunities for students to connect with the San Clemente community this year, let’s make sure there are no regrets and that we take the time to shine!

Mrs Emma South, Positive Education Coordinator, 2016
**Year 10 News**

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all Year 10 students and their parents/carer, especially to the new students who have joined San Clemente this year. My name is Kate Tolfree and I am the Year 10 Coordinator for 2016. I am fortunate to have carried this role with the Year 10 cohort from the beginning of Year 7 in 2013. I feel very confident that Year 10 will continue to raise the bar in all areas of their school life. Being a Year Coordinator in my opinion is a privileged position that entails great responsibility and provides many personal rewards. I look forward to continuing working with Year 10 students and their families this year.

If you have any concerns at all about your child’s welfare, PLEASE contact me by e-mail kate.tolfree@mn.catholic.edu.au or alternatively the school’s phone number is 4014 7300.

At our first year assembly this year I set the theme of EXPECTATIONS. These centred around:

- **Respect for oneself and others**
- **Punctuality**
- **Behaviour**
- **Uniform**
- **Academic progress**

I also spoke at length about how 2016 will fly past quickly and before we know it, Year 10 students will be graduating! There are enormous opportunities that Year 10 are provided with and can also seek out this year. I encourage all of Year 10 to connect, be active, take notice, give and keep learning. Some examples of opportunities are the Year 10 Jersey, retreat, peer support, Cockatoo Island trip for the leadership team, Year 7 camp (requires Year 10 helpers), walkathon, carnivals and so much more.

I would like to congratulate the Year 10 peer support leaders who have been assisting the Year 7 students settle into school life at San Clemente. Many students and parents have been very positive in their feedback regarding the assistance that has been provided to their child or children. The students have been busying themselves placing their Jersey orders. Please note that this jersey is NOT COMPULSORY. As a privilege Year 10 are able to order and purchase a jersey and wear it instead of the school jumper. If they decide not to purchase a jersey they MUST wear the school’s traditional black jumper.

I ask parents to support the school in our efforts to ensure the correct school/sports uniform is always worn. The majority of Year 10 are maintaining this standard and I commend them and thank parents for supporting the school.

If you have any concerns or confusion regarding the schools uniform policy, please contact me.

Finally I would like to say how proud I am of Year 10 for the manner in which they have conducted themselves at the commencement of the school year.

**Year 10 High Fives:**

Eliza Limn – congratulations on your Water Polo achievements during the holidays.

Year 10 student – who shall remain nameless for his efforts in assisting a Year 7 student with his bus.

Kate Tolfree, Student Wellbeing Coordinator

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**Careers Corner**

A belated Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and a big warm welcome to ‘Career’s Corner’ for 2016.

This is going to be my second year as Career’s Advisor – a position that I feel passionate about and one that I am really looking forward to exploring with both Year 9 and Year 10 students.

The following 12 months will be an extremely busy time for both Year 9 and Year 10. I encourage both students and parents/carers to regularly read ‘Career’s Corner’, check emails, browse the fantastic San Clemente website, and engage in weekly conversations with their sons/daughters in order to remain up to date with any upcoming events relating to Careers 2016.

Stage 5 students (Years 9 and 10) will be exposed to 1 Careers lesson every fortnight – therefore attendance at these classes is vital. A single missed lesson means that I will not see that student for another month. Remember when referring to emails – CHECK, READ, and RESPOND...that is;

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

Some students have already attended their first Careers lesson for the year, with Term 1 focussing on different aspects of this subject depending on which year your child is in;

- **Year 9** will be looking at what they enjoy participating in outside of school, what their favourite subject/s are and the reason behind this, and associated career matching based on a number of factors including personality traits.
- **Year 10** will be focussing on career interest testing and associated personal research, initiating individual student transition plans, and exploring the changes that one goes through when determining their career path.

Year 10 will also have the opportunity to undertake Work Experience throughout this year with some students, who are seriously considering entering the work force at the completion of 2016, participating during Week 10 of Term 1. I will be meeting with ALL of Year 10 shortly to discuss this option in more detail but I would encourage parents/carers to start having relevant conversations with their child if they are seriously considering not going on to Years 11/12. Permission notes will also be made available at this meeting that will contain all of the necessary information associated with the Work Experience program being offered this term – it should be noted that Work Experience is open to ALL Year 10 students but most participate during Term 4.

**Save the following dates:**

- **Friday 26th February** – White Card Training Day
- **Tuesday 8th March** – Year 10 Study Skills Day & Information Evening

**Please note that there will be more information made available closer to both events.**

As well as Year 9 and 10 Careers lessons, I am also available for individual appointments with students and parents/carers. If you would like to meet with me to discuss your child’s career direction, subject selection for Years 11/12, options for University, TAFE or Apprenticeship, or even getting casual work, please contact me at school on (02) 40147300 or via e-mail mitch.allan@mn.catholic.edu.au to organise a suitable time.

I am really looking forward to working closely with all Year 9 and 10 students throughout 2016, and would encourage parents/carers to contact me with any questions regarding the future career path of their child.

Mr Mitch Allan – Careers Advisor
Year 9 News

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all Year 9 students and their parents/carers for 2016. My name is Bronwyn Denham and I am continuing on as the Year 9 Coordinator. I feel an enormous sense of pride in being charged with the responsibility for Year 9, 2016. I hope that everyone enjoyed a restful and enjoyable break and have your batteries recharged to start the 2016 school year!

I warmly welcome new students to our San Clemente Community. I am sure that your Stage 5 experience will be a great one!

The following table outlines the Mentor Classes and Mentors for 2016.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mentor</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. Churchwood/L. Marsh</td>
<td>Banks</td>
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<tr>
<td>N. McInnes</td>
<td>Chisholm</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. Lopez</td>
<td>Farrer</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. Kish/D. DiPrinzio</td>
<td>Flynn</td>
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<tr>
<td>I. Morrissey</td>
<td>Kingsford</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Wilde/E. O’Dwyer</td>
<td>Lawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Ware</td>
<td>Paterson</td>
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<tr>
<td>G. McDonell</td>
<td>Wentworth</td>
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Year 9 Mentor teachers have developed a great connection with their students last year and will continue to care for them and be a significant point of contact for parents/carers and students.

This year amongst staff and students we have a theme of ‘expectations’. As a community we expect students to complete their studies to the best of their abilities and also present themselves in the correct uniform each day. In turn, students and parents can expect to receive a high quality education here at San Clemente.

2016 has provided many new opportunities for Year 9. Students have had for the first time some control in their subject choices. Elective choices were made last year, and if any student has any concerns regarding their elective choice please speak with your teacher.

Mr Steven Newman is the Learning and Technology Coordinator and is responsible for the computer use. Year 9 are required to have their computer devices with them every day at school. If parents or students have any questions or queries in this regard please contact Steven via the front office or steven.newman@mn.catholic.edu.au .

My challenge to year 2016 is for the students to have ‘NO REGRETS’. I am encouraging them to get involved in their school life, academic, extracurricular and everything else in between. My aim for them is to finish Stage 5 and be proud of what they have been involved in and what they have achieved!

Please remember if there are any issues at all please contact me by calling the school or email: bronwyn.denham@mn.catholic.edu.au.

I am looking forward to a great year!

Mrs Tolfree, Year 9 Wellbeing Coordinator

Year 8 News

My name is Nicholas Marsh and it is a privilege to be the Year 8 Coordinator in 2016. I pride myself on the positive relationships and connections I have with students in our community. I have a strong passion for the wellbeing of all students and am dedicated to supporting this cohort in their social and emotional development. I feel honoured to be in a position where I can further connect with such a positive Year group – all staff agree that collectively, they are an asset to our community.

A common theme for all staff and students at San Clemente in 2016 is “high expectations”. This cohort set the bar extremely high in 2015 in regards to all facets of school life. In our Year Meeting on Monday of this week, I encouraged all students to utilise the enormous amount of opportunities presented to them, as a tool to showcase their strengths both inside and outside the classroom. Whilst it’s important to remember and acknowledge the achievements of the past, a new year provides a chance to “wipe the slate clean”, create new goals and strive for further success. Our Year Assembly also provided an opportunity to welcome new staff members to the Year 8 Mentor Team. Mentors play a significant role in the life of San Clemente students as they are the first member of staff they see each day and facilitate PosED and Learn to Learn sessions.

◊ Aquinas – Mrs. Bonnie Rae
◊ Dixon – Mrs. Emma McCarthy/ Mr. Dave Coupland
◊ Gilroy – Mrs. Pippa Hartshone
◊ McKillop – Mrs. Lynette van Zeeland
◊ O’Donohoe – Miss Marianne Walsh
◊ Polding – Mrs. Desley Sharman
◊ Tenison – Mr. Steven Newman
◊ Therry – Mrs. Julia Nolan

Next week sees one of the many highlights of 2016 for Year 8. From Wednesday 10 February to Friday 12th February, students will camp on Cockatoo Island on Darling Harbour and visit various venues in the Sydney CBD on their Sydney Getaway. All parents are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the information package distributed this past Monday and are reminded to return the Medical Information/ Behaviour Contract as soon as possible, if not done so already. This 3 day experience is aligned with our school’s Positive Education framework, allowing students to connect with their peers and to take notice of iconic surroundings such as St Mary’s Cathedral and the Opera House.

I look forward to a rewarding and successful 2016 with such a wonderful group of young men and women. If at any time you have questions or concerns regarding your child’s academic, social or emotional development, please don’t hesitate in contacting me at nicholas.marsh@mn.catholic.edu.au.

Nicholas Marsh, Year 8 Wellbeing Coordinator

Uniform: Any uniform that is in good condition that your child has outgrown or no longer needs would be gratefully received at the office to be passed on to someone else in need.
English News

The English faculty welcomes all students back to school and we are looking forward to an exciting and highly productive year. We have new learning spaces that cater for collaborative learning and we thank our students for being patient while we organise these working areas.

Our classes are now named after the letters of our school motto, VERITAS. Only our first three classes are graded, others are of mixed ability. The A class is working at the same level as the I or T class. English classes run on the same timetable line as HISE so the student’s combined mark in HSIE and English in the previous year determines the class placement for 2016.

We are using Moodle for all English units this year, therefore a fully charged electric device which can connect to the school’s internet is required. We thank parents/carers for supporting the use of technology in English.

All English students receive homework on a regular basis. Students are advised and encouraged to revise over their notes after class and ensure that they know the relevant terms addressed during class. Students should highlight key words and ensure that they understand these words. Writing definitions in their own words will help.

Please contact me on the email address below if you have any concerns or questions regarding English at San Clemente.

Ms Karen Brennan, English Teaching and Learning Coordinator
Karen.brennan@mn.catholic.edu.au

Religious Education Studies

Next Wednesday we begin our Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the ashes are applied to the person’s forehead, the words are spoken: “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel”. Lent is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are chiselled with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.

Prayer for Ash Wednesday

Gracious God,

Today begins a period of inner reflection and examination. The days stretch before me and invite me inward to that silent, holy space that holds your Spirit. This special time beckons me to see my life through Christ’s eyes and the truth and reality of your love incarnate. Give me the grace to enter the space of these days with anticipation of our meeting. And, when I open my soul to your presence, let your loving kindness flow over me and seep into the pockets of my heart. I ask this for the sake of your love.

Amen

Rosemary McAllister, RE Teaching & Learning Coordinator

Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)

As the Teaching and Learning Coordinator (TLC) of HSIE, I’d like to welcome back to school new and past families of San Clemente. HSIE or Human Society and Its Environment is the mandatory study of Geography and History in Stages 4 and 5. As the TLC, my role is to oversee the learning activities and assessment of these two subjects along with Commerce (stage 5 elective) and Careers (stage 5 mandatory subject). If you have any concerns about your child’s progress or wish to discuss their achievements, please contact either their class teacher or myself.

In HSIE, students will study both Geography and History over the course of the year. Year 7 students studying History have begun to “Investigate the Ancient Past” whilst Geography students are “Investigating the World”. Students in Year 8 History are continuing their study of History examining Medieval Europe. Year 8 Geographers have begun the topic Global Change; however similar to 2015 will link with Religious Education for the project ‘Globally Called’.

This year for Stage 5 all students from one year will study the one subject at the same time. This will allow better discussions and sharing of ideas throughout the year group, site/field studies relevant to the entire cohort and the ability to link with other Key Learning Areas with cross-curricular studies. Year 9 all have begun their year with the study of History and the unit “Making a Better World?” Year 10 students have begun 2016 with Geography and the unit “Australia in its Regional and Global Context”.

Continuing with the success of the unit ‘Globally Called’ in 2015, on Thursday, Caritas Australia spoke with students from Year’s 8 and 10 about their role in assisting those in need. Students in year 8 were called to be ambassadors for Caritas and as part of their first assessment task, will present their research to members of the school and the public through the creation of stalls.

This year our Year 10 students have also been asked to be a part of the Caritas program and form a publicity team to provide insight to the issues of a specific community and deepen the understanding of Caritas’ achievements through the creation of a film. I look forward to seeing the way students build on the success of last year and I challenge them to think analytically and creatively whilst developing their 21st century skills in the process. Parents and friends of San Clemente will be invited to both events...stay tuned for dates.

Ms Leticia Wakely, HSIE Teaching & Learning Coordinator

Student Updates

Please keep us informed of any changes of address, phone or email address so that our communication records are current in the event of an emergency and for all correspondence. If you haven’t already returned the Student Verification Report, please do it now. With thanks.
The Corridor Of Uncertainty

Some years ago, someone in the elite world of Test Cricket commentary, came up with the phrase – the corridor of uncertainty. It was a great piece of language to describe the state of mind a batsman can be in when facing a particular delivery. What is really meant by the phrase is – should a batsman play at the ball or leave it alone, doubt was placed in the batsman’s mind; for even if he leaves the ball, it still might hit the top of his off stump. Of course this can be applied to our lives, with regard to the choices and decisions which we make in what we decide to do, not do, say or not say.

Sometimes, knowing what to do or say in a given situation is extremely difficult. Do we tell someone what we think they really need to hear about themselves or not? What affect might this have on them? Venturing into the unknown always carries with it uncertainty and the risk things will go badly wrong and there may be unintended personal consequences for us. Therefore, some people will never take any risks, they end up leaving all the balls alone and make very few runs and become very disheartened in life.

Life by its very nature is uncertain and our lives are fragile and yet we are called to embrace life and truly live our lives. We can only make very few runs and become very disheartened in life.

We can only do this by being the best person we can possibly be and by treating others well in our community. This is why living in the present is so important and why the national average age is a problem, because graveyards are chequered with people who never reached the national average age – it is not something anyone is entitled to, it is simply current statistical information. It is the quality of our lives which really is the issue, rather than the length of our lives.

One thing we won’t ever hear on the News is what people inside Hospices talk about. One doctor observed over many years, that people no matter what gender or generation only talk about three things when approaching their death. These are family, friends and faith. What is to be noted about all of these is they are relational and not material in nature. We cannot control our lives, but we can choose how we respond to what happens to us in life – this is the certainty of that corridor; only we can decide to never talk to that person again, or attempt to build a bridge to them and forgive them; Only we can take up the courage to go and apologise to someone we know we have hurt. This is what love is, taking the initiative no matter what the cost is to us personally. This is what Christ did, He chose to become one of us, He died and rose for us because of His great love for us – our lives then are a response to His everlasting divine love.

John O’Callaghan, Pastoral Care

St Vincent de Paul

In 1833, Vinnies was founded by 20 year old University student Frederic Ozanam and a group of his friends. Today, Frederic’s passion for social justice is continued by the thousands of members and volunteers across the nation...

Over the school holidays my sister and I had the fortunate opportunity to attend the Vinnies Youth Leadership Camp on the 16th-18th January of this year. This was a weekend camp run by Vinnies Youth to encourage leadership amongst young people around the ages of 13-15. Participants were individually chosen and invited to attend as they recognised the potential for us to become great leaders and that we would benefit from the mentoring and fun nature of this camp.

We made friends with the other teens and leaders whom we had never met before as we trained to become future youth leaders of Saint Vincent de Paul Society of Good Works. We also discovered what it is like to be a Vinnies Youth Leader and how we can further develop our leadership skills. We participated in a fun, social, healthy atmospheric vibe and physical activities which are aimed to boost confidence and self-esteem levels, team work and initiative skills.

If you are interested in getting involved you can join like-minded inspiring young members and volunteers around Australia (5-35) who are making a difference within your local community.

There are a variety of ways for young people to make a difference. High School and Young Adult Conferences provide opportunities for young people to learn more about social justice issues and develop your leadership skills whilst building a positive impact within your community.

By Johanna Soo, Year 10

Student Representative Council 2016

The SRC has hit the ground running at the start of the 2016 school year......the first activity is the upcoming Valentines’ Day Stall, which is planned for Tuesday 9th February. Cupid and all of his friends have been busy sourcing, wrapping, decorating and preparing to ‘share the love’ at the upcoming stall. Prices start from a low 50 cents; other options are the Cupids Combo = $2, the Friends Zone Pack from $3, the Crush Pack from $5 and the Devotion Deal is $20. The Devotion Deal can be secretly (or not so secretly) delivered to your Valenties Mentor Group. The current Year 10 SRC students have shown enormous enthusiasm and commitment to their role as SRC Cupids.

Elections for SRC positions for Years 8 – 9 will be held in Week 5, Year 7 will vote whilst on Camp in Week 5. A Commissioning Ceremony is planned for Week 6.

Lots of great incentives are planned for 2016; with lots of fun and amazing leadership opportunities for our students.

The students are supported and guided this year by Mrs Narelle McInnes, Mrs Kristy Huber, Ms Jo Godden and Mrs Anne-Marie Kelly.

By Johanna Soo, Year 10
Dear Parents,

School photographs are scheduled to be taken by advancedlife Photography. Whilst an envelope and flyer will be distributed shortly, if possible it is our preference that ordering be completed online to reduce administration and potential security issues related to the return of cash and envelopes on photo day.

Orders for packages and sibling photographs can be placed securely online at www.advancedlife.com.au using our school’s unique 9 digit Online Order Code. Portrait and group package orders are due by photography day.

Should you wish to purchase a sibling photograph online, the order must be placed no later than the day before photography day. Sibling photographs will only be taken if an order has been placed.

Should you have any queries concerning school photographs or online ordering, please direct them via email to enquiries@advancedlife.com.au

9 Digit Online Order Code
GGM ZJL D3B

ORDER NOW
A Christmas card and letter from Thobani, San Clemente’s World Vision Sponsor Child from South Africa.

Last year 7 Therry mentor group (now 8 Ther-ry) sent letters to Thobani, that we had written, and also a fun class photo. Here is the photo and Thobani’s reply.

Letter from Thobani to 8 Therry Feb 2016

Dear Friends,

I write this letter to thank you all for your letters that you sent to me, and your letters are good. I really liked it but my favourite letter was Erin’s letter. Not that I only read Erin’s letter – I read all your letters and they were nice.

To Ruby – I enjoyed your letter because I love swimming and I also love dancing. I love to crump, so one day I would like to meet you so you can teach me other styles.

To all of you friends, I would like to meet you friends and just stay with you for a week maybe because your letters sound like you are all funny and I am funny too. I have millions of jokes that can take more than 24 hours to tell, if you like jokes, friends.

Regards, Thobani (12 years old)
Calendar Dates to note
9 Feb Photo Day Years 7, 8 & 9
10 Feb Ash Wednesday
10-12 Feb Year 8 Camp
16 Feb Photo Day Yr 10
17 Feb School Commissioning
18 Feb Year 8 Inquisitive Minds
18 Feb SRC Voting
23 Feb Swimming Carnival
24-26 Feb Year 7 Camp
24 Mar Immunisation Year 7
26 Feb Year 10 White Card Training
02 Mar SRC Commissioning Yrs 7, 8, 9
08 Mar Year 10 Elevate Education Study
08 Mar Parent Info Evening Year 10
25 Mar Good Friday
28 Mar Easter Monday
01 Apr Yr 7: Verbal Combat presentation
08 April—Staff Dev Day Pupil Free
26 April—Term II begins

Information Session for parents on SEPARATION ANXIETY
Tuesday 23rd of February
Venue: Corpus Christi Waratah Library
Time: 6:30 -8pm
Facilitated By: Clinical Psychologist, Alikki Russell
Contact the school by Feb 19th to reserve a place

San Clemente P & F need you in 2016
Please join us on Tuesday February 16th, at Stockton RSL, 6.30pm for a welcome dinner.

Canteen Roster
San Clemente P & F need you in 2016
Please join us on Tuesday February 16th, at Stockton RSL, 6.30pm for a welcome dinner.

We Need You!
Come one, Come all!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>8 February</td>
<td>Julie Hope</td>
<td>Danella Cole</td>
<td>Karen Enright</td>
<td>Naomi McNamara</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>15 February</td>
<td>D Montgomery</td>
<td>Barbara Norton</td>
<td>Sue Roberts</td>
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