Dear Parent/ Carer, Students & Friends of San Clemente

San Clemente is a Catholic school and so we start all meetings for students or staff with a prayer. It is sometimes a challenge for the person responsible to provide a meaningful and relevant prayer.

Last week, our Principal, Tony Kelly, provided a prayer for the School Executive Meeting which encouraged us to ‘think of the possibilities of this meeting’. It reappeared at a few subsequent meetings and I jokingly chided him about getting his money’s worth but... maybe I should have been reflecting more closely on the prayer for the wisdom that it holds.

The prayer is about meetings, but at the same time much more. It is about community and it is about relationships.

‘The foundation of all meetings is listening to the ideas of others...’

Surely we can apply those words to community and to individual relationships.

‘It takes time to discover what a gift meetings are...’

Do we recognise the community of San Clemente, or our family community, or individual relationships, as gifts?

‘It takes time for us to let go of our own ideas and projects and to support those of the community instead ... to have confidence in the judgment of others and in the community.’

Can we get our head around the idea that ‘us’ is more important than ‘me’ and that everybody has a contribution to make in community and in relationships?

‘Life within community means service...’

This is a significant part of the message that Jesus brought us.

When students, past and present, talk about San Clemente they will often say things like ‘the teachers listened to me’ or ‘I love the feeling of community’. This is affirming for us but the school certainly does not take it for granted. We work hard at all levels to maintain and develop the attitudes which are the basis of community. It encourages us that we are on the right track when we see so many students, parents and staff contributing in so many ways to serving the community.

Academic learning is of great importance, but it is the development of relationships and community which are critical for the growth of the young people in our care.

God bless you

Keiran Williamson, Assistant Principal (Curriculum)

Technology Years 7 & 9 2015

San Clemente has recently made decisions about the requirements for digital devices in 2015. Parents of Year 7 and 9 2015 have been informed about these plans by email and via students. Other parents wishing to know about those plans can find a copy of the letter to Parents on the school website. Please note a deadline for payment has been renegotiated to 1st December.

Follow the link for further details on our website:

Years 7 and 9 Laptop Program for 2015
Assistant Principal (Pastoral Care) writes

I have been particularly impressed with our relatively new Pope, Francis. As time progresses, we are learning that he is a truly humble man with a great affinity for social justice in the world. Furthermore, he is an individual of remarkable strength, with the courage of his own convictions, and a willingness to initiate change where change is truly needed. I believe he is a wonderful role model for all of us, particularly our young people. The Pope is mastering the art of positive social media use with a Facebook site and Twitter account (in excess of 10 million followers) which are well embedded as communication tools for the Vatican! On the 15th August, he tweeted the following:

"Dear young people, Christ asks you to be wide awake and alert, to see the things in life that really matter."

Whilst only a few words from the Pontiff, they do communicate a vital message to our young. How often do we witness adolescents become consumed with somewhat minor issues, allowing themselves at times to be brought down in a spiral of negativity and along the way, impacting significantly on those around them? Recently we have witnessed some tragic events, not confined to a global scale, but also in our own backyard, such as the heart-breaking plight of desperate refugees willing to risk their lives to safely land on our shores. We have seen at San Clemente these events affect and worry our students, but they are also perhaps compelling reminders of our own relative fortune.

"We must not let ourselves fall into the vortex of pessimism. Faith can move mountains!" (Pope Francis, April 25th 2014)

As adults, we need to support our young people in seeing ‘the things in life that really matter’. Thankfully, our school has a strong culture in which positive relationships are prioritised in day to day life and thus are fostered within its community. This has created a healthy environment with an atmosphere that nurtures our young people in a supportive way, encouraging them to be alert to those things in life that do matter.

Moreover, we need to assist our young people in becoming aware of their own specific strengths. Not only should they be aware of them but they must also play to these strengths and utilise them each day! One of the key foundations of positive psychology is for us to have a good understanding of our character strengths, those positive components that are best in us.

Most personality assessments focus on negative and neutral traits with the view to target these for improvement, but ‘Character strengths are the psychological ingredients for displaying human goodness and they serve as pathways for developing a life of greater virtue’ (www.viacharacter.org). It is these individual strengths that should be highlighted and developed.

We are currently reviewing the school’s pastoral care program, of which we will be seeking feedback from staff, students and parents, and the basic principles of positive psychology will underpin much of the philosophy and planning for our future program. More will be said about this in coming weeks.

Finally, on behalf of both Year 10 and our staff, I would like to congratulate Mr Beckett and his wife on the recent birth of Patrick James, brother to both Isabella and Aidan. He is currently on leave during this very special time. If you have any Year 10 queries, please let me know in his absence and I can assist.

Mr Scott Donohoe, Assistant Principal, Pastoral Care

Assistant Principal—Curriculum Report

Year 8 Elective Information Night was held last week. Thank you to the large number of parents/carers and students who attended, and also to teachers who gave up their evening to help Year 8 students make informed choices about their electives in 2015. There was a very positive response from both parents and teachers.

Most students have handed in their elective choices and processing has now started. It is a complex task to match the choices of 180 students with the limitations of staffing and timetables. In the end, the subjects are offered in two groups with the underlying aim of giving as many students as possible their first choices. Some problems can arise: some subjects have too few student selections and the school can’t ‘afford’ to run them; some have too many and some students will miss out; sometimes the combination of choices cannot be accommodated.

The great majority of students will get their first choices but we will need to make compromises in offering some students a third choice or even fourth. We apologise for this but it is unavoidable in some cases. We will let students know of their subject allocation as soon as we can.

NAPLAN reports will be handed out during the week beginning September 1. These reports constitute important information but must be examined in the context of all the other things that are happening in your child’s education. They represent a snapshot of your child’s skills in literacy and numeracy at that time. These skills are fundamental to learning but they are not the only skills needed in life. Schools, and San Clemente in particular, try hard to help students in all areas. Rob Randall, the CEO of ACARA, the government body with responsibility for NAPLAN and Australian Curriculum, has published an open letter to parents and I include here one paragraph:

“As teachers and parents continue on with the rest of 2014, I urge you to keep NAPLAN student reports in context. Don’t stop any activities your child enjoys; don’t focus your child only on literacy and numeracy. Evidence shows that a well-rounded education, including the pursuit of other activities such as sport and art, contributes to the development of literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills. All activities are crucial to the school program and contribute to developing informed, happy children who are confident in their own abilities”.

NAPLAN is currently trialling the provision of tests online. In Week 9 one class from Year 7 and Year 9 will be involved in this trial. Although results will be provided back to the school this is not to be considered a NAPLAN assessment for the student but a trial of how the online provision of the test will work. The interesting thing about the trial is that each student will have an individualised task. As the student answers questions, the software will then present a question at an easier level if the student is incorrect, or more challenging if correct. Overall this allows much more specific testing for individuals rather than a ‘one test fits all’.

Teachers will soon be completing Interim Reports in preparation for Parent Teacher day in Week 1 Term 4. More information will follow.

Mr Keiran Williamson, Assistant Principal, Curriculum
Year 9 News

At last week’s Year 9 year meeting I challenged Year 9, staff in attendance and myself to think carefully about the words we use when we speak to people and the power they possess. The reflection I read to Year 9 is below.

“Words can bring hope to others and to ourselves at times when we need hope; they can bring encouragement when our courage is lacking; they can bring comfort when we are experiencing difficult situations.

Some words are flung without the understanding of how they might impact on people. Once spoken, words are like bullets released from a gun; they cannot be stopped, and their effects may be devastatingly piercing.

Words used in a responsible manner can be life enhancing, while words used in an irresponsible manner can be devastating. Which option do you utilize when communicating with others?”

I challenged all of Year 9 to use words in a positive manner, especially with friends, peers, teachers, parents and all family members.

As I stated in the last newsletter, Year 9 are at that point in the term where assessment tasks are mounting. I advise all Year 9 students to keep on top of this workload by allocating time every night and prioritising tasks. Students are also reminded that if they are having difficulties with any tasks they should see their classroom teacher first, relevant Studies Coordinator, myself or the Feldt Learning Centre at San Clemente (the earlier the better). The school library is also open every Thursday afternoon form 3-4pm for students in Year 9 to work on assessment tasks and to complete homework.

A number of students and parents have been contacting me in regards to events next term which involve Year 9. For families planning holidays please note that Year 9 Semester 2 Exams will commence on Monday 17th November and run throughout the week. Year 9 will also be involved in two days of Leadership activities on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd of October - please keep these dates free.

Congratulations to Hayley Gill, Elayna Ramoundos, Sione Puliuvea, Temarah Smith, Isaac Alchin, Aditya Joshi and Matthew Gardener who all performed at last week’s whole school assembly. Their musical talents were amazing and the entire school was in awe of their talents. Congratulations to Kynan Ward for raising the most money in Year 9 for the school walkathon and to all the Year 9 students who contributed to the school’s major fundraiser. A reminder to Year 9 and parents, if you have any concerns at all please contact me at school (4014 7300) or at the following email address; patrick.doyle@mn.catholic.edu.au

A final thought Year 9,

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.”

Mr Patrick Doyle, Year 9 Coordinator

Year 7 News

We are half way through the term and Year 7 have a busy couple of weeks ahead. Assessments are upon us and as we edge closer to the end it is important to remain focussed and continue to try our best.

Assessments are a time when students can become stressed if they are not prepared and plan their time effectively. Three simple steps to assist with this are:

1. Planning. Sit down with a calendar and map out when things are due.
2. Set goals. Set a measurable goal of what you want to achieve in a given amount of time. It is best to do a little bit of work a lot of the time.
3. Prioritise. Look at each task and work out what is needed to be done first or what requires greater effort than the others.

As I stated last newsletter, this term in Pastoral Lessons Year 7 are looking at resilience and self-esteem. Last week students looked at the idea of speaking to themselves like they would a best friend. This means getting rid of the negative self-talk and replacing it with a more caring and rational voice, like a friend would speak to us. This proved to be a difficult concept, but one that with practice can be very helpful. In conjunction with this, Year 7 are continuing to focus on the 3 P’s this term, being punctual, polite and prepared.

Darren Fleming, our Police Youth Liaison Officer will be coming to speak to Year 7 next Monday, 25th August. He will be speaking about cyber related issues and informing the students about how to best handle situations if they arise.

This week many students received Bronze and Silver Awards. It is great to see so many students being recognised for their hard work and effort in a range of areas. Keep up the great work!

The Walkathon Raffle was drawn this week and it was great to see a Year 7 student take out the major prize. Congratulations to Marli Muxlow who raised the most money in Year 7 and also a very big thank you to all the students that contributed to this very worthy cause.

Year 7 Quiz: What do the 3 P’s stand for that Year 7 are focussing on this term?

The first person to find Miss Cram on the playground will receive a prize.

If you have any questions or queries please email on Meredith.Cram@mn.catholic.edu.au or call on 40147300.

Meredith Cram, Year 7 Coordinator

Maths News

Luna Park is coming up for Year 8 on Monday, September 8th. Payment should’ve been in by now. Only 2 weeks to go!

5.1 Year 10 Maths students have just sat their Maths competition run by the Newcastle Maths Association and are eagerly awaiting results. In other years, quite a few of our talented mathematicians sat a very demanding national Maths competition.

“World of Maths” will be on Monday, September 1st, an incursion for Year 7 Maths classes where there will be many hands-on and challenging mathematical activities.
Year 8 News

Another busy fortnight for our fantastic Year 8 students! Last Wednesday night was our Year 8 Elective Evening. Thank you to the many parents/grandparents/carers that braved the cold and attended the evening with their students. I felt the evening ran very smoothly and I hope that students had the opportunity to attend the elective presentations they are interested in. This year our Year 8 students were spoilt for choice with 17 electives to choose from, this is the most any Year 8 students at San Clemente has been offered! There was also a wide variety of electives with everything from iSTEM, History, Child Studies and Marine Studies (our 4 new electives). Students should have handed their choices in by now. If students are having any problems completing the form, please see me as soon as possible so we can sort it out. It can be a nervous and anxious time for students (and parents) choosing their subjects and we are here to support students at school with those decisions.

Over the next few weeks students will be busy with assessment tasks, starting with Religion tomorrow, Friday the 22nd August. I encourage students to do a little revision on each of their subjects every night (even if they haven’t got official homework), this will relieve stress when it comes to the exam. This would also highlight any areas your child may be having problems with and allow them time to see their class teachers. All teachers are more than happy to discuss and help students in or out of class time leading into this period. Teachers will be completing interim reports at the end of the term to give a progressive update on students. Please encourage students to come and see me if they are feeling stressed or have any questions.

Good Luck!

Shout out to the Year 8 netball team that won its division at the NSW CCC Netball Carnival in Penrith last week, the girls then continued their huge day getting straight off the bus and into the elective evening.

Mrs B Denham, Year 8 Coordinator (Acting)
The ski trip this year will take place from Monday 25th August to Friday 29th August. On Monday 61 students will travel firstly to Canberra for a tour of the Australian Institute of Sport, from there it’s on to Jindabyne where we stay at Vikas Lodge. The students have a hectic couple of hours unpacking bags and being fitted out with boots, skis, boards, clothing and helmets. Hopefully then an early night because the next morning everyone has to be up at 6am to get to Thredbo for an 8.30am lesson which goes for two hours, students have a break and then another lesson in the afternoon. This routine continues until Friday when we head home. There is plenty of snow and the weather forecast is looking good so hopefully a great and safe week will be had by all.

**PD/H/PE**

**Year 10 Dance:** All of year 10 is dancing!!! We’ve just started the annual dance unit, and have completed the Barn dance. The students will also learn the Cha Cha, Samba and Canadian Three Step. Year 10 have shown themselves to be very enthusiastic and more importantly they are having lots of fun.

*Mr M Byrne, PDHPE Coordinator*

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**Photography Exhibition**

Students in Year 9 and 10 Elective Visual arts classes have created an amazing collection of photographic artworks which are currently on display in the Library. Student works reflect the theme “Connect” and were produced underwater during an excursion to Mayfield pool, in a lighting workshop, in the classroom and at home, and were edited on their tablets and in the classroom computer lab.

You are invited to come see these wonderful works anytime before 2nd September. Vote for your favourite/s by placing your voting slip in the Peoples Choice voting box provided. If you miss them this time, they will be exhibited again at the annual “Sight and Sound Exhibition” at the end of the year which the whole school community is invited to attend.

These enlarged photographs are for sale for $15 each and have been framed in professionally cut mountboard frames sized to fit standard glass frames. After framing costs, all profits will be donated to a charity with a meaningful link to the theme “Connect”, as chosen by the students. To purchase, there is a list in the library near the Peoples Choice voting box, or see Mrs McCarthy or Mr Coupland in A9.

Enjoy!

*Mrs Emma McCarthy & Mr David Coupland, Art Department*
Aspire - ‘A Night in the Forest’

On the 24th July Elective Music and Drama students attended ‘Aspire - A Night in the Forest’ at the Civic theatre. Based on Shakespeare’s ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’, the performance showcased the skills of Drama, Music and Dance students from across the diocese. Special mention must go to the following San Clemente students who did a marvellous job in the performance.

Year Seven: Gemma Balkin. Year Nine: Abe Britz, Keely Hay, Cielle Perrin and Temarah Smith. Year Ten: Alice Pye

Congratulations to you all on a job well done!

The Lion King

The 6th August saw a group of 60 students and teachers travel to Sydney to see ‘The Lion King’ at the Capitol Theatre. The students were blown away by the spectacular sets, costumes, and of course the performances. It was an absolute pleasure to experience this show with our students; many spoke of the experience as a life-changing one. The power of good theatre!

Drama Night

Coming up on Thursday 18th September, the Elective Drama students will be performing at the Playhouse Theatre as part of our annual ‘Drama night’. This year’s show focuses on the work of Australian playwrights and promises to be another high quality production. Make note of the date on your calendar and join us for a special night. Ticketing details to come in the next newsletter.

The Creative and Performing Arts Immersion Tour 2015

It is with great excitement that the CAPA faculty announce that in 2015 we will be inviting students to participate in our first ‘Creative and Performing Arts Immersion Tour’ of Sydney. This tour will be open to students across the elective classes in Stage Five Visual Arts, Drama and Music, and places will be limited. This tour will provide students with the opportunity to participate in a range of experiences across the three areas and explore a new range of skills. More information will be distributed to students this week, please keep an eye out for the letter coming home this week.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the arts at San Clemente

Emma South, CAPA/Languages Coordinator
The SCM P & F Committee met on Tuesday night, despite the bleak weather. We are moving forward with our planned Trivia Night in late October and are kindly asking if any parents/caregivers/grandparents or friends of SCM could donate prizes (big or small) which we could award on the night. Bottles of wine, gift vouchers, perfume, any prize BIG or SMALL would be gratefully received. Please send into the school and address to Mrs Kelly.

Also we have our planned fundraising BBQ on Saturday 1st Nov at Heatherbrae Masters – we are asking if any parent/grandparent could donate 30-60 mins of their day to help out, we are hoping to get a roster in place fairly soon. Please email me your contact details and times that you would be available, the Committee will be there from 8.30am-4.30pm that day, so any assistance would be fantastic. Anne-Marie.Kelly@mn.catholic.edu.au

Anne-Marie.Kelly, Secretary

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Year 6 Transition for students with additional needs...

The Feldt Centre has begun the process of communicating with year 6 schools in regards to the year 6 to 7 transition process for students who may need additional support.

This process involves communicating with year 6 teachers and parents of students with additional needs to determine how much additional support these boys and girls may need. We work through a process of meeting the students and their current primary school teachers at their current school and gradually work towards the students visiting San Clemente early next term until they become comfortable and confident about being at their “new” school. Some students may visit the school 4 or 5 times before the end of the year in order to reach that degree of self-confidence.

A big thanks to the teachers at San Clemente who are happy for us to visit their classes and sometimes invite these “nervous” kids into their classes.

If you have an incoming child yourself, or know of a student coming who may need additional transition opportunities, please don’t hesitate to contact me in the Feldt Centre at kevin.askie@mn.catholic.edu.au.

Kevin Askie, Learning Support Coordinator

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SRC NEWS!

The SRC met last week and were introduced to the Catholic Mission’s focus for 2015. ‘Heal the Broken Hearted’ - Rwanda 20 years on. April 1994—following years of ethnic tension between the Hutus and Tutsis, a series of mass killings violently breaks out in the small African nation of Rwanda. Over the next one hundred days, one million people—twenty per cent of the population—are brutally tortured and killed in one of the worst genocides the world has seen.

Over the last twenty years, the Rwandan Catholic Church has played a major role in helping the Tutsi and Hutu people in their process of forgiveness, healing and reconciliation. Thanks to the work of the Catholic Church and dedicated missionaries, many have been able to forgive those who killed their fellow Rwandans including their own family, and heal through Jesus Christ.

But sadly, hundreds of thousands of Rwandans from all generations are still in desperate need of practical, spiritual and emotional support. They urgently need our prayers and financial support to help provide for the building of new churches, as well as counselling, healing classes and scripture teaching on forgiveness offered by local priests and sisters. For more information please go to the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxVws4zm-sM

This October the San Clemente community will be participating in ‘Socktober’ and ‘Socking it to Social Justice’ and raising funds for Catholic Missions. The SRC students enthusiastically discussed a range of fundraising activities that could take place on Thursday the 30th of October, at our annual Socktober Day.

On Thursday the 4th of September we will be holding a Father’s Day stall, during the next meeting students will be making sure everything is decorated for the event.

The SRC have been manning the recycle bins and encouraging others to recycle, an incentive is a chance to win a canteen voucher.

Unfortunately we have had two SRC students recently leave the school. We would like to welcome and congratulate Emma Tu (8 LAWSON) and Emma Preece (7 O’DONOGHUE) to the team.
Following a very successful Newcastle evening, Dr. John Irvine is coming to the Upper Hunter & Taree-Manning regions. Come along and hear one of Australia’s most prominent child psychologists speak about

“Anxiety K–12: Red flags & what parents can do to support their children”

Light refreshments served from 6:30pm

**Tuesday 2 September, 2014**
6:30pm for a 7:00pm start
St James’ Primary School Hall
Skellatar Stock Route, Muswellbrook

**Wednesday 10 September, 2014**
6:30pm for a 7:00pm start
St Joseph’s Primary School Hall
1 St Joseph’s Drive, Taree

All welcome! R.S.V.P. Essential
Register now to secure your seat
www.mn.catholic.edu.au/drjohn

Entry: Gold coin donation
All proceeds benefit charity.

For further details please contact
Cath Garrett-Jones
Parent Liaison and Resource Officer
P 4979 1303
E cath.garrett-jones@mn.catholic.edu.au
Calendar Dates to note

School Year 2014
25-29 Aug Year 9 Ski Trip
25 Aug Year 7 Social Media Talk
26 Aug New Caledonia Parent meeting
28 Aug Body Confident Pres: Lib @ 6pm
29 Aug Year 8 Mass
1 Sept World of Maths Yr 7
3 Sept Year 7 2015 Info Evening
8 Sept Luna Park Maths Excursion Yr 8
9 Sept Year 9 Science Research Talk
10/11 Sept NAPLAN Trialling
12 Sept ‘Try a Skill’
14 Sept Japan Trip
17 Sept New Caledonia Trip
18 Sept Drama Civic Theatre Yr 9&10
19 Sept End Term 3

7 Oct Staff Inservice Day
8 Oct Parent Teacher Interviews
9 Oct Students resume Term 4
16 Oct Immunisation Yr 7s & 9 boys
22/23 Oct Year 9 Leadership Days
25 Oct Deaf Pride Mass 5.30pm
10 Nov Year 10 Exam Week
17 Nov Year 9 Exam Week
19 Nov Elective 9 &10 Drama Excursion
1/5 Dec Year 10 Awareness Week
9 Dec Year 10 Graduation
11 Dec Annual Academic Awards
17 Dec Community Day

San Clemente High School
UNIFORM SHOP

Uniform Shop Phone 49689987 shop hours
0424015192 mob
e-mail san.clemente@bigpond.com
web www.alintaapparel.com.au
NORMAL HOURS
SCHOOL TERM
TUE 8.00-11.00am & WED 8.00-10.00am

San Clemente High School Canteen

Term 3—Week 7 Weekly Specials
Roast Beef Sandwich $4
Chicken Curry: $3.50
Soup of the Week: Potato & Leek $3.50 (incl roll)

Canteen

Thank you to all our helpers, new and old, for the great support you have shown us as we provide choice and encourage healthy eating habits for the students and staff.

New volunteers are always needed, if you have any spare time we would love to hear from you.

Gillian and Toni

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Father’s day stall

Thursday 4 September

Father’s day cards $1-
Playing cards with chocolate $3-
Sports socks with chocolate $4-

Tape measure key ring $2-
Soap on a rope $3-
Boxed mug $5-

Can cooler $2-
To do list and pen $4-
Travel mug with chocolates $5-

Chamois cloth $3-
Socks with chocolate $4-
Drink bottle $5-

Check out these great gifts we’re selling at great prices!
All gifts between $2- & $5- ~ Cards $1-