



CONNECT

Growing - Caring - Achieving *TOGETHER*

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1/3

16 February, 2006

Term One Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			16 February Active After School - Basketball	17 February
			Nominations close for School Council at 4:00	Clayton North V Sacred Heart - home
20 February Assembly – 9:00	21 February Active After School - Softball	22 February Prep interviews	23 February Active After School - Basketball	24 February
				Clayton North V Huntingdale - away
27 February Assembly – 9:00	28 February Clayton North V Clayton West/Clayton - home	1 March	2 March Active After School - Basketball	3 March Oakleigh District Year 6 Commonwealth Games day
Preps begin full time attendance this week	Active After School - Softball			
	Last day for lodgement of EMA applications			
6 March Assembly – 9:00	7 March Active After School - Softball	8 March	9 March Active After School - Basketball	10 March School Photos
	First meeting of new School Council – 7:30		Family Picnic and dance display 6:00-8:00	Dismissal 2:30

From Bernie's Desk

A new name – Clayton North 'Connect'

Our newsletter is our way of 'connecting' regularly with our community, hence a new name. A new section 'Kids Connect' will feature each issue with articles written by students from the three sections of the school – an opportunity for students to have their work published for a much wider audience. 'Connect' will be published weekly this term and then fortnightly from the beginning of term 2.

Social Connectedness

Deep down we know that to be socially connected is arguably the most important aspect of life. Yet when asked to list the important skills and abilities people require to live a fulfilling life, I rarely see social factors at the top of the list. While it is understandable that society values skills such as literacy and numeracy highly because they are needed for employment and social functioning, we are learning that these skills can mean little if socialisation skills are absent. I know of a recent example where a young man failed to gain entry to a course that required high academic standards due to perceptions of social skills at interview. Fortunately he has now been successful with a few more years of maturity.

One of the greatest dangers to social connectedness, in my view, is the prevalence of 'conditional acceptance' in our society, including our schools. We may have a 'winners are grinners' mentality that sorts and ranks people, including students, in all sorts of subtle and not so subtle ways. On one hand we speak of respect for difference in children and their uniqueness, but we become highly anxious when they do not meet standard expectations in what they learn, how they learn, and the pace of their learning. Immediately the message goes out to children that my parents, my teachers, my peers are disappointed in who I am. A process of social disconnectedness may have begun. A typical reaction on part of a child could be anxiety, which can impair learning, and lead to a further round

of separation from others. At its worst a child may take revenge through anger and non-compliance, whereupon we adults confirm the social disconnectedness with a convenient label.

We need to work harder to ensure all our children maintain the feeling of unconditional acceptance they enjoyed when tiny infants, ensuring that they understand that while some of their behaviours cannot be accepted, their uniqueness as a person is fully accepted, regardless of their rate of maturation, learning styles, interests and abilities. We should also understand that high academic achievement without social connectedness is an incomplete education.

School Values

This week we are looking at 'teamwork' – parents may like to discuss this value in relation to behaviour at home too.

School Council elections

Nominations for staff and parent positions on School Council close at 4:00pm today. Nomination forms are available at the office.

'You Tell Us' interviews

These interviews which were held on Monday focused on 'you telling us' about your child and were highly appreciated by both teachers and parents. There is no doubt that the more we know as teachers about each student helps us to build a closer relationship with and a broader understanding of them as individuals. This then allows us to cater for their differences to ensure positive learning experiences for all students.

Reminder - Out of School Hours Care

As you are aware Camp Australia is now operating our program and some processes have changed in relation to booking procedures etc. To ensure that the appropriate staff/student ratios are adhered to, Camp Australia asks that bookings and cancellations be made by 6pm on the day prior to care. Priority access will be given to those families who have a permanent booking or book by 6pm on the day prior to ensure the safety of all children.

To make a future permanent booking, please contact CAMP AUSTRALIA on 8851 4160.



Bernie Parks
Principal

From Greg's Desk

Active After School Communities

Tuesday : **Basketball** 3:45 – 5:00pm

Thursday : **Softball** 3:45 – 5:00pm

These programs are now full and no further enrolments can be taken for term 1. Information regarding the activities for term 2 will be available as soon as the school receives approval for the continuation of the program.

There are **no** costs involved for parents as this is an Australian government funded program.

Children **not** enrolled in OHSC must be collected by their parents by 5.00pm sharp as they **cannot** be supervised in the OSHC program and teachers are **not** available for yard duty at this time.

All children in **OHSC** are included in the program as part of our policy to provide a variety of physical activities for the children.

ICAS - International Competitions and Assessments for School: Year 3 to Year 6 students

SUBJECT	Entry Costs	Sitting Date
Computer Skills	\$6.60	Tuesday 4 th April
Science	\$6.60	Wednesday 3 rd May
Mathematics	\$6.60	Thursday 11 th May
Spelling	\$8.80	Tuesday 30 th May
Writing	\$12.10	Tuesday 30 th May
English	\$6.60	Thursday 15th June

Closing Date for entries: Friday 3rd March.

Practice papers and information can be obtained directly on the website: The UNSW holds the copyright for practice papers which precludes the school making copies available to parents.

www.eaa.unsw.edu.au

Please note the English paper was dated incorrectly last week and will be sat on 15th June.

“YOU TELL US” Information Meetings

As a staff we would like to thank all the parents who attended last Monday in what is a new approach in sharing valuable information that will allow us to better meet the needs of your child at school. Instead of us telling you, I personally found it very valuable to hear what you the parent had to say about your child.

Greg Richards
Assistant Principal

Education Maintenance Allowance

If you applied for and received EMA last year, you must re-apply again in 2006.

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; **and**
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 **or** be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner **or** be a foster parent.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (30 January 2006 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (3 July 2006).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by **28 February 2006** for the first payment and **4 August 2006** for the second payment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of **\$205** for primary students and **\$410** for secondary students and is paid in two instalments.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2006 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 28 February 2006 and prior to or on 4 August 2006, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

- **You should bring or send your signed and current (as at 30 January 2006) pension/benefit card to the school office with the completed EMA form.**
- The person who has signed the pension/benefit card must be the person named as the cardholder, and must be the same person who signs the EMA form.
- EMA application forms must be submitted to the school by **28 February 2006** – we are unable to accept late applications.

Year Six Transition

For the parents of our year six students, it is strongly recommended that you start thinking about secondary schools for 2007. It is important to discuss these options with your child and make the necessary decisions.

If parents are interested in private schools, they are well advised to contact the school concerned to make arrangements now as enrolments will close soon.

Further information will be sent home towards the end of March.

Karen Cross & Kristen Schultz



Kids Connect



Junior School:

1/2A and 1/2S believe that TEAM WORK is working together as a group to do better work by helping each other and sharing ideas - just like ANTS. We believe that team work is about sharing the work and taking turns. When we work as a team we show respect for each other, we take care of each other and we have fun.



Middle School:

Ants

Ants are small insects that crawl. They come in different colours, sizes and types. There are bull ants, fire ants, green ants, queen ants, honeypot ants and many more. They eat aphids. Ants have three body parts: a head, a thorax and an abdomen. Queen ants have wings.

How ants & people are similar

Ants and people are similar because ...

1. They both eat food
2. They both live in families
3. They both come in different shapes and sizes
4. They both have a head, thorax and abdomen
5. They both live in cities or colonies



By Katie Boys and Josh Crawley, 2/3G

