



Blyth Primary School

BLYTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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A message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

This has been such a busy fortnight. We have had a number of excursions since our last newsletter. A highlight for me was taking the Year 5 and 6 students to Adelaide for their rehearsal for the Festival of Music. Our 11 students joined 789 other children from a range of schools to practise the material that they have been working on all year. The rehearsal was held in the Woodville Town Hall. The children tirelessly practised for 3 and a half hours. I was particularly proud of our students and more so when a music teacher came up and congratulated me on the behaviour and the quality of our singers!

NAPLAN Results

NAPLAN results have arrived this week and all students in Years 3 and 5 who participated will take home a student report and information leaflet. Ms D’Cruze, Mrs Harvey and I have examined the achievements of our students. Our results indicate that in Year Five we are at National Average for Reading, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy whilst in Year Three our students achieved the National average in Reading and Grammar and Punctuation. All students who took the test met the National Minimal Standard in both Literacy and Numeracy. In future staff meetings, the whole staff will be take the opportunity to analyse the results even further and look at whole school growth and any potential areas of improvement. NAPLAN is a high stake test but it is just one test and like all schools across the Nation, we utilise multiple testing and diagnostic tools to support your children’s learning.

Book Week Escape to Everywhere

It has been a lovely week celebrating Book Week. It was great to walk into the Reception–Year Two class early Thursday morning to discover that the Upper Primary Students were busily listening to our younger students read. I then visited the library and was stunned by the imagination and work of those children and their families who participated in the cake decoration competition. Turn the page to see the photos of the amazing entries. The book parade Friday was similarly fun. All of these events help the cohesive nature of our school and whilst it may be frustrating looking for that mask or setting off to the supermarket for another packet of icing, as a school staff we appreciate your efforts.

Social Media: In a digital world connectivity is fast and furious. Our digital world enables and even encourages us to present comments or complaints to a very wide audience and whilst no-one would suggest that people should not be free to express their opinions about events or issues or about our schools, we need to be aware that comments posted online even if made (‘privately’) can be easily misinterpreted and shared without our knowledge or consent. I would encourage everyone to engage with social media constructively. Sometimes the “facts” are not the “facts” and sadly the reputation of individuals or organisations can be damaged unwittingly and or unfairly. It is also true that once things are put out into our communities, it is hard to retract. This of course goes for all comments, whether digital or otherwise.

Until next newsletter, Marie-Louise

Term Three Week Five

Diary Dates

- 28/08/17 SAPSASA Athletics
Visit to CV Children's centre
Interviews
- 29/08/17 Visit to CV Children's centre
- 01/09/17 Yr6 Trans visit CHS
- 07/09/17 Casual Day
- 08/08/17 SCHOOL CLOSURE
- 11/09/17 PUPIL FREE
- 13/09/17 Choir performance
- 20/09/17 Sports Day
- 22/09/17 Assembly 3pm

Hosts: Sam & Charlotte



Don't forget the 8:30am Wednesday R.A.T.S Breakfast Project. This week the R.A.T.S. are back. Our breakfast program will commence at 8:30 am with the team and Emily Gill, our newly appointed PCW.



BOOK WEEK CAKE ENTRIES 2017



Pastoral Care Worker



Hello everyone, my name is Emily Gill. I am taking on Daina's role of Pastoral Care Worker at Blyth PS while she is on maternity leave. I am the PCW for Brinkworth PS. I was lucky enough to get to know many of the Blyth students last year during Wakarri. It helps to see a familiar face when change occurs and I will endeavour to make this a smooth transition for all of us.

Let me take this opportunity to reintroduce my role. I provide a unique dimension of care and support to all members of the school community. I am a positive role model that brings compassion, understanding and provide practical, ongoing support to students and families. A lot of my work is done in the classroom working alongside students mentoring and assisting staff as I am an extra resource to teachers to support extra-curricular events and activities

I will be working on Mondays 8:30am till 4pm, and Wednesday mornings to help run the Breakfast programme with the RATS, 8:30am till 10am. It is best to contact me through the school front office to make a time suitable to catch up. I am really looking forward to working with everyone in building strong relationships between student, staff, families and the community.

Gratitude

Kate and Jillian recently attended a four day conference on Positive Psychology. Over the four days they covered many topics but one topic which I feel is important for our community is that of gratitude.

To understand why gratitude is important, we first have to understand that wellbeing is an internal state of equilibrium and this equilibrium allows us to better cope with negative emotions and experiences.

Those with strong wellbeing have better relationships, are more likely to succeed academically and lead happier and more successful lives. Wellbeing impacts resilience and resilient children understand that all emotions are ok, have negative emotions but are able to return to their state of equilibrium and can turn a negative event into something constructive.

So how do we develop wellbeing children, to prevent anxieties and lack of resilience in the future? One strategy is to teach them habits of gratitude.

Gratitude rewires the brain to focus on the positives. External circumstances only attribute **to 10%** of a person's happiness, **the other 90%** is determined by how the individual views the world. While practicing gratitude, you're pushing negative thoughts out and while you're thinking about positive memories, the emotion you felt at the time resurfaces.

Gratitude is like Growth Mindset – the more we exercise it, the stronger it gets. When we exercise it regularly then habit forms. Studies show that it takes 21 days to form a habit of viewing the world with gratitude.

The more grateful we feel, the more likely we are to act in pro-social ways, which makes others feel grateful and more likely to show gratitude themselves!

"How do you create a more compassionate world, a school where there's less bullying, a workplace where there's less toxicity?"

It starts with a culture of gratitude.

Gratitude sets off a cycle of kindness."

Todd Kashdan (Psychology Professor and Wellbeing Researcher)

Interested in starting your own gratitude practices at home? There are so many ways to get involved, why not ask your child's teacher for some ideas?

Or, you can start as soon as you pick your children up by asking them:

What are 3 things you are grateful for today?

Why are you grateful for them?

Marie-Louise Adams



Children's Book Week @ your library
Clare and Gilbert Valleys Library Service

Your public library has so much to offer you and your child and it's all **FREE!**

- Books, Magazines and DVDs from any Public Library in South Australia
- Internet and Wi-Fi Access
- eBooks, Audio Books, Databases, 21no digital magazines
- 24/7 Online Catalogue www.libraries.sa.gov.au/clareandgilbert
- Homework help, online video training, digital literacy training
- Children's story time, Baby rhyme time, science and STEAM programs, Lego and games afternoons, School Holiday activities.
- Adult Programs

The library supports both learning and recreation and provides resources to spark ideas, imagination and inspiration.

Registering is easy and only takes a few minutes. Remember to bring ID showing your name, address and signature, all people under 18 must have their registration filled out by a parent or legal guardian.

Your library card enables you to borrow from more than 130 public libraries across South Australia through the One Card network. You can also place a hold on any item in any South Australian public library and it will be delivered to the Clare library free of charge.

Your Library

Clare Library
35 Old North Road
CLARE SA 5453
PH - 08 8642 3837
Fax - 08 8642 3073
E - clare.library@plain.sa.gov.au

Opening Hours
Tue to Fri: 10am-6pm
Sat: 10am - 1pm
Sun & Mon: CLOSED



Diary Events

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Week 6	28	29	30	31	1 Sept
	Visit to Clare Valley Children's Centre transition process SAPSASA Athletics- Clare High	Visit to Clare Children's Centre transition process	R.A.T.S BREAKFAST 8:30 am		Year 6 Transition visit to Clare High School
Week Seven	4	5	6	7	8
			R.A.T.S BREAKFAST 8:30 am	SRC Casual Day	SCHOOL CLOSURE
Week 8	11	12	13	14	15
	PUPIL FREE DAY Gov. Council 7pm		Choir Performance- Entertainment Centre		
Week 9	18	19	20	21	22
			SPORTS DAY		Assembly 3pm Hosts: Sam & Charlotte Newsletter
Week 10	25	26	27	28	29
			Back up Sports Day Community Assembly 2.30pm Community Bonfire 5pm		Last day of Term, Early Dismissal

