

December


Issue 20
11 December 2025

From the Principal's Desk...

Farewell to the Class of 2025!

Our 2025 Year 6 students are now in their final weeks of primary school. We are very much looking forward to the Year 6 Graduation and Awards night that will be held this evening. It is an exciting time for any young person to move from the sanctuary of their primary school and take the challenge of entering secondary school. We would like to wish them all a very fond farewell from Clarinda Primary School. We know our school has provided these students with the skills and confidence to take on any challenge they face in the coming years. I would also like to farewell all the families that are departing Clarinda Primary School for a variety of reasons.

We hope that wherever you go you will look back fondly at your time at Clarinda Primary School.

Our Fantastic Assistant Principal

Working as a Principal class team with Ms Backhouse is great and together, we would like to think we lead and manage the school well. Ms Backhouse is a very gifted educator with a dedication that is admired by all who know her. The consummate relationship builder, Ms Backhouse is a person of great integrity and passion, who is respected by students and staff. It's great to have someone with the qualities that she demonstrates every day. I want to thank Ms Backhouse not only for her great support of myself but for the generous contribution she makes to Clarinda PS and all our students, staff, parents and carers. It's very much appreciated.

Thursday 11th

 Grade 6 Graduation
Evening 6pm - 8pm

Friday 12th

Whole School Spelling Bee

Monday 15th

 2025 Prep - Grade 5
Class Transition for 2026

Tuesday 16th

Grade 1/2 Curbside Coaching

Wednesday 17th

Grade 3/4 Curbside Coaching

Friday 19th

 End of Term 4 -
1:30pm finish

January

Wednesday 28th

Grade 1 - 6 - First day back

Friday 30th

Prep - First Day back

2026 Curriculum Days

- Curriculum Day 1 - January 27th
- Curriculum Day 2 - March 10th
- Curriculum Day 3 - To be confirmed
- Curriculum Day 4 - November 2nd
- Professional Practice Day - June 2nd

From the Principal's Desk...

Teaching and Support Staff

I feel privileged to be the principal of a school that has such wonderful staff. Our teaching and support staff are extremely dedicated to our students, always showing great care and compassion. Their attention to detail is fantastic, and they always go that 'extra mile' in supporting our students and our school. Our staff are committed to continuously improving all aspects of learning and education at our school, and they work tirelessly to ensure that all students reach their full learning potential. Our staff has a highly effective and experience team that includes our Learning Specialists; Miss Ziebell and Mrs Borland, Professional Learning Community Leaders; Mrs Young, Mrs Matti and Miss Delany. Together our teacher leaders make sure we continue to meet the standards we have set for our students.

Administration Team 2025

Business Manager, Gab Robinson and our Admin team, Lynn Morrison, Rachael Marc and Shannen Brown have had a very busy year. Managing a range of changes with careful planning and dedication, I want to highlight how important our admin team is to Clarinda PS. As the first point of contact for parents and a key support for our students, our admin team is always helpful and thorough, with an attention to detail. On behalf of our community, I want to say a sincere thanks to Gab, Lynn, Rachael and Shannen for their continuing hard work and dedication to our school. We really appreciate it!

School reports – Wednesday 17th December

Our December Student Reports will be 'live' from 3:30pm on Wednesday 17th December. Please take time to read though your child's report and discuss with them their achievements, their attitudes towards their learning and the future learning goals.

A final reminder to parents of Year 6 students as well as families who are leaving the school to please download all the reports from Compass before the last day of term. Once the term finishes, those families will no longer have access to Compass.

Thanks to the teaching staff that spend many hours preparing and producing these reports.

From the Principal's Desk...

School Leadership positions for 2026

2026 Student Leadership Positions will be announced at the final assembly at 9:15am on Friday 19th December. This is a very detailed process involving students preparing and presenting speeches to their peers and teachers, students and finally the students that were shortlisted for the roles of School Captain also had to present to our staff during a staff meeting.

End of term dismissal and bell times for Friday 19th December.

- 9:15am – 10:00am – Assembly
- 10:00am – 10:50am – Students in class
- 10:50am – 11:00am – Recess
- 11.00am- 12:40pm – Students in class
- 12:40am – 1:10pm – Lunch break for students
- 1:15pm – 1:30pm Guard of honour in the quadrangle

Classes for all students will conclude at 1.30pm on Friday 19th December.

Students must be collected by parents and guardians by 1.40pm. Teachers will be on Yard Duty until 1.40pm. The Camp Australia Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Program will commence from 1.30pm on this day.

From the Principal's Desk...

Important dates for 2025 and 2026:

The end to the school year is always busy, this year is no different. The following dates are of importance as we begin to work towards the end of the 2025 school year.

Clarinda Primary School

REMINDERS

<p>FINAL ASSEMBLY</p> <p>Friday 19th December Start @ 9:15am Announcement of 2026 Captains</p> <p>1:15pm We say goodbye to the Gr. 6 Graduating Class of 2025</p> <p>1:30pm Whole school dismissed (Please note the early finish time)</p>	<p>SCHOOL OFFICE</p> <p>Closes @ 1:45pm on Friday 19th December</p> <p>Re-opens on 21st and 22nd January from 10am-3pm for uniforms and payments</p> <p>School Fees due by end of February</p>	<p>2026 GRADE 1-6</p> <p>School resumes on Wednesday 28th January from 8:40am</p> <p>Classes from 9am</p>	<p>2026 PREP</p> <p>School starts on Friday 30th January from 9am (or as advised)</p> <p>Wednesday is a day off with full-time school resuming from Monday 23rd February</p>
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2026 Curriculum Days (CD) and Professional Practice Days (PPD) *Approved by school council*

- Curriculum Day 1 - January 27th
- Curriculum Day 2 - March 10th
- Curriculum Day 3 - To be confirmed
- Curriculum Day 4 - November 2nd
- Professional Practice Day - June 2nd

From the Principal's Desk...

2026 Staffing Profile

2026 Staff Allocation

Prep

Katie Young
Kellie Williams
Grace Bridges

Grade 1/2

Sarah Matti
Susie Trumble
Effie Pilakis
Cat Watts

Grade 3/4

Kate Jones M,T, W / Elena Ziebell
Th/F
Georgie Evans
Despina Doubakis
Zach McMahon

Grade 5/6

Nicole Delany
Tess Neaves
Cristina Amalfitano

Specialist

Music / Stem – Kyle Wells (1.0)
PE – Anita Woon (0.73)
Greek – Meny Zapantis (0.45) &
Rosey Xenofontos (0.2)
Art – Stacey Lolos (0.6)
MiniLit and LNEIP – Justine Leopold
(0.6)
Stepping Up – Meny Zapantis (0.15)
STEM – Stacey Lolos (0.2)

Administration

Business Manager – Gab
Robinson (M,T,W,F)
Office Admin – Rachael Marc
(M,T,Th)
Office Admin – Lynn Morrison
(W,Th,F)
First Aid Officer – Shannen Brown
(M-Th, 2nd F)

Education Support

Chaplain – Rose Cook
Speech Pathologist – Amy
Carol McKinley
Jan Schache
Ann Pouki
Ria Grivas
Joanna Argyropoulos
Libby McLeod
Michelle Wall
Rachael Marc
Surabhi Singh
Hema Ranganathan

School Improvement Team

Principal – Robbie Mallett
A/Principal – Dearnne Backhouse
Curriculum Learning Specialist –
Elena Ziebell
*Data and Assessment Learning
Specialist* – Elley Bortland
MHiPS Wellbeing Leader – Cally
Richardson

As we approach the end of the 2025 school year, I am delighted to introduce the staff who will lead and support our Clarinda Primary School community in 2026. Together, we remain committed to fostering our core values of Care, Achieve, Respect, and Excel.

Firstly, I want to express sincere gratitude to staff members who are departing but also inform you of staff Leave:

- **Mrs Moriani** – We thank you for your invaluable contributions to the school and wish you all the best in your new endeavours.
- **Mrs Adlard** – Has completed 3 terms of dedicated service at Clarinda Primary School. Thank you for your commitment to our students and community during your time with us.
- **Ms Pashos** – Will continue her extended leave.
- **Mr K.** – will take 1 year of leave.

Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome **Cristina Amalfitano** and **Zach McMahon** to the teaching team. Many of you may already know Cristina as a past teacher and CRT. Zach has transferred from Murrumbeena PS, but has previously been a student teacher at Clarinda PS.

As we transition to the new school year, the 2026 Clarinda Primary School staff will meet their class on the Step Up Transition Day on:

- Monday 15th December from 1:50pm–3:20pm.

On this day, students will meet their new teacher and student cohort.

From the Principal's Desk...

Our regards for the holidays...

We would like to wish you every happiness during the festive season and holidays that follow. Be safe and enjoy time with family and friends. Let's hope for some sunshine so we can enjoy some long, lazy summer days of relaxation and fun.

**One last thing... Reading**

With the school holidays looming, I thought now was a good time to remind families of the benefits of regular reading habits. Whilst we expect students to read every night as part of their homework routine, we truly want them to want to read every night for enjoyment. We hope this continues over the holidays and that our students can continue to keep up their reading habits. Research shows that the summer break leads to approximately a two-week drop-in literacy skill for some students. For those that read regularly, they go the other way and can gain more than a month in terms of learning growth, simply by enjoying a book here and there and reading before bedtime.

Take Care and see you after the break!

Robbie Mallett

PE Update

Indi, Elia, Ariella, Harley, Scarlett, Dante & Max finished their netball season for 2025 with a fantastic tournament. All of the students played really well & had a wonderful time!



SEPEP

The SEPEP Program is exclusive to Grade 5/6 and is run every year in Term 4. Each year, the Grade 5/6 students are split into even teams. Each student has a role in the team that is in addition to their role as a player of European Handball. The aim of the SEPEP (Sport Education in Physical Education Program) is to provide students with a more authentic sport experience — similar to what you would see in community or professional sport. Rather than just participating in isolated drills or short activities, students take on a range of roles such as players, coaches, umpires, team managers, scorers and media officers. This helps them:

- Develop teamwork, leadership and responsibility
- Build sport-specific skills and tactical understanding
- Learn about fair play, respect and the values of sport
- Experience the full structure of a sporting season, including fixtures, finals and awards
-

Overall, SEPEP aims to make sport more meaningful, inclusive and student-driven. This Friday is a very exciting day, with the SEPEP Grand Final for 2025 being held between the Obliterators and the Demolishers. Good luck to Phoenix and Myria, who are the Coaches of these teams, and to all of the students involved in the Grand Final!

Justine Leopold
PE Teacher

Chaplain's Corner

There is certainly a buzz of excitement around the school during these last few days of term as we head towards Christmas and school holidays. I have enjoyed decorating my room with the students help, with tinsel and a Christmas tree. We have made some Christmas decorations and cards for family members and chatted about what we are grateful for this year. I am grateful for the opportunity to spend individual time with students, offering encouragement, ideas and reflections on their growth along the way. We always seem to laugh too, especially when I lose yet another card game!!

I hope all the school families can spend some fun family time together over the school break, creating memories for the years to come. I look forward to reconnecting with you in 2026!

Rose



Parents and Community Club

A big festive thank you to our amazing Clarinda Primary School parents for your generous contributions to our Christmas Raffle.

Your support helps make this event such a joyful success every year!

We'd also like to give a special shout-out to our fantastic community partners:

- Nick from Next Level Fitness
- Breatop
- Plus Fitness 24/7

Thank you for your incredible generosity and for helping make our Christmas Raffle brighter than ever.

We're grateful for each and every one of you!



Library News

The Winner of my Library Award goes to Alexia Mandile 5/6K.

A very big thank you to all my library monitors this year .
Your help has been outstanding!



Library Monitors for 2026

Zoey Kasidiaris, Mirabelle Dvorzak, Vasiliki Kokkalis, Alex Hall, Ioanna Christakis, Ava Kelleher, Rose Nguyen, Amelia Babb, Tanaaz Sandhu, Lisa Nguyen.

Congratulations!



Christmas Lolly Jar Competition

The winner of the Christmas Lollies competition is Eryana from 3/4P.

Well Done!



Mrs. Mac
Mrs. Carol McKinley
Library Technician.



Clarinda
Primary School

Spelling Bee 2025



SPELLING BEE FINALS

Friday 12th December
In the school hall

Families welcome to join the audience

PREP - 2

11:00 - 12:30

GR 3 - 6

2:00 - 3:30



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Prep B	Harry S Indran	For using his letter sounds to try and read tricky words! For using his conventions more frequently when letter writing!
Prep W	Hiruja	For demonstrating active engagement and participation with his peers.
Prep Y	Omer Isaac	For being kind and caring towards others. For increased participation in classroom activities.
1/2 M	April Markus James	For always taking pride in his learning and striving to achieve his personal best! For applying what he has learned and making such a big improvement in his spelling.
1/2 P	Finn Kalotina	For pursuing his best in our 'Maths Activities' For pursuing her best with her 'Persuasive Writing'
1/2T	Rachel	For her outstanding work habits and concentration while working.
1/2 W	Gerald	For pursuing your best on your writing.
3/4 A	Vidhi Mikayla	Applying yourself in maths and achieving your personal best in Clarinda Calculators and all of your classwork! Being a great team member in softball and trying your best at a new sport. Awesome work!
3/4 D	Vaibavi 3/4 D	For settling into our class well and making the effort to build new friendships. Well done! For a fantastic year of teamwork and supporting each other. Well done!
3/4 E	George Marios Lena	For his fantastic writing in his multi-genre texts. For working hard to show his learning this year. Working hard in class to apply yourself to all your learning tasks.
3/4 P	James	For working hard at home on your reading and maths. Well done!
5/6 K	Olivia Donita	For a great improvement in writing & reading comprehension. For awesome, imaginative stories packed with detail and great dialogue!
5/6 N	Oscar Kunwar Anika	For always noticing how others are feeling and taking the time to support them. For being a helpful class member. For using her time wisely and completing all tasks to a high standard.

Outside School Hours Care

Newsletter



Camp Australia
Guiding Children's Growth

11/12/25

Clarinda Primary School

Your OSHC.



Christmas in After School Care



All December

Book now

Dear Families,

It's the most exciting time of the year, as the children are building new skills and getting ready to draw, paint, create, and make personalized gifts for their loved ones this Christmas. They have also shared their holiday wishes through letters to Santa please check them out below!

We are also thrilled to announce that bookings are now open for our Summer Holiday Program. We're offering a range of exciting activities that will inspire your child to explore, learn, and enjoy an unforgettable adventure with their friends. Children will bring home their personalized creations and take part in fun-filled outdoor excursions packed with adventure.

Please check out the program on Camp Australia's website for details. Please book in your child today or call us at 0402353192 for any further enquiries.

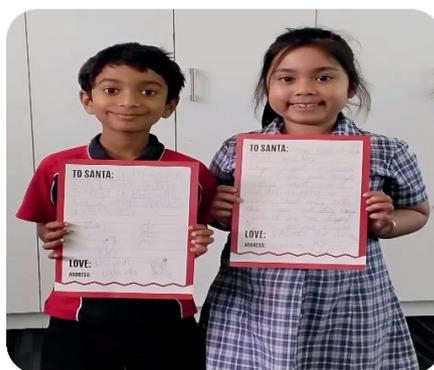
Activities coming up

- Christmas Santa
- Vegan Vanilla cookies
- Holiday headbands

Make a booking

Join in the fun of Outside School Hours Care activities and experiences with Your OSHC and Rocketeers.

Book now



Register and book via the app

To attend our program, you must register your child. Once registered, it's easy to make bookings and manage your account.



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Community Advertising



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Ages 5-13

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1300 418 204 | www.iscamps.com.au | Locations and Dates on Website

Clarinda Primary School Uniform Store

Please be aware that uniform prices will be increasing in line with PSW.



We encourage families to visit the front office before the end of the year to purchase items at the current prices.

Community Advertising

COST - \$75

SCHOOL HOLIDAY

FITNESS CLINIC WITH PEPS FITNESS ACADEMY

DODGEBALL **OBSTACLE COURSES**

RELAY RACES **AWARDS AND PRIZES!**

AGES 6-11 | AGES 6-11 | AGES 6-11

1535 CENTRE ROAD, CLAYTON
DECEMBER 22, 2025 10:00AM - 3:00PM

Contact Nick on 0403686866 to reserve a spot - spaces limited!

Give Your Child the Gift of Music
Learn a Musical Instrument
 here at school

Come and join in the fun of learning to play keyboard, guitar, drums, here at Clarinda Primary School.

Creative Music for Schools conducts a music program here at school each week.

Small group classes or one-to-one lessons of up to 30 minutes give children an excellent grounding in music where they will learn to read music and play their chosen instrument.

Enrolments are now being accepted for limited places in term 1, 2026.

Interested parents should call Nicholas during office hours on 9818 2333 or via email: nicholas@creativemusic.com.au

Creative Music
www.creativemusic.com.au

please join us for the

Christmas Party

We are inviting YOU to our family Christmas Party.
 Let's celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ together!

DECEMBER 13 11.30AM-2PM

- * Free BBQ
- * Carols
- * Face Painting
- * Crafts
- * Fairy Floss
- * More

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