



Clarinda

Primary School


Issue #1
5 February 2026

Important Dates

February

Tuesday 10th

School Council Finance Meeting – 3pm

Wednesday 11th

After School Greek begins

Parents and Community Club Meeting – 9am

Friday 13th

Year 5/6 Interschool Sports v. Oakleigh Primary

Tuesday 17th

School Council Meeting – 6pm

Thursday 19th

District Swimming (Select Students only) – 6am
Oakleigh Swimming Pool

Friday 20th

Captains Badge Presentation – 9:10am in Hall

Monday 23rd

Preps start 5 days a week!

Monday 23rd to Wednesday 25th

Year 5/6 School Camp – The Summit

March

Tuesday 3rd

Getting to know you parent/teacher interviews

Wednesday 4th

Division Swimming (select students) – 6am

Monday 9th

Labour Day Public Holiday – No Students

Tuesday 10th

Curriculum Day – No students

Tuesday 31st

School Photos

Last Day of Term – Thursday 2nd of April

From the Principal's Desk...

Communications

Communications will predominantly flow through Compass as the first port of call, so I encourage families to make sure they have this app. Families will be set up with Classroom DoJo for any other communication between home and with the teacher.

Compass

We use Compass School Manager as our Parent Portal. All parents/caregiver are required to have Compass, particularly in the case of an emergency.

Using our Parent Portal you will be able to:

- Access information regarding upcoming events and news
- Access your child's Semester Reports
- Approve or enter upcoming or past absence for your child/children
- View up-to-date school attendance information
- Book your Parent/Student/Teacher conferences
- Download print and approve upcoming excursions
- Pay school fees, charges and contributions
- Receive instant notification of your child's first aid attendance
- Update your registered email and mobile number
- Receive messaging during an Emergency Management procedure.

From the Principal's Desk...

Class Dojo

All classes are connected to Class Dojo. Class Dojo provides a private classroom communication tool which connects teachers with parents to build collaborative classroom communities.

One excellent function is messaging which is highly important as it supports effective two-way communication. Staff will endeavour to respond as soon as possible, usually within 24-48 hours. As you are aware, our school day gets quite busy and we hope you understand, if and when, it takes us longer to respond.

Student absences should not be reported using Class Dojo because of this delay, using Compass for this purpose instantly updates the classroom roll.

As such, for any absences or more timely information, please call the office directly on 9544 3231.

The school has an official Facebook page that is used to celebrate events and promote the school. Please visit us at

<https://www.facebook.com/clarindaprimaryschool/>

Getting to Know You Meetings – Tuesday 3rd March

Notices will be sent home shortly about our Getting to Know You meetings which will be held over the week. Parents of all students are invited to book a time convenient to them. Bookings can be made via our Compass online system.

Due to the success of our WebEx interviews, we have the option of either choosing to attend the interview in person or 'online' via WebEx.

The purpose of these interviews is twofold. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend to:

- Meet their child's teacher to begin an effective home/school partnership.
- Provide information to teachers regarding their child's strengths, talents, issues or concerns.

Information shared by parents to teachers will assist us to plan for and work as effectively as possible with you and your child throughout the year. Interviews will be 10 minutes in length.

2026 Parent Payments Reminder

Parent payments help the school to operate effectively. CPS provides a significant range of programs that cannot be delivered without the optional support of families. We would like to thank the parents that have already made these payments.

From the Principal's Desk...

School Council Elections

Information regarding the 2026 School Council election process has been sent to families via Compass. I would encourage any interested parent to contact me for more information. School council is an extremely vital part of the school, and it is from council that we take our direction. Council approves external contracts, provides advice and consent on a range of areas and oversees school finance. Please look out for this if you think you may be interested in nominating or being nominated. Information includes a timeline and summary of the role of School Council.

The first School council meeting of the year is scheduled for 6pm (no sub-committee) on the 17th of February.

Gate Opening and Closing Times

As in previous years, students should be arriving at 8:40am to be ready in line at 8:50am so that they can enter their classroom and be ready for learning/instruction at 9am.

Gates will be unlocked by 8:40am each morning. The reason behind this is in order to maintain student safety. Staff are not on duty until 8:40am and students who enter the schools' grounds prior to this are unsupervised and at risk. In previous years we saw a growing number of students entering the grounds as early as 8am without adult supervision. For families where both parents work and therefore need to drop off their children prior to 8:40am, Camp Australia provides an Out of School Hours Care program that runs from 6:45am to 8:40am.

The front gate will always remain open during the day for access to the office and as a late entry and early exit point, whilst side gates will be locked. All students arriving after 9am must sign in at the office.

Prior to commencement and conclusion of the school day, parents are welcome on site. We only ask that parents remain out of the classrooms prior to school starting as staff prepare for the day ahead. It is also important for students to build their resilience and part of this is entering the rooms on their own (with the exception of preps in the first week or so).

The side gates will be locked at 3:40pm with a warning bell sounded at 3:37pm. Any students remaining at school at 3:40pm will be escorted to the school administration office for collection. It is expected that students who are not collected by 3:40pm are registered for Out of School Hours care, so that they can be placed in care in the event that families cannot collect their children by 3:40pm.

From the Principal's Desk...

What sort of start is your child getting?

Just a little bit late doesn't seem much but...

Only missing...	That equates to...	Which is...	Over 13 years of schooling...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1 1/2 weeks per year	Nearly 3/4 a year

Did you know that your child's best learning time is the start of the day?
That's when every minute counts.

 Gates open
 Warning bell
 Learning starts
Kiss and Go Parking

A reminder to families that cars cannot be left unattended if you are using the Kiss and Go drop off and pick up zone. I understand the tendency to think that a quick trip to the office won't hurt, but parents leave themselves open to fines if a parking officer is in the area. Often, the first time you will know about it is when you receive the fine in the mail, as most fines are processed from photographic evidence. Complying with the signage will also assist the flow of traffic and ease of pick up and drop off for all families. I would also remind parents that the parking time limit in this area is 2 minutes.

**Car Parking**

Parents are asked to be mindful of the parking restrictions around the school. Parking officers regularly patrol the school zone. The staff car park is strictly for staff cars only and parents must not enter this car park between 8am and 5:00pm. We have visiting staff entering and leaving on a regular basis, as such, pedestrians should not use the car park when entering and leaving the school. I would also encourage families to be mindful of our neighbours and avoid parking across driveways, in no standing areas or on nature strips. We thank you for your support in this matter as student safety is very important to us.

From the Principal's Desk...

School Community Garden

Have you seen the garden? It is thriving... Our School Community garden started last year and it been delivering over the summer. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Chris over the mild summer. Produce from the garden will be offered to our school community at Gate 2. All for free during Term 1.



Chris gardens most mornings. Anyone is welcome to assist in the garden. If you require more information, please contact Chris on 0490504631.

Labour Day Public Holiday

Parents are reminded that there is a Labour Day holiday on Monday 9th March. There will be no school on this day.

Working with Children Checks (WWC)

We encourage and value parental and community support at CPS. There are many ways that parents, grandparents and friends can assist at our school. We encourage all parents to obtain a Working with Children's Check that will allow you to be very involved in your child's education. These checks are free for volunteers. Once you have your WWC please come to the office so we can photocopy this, and we will add your name to our list of parents who have a current WWC check.

Annual privacy reminder for our school community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law. Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy, describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students please see the school's website for more information. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

Accident Insurance

The Department of Education (DE) does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. The Department of Education states that reasonable low cost accident insurance policies are available from the commercial insurance sector. Similarly, DE (which includes the school) does not offer replacement of personal items which are brought to school and are lost, broken or stolen. Sentimental or expensive belongings and toys, including sports equipment and electronic devices, are normally best left at home.

From the Principal's Desk...

Mobile phones

Readers of the newsletter would be aware of the introduction of the state-wide policy on Mobile Phones in Victorian Government Schools. All students are required to turn off and hand in mobile phones to prevent usage during school hours. This also extends to smart watches where the call and messaging function can connect to the student's phone.



Devices will be placed in a locked cabinet/cupboard at the start of the day and handed back at the end of the day.



School Council has approved our Mobile Phone policy to ensure it is aligned to Department of Education directives. A copy of this policy is available on our website.

Please discuss this with your child/ren to assist us in following this policy. We thank you for your support in this area.

Hats

A reminder that hats must be worn in terms one and four. Screen and sunglasses are also highly recommended.



Inclement Weather/Heat Policy

The school operates a heat policy and we keep the children indoors in air conditioned classrooms on very hot days where the temperature exceeds 35c or as directed by the Principal. We have also been asked to remind our parent community about the dangers of leaving children in cars on very hot days.

Calendar Magnet

We have a QR code magnet available for families that provides quick access to our school website calendar, helping you stay up to date with all important school events.

If you do not currently have one, please visit the front office to collect a magnet.

See you around the school

Robbie Mallett

From the Assistant Principal's Desk...

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Welcome back for the 2026 year, it is fabulous to see so many happy faces around the school.

Going to school every day is an important part of your child's education. Children and young people learn new things at school every day, connect with friends, have fun, and develop good habits that help them to succeed after school. Attending and participating in school will help your child:

- develop important skills and knowledge to help them learn
- develop social and emotional skills such as effective communication, resilience, and team work
- establish friendships with peers which help develop self-esteem and a sense of belonging.

If your child is sick or absent you should let the school know as soon as possible and tell them why your child cannot come to school. It may be by Compass, email or via phone.

If you do not let the school know, we will contact you to make sure your child is safe.

As a parent/carer, you are legally required to ensure your child attends school every day, and if an absence is required, you must provide an explanation.

If your child has frequent unexplained absences then the school will work with you to implement appropriate supports to assist your child and ensure they attend school every day and remain at school during school hours.

From the Assistant Principal's Desk...

Tips to help improve your child's attendance.

- Encourage and celebrate good attendance habits with your child, including arriving to school on time every day.
- Set a good example. Show them how you keep to your own commitments.
- Encourage your child to take on hobbies that they enjoy such as sports and clubs. This will help them develop positive relationships outside of the classroom setting.
- Help your child maintain daily routines such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Help them pack their school bag the night before with everything they need.
- Have a set time for breakfast.
- Plan to meet up with a friend so they can travel to school together.
- Talk to your child about school and how important it is. You can ask them how they feel about school, what they like and if there are any problems.

If ever your family needs support in this area, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school as we have many connections with community services and well being supports in the school.

Warm regards,
Dearnne Backhouse



From the Mental Health & Wellbeing Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 1. I hope that you and your families have enjoyed the school holiday period and that you have had a chance to recharge. For those of you that I haven't met yet, my name is Cally Richardson and I am a classroom teacher at Clarinda Primary School. Over the next few years I am excited to be working under the guidance of Ms Dearnne Backhouse in the student wellbeing space as the Mental Health and Wellbeing in Primary Schools Leader (MHiPS for short).

The MHiPS program is a statewide initiative which has been developed by paediatricians, educators, psychologists, teachers and academic researchers with the aim to increase the capacity of Victorian primary schools to support student mental health and wellbeing.

It has been lovely to notice how settled and ready to learn the students have been and I have enjoyed catching up with them and hearing about their holidays. Teachers have put much thought, care and preparation into creating a positive learning environment to ensure that each student has had a calm and smooth transition into their new class. During the first few weeks of Term 1, students will be taking part in our COLC program (Creating Our Learning Communities) which aims to build community within our classrooms and equip students with the skills that they need to navigate the start of the school year. Students will continue to participate in the 'Play Is The Way' program to build their communication, problem solving and collaboration skills through a range of team building activities and games. Finally, they will learn about personal and cultural strengths and stress management and have an opportunity to develop their emotional literacy skills through the Respectful Relationships Program.

We know that in order for children to learn, they need to feel happy, connected and safe and that mental health is fundamental to a child's development and learning. One of our whole school wellbeing goals this year is to promote school attendance. The research tells us that school attendance is not only vital from an educational perspective, but also important for our children's social and emotional development and wellbeing. As part of my role this year as Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader, I will be following up any unexplained absences with a check in call and to provide any additional support if needed.

Ms Dearnne Backhouse (Assistant Principal) will continue to be the main point of call, however, if there is anything that I can do to support your child's wellbeing, please don't hesitate to reach out. My working days are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Warm regards,
Cally Richardson

Scholastic Book Club

CPS participates in the Scholastic Book Club, offering families access to a wide range of affordable, high-quality children's books. Orders are only available online through Scholastic's LOOPS portal. Please note that paper order forms and cash payments are not accepted.

Ordering through LOOP is quick and easy, and every purchase helps support our school with valuable learning resources.

Place your order via below QR, or by going to:
<https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/parent/login.aspx>

Orders for Issue 1 close on
 Tuesday 10th of February



Chaplaincy Corner

It is delightful to see so many smiling students around the school, still excited by new classes and activities. You will probably find your children are getting tired after school at this stage, getting up early and being busy all day!

I work on Mondays and Tuesdays at Clarinda, offering individual support to students experiencing challenges at home or school. If you would like to discuss chaplaincy support for your child, please contact our Assistant Principal Dearnne Backhouse.

I look forward to meeting more students and parents throughout 2026.

Rose Cook
 School Chaplain



Outside School Hours Care

Newsletter

05/02/2026

Clarinda Primary School



Your
OSHC.



National Pizza Day in After School Care



9 February

Book now

Dear Parents and families,

Welcome to Term 1. A huge welcome back to all children and families as we begin term 1 2026. Let me celebrate Our Big Art competition success with you all as several of our students received special recognition for their outstanding artwork last term. Please see highlights below.

Now, Get ready as we will be celebrating National Pizza Day where in children will create their own mini pizzas and learn about food safety, kitchen skills and healthy eating and take part in pizza themed activities and games. Please visit at our OSHC space to book in your child or call at 0402353192 for any further enquiries.

Activities coming up

- Mini pizza making
- Friendship bracelets
- Heart wreath craft

Make a booking

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

Book now



Let's give a huge round of applause to Darcie from Clarinda Primary School, one of the winners of the Term 4 Big Art Comp!

This term, children across the country created bold and unique artworks that showed who they are. Darcie's design truly stood out and will be printed on their very own pair of custom socks.

We're so proud of all the children who entered - and especially proud to celebrate Darcie as a standout creator!



Let's give a huge round of applause to Chloe from Clarinda Primary School, one of the winners of the Term 4 Big Art Comp!

This term, children across the country created bold and unique artworks that showed who they are. Chloe's design truly stood out and will be printed on their very own pair of custom socks.

We're so proud of all the children who entered - and especially proud to celebrate Chloe as a standout creator!



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.



- Easy booking features
- Simple booking calendar overview
- Track your spend
- Detailed account history



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Community Advertising



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Want to play footy at a Club that's family-friendly, inclusive and everyone feels at home?

**Sunday 15th February
10-11am
Scammell Reserve,
Oakleigh South**

Bring a friend and come & see what junior footy is all about!

☀️ **What's On**

- Skills, games & footy fun!
- Girls, Boys & Mixed teams
- All Welcome - no experience needed!
- FREE sausage sizzle!



www.oakleighdragons.com.au

VICTORIA TAEKWONDO



PROGRAMS

- Taekwondo Forms (Poomsae)
- Sparring (Oyonagi)
- Board Breaking (Gyokpa)
- Kicking Techniques (Bakchagi)
- Improve Physical Fitness and Diet

CLASSES

- Class 1 (Prep-Grade3) - 4:00-4:55pm
- Class 2 (Grade2-Grade5) - 5:00-5:55pm
- Class 3 (Grade5-Grade10) - 6:00-6:55pm
- Class 4 (High school/Adult/Family) - 7:00-8:00pm

YES! I WANT MY CHILD TO LEARN

DEVELOP CONFIDENCE	POSITIVE ATTITUDE	RESPECT FOR OTHERS & YOURSELF
SELF DEFENSE	LEADERSHIP	DISCIPLINE

CONTACT US

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SPORTS PARTY BYO (FROM \$289 - 12 KIDS)

90 mins Party / 60 mins of playtime & Ref - select any 2 from: Soccer, Softball Cricket or Dodgeball. Includes tables, chairs, unlimited jugs of filtered water & HD recording. Extra Kids \$25 each. **Catered \$399** - selection of delicious food for the party kids. Includes: plates, cups, spoons, and napkins. Extra Kids \$35 each

ALSO AVAILABLE AFTER HOURS PRIVATE HIRE



No Outside Drinks Allowed.
No Party Peppers, Whistles, Horns, Confetti, Glitter, Popcorn Or Gum Please.
Freezer available if required.

Inflatableworldoakleigh.com.au ☎ 9568 7000 📍 4 Railway Av, Oakleigh VIC 3166

Community Advertising

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



TUNING IN TO TEENS PARENTING PROGRAM

This program is for parents & carers who **feel frustrated, disconnected, or unsure how to handle the emotional ups and downs of raising a teenager.**

Over six weeks you will receive **strategies & tools** (not just theory) to improve communication, manage conflict, and strengthen your relationship with your teen. Based on the **Tuning in to Teens™** program and **tailored for today's challenges.**

Your Presenters



Tara Watson **Michelle Galileos**

Tara & Michelle are trained facilitators in the Tuning in to Teens™ program and are experienced in working directly with teens and families. They deliver the 6-week program with evidence-based strategies and practical tips that work.

www.parentconnections.com.au

YOUR PROGRAM TOPICS INCLUDE:

- How to guide your teen through **anxiety, peer pressure, and substance use concerns.**
- Help your teen to **manage their emotions** and build resilience.
- Tips to handle the **changes in behaviour** and **prevent issues** from escalating.
- How to create a **more stable, positive** home environment and parent-teen relationship.

MORE INFO & BOOKINGS HERE
Or via this link: 

TERM 1 & TERM 2 BOOKINGS OPEN
LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE



NET SET GO SKILLS PROGRAM

Starts 28th February 2026

5-7 year olds

SESSIONS:
Saturdays 9:00 - 9:45am

 Dales Park, 1 Washington Dve, Oakleigh South

**\$99 incl GST (10 weeks) +
\$99 compulsory annual NV Registration**
(Includes a netball & t-shirt)



Free COME & TRY Day:
Sat 21st Feb 9:00-9:45am



Kingston & Districts Netball Association

UNIFIED ALL ABILITIES NETBALL CLINICS

Learn the skills of netball, make new friends & have fun!
All abilities welcome, including children & young people with an intellectual disability and/or are neurodiverse, along with their siblings & friends

WHEN Thursdays 5.00pm - 5.45pm

WHERE Dales Park
1 Washington Dve, Oakleigh South

AGE 8 to 16 years old

Term 1 Starts 5th February 2026

\$50 per term
Includes Netball Victoria Insurance

To register your interest and for more information

CONTACT kingstonnetballoffice@gmail.com

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Community Advertising



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Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6 Year 7 Year 8 Year 9 Year 10 Year 11 Year 12



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