


Issue #5
31 March 2026

From the Principal's Desk...

Important Dates

April

Wednesday 1st

Grade 1 & 2 Baldhill Park Excursion
Harmony Night 5:15pm - 7pm



Last Day of Term 1 - Thursday 2nd of April

First Day of Term 2 - Monday 20th of April

Term 2 Dates

May

Monday 11th

District Cross Country (select students)

Monday & Tuesday 4th & 5th

Teeth on Wheels (dental van) visit

Thursday 14th

Teeth on Wheels (dental van) visit

Tuesday 26th

Curriculum Day - No school for students

As we approach the end of what has been a full and energetic start to the year, it is worth pausing to reflect on the many highlights that have shaped our term. There has been a great deal to celebrate, and these moments are a testament to the strength and spirit of our school community.

I would like to sincerely thank our staff, families and community members for the enthusiasm and support you have shown across the term. Your involvement plays a vital role in enriching the experiences we provide for our students. I also extend my appreciation to our staff, whose ongoing dedication ensures the delivery of a vibrant, engaging curriculum with student wellbeing at its core.

NAPLAN

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge that NAPLAN has come and gone for another year. While we certainly value the insights these assessments provide, I also recognise that they represent just one piece of the broader picture when it comes to student learning.

Our priority remains the ongoing academic and personal growth of every child, ensuring that each student receives the support they need to thrive in all areas of their education. We eagerly anticipate reviewing the results and using them to inform our teaching focus, but most importantly, we remain committed to fostering a love of learning and a growth mindset in every student.

From the Principal's Desk...

HARMONY WEEK

Our school will celebrate Harmony Day with an evening event on Wednesday 1st April. Recognising that our school, surrounding suburbs, Melbourne and indeed Australia is a richer environment for celebrating the diverse backgrounds that families bring to our country. Some facts that may generate some interesting discussion in our classrooms and at home:

- Over the past 70 years, more than seven and a half million migrants have made Australia home.
- Almost half of Australians were either born overseas or have a parent who was.
- We identify with around 300 ancestries.
- Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations.
- Australia is one of the most successful multicultural countries in the world.

Thank you to the organising committee of: **Kellie Williams, Cat Watts, Gab Robinson, Tess Neaves, Despina Doubakis, Effie Pilakis, Libby McLeod, Kyle Wells** and **Stacey Lolos**.



2025 Harmony Fiesta

From the Principal's Desk...

Greek Independence Day

Greek Independence Day, celebrated annually on March 25th, marks the start of the Greek War of Independence in 1821 against the Ottoman Empire. It is a national holiday symbolizing freedom and unity, coinciding with the Greek Orthodox feast of the Annunciation. The day is marked by parades, church services, and traditional food, notably fried cod (bakaliaros).

Thank you to **Meny, Rosey** and the **16 students and their families** that supported Greek Independence Day by Marching on Sunday 22nd March.

Passover

Passover (Pesach in Hebrew) is a major Jewish spring festival celebrating freedom and family as we remember the Exodus from Egypt more than 3,000 years ago. The main observances of this holiday centre around a special home service called the seder, which includes a festive meal, the prohibition on eating chametz, and the eating of matzah.

On the 15th day of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar, Jews gather with family and friends in the evening to read from a book called the Haggadah, meaning "telling," which contains the order of prayers, rituals, readings, and songs for the Passover seder. The Haggadah helps us retell the events of the Exodus, so that each generation may learn and remember this story that is so central to Jewish life and history.

Passover is celebrated for either seven or eight days, depending on family and communal custom. In Israel and for most Reform Jews around the world, Passover is seven days, but for many other Jews, it is eight days.

From the Principal's Desk...

Parent Financial Contributions 2026

Thanks to the families who have paid a financial contribution to Clarinda PS in 2026. If you have overlooked contributing, please consider supporting Clarinda PS to offer the highest standards of learning through your financial support. For us, its all about our students and giving them the best possible standard of learning. Hopefully you agree that our students are a worthwhile investment and that we want better than a standard curriculum for them.

But doesn't the State government pay for this?

All schools are government funded for a standard curriculum. It's a base level of funding which is a good start, but what we are really aiming for is much better than standard. Surely we want better for our students than standard!

How is the money parents contribute used?

Parent contributions are used to take our curriculum from being just 'standard' to a level that we consider to be excellent. For example, in our STEM lab we have a variety of robotics that our students use. We continually upgrade laptops and iPads under a 3 year leasing plan.

We also use the money to buy art materials, sports equipment, stationery, first aid supplies, STEM resources, language resources, books, musical instruments etc.

We only ask for what we use!

Compared to other schools we only request a moderate parental contribution. I read in the Age recently about one school that request \$990.00 each year. Our request is around \$330 so there's a big difference. We will always consider any request we make carefully and hope that in doing so our families are more likely to come onboard.

Thanks for your consideration, remember that every contribution to Clarinda PS goes straight into learning programs for our students/your children.

From the Principal's Desk...

End Term 1: Assembly will be held on the synthetic grassed area from 9:10am on Thursday 2nd April. If the weather is inclement, a WebEx link will be sent via Compass on the morning.

End of term dismissal and bell times:

9.00am – 10.40am – Students in their classrooms or assembly
10.40am – 11.00am – Recess play
11.00am – 12.40pm – Students will be in their classrooms
12.40pm – 12.50pm – Students eat lunch
12.50pm – 1.50pm – Lunch play
1.50pm – 2.30pm – Students will be in class.
2.30pm – Dismissal

Term 2: Resumes on Monday 20th April

Foundation Enrolments

Please be advised that Foundation enrolments for 2027 open on Monday 20th April, the first day back in Term 2!

ANZAC DAY Service

Clarinda PS will have a special ANZAC DAY ceremony on Friday, 24th April at 12:40pm. This special ceremony will replace our school assembly. These are always very touching events and provide a great way to teach our children about the importance and significance of ANZAC Day.

See you around the school
Robbie Mallett

Office News!



Year 6-7 Transition (Relevant for Year 6 families)

The State-wide year 6-7 transition process will begin in the first week of next term, with all Grade 6 students in Victoria receiving a transition information pack. This pack will detail the transition process, including the relevant paperwork required to apply for secondary schools.

Please keep an eye out for this very important information early next term. In the meantime, we encourage our senior students and their families to attend open days/night and tour Secondary Schools in the area to become familiar with the possible schools your child may attend. If interested, please contact your local Catholic or Independent Secondary Schools to inquire into their enrolment process, as they differ from the shared process of all Government Secondary Schools.

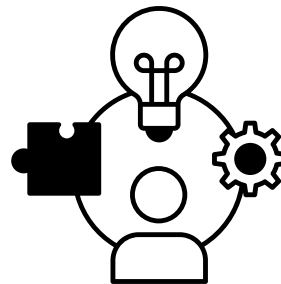
Victorian High Ability Program

We are proud to acknowledge several of our Year 5/6 students who participated in the Victorian High Ability Program (VHAP) in Term 1.

VHAP is a Department of Education initiative that supports high-ability students by providing extension opportunities in English and Mathematics. Across the term, students participated in weekly online sessions, engaging in rich and challenging learning experiences alongside peers from across Victoria.

Congratulations to the following students:

- **Vedhika** – English
- **Louis G** – Maths
- **Diana** – English
- **Tanaaz** – English
- **Ariana** – Maths
- **Declan** – Maths



This is a fantastic achievement, and we commend these students on their dedication and effort throughout the program.

Elley Borland
Learning Specialist – Assessment & Data

Chaplaincy Corner

Cultivating children's awe, wonder and care for our planet

School holidays can be stressful for families. Particularly when the enthusiasm of the first few days wears off and kids keep saying "I'm bored, I need the iPad" while refusing to go and play outside.

Why not make art with the weather?

Research shows how playful activities can develop children's understanding of nature and grow environmentally conscious citizens. Creating art with weather is a multisensorial experience that immerses children in their local environment.

On a cloudy day: lie on your back outside and put a piece of A4 paper on your tummy. With a pencil or marker draw the clouds as they move across the sky. This way of drawing helps you draw what you see, not what you think you see. "Blind contour drawing" (not looking at the paper) also develops hand eye coordination and drawing skills.

On a windy, rainy day: Use water activated pencils (pencils that turn to paint when wet) or water-soluble textas to make marks on a piece of paper. This could be a drawing of the landscape as you see it. Leave the paper outside to be rained on and blown about. Let it dry and then work on it again, adding to the crinkles in the paper and marks made by dirt to create a different type of landscape.

On a sunny day: Put a piece of paper on a clipboard and go on a shadow hunt. Look for interesting shadows cast by plants and place the paper under the shadow and simply trace around the shadows edge. This helps develop observational skills.

On a still day: Close your eyes and draw what you hear. Or you could explore what you feel in terms of texture by touching something, such as the rough bark of a tree, and drawing with the other hand.

On any kind of day: Make drawings on the ground using sticks and leaves, feathers and stones anything else you find outside. This activity provides an opportunity to talk about the beasties that live in the leaf litter and dirt.

Enjoy your holiday together and see you next term!

Rose Cook, School Chaplain.

This article is a summary of an article republished from [The Conversation](#) under a Creative Commons license. [Naomi Zouwer](#), Visual Artist and Lecturer in Teacher Education, [University of Canberra](#); [Ann Hill](#), Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Education, University of Canberra, and [Bethaney Turner](#), Associate Professor, Centre for Creative and Cultural Research, Faculty of Arts and Design, [University of Canberra](#)

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

| | | |
|--------|---------------------------|--|
| Prep B | Emily Archie Arjuna | For being brave and putting her hand up during class discussions! For being a kind and helpful member of Prep B! For working hard on his letter sounds in his writing! |
| Prep W | Anson Noah | For making positive choices in the playground and classroom. For being a conscientious learner by working diligently on the task at hand. |
| Prep Y | Apollo Angelena | For making great letter choices in writing. For making excellent progress in learning the alphabet this term. |
| 1/2 P | Grace | For writing a detailed narrative story. |
| 1/2 T | Sudeshna Aaliyah | Being such a hard worker and always helpful in the classroom. For outstanding presentation on her narrative fiction book. |
| 3/4 A | Noor | For working hard in class and participating in all lessons. Great work! |
| 3/4 D | Tejas Haru | For getting his pen license because of his great cursive handwriting. Well done! For being an amazing classroom helper this week. Well done! |
| 3/4 E | Leo Thenuja | For showing great effort to improve his handwriting and making positive choices in the classroom. For working well with others in group activities. |
| 3/4 M | George Subheg | For always trying his best and being a kind and respectful member of 3/4M. For being a kind and respectful member of 3/4M who always tries his best. |
| 5/6 A | Sofia Hana | For building confidence throughout the day and believing in herself on GALA Day. For displaying a growth mindset in Maths. |
| 5/6 D | Katerina Declan | For being a helpful classmate, assisting other students when needed. For showing great sportsmanship and including others on GALA Day. |
| 5/6 N | Aadi Oliver | For being a supportive and encouraging team player on Gala Day. For never giving up and trying his best on Gala Day! |

Community Advertising

AUTUMN School Holiday Program

Neighbourhood Houses The Heart of Our Community City of KINGSTON

Westall Community Hub
 35 Fairbank Rd, Clayton South
 9581 3050
 westallhub@kingston.vic.gov.au

Bop Till You Drop Disco
 Get ready to disco! Join us for dancing, singing and games with a professional entertainer. Fun for all ages, however parent supervision is required. BYO water bottle.
Thursday 9 April | 2pm - 3:30pm
FREE | All ages | Bookings required

Butterfly Adventures Enclosure
 This one-hour program will begin with an interactive hands-on presentation about the lifecycle of a butterfly and the amazing body parts that a butterfly has. Then, in small groups, the participants will rotate through activities that include science, discovery, art, books and the live butterfly tent. In the tent they will be able to feed the butterflies, and also have the butterflies sit on them if they wish.
Tuesday 14 April | 2pm - 3pm
FREE | Ages 5+ | Bookings required

Paper Craft Workshop
 Let's get crafty! Join us for a fun-filled paper craft workshop where little artists can cut, fold and design their own unique paper creations. From colourful collages and decorations to paper chains and dolls, this hands-on workshop is perfect for kids who love to create.
Wednesday 15 April | 11am - 12pm
FREE | Ages 5+ | Bookings required

For more information and bookings please call 9581 3050 or email westallhub@kingston.vic.gov.au

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE! Children must be accompanied by a guardian for these events.

WWW.KINGSTONBASKETBALL.ORG

KINGSTON BASKETBALL ACADEMY

KINGSTON SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS

REGISTER NOW!

9-17 APRIL 2026 SPRINGERS LEISURE CENTRE KEYSBOROUGH

SKILLS & SCORING CAMPS
 AGES 7-14
 9.30AM-3PM
 PRICE: \$100 PER DAY
 REDUCED TO \$85 PER DAY FOR MULTIPLE DAYS

COMBINES BALL HANDLING, FINISHING & SHOOTING INTO ONE POWERFUL TRAINING EXPERIENCE DESIGNED TO BUILD CONFIDENCE & CONSISTENCY ON THE COURT

REP CAMPS
 U14/16/18S
 3PM-5.30PM
 PRICE: \$55 PER DAY
 REDUCED TO \$45 PER DAY FOR MULTIPLE DAYS

COMBINES ADVANCED SKILL WORK, GAME SPEED DECISION-MAKING, COMPETITIVE SCRIMMAGES & CONDITIONING. IT'S FAST, FOCUSED & DESIGNED TO KEEP ATHLETES PERFORMING AT THEIR PEAK

STARDOM Registrations now open

REGISTRATIONS FOR THE CHORAL SECTION OF THE 71ST ANNUAL EISTEDDFOD BY THE BAY ARE NOW OPEN.

WE WELCOME ENROLLMENTS FROM SCHOOLS AND OPEN AGE COMMUNITY CHOIRS.

REGISTER NOW BY VISITING THE SITE [HTTPS://WWW.STARDOM.COM.AU/](https://www.stardom.com.au/) AND SEARCHING FOR EISTEDDFOD BY THE BAY.

REGISTER NOW

June 18th, 2026, Kingston City hall.

We look forward to hearing from you.
 For queries and information please contact
eisteddfodbythebay@gmail.com

Winni Wizard AND HER MAGICAL SMELLS

KIDS COMEDY AGE 4+

3-19 APRIL, 110PM (NO MONDAYS)
 ACMI- GANDEL LAB,
 FED SQUARE, MELBOURNE
 TIX: COMEDYFESTIVAL.COM.AU

2026 MELBOURNE COMEDY FESTIVAL

Community Advertising



WESTALL
Secondary College

Open Night

Tuesday 31st March, 6pm

Come and see what makes Westall Secondary College unique.

School Tours weekly:
- Mondays 9:30am
- Wednesdays 12:30pm

88 Rosebank Avenue, Clayton South VIC 3169
P: 9546 3233 www.westallsc.vic.edu.au

Aim High
iCreate



Scan to register for the Open Night or a School tour



A government school for everygirl from everywhere

'Show & Tell'

7pm, Tuesday 28 April, 2026

A student-led information night
Registration not required

Visit on a typical day
Book a Tour



mentone girls'
secondary college

175 Balcombe Road, Mentone Vic 3194 mgsc.vic.edu.au



Mini Picklers Ages 9-13 Holiday Program

PicklePlay

Indoor Pickleball

Fun, Inclusive, Active, Social

7th April, 9th April, 14th April, 16th April, (9am to 12pm)

www.pickleplaydingley.com.au/holiday-program