**Term 1, 2013**

Fri 1 Feb
   - All students at school

Wed 6, 13, 20, 27 Feb
   - Prep Assessment and Interviews—No school for Preps

Thur 7, 14, 21, 28 Feb & 7, 14 Mar
   - Grade 5/6 Interschool Sport
      (some grade 4 students also)

Mon 11–Thur 14 Feb (* tentative *)
   - Parent Information nights

Tue 12 Feb
   - School Council Meeting

Fri 15 Feb (* tentative *)
   - Family Fun Night

Mon 4—Fri 8 Mar
   - Full week for Prep students

Thurs 21 Mar
   - Interschool Sport Finals

Tues 26 Mar
   - School Photo Day

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**School Terms 2013**

1st Term  30th Jan - 28th Mar
2nd Term  15th Apr - 28th Jun
3rd Term  15th Jul - 20th Sep
4th Term  7th Oct - 20th Dec

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**Dear Parents,**

Welcome Back to Clayton South Primary School—2013. What a terrific start to a great year!

So much work has happened over the summer holiday period in our school. The maintenance work has been completed on the library exterior walls and barge boards making the Library building look smart and well kept. The dark brown beams inside the library have been painted a lighter colour. Every exterior door in our school has been painted in a bright, blue colour that is fresh and clean. The spouts and drains have been cleaned out on every building and the gardens and grounds are looking well-kept and enhance our school buildings. We have a great learning environment for our fantastic students and staff offering super classrooms in a beautiful treed environment.
Preps begin their education today!

It’s terrific to see so many confident young students entering their classroom although there were some nervous parents trying very hard to fight back the tears! I would like to congratulate Mrs. Fairlie Halligan on the wonderful work she does to make this day such a smooth transition into school for your children. Our preps are so grown up, most of them happily going out into the playground with the bigger kids to play. This is fantastic!

The Preps have very colourful rooms that I know they will find intriguing. Fairlie Halligan has developed fantastic, learning spaces for our preps to explore and learn happily together. Fairlie has a new friend in her room “Blizzard Lizard.” What a fat, happy girl she is too! She has had many delicious treats over the holidays at Mrs. Halligan’s house!

The Year 1/2 teachers Lisa Halstead and Annie Tayleur have created a great learning environment with large open spaces, movable walls with a computer bank, interactive whiteboards focus areas, visual arts space and individual learning areas! It’s just fantastic and every child has settled in so well.

I know the students in Year 3/4 will be excited. Their year promises to be a terrific year with experienced teachers, Nerina Deathridge and Leanne Monk. A great year for our students moving from Year 2 into Middle School!

Our Senior School is located at the Clayton Road end of the main corridor with Irene Dornau and Jessica Mitchell. The Senior Lounge and Computer Lab are so beneficial to our senior students’ lifelong learning. This is a fantastic senior learning environment where our students work collaboratively together.
How exciting to know we have Valeska Castillo in our highly regarded Visual Arts Program where every child in our school loves to create masterpieces in the art room. Our art room has had the windows painted too! I know we will have another great year of fantastic art that our students excel in.

Our talented Visual Arts students gaining inspiration in the vegie patch.

Grade 1/2 students are drawing under the watching gaze of our stunning sunflower.

You never know….your child could be the next “Van Gogh”

We are to congratulate Trish Magree for developing a unique program in our school meshing environmental Science into a Sustainability Program last year. Now in 2013 we again have Prep to Six program focusing on a major science component! This is to be celebrated and supported. Trish will be working 2 days a week on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Thank you to Heather Douglass for a Physical Education and Health Program that our students really enjoy. Already Heather is organizing Year 4, 5 & 6 students in our Inter School Sports Program that begins next week.

If you are available to train our students at lunchtimes or after school in basketball, softball, cricket or volleyball skills please come and see Heather or myself asap. We need your assistance!

How exciting to have our new Language Centre!

Lynne Foster will be working on Mondays and Fridays, with students who have English as an Alternative Language (EAL). This will be with Prep to Year 6 students who are new to our country. Valeska Castillo will be teaching Spanish to our students on Wednesdays in our Language Centre. This new centre will also be developing student’s speech with Fiona Balfe, our Speech and Language Literacy Pathologist, and Hue Truong, our Education Support person, will be working with students requiring Vietnamese, Mandarin or Cantonese assistance.

During this year I hope to develop more language classes for our students with community volunteers. If you are interested in this program please come and see me.
WOW! In 2015 we will have a Kindergarten opening on our school site! This is just what we want for our three Play Groups being directed by Toni already on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We have children’s names on a waiting list! So we will be 0-12 years of age primary school. Our enrolment numbers for Clayton South are predicted to go through the roof in the next 5 years by the City of Kingston. This kindergarten is costing $1.3 million and we are already busy working with the architect on an innovative and sustainable facility.

The book collection day was Thursday 24th January for all our families. The office was open for long hours and many families collected their children’s book boxes. Thank you to Gay Kuzmiuk for her fantastic work in organising these payments for the implementation of all our various curriculum programs.

Please pay as soon as possible for your child to take pride in their learning in keeping their books neat and tidy.

If you have a Centrelink pensioner, concession or health care card then please make sure you complete an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) form so that you can receive financial assistance for your school fee payment. EMA forms are available from the school office and need to be returned to Gay Kuzmiuk by Friday 8th February.

2013 New Staff.

We have three new members of staff to our wonderful, school community in 2013. We are thrilled to introduce to our caring, school community, Annie Tayleur and Jessica Mitchell, new graduate teachers to our staff who are teaching Year 1/2 and 5/6. Please make them feel very welcome.

We are also welcoming our new admin staff member (and newsletter editor-in-chief) Judy Emmett. Judy will be working with Gay in the school office on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

In 2013 our teaching staff are:

Principal Lynne Dickins
Assistant Principal Lynne Foster

Specialists
Prep Fairlie Halligan
1/2 Lisa Halstead
1/2 Annie Tayleur
3/4 Nerina Deathridge
3/4 Leanne Monk
5/6 Irene Dornau
5/6 Jessica Mitchell

Language Centre & Performing Arts Program

Parent Information Evening and Meet the Parent Session

We will be organising a Parent Information Evening in February and Meet the Parent Session where you do the talking to inform your child’s teacher of any information required to teach your child. More information about this in the next Newsletter! Tentative dates are listed in our diary section on page 1.
Photocopying Paper

Parents I am seeking your help! I know every year students are asked to bring a box of tissues to school for their classroom. I am asking you for a voluntary contribution of one ream of photocopying paper ($5.00) per child for the year. As we have this immense cost of photocopying to the school and the extra demands we now have on photocopiers with the use of many digital cameras across the school and the printing of photos. Every colour print costs 17 cents per copy.

This puts huge demands on the purchasing of paper, print cartridges and use of the photocopiers. If you are able to assist with one ream of paper per child, please give it to your child’s teacher. I know it would be greatly appreciated by the staff and children alike.

Extreme Weather

When we have extreme weather conditions, measures are put in place to keep all students inside during recess and lunchtimes. I would urge parents to send your child/children to school with frozen water bottles, pieces of fruit and naturally all students must wear their NAMED school hat in term one and four.

Information from DEECD

This is a directive from Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD). I have been asked to pass this information onto parents/guardians as the principal of our school.

DEECD does not hold insurance for any personal property brought to school. Staff, students and parents need to understand this. Nor does it provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and Guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured student, including any transport costs. There are reasonable low cost accident insurance policies available from commercial insurance sector. This is information all parent/guardians need to be aware of.

Dickins’ Chickens

Over the holidays our wonderful mentoring person, David, looked after our chickens every day. We are so grateful to David for giving up his time to feed and water the chickens. I know you will join with me in thanking David so much. The Webb, Black and McMurray families were also most supportive of David.

Keep Smiling
Lynne Dickins
Principal
Our prep students enjoying their first day of school!