Dear Parents,

Well, what a hot evening we had last night! Hope you were able to keep cool and sleep reasonably well. The students have their water bottles and we ask them to regularly keep drinking through the day. When we have days in the high 30's we keep the students inside at lunchtime out of the sweltering hot sun. It also stops the students from running around and over-heating.

Inter-School Sport

Today the Year 4, 5 & 6 students are taking part in the first Interschool Sports at Wallarano Primary School. Our PE teacher, Mrs Douglass, Senior School teachers and Mrs Foster have been busy practising softball, basketball, cricket and volleyball during the week. All the smiles on the students' faces this morning show they are eager and ready to go! We wish them good luck and great sportsmanship! It’s a great opportunity for our students to participate in sport with other schools.

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!

Students must be at school

I hope everyone has had a great first full week back at school. Our students are so happy to be back. Ask them about CAFÉ reading and IPICK books that we do from Prep - Year 6 as our Reading Program.

It is lovely to have most of our students back at school this week and it is very important that they come to school every day. Our curriculum is full and the 2 hour Literacy Block and one hour Numeracy Block EVERY day is planned thoroughly by the teachers for your child’s level of understanding. So no student should be away unless they are ill.
**Book packs**

We were delighted with the number of parents who purchased their child/children's book pack for them to begin their school year with all their books, pens and pencils clearly named. The students were so proud to have their own belongings and to be responsible for them.

We do ask that you finalise your purchase of the book packs by next week unless you have discussed this issue with me. Thanks for being such a wonderful supportive community.

Happy New Year – 2013 Year of the Snake

On behalf of the International Education Division, I would like to wish schools and International students a happy and prosperous New Year in 2013 – The Year of the Snake. This is for the Chinese and Vietnamese students who celebrate Chinese New Year this Friday 8th February.

Sue Christophers

Executive Director

International Education Division

www.study.vic.gov.au

**School Council Elections**

Each year half of the School Council retires and an election process is undertaken. Please read the Information for Parents sheet that is attached to this Newsletter and do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss anything concerning the School Council.

The retiring members from School Council this year are as follows:

*Parent Representatives Category:*

Jo Tyson, Maria Pagomenos, Christine Mizzi, Lucy Nimorakiotakis and Dimitra Kiryakidis

*Department Of Education and Training Employee Category:*

Heather Kyle, Nerina Deathridge and Emma Dove

I take the opportunity to thank the above people for their time, efforts and willingness to serve on the School Council to ensure the betterment of Clayton South Primary School. The above retiring members are able to re-nominate for the vacancies.

Therefore, I now call for nominations, as of Thursday 14th February 2013, for the 5 Parent Representative Category and the 3Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Category vacancies for School Council.

Nomination forms are available from the school office with nominations closing on Thursday 28th February 2013. I am really looking forward to my fourth year working with the Clayton South School Council.
Clayton & Dingley Landfill Forum

On Tuesday 5th February I attended the Clayton & Dingley Landfill Forum at the Clarinda Community Centre from 6.00-9.00pm.

Keith Greaves was the facilitator providing collaborative discussion for both communities, local industries, state and local governments, EPA Victoria and others. The stakeholders voice their concerns regarding odour, dust and contaminated water run-off and other environmental impacts. This was an extremely well organised forum with excellent presentations from EPA, City of Kingston, TOAG (Toxic Odour Action Group), Environmix, Transpacific Industries and Clayton Regional Landfill addressing the actions being taken to address odour, dust and other environment impacts associated with landfills in our area.

EPA has an excellent record card on the premises with Long Term Goals for effective management of leachate, landfill gas & compost facilities and minimizing odour impact on the community.

What is leachate?

Leachate is a widely used term in the environmental sciences where it has the specific meaning of a liquid that has dissolved or entrained environmentally harmful substances which may then enter the environment.

Another goal is to have effective onsite management of odour, dust, contaminated water runoff and all other potential environmental impacts. The company Enviromix, Grange Road, Dingley Village is a composting facility that receives and processes thousands of tonnes of green organic waste every year.

They have invited local residents to an open day on Saturday 6th April 8.30 -11.00am with guided tours. Transpacific are conducting education programs in local schools explaining the major actions they have implemented to improve the odour, dust and litter. They have installed 18 new gas extraction bores and gas collection wells. Next meeting is on 28th May at Clarinda Community Centre you are most welcome to attend.

Parents and Friends Association (PFA) News

Icy poles for sale every Friday at lunchtime 70c for a tube and $1.50 for an icy pole - great way to help the students stay cool during this hot weather while helping out the school too!

Tuesday 12th February is “Pancake Tuesday” - pancakes will be available at recess for $1 (yum!)

** COMING UP SOON — SAVE THE DATE **
Friday 1st March is Family Fun Night from 5-7pm
BYO picnic Hip Hop performers
Drinks, Lollies and Icy poles will be on sale
Great opportunity to catch up with school friends & family

More information to follow in future editions of “Under The Gazebo”.

What is leachate?

Leachate is a widely used term in the environmental sciences where it has the specific meaning of a liquid that has dissolved or entrained environmentally harmful substances which may then enter the environment.

Another goal is to have effective onsite management of odour, dust, contaminated water runoff and all other potential environmental impacts. The company Enviromix, Grange Road, Dingley Village is a composting facility that receives and processes thousands of tonnes of green organic waste every year.

They have invited local residents to an open day on Saturday 6th April 8.30 -11.00am with guided tours. Transpacific are conducting education programs in local schools explaining the major actions they have implemented to improve the odour, dust and litter. They have installed 18 new gas extraction bores and gas collection wells. Next meeting is on 28th May at Clarinda Community Centre you are most welcome to attend.

Parents and Friends Association (PFA) News

Icy poles for sale every Friday at lunchtime 70c for a tube and $1.50 for an icy pole - great way to help the students stay cool during this hot weather while helping out the school too!

Tuesday 12th February is “Pancake Tuesday” - pancakes will be available at recess for $1 (yum!)

** COMING UP SOON — SAVE THE DATE **
Friday 1st March is Family Fun Night from 5-7pm
BYO picnic Hip Hop performers
Drinks, Lollies and Icy poles will be on sale
Great opportunity to catch up with school friends & family

More information to follow in future editions of “Under The Gazebo”.

What is leachate?

Leachate is a widely used term in the environmental sciences where it has the specific meaning of a liquid that has dissolved or entrained environmentally harmful substances which may then enter the environment.

Another goal is to have effective onsite management of odour, dust, contaminated water runoff and all other potential environmental impacts. The company Enviromix, Grange Road, Dingley Village is a composting facility that receives and processes thousands of tonnes of green organic waste every year.

They have invited local residents to an open day on Saturday 6th April 8.30 -11.00am with guided tours. Transpacific are conducting education programs in local schools explaining the major actions they have implemented to improve the odour, dust and litter. They have installed 18 new gas extraction bores and gas collection wells. Next meeting is on 28th May at Clarinda Community Centre you are most welcome to attend.

Parents and Friends Association (PFA) News

Icy poles for sale every Friday at lunchtime 70c for a tube and $1.50 for an icy pole - great way to help the students stay cool during this hot weather while helping out the school too!

Tuesday 12th February is “Pancake Tuesday” - pancakes will be available at recess for $1 (yum!)

** COMING UP SOON — SAVE THE DATE **
Friday 1st March is Family Fun Night from 5-7pm
BYO picnic Hip Hop performers
Drinks, Lollies and Icy poles will be on sale
Great opportunity to catch up with school friends & family

More information to follow in future editions of “Under The Gazebo”.

What is leachate?

Leachate is a widely used term in the environmental sciences where it has the specific meaning of a liquid that has dissolved or entrained environmentally harmful substances which may then enter the environment.

Another goal is to have effective onsite management of odour, dust, contaminated water runoff and all other potential environmental impacts. The company Enviromix, Grange Road, Dingley Village is a composting facility that receives and processes thousands of tonnes of green organic waste every year.

They have invited local residents to an open day on Saturday 6th April 8.30 -11.00am with guided tours. Transpacific are conducting education programs in local schools explaining the major actions they have implemented to improve the odour, dust and litter. They have installed 18 new gas extraction bores and gas collection wells. Next meeting is on 28th May at Clarinda Community Centre you are most welcome to attend.

Parents and Friends Association (PFA) News

Icy poles for sale every Friday at lunchtime 70c for a tube and $1.50 for an icy pole - great way to help the students stay cool during this hot weather while helping out the school too!

Tuesday 12th February is “Pancake Tuesday” - pancakes will be available at recess for $1 (yum!)

** COMING UP SOON — SAVE THE DATE **
Friday 1st March is Family Fun Night from 5-7pm
BYO picnic Hip Hop performers
Drinks, Lollies and Icy poles will be on sale
Great opportunity to catch up with school friends & family

More information to follow in future editions of “Under The Gazebo”.
Before and After School Care

Please fill in the form below, and return it to the school office, if you would like “Before and After School Care”. Some new parents have shown a disappointment that our school community does not provide this facility. The Kingston City Council is interested in providing this program if we have enough families interested.

Expression of Interest—Before and After School Care

Parent Name: ________________________________
Contact Number: ____________________________

Yes, I am interested in my child/ren attending

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before School Care</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After School Care</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Photocopying Paper

I am asking again for just one ream of paper if you can kindly assist it would be greatly appreciated. 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 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.

Keep Smiling and stay cool!

Lynne Dickins
Principal

Sustainability News from Mrs Magree

Welcome back to our green thumbs at Clayton South Primary. Your garden is looking great with lots of smiling sunflowers to brighten up the first term. To see more of our stunning sunflowers from the comfort of your living room, visit our school website: www.claytonsouthps.vic.edu.au

Thanks very much to Kirstie Robinson and Louise Dorr for the Sunflower seeds and seedlings they donated to help the health of our organic kitchen garden. Thanks also to those families that looked after our chickens and garden over the holidays. The garden is a community venture so any input, donations and ideas are always welcome.
The garden has grown lots over the holidays and last week we were able to harvest some delicious zucchinis and tomatoes. The junior students did some gardening and taste testing while the senior students harvested and cooked a simple ratatouille. This term we will continue our 'Seed to Table' program and we hope to cook every second week.

Our second topic this term is 'Endangered'. We will investigate how we can aim to protect environments and create a more ecological and socially just world through informed action. The students are aiming to adopt a "Phillip Island Fairy Penguin" to assist this topic.
TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2013 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan, and Spain will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

Monash Children’s Fundraising Walk in Jells Park

Monash Children’s is the third largest provider of children’s services in Australia. We care for children from the south-eastern suburbs and across Victoria, providing a wide variety of important services, leading international research projects and developing innovative programs in often neglected areas of children’s health.

On Sunday February 24, 2013 the first ever Walk for Monash Children’s will be held at Jells Park. If any students and their families would like to participate in this terrific community event, please drop by the school office for an Information Pack which contains details about the event, a registration form and sponsor sheet.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students and their families to support a local children’s hospital while promoting active and health lifestyles.
Appendix A: School Council Elections – Information for Parents

School Council Elections 2013

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

There are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

A mandated elected DEECD employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

standing for election as a member of the school council

encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.
What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.

Consider standing for election to council this year.

Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact Lynne Dickins for further information.