Exceeding all Expectations!

Our wonderful students are making amazing progress in 2013! We are recognised as a school with huge potential. We have 3 Playgroups and an Early Learning Centre beginning in Term 2. Our new Kindergarten, valued at $1.8 million, is being built on our site and will be opening in 2015! The City of Kingston figures show how the population in our area is rapidly growing and our school demography predicts the need for kindergarten places, play groups and schools will grow.

So our future is definitely a positive one as we will grow rapidly over the next few years.

Annual Report 2013

I have just written the Annual Report for 2013 and I would like to share with you many of our successes at Clayton South Primary School. We, as a Multicultural Community, should be very proud of what we achieve together.

Our Year 3 Reading results in NAPLAN were the 5th Highest in Like Schools Nationally.

This is a sensational result that we need to really celebrate! Not only in reading but in Persuasive Writing were our results extremely high. Please inform your friends of how well we teach reading, writing and maths at our school. Congratulations to our teachers, students and parents.

Greek School

We have booked Greek School in 2014 to use our classrooms for their after school Greek lessons. The Greek School has been something many Greek families have been seeking. We will still provide Greek Junior and Senior School on Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes. Our Greek students love this program!
Today is Harmony Day

What is Harmony Day?

The message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. It is a day to celebrate Australia’s diversity. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world.

What does harmony mean? What are some examples of harmony in nature/harmony in the world?

Take some time this week to talk to your children about the people in your family and your heritage. You could engage your children in a discussion about Harmony and Harmony Day. You could chat about how you differ from each other, and how you are alike? Why not list all the groups to which your family belong eg team, family, friendship group, hobby. Are there specific colours in your cultures? Make a list of colours, then ask people from a variety of different cultural backgrounds what each colour represents to their culture. What an amazing way to learn about our family & friends.

We should all be proud that our country is so amazing & diverse

- Around 7 million people have migrated to Australia since 1945
- Australia identifies with approximately 300 ancestries
- 45% of Australians are either born overseas or have a parent who was born overseas

Clayton South Choir

Wow we are very thrilled to announce an interest in starting up "Clayton South Primary School Choir" in Term 2. If you would like to be involved in this lunchtime program please come and see me. The students would love to be involved in a choir, they will be able to sing in assembly, visit the Kinders and the Retirement homes in the area. Another great CSPS program!

We had fun and cleaned up our school

On Friday 15th March from 2.30 - 5.00pm Year 5/6 students were asked to weed the gardens, pull out couch grass under the senior playground equipment, clean out the drains and sweep up the leaves. We did so much work and our students were eager to do a fantastic job. Thank you to Ben’s grand-father, the Leap, Pagomenos, Webb, Hoac, Malotsis, Mizzi, Jones-Wilson and Smith families for attending the working bee.

** DON'T FORGET **

It is School Photo Day on Wednesday 27th March

Photo payment envelopes sent home on Monday need to be brought to the school on WEDNESDAY with CORRECT MONEY

Please see Gay in the office if you would like a Family Photo (as a separate payment envelope is required)

Have you lost or not received a Photo payment envelope? Please see Gay in the office for a spare copy!

It's a boy!!

Sundowner Kindergarten are very proud to announce the arrival of Debbie and Dion’s baby.

Bodhi Finn arrived on 7th March @ 6.15pm, weighing 2470 grams. Mother and son both coping well.
Early Learning Centre

Remember to talk to the community about our Early Learning Centre for 3-5 year old children. The children will attend the program on Tuesdays from 9.00-11.00am where the parents are NOT required to stay.

We have always had the original Step Into Prep program at Clayton South Primary for many, many years. We now have 3 very successful Playgroup sessions (operating on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday).

We have been requested to implement an Early Learning Centre to prepare students for Prep in 2014. Watch this space for further information!

David Keystone - The Brain

Oh no! Yuck! I can't touch that! This is what I heard from the students in their 5/6 classrooms on Friday when David Keystone, a science educator, was cutting up a lamb's brain with a scalpel to show the students the cerebellum, cerebrum and the brain stem. Some interesting information! Did you know?

What is the brain?

The brain is the control centre for your body and it sits in your skull at the top of your spinal cord.

The brain has three main parts.

The cerebellum (say se-re-bell-um). The cerebrum (say se-re-brum), which has two parts, the left and right cerebral hemispheres, (say se-re-breell hem-iss-fears). The brain stem, that controls a lot of the ‘automatic’ actions of your body such as breathing and heart beat, and links the brain to the spinal cord and the rest of the body. Your brain is wrapped in 3 layers of tissue and floats in a special shock-proof fluid to stop it from getting bumped on the inside of your skull as your body moves around.

What the brain does

Your brain is more powerful, more complex and more clever than any computer ever built.

It is constantly dealing with hundreds of messages from the world around you, and from your body, and telling your body what to do.

It gets the messages from your senses - seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling, touching and moving. The messages travel from nerve cells all over the body. They travel along nerve fibres to nerve cells in the brain. Cranial nerves (say cray-nee-al) carry messages to and from the ears, eyes, nose, throat, tongue and skin on your face and scalp.

The spinal cord carries messages to and from the arms, legs and trunk of the body.

Sensory nerves collect the information and send it to the brain along one network then motor nerves take the brain’s orders back along another network (like cars travelling along their own side of the highway.)

(continue finding out more about the brain on page 4)
Are you a parent or guardian of a Grade 6 student?

The transition forms for Secondary colleges will be given out next term by April 17th. All grade 6 parents will need to return these forms to Mrs. Dornau by **May 17th**. Parents and children may wish to start visiting secondary colleges for tours and to also enquire about accelerated programs. Our grade 5/6 students will also visit Westall Secondary and South Oakleigh Secondary Colleges during the beginning of term 2.

We encourage parents to contact and visit all neighbouring schools. Opening days and nights will be held on the following dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secondary College</th>
<th>Open Day &amp; Date</th>
<th>Open Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oakleigh South Secondary College</td>
<td>Wednesday 27th March</td>
<td>7:00-8:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westall Secondary College</td>
<td>Thursday 18th April</td>
<td>9:30am-3:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheltenham Secondary College</td>
<td>Monday 22nd April</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bentleigh Secondary College</td>
<td>Monday 29th April</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**David Keystone - The Brain (continued from Page 3)**

Your brain collects all the information, sorts it out, thinks, remembers, creates, compares, solves problems and coordinates actions **all at the same time** - even when you’re asleep! (And you don't have to be 'plugged in' and 'online' either!)

If you get too tired or don’t eat enough food, your brain can’t do this as well as usual.

**Control centres of the brain**

Doctors and scientists have found that different parts of the brain are in charge of different things. Look at the diagram for an easy way to understand.

The **brain stem** is in charge of keeping the automatic systems of your body working. You don’t have to think about breathing, you just do it automatically, but you can decide if you want to hold your breath for a short time. You don’t have to think about your heart beating because your brain keeps it going automatically.

**Looking after your brain**

Your brain is protected inside your skull but could still be damaged if your head is hit or bumps into something hard. Always wear a helmet if you are riding a bike, scooter or skate board. Always wear a helmet for sports where you could be hit or fall, eg baseball or horse-riding. Never dive into water unless you know how deep it is. (Your brain should let you know that this is not a smart thing to do.)
David Keystone – The Brain (continued from Page 4)

Apart from making sure that you don’t injure your brain, you can also make sure that you help your brain by:

Eating healthy food like fish and fresh vegetables.

Exercising your brain by learning new things and trying to remember them.

Getting plenty of sleep.

Dr Kim says:

The human brain is so complex that doctors and scientists still don’t know what some parts of it do. They do know that if the brain is damaged, the damage often cannot be repaired. You can’t join brain cells together like you can do with bones. Doctors and scientists know how some of the brain works and can sometimes fix it when things go wrong, but the brain is truly amazing and we don’t know all its secrets yet.

Have a read of some of our Grade 5/6 student’s reflections after David Keystone’s visit on Friday on the following pages.

Keep smiling

It’s terrific to know the Footy Season is upon us starting this week. Remember next week is the last week of Term One when we will be dismissing the school at 2.30pm. Please make sure you make arrangements to pick up your children promptly at this time.

Warm regards

Lynne Dickins
Principal

March
23 George J
24 Nikita-Jo
25 Selin C
27 Theresa
28 Aswin
29 Andrew P
30 Sarah C
The Year 5/6 Brain Incursion

On Friday the 15th of March the year 5/6’s had an exciting time during an Incursion where they learned about the brain. Read more to find out the students’ favourite parts of the morning.

"Mr Keystone brought in some – wait for it … LAMB BRAINS – to show the class! He dissected it and pointed out the three main parts to the class. He even let us touch the brain and some people were brave enough to hold the brains, but I just touched it. I felt half disgusted and half fascinated through the whole thing and I learnt how squishy and slimy brains felt.” Raquel, 5/6A
“Last Friday Mr Keystone told us about brains and told us where the cerebellum, cerebrum and brain-stem are. My favourite session was holding the brain. It felt wet, cold, shiny and I was nervous because I was scared to touch it.” Shinta, 5/6A

“Mr Keystone showed us lots of games. One of them was a game called Rope Tangle. I worked with Shinta. We took one rope each. Then we put our ropes on our hands and tied them. One rope goes on top of another then we tried to separate the ropes. I learned how to escape from this situation. It was hard because we didn’t know how to do it. It was fun!” Anna, 5/6A
Student Absences

Did you know that the school now requires written confirmation from parents when your child or children are absent from school?

We have made it easy for you! Look at the back page of this newsletter for copies of student absence forms. Please complete these forms whenever your child or children are absent from school and return to the school.
SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 10AM–4PM

KIDS’ SPECTACULAR

MENTONE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

LOTS OF FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

BROOME AVENUE MENTONE

Respect • Responsibility • Resilience

SOUTH OAKLEY COLLEGE OPEN NIGHT

WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH 2013

Information session and tours • 7.00pm

Scholarships Available

For more information please contact 9579 2322

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Holiday workshops for tweens and teens aged 8 - 14

Wednesday 3rd to Friday 12th of April in Cheltenham

* Figurine Painting, * Jewellery Making, * Plasterkraft
* Scale Modelling, * Stitchery * Kumihimo **NEW KITS

Two sessions each day, lunch orders available.

Birthday Parties also available for weekend bookings!

patricia.plumb@kraftworks.com.au
Clayton South Primary School

STUDENT ABSENCE
Please fill this form in to assist us with our legal requirements

Name: .............................................................. Grade: ............

My child was absent on the following date/s: ........................................
Please fill in date/s absent from school

Due to ..............................................................
Please fill in reason for your child’s absence from school

Parent’s signature: .................................................. Date: ............

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