Dear Members of the Clayton South Primary School Community,

Welcome Back!
I hope that you had a very relaxing and enjoyable holiday break. As usual, the holiday period has passed by very quickly and we have now started another new school year. I hope that all families have had a very happy Christmas break and thoroughly enjoyed the family time together. It is terrific to see the children return happy, refreshed and ready for lots of learning even in the heat!

Welcome to our new students and their families
I would like to welcome all of our new children and their families and congratulate them on selecting our great school as their very important educational setting. We do have a wonderful school and I am sure the new students will thoroughly enjoy being part of the Clayton South Primary School community and family. I would like to extend a particular welcome to our new Foundation (Prep) students who started this Thursday and certainly demonstrated a sense of bubbly enthusiasm and feelings of true excitement as they experienced the first days of their primary education.

The beginning of the school year is most exciting as the children return to or begin school with a cheerful zest, spring in their feet and with a look of anticipation in their eyes! I am very confident that 2014 will be a great year for all of those associated with our wonderful school.

At Clayton South PS we believe that a positive and supportive relationship between home and school is essential to maximise learning achievement.

We extend an invitation for all families, old and new to meet with their child’s teachers for Information Nights on Monday 10th
February for Grades F-2 and Grade 5 and 6 and Monday 17th February for Grades 3 and 4. Each student will receive an invitation this week with details about the night including the specific time and place to meet. We would appreciate it, if all our student’s families could attend and we are happy to arrange interpreters where needed.

Staff in 2014
Unfortunately our substantive Principal, Lynne Dickins, will not be with us in Term 1 of 2014. Her sick leave from 2013 has been extended and we will notify you as soon as we know of any changes. Barbara Mothersdale, who has been at our school since the latter part of Term 4, 2013, as Acting Principal, and has worked over the holidays with Lynne Foster to ensure a smooth transition into 2014, has also had to take sick leave this term from Wednesday 29th January. Lynne Foster our Assistant Principal will now be our Acting Principal for Term 1, 2014.

The 2014 Staff Team at Clayton South Primary School is as follows:

Classroom Teachers:
- Foundation/Preps—Mrs Fairlie Halligan (PA) in Room 19
- Grade 1—Ms Annie Tayleur (1A) in Room 16
- Grade 2—Ms Lisa Halstead (2A) in Room 18
- Grades 3/4—Mrs Nerina Deathridge (3/4A) in Room 13
- Grades 3/4—Mrs Leanne Monk (3/4B) in Room 14
- Grades 5/6—Miss Jessica Mitchell (5/6A) in Room 8
- Grades 5/6—Mrs Irene Dornau (5/6B) in Room 9

Specialists
- PE—Mrs Heather Douglass
- Art/LOTE (Spanish) — Senorita Valeska Castillo

ES Staff—aides
- Junior School—Mrs Felicia Zinas
- Middle School—Mrs Anna Cardamone
- Senior School—Mrs Georgina Romero

Multicultural Aide—Mrs Hue Truong

Office Staff
- Business Manager—Mrs Gay Kuzmiuk
- Acting Principal—Mrs Lynne Foster

Congratulations to our 2014 captains

School Captains
- Andrew Leap & Natasha Theodoris

Vice Captains
- Antony Jones-Wilson & Asli Demirbas

Sports Captains
- Matthew Tyson & Margaret Derzotis

Vice Sports Captains
- James Nimorakiotakis & Mikara Roi

The captains will hopefully be presented with their badges at assembly in the next three weeks
Facilities Update

**Art Room** - We have been fortunate over the holidays to have had a major upgrade completed to our Art room. New vinyl has been installed, the room has been painted internally, there have been new pin boards put up and all the guttering and facia has been replaced. The students at Clayton South have always loved going to the art room and will really appreciate the new look.

**Ramp and railings** - Through the DEECD Accessible Building Program we gained a grant to enable us to improve wheelchair/pram access to the school. A new ramp has been installed at the entrance near the General Office and new steps and railings to the art room.

**Tablets** - F-2 students will have access now to new tablet technology which is very exciting. 13 tablets will be in use in this area in Term 1.

**Notebooks** - Years 5/6 began using their 30 new notebooks at the end of 2013 and they are asked to bring in their own headphones to use with their assigned notebook. They are excited to have larger screens and wireless technology at their fingertips.
Newsletters
This year we will be sending out a newsletter once a fortnight. We are eager to hear from any parent who has experience in "Publisher", who may be willing to help in the office once a fortnight. We are also keen to build up our distribution list of parent's emails so we can send the newsletter and other reminders electronically. Please leave your details at the office or let your teacher know if you can be contacted by email.

Nude Food
What is Nude Food? Nude Food refers to food which does not have any wrapping which is then thrown in rubbish bins. This year we aim to make an enormous difference in rubbish collected at school. We will be holding a Nude Food Day each Wednesday and we hope to have a significant impact on the amount of landfill being collected by our school!
We strongly encourage all families to prepare “nude food” by placing such items as sandwiches, biscuits and snacks in containers and leaving the wrapping at home. Each level will have a container near the entrance to their area to put containers in during the breaks, however we do need all containers to be labelled.

Book Packs 2014
Individual Book Supplies and School Accounts

I am extremely pleased to report that the vast majority of families have already settled their fees and have collected book supplies. Thank you to everyone for your support and for ensuring that we have had a very smooth start with the children being well resourced and ready to go! As mentioned previously, the family contributions are a vital component of the school’s ability to provide resources for us to implement the best possible education for all of the children. These funds enable us to continue to develop our ICT program and ensure that our students have access to Mathletics and Reading Eggs to use at home as well as at school.
If you are yet to settle your school account and need some assistance, please do not hesitate to see me.
If you are eligible for Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), please ensure you bring a valid health care or concession card and a completed EMA application form with you when you come to the office. EMA forms are available at the office.
Help your child ACHIEVE this year at school

World renowned “Parenting Educator” Michael Grose recently sent the following article to me as part of a series I regularly receive. His website, blogs, books and other resources are absolutely marvellous and I encourage all families to join by accessing his website at www.parentingideas.com.au

1 Know what your child’s teacher is trying to achieve.

Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child’s teachers and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child’s class.

2 Keep your expectations reasonable and positive.

If your expectations are too high they may give up. Too low and they will meet them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their ability and their interests. Also be realistic about what your child’s school can deliver. Sometimes our expectations of schools are not in line with their capabilities or their roles.

3 Support your teacher’s expectations & activities at home.

Teachers at various year levels and in different subject areas will have different requirements for home-based learning. One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

4 Send kids to school ready to learn and on time.

Maximise your child’s chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It’s estimated that many kids miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just five minutes a day.

5 Inform teachers of your child’s challenges and changes.

Life’s not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can alter. Friends move away. Illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child’s teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.
6 Skill children to work with others.

Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7 Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties.

Resist the temptation to solve all your children’s problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

8 Participate fully in class & school activities.

There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child’s schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve their learning then take a greater interest in their learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child’s teacher. This simple strategy acted upon will have a massive, long-term impact.

9 Trust your teacher’s knowledge, professionalism and experience.

Your child’s teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to make judgement calls about your child.

10 Talk up what happens at school.

Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school. This type of 10 point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three