

Clare Connection

STUDENT NEWS FROM CLARE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Term 4 Week 10

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From the Principal's Desk...

Hi everyone. Oh, what a year! There's one week to go in what has to be one of the most exciting and tumultuous years in our history. First and foremost, the weather... When Miss Barrow and I turned up, new to the school, in late January, everywhere was dry, dusty, waterless. Wildlife that we saw were all ribs and bones. Everywhere we turned, farmers were struggling, feeding and watering their livestock and wondering what was next. Our hearts went out to the amazing people in this part of outback. Then we met the kids and their families. I've been describing all year the profound effect you people have had on my world. More on that later, but suffice to say you are wonderful, inspirational Australians who I have been privileged to meet ... from the youngest of kids to the parents, grandparents, ex-students, staff and all the people in the wider community.

We at Clare Public School have weathered the COVID outbreak admirably and we are very proud of this fact. We remained open when most others closed and we kept staff representation here through most of the affected school holiday periods. Congratulations to all families and staff in showing responsible social distancing, taking all precautions and protecting our community in every way possible. Well done! There are school and communities all around the state who were not so fortunate.

The year was also tumultuous in our staff changes. Mrs Binns left to a temporary position at the end of 2019, and Miss Barrow stepped into the principal position at the beginning of this year. She did an amazing job, especially given that it was her first time in this role. In her time at Clare PS Miss Barrow, being the human dynamo that she is, achieved many things and made a huge impact on all of us.

Then Mrs Binns came back and resumed her principalship. Although sad to see Ms Barrow leave, the children were really happy to see Mrs Binns again. Meanwhile COVID continued to threaten us, however Mrs Binns, the staff and the community kept it at bay. Then, more recently, Mrs Binns went on leave and gained a transfer to a school closer to her home. Like I said what a year! I am happy to have been able to step into the principal role to carry us through until the end of the year. I made a commitment to our parents and children and was determined to honour that commitment.

It is here that I must take my hat off to Mrs Binns and Miss Barrow. The teaching principal job in a small school is like no other job. It does not run 9 - 3.30... Hah, not even close!

The day begins the moment your eyes spring open in the dark of the pre-dawn morning and ends when after laying bed for 2 or 3 hours wondering what you've forgotten that day, you finally snatch some sleep. So, as I said, hats off to both of our principals this year. It is a very demanding job. You made it seem a lot easier than it is and quietly achieved so many things without any fuss. You set a great example for me for follow.

We have Kathy Bourke, an experienced principal from Nowendoc Public School, transferring to Clare for the new school year. She comes with 10 years' experience as a teaching principal and the staff are looking forward to welcoming and working with her in 2021.

Ms English has been fun to work with in 2020. She brings German language and culture to our school and has taken on the Creative and Performing Arts, directing whatever performances and assemblies that COVID allowed us to have. Thank for your help, Jenny.

I would like to publicly acknowledge the incredible human resource we have in the form of Kara Scott, the rock of Clare. She has stayed with us through thick and thin and is one of the most effective, kind and helpful people I have ever worked with. Thank you for everything Kara. You're the best!!

Also, a shout-out goes to our non-teaching staff throughout the year, for example Heather, Bevan, Claire and more recently, Deb and Astrid who have both stepped up to help our school roll along and continue to operate effectively. I offer a massive thankyou of course to all our community members for your support in 2020. There is no other school community like it in the world.

Educationally, our kids have made some pretty impressive gains. Yes, we won the photo competition and achieved success in the writing competition. Our achievements run much deeper than that. Jack and Annabelle became our senior students as they welcomed 4 new kindies. The school has bloomed with the new personalities making their mark. Each student has grown in so many ways and each has excelled in at least one area.

Such a quiet place in the early mornings, the whole school suddenly comes alive and rings with laughter and lively conversation from 8.45 till 3.30 every day as the kids come running into the school. It is a phenomenon not unlike the lift we all experienced when the rains came and brought life and hope to the dry land and every single person who lives and works here.

Coming to Clare has been the most rewarding experience I have ever had, professionally, educationally and socially. It has been an honour and an absolute privilege to live and work in this community with these wonderful children.

Thank you,
 Doug Patterson
 Principal (Relieving)



Students have all completed some simple embroidery on their library bags ready for 2021.



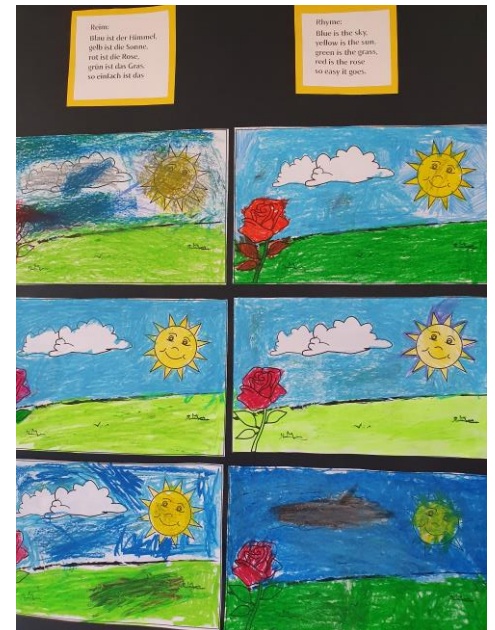
Police Visit Week 6

In week 6 we were very lucky to have an impromptu visit from the Ivanhoe Police Officers – Constable Michael Morgan and Constable Andrew Lincoln. The children were given a tour of the police car and checked out the back of the car where people sit when they need to transport them to another place.



Above: Students playing Bingo in German.

Below: German and Art collide. Students carefully colour in their pictures mixing different shades and colours under direction from the teacher, all colours are expressed using German words.



COLOUR RUN 2020



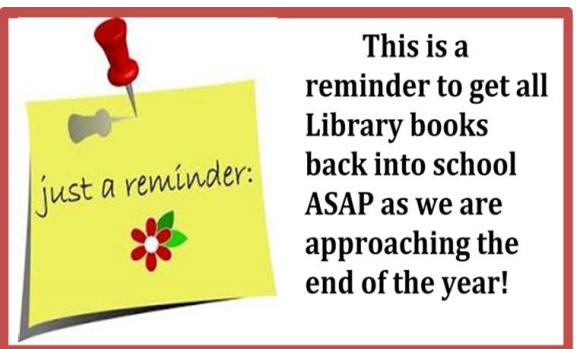


DRAMA



Photo Captions

- Constable Edie
- Annabelle (alias Mippy-Hippy) –strutting her stuff
- Cate - the shark with not many sharp teeth
- London the cat fairy



This is a
 reminder to get all
 Library books
 back into school
 ASAP as we are
 approaching the
 end of the year!

NEWSFLASH!!!!

Late breaking news. Melbourne and Canberra might have theirs . . . but now we have . . .

Are you ready for it? ...

The **Clare Telstra Tower**. It is up now, right behind Clare Station's hayshed, and we could have long-range super-improved 4G phone reception any day now. Woo hoo.



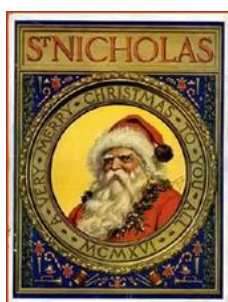


Ivanhoe CS Visit

On Friday we went to Ivanhoe CS for our last integration visit for 2020. As usual it was a valuable experience and lots of fun. Miss Helen and her class welcomed us warmly into their learning spaces. The Clare kids participated in a game of soccer, mixing teams with the Ivanhoe K-2 children. Great fun.

We then listened to stories, did some craft activities, and played with some water-play equipment. Awesome stuff! We will have to buy some for Clare PS. Thank you to Ivanhoe for a great day and Kathleen Harris for stepping up to help with driving.

Doug Patterson



On the 6th of December the children left their shoes at school hoping, for a visit from Saint Nikolaus. St. Nikolaus visits German speaking children and puts treats in their shoes if they have been good, and coal, or mulch if they have been naughty.

When the children arrived at school the next day, they checked their shoes to see if St Nikolaus had visited. Yay, the children's efforts in learning German had been rewarded and St. Nikolaus had left some surprises. In one shoe, children received treats; nuts, dried fruits, biscuits, chocolate and a lolly-pop. In the other shoe, St. Nikolaus had decided to contribute to the school garden, and had filled each shoe to an overflowing abundance of beautiful mulch for the worms to eat.

We figured that perhaps St. Nikolaus hadn't left the mulch for the worms, and that perhaps all of the children had been both naughty AND nice. Perhaps it is impossible to be good all of the time.

Jenny English



SWIMMING 2020



Swimming

In week 7 Clare PS moved to Mildura for 5 days, It was swimming time at First Stroke Swimming School and all students enjoyed a great week of swimming lessons twice a day. We turned up every morning at 9am, then again at 12.30pm. Students showed rapid growth in their swimming skills, particularly in the first 3 days. They learned some freestyle, backstroke and diving techniques and were able to practise their breathing.

The pool was lovely and a perfect size. The instructors seemed very good, especially Anthony who was professional and skilled at working with this age group. I would prefer to see lesson instruction in the future which follows a similar skill sequence to the NSW DET Special Swimming Scheme program, however I understand the limitations of only having one week to attend.

As a bonus, students also got to attend a gymnastics lesson and a dance lesson. As always, the Clare kids were eager to have a go and perfectly behaved. They are a pleasure to take anywhere as they always do us proud.

Doug Patterson

2020 Christmas tree

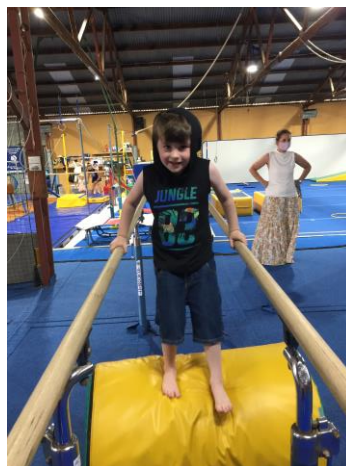
The 2020 Clare Christmas Tree event was held at the Clare Hall on Saturday 5th December. It was a great afternoon/evening. Children and adults alike really got into the spirit of things. Santa of course was a hit! He turned up in the fire truck and came in with a big box of pressies for the kids. (I waited in line but there was nothing - he must've spotted me being naughty this year!)

Naturally a party is not a party without some dancing and the Clare community kids put the dance floor/stage to good use, and strutted their stuff to some cool tunes. I was waiting for Old Town Road but must have missed that too. There was a great feed, with a delicious dinner and seriously sensational desserts. Kathleen Harris made a trifle to die for – I wanted to grab it and run but I figured that would definitely exclude me from Santa's list!

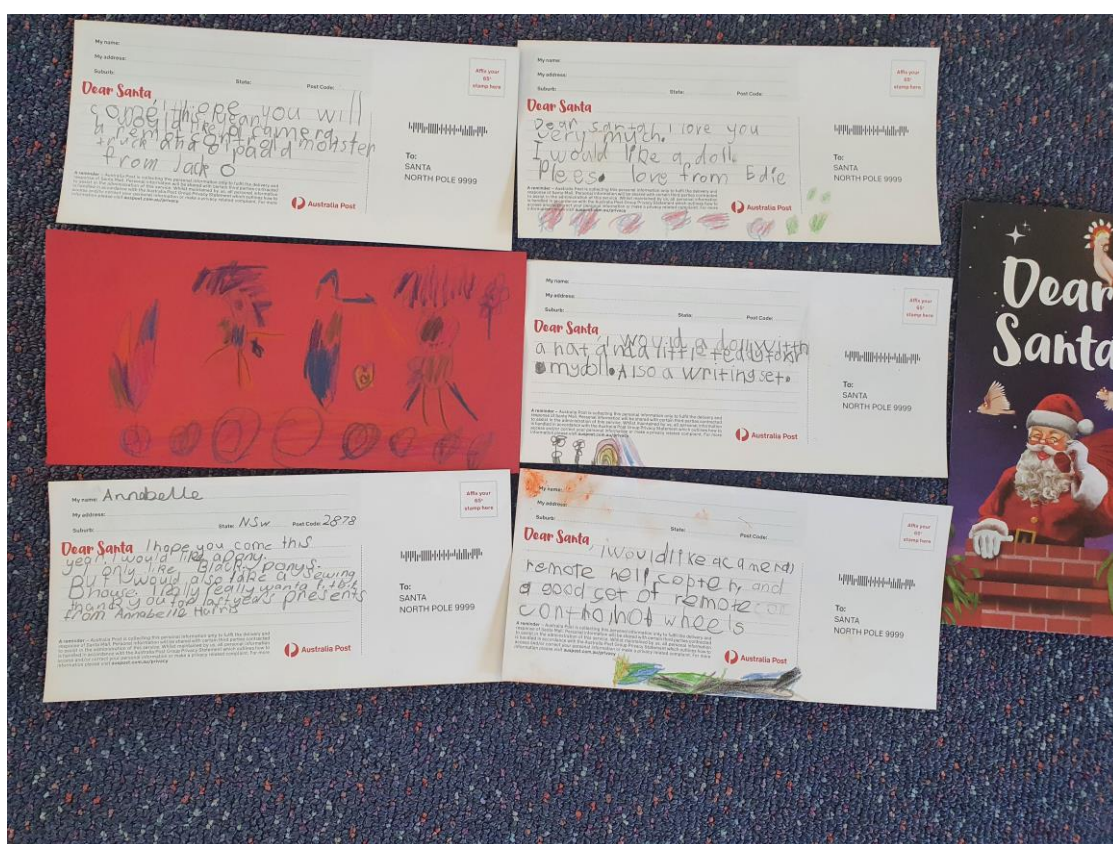
We at Clare Public School say a big thank you to all the organisers. Well done. You put on a fabulous celebration. Marie told me that the Clare Christmas Tree has been going for 75 years! Wow! Now that is impressive. Again, well done to the organisers. I hope to get an invite to the 76th.

Doug Patterson





Gymnastics



POSTCARDS

Students received postcards from Australia Post and wrote a personal letter to Santa with suggestions for Christmas presents.

London's Dad, Matt, was very lucky to receive a handmade card from London. A very special treat as he works away from home a lot.

Jenny English

