

Clare Connection

STUDENT NEWS FROM CLARE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Term 2 Week 8

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Take the Challenge



From the Principal's Desk...

The end of the term is fast approaching and this week I would like to officially share with you all that unfortunately I will be leaving Clare Public School at the end of the term as Mrs Binns will be returning from the beginning of Term 3.

As I wrap up my time here at Clare PS, I hope you will indulge me for a moment as I retell, a short story of coincidence. There are two mottos or mantras I tend to use most in my life. They are, 'It is very achievable' and 'Challenge accepted'. When I applied for the position of relieving teaching principal here at Clare Public School, it was a spur of the moment decision that I decided to run with because everything about the job seemed right. Whilst I had never been a teaching principal before, from the very first telephone call I had with the Director, I just had a good feeling that Clare was the place for me. This positive feeling continued whilst I was waiting to hear about the outcome of my application.

On a regular Monday morning in the school holidays as I was cleaning out some boxes of 'stuff' at my house, I came upon a gift. I have no idea where it came from except to guess that I may have purchased it on a holiday many years before. When I opened it, I found a garden plaque that read, 'Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail'. I made an immediate connection with this quote and instantly felt that I was going to get the job at Clare. Later that day, I got the phone call to tell me that I had been successful. It was meant to be.

Imagine my goose bumps when I visited the school for the first time in January and saw the memorial plaque in our school garden commemorating the life of Dallas Griffiths which reads, "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail". It really was meant to be. I honestly could not believe it. Combine that with pulling up at the school and finding that the school motto was 'Take the Challenge'. Wow!

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I really feel that this short moment in my career has been one I will remember forever. I took the challenge and set off where there was no trail and began making a new one. The community of Clare has been so welcoming, supportive and encouraging. I have been welcomed into many homes and made to feel that my time here was valued. In particular I would like to thank the staff for their welcome, patience and understanding of my lack of experience. Claire and Kara in particular have offered no end of support in helping me to understand the community, history and workings of the school. I would also like to thank Barb and Ewan for welcoming me into their home so many times to share a meal and help out with things unknown. To the parents at Clare Public School, your support and confidence in me made my transition so much easier. Your support of the school and staff knows no limits and your friendly welcoming manner has meant the world to me.

To the beautiful students of Clare Public School, thank you for reminding me just how innocent students can be. We have certainly become a family and I will miss seeing your smiling faces every day and hearing the wonderful things you all say (and the way you say them). Thank you for letting me be part of your education and your lives and for offering me so many wonderful teaching moments. I wish every one of you the very best of luck for your futures and I look forward to seeing you again.

It is easy to see why Mrs Binns wanted to come back to Clare Public School and I wish her every success in her return. I am hopeful that I will be able to come back and visit again.

Thank you very much Clare Public School staff, students, parents and community.

Ms Barrow

Director's Visit:

On Tuesday, we were very pleased to welcome Helen McRae back to Clare Public School. It has been a little while since she has been able to visit due to COVID restrictions and it was wonderful to have the opportunity to re-introduce her to our students. The students were able to demonstrate some of their new robotics skills and we were very proud to take Helen on a tour of the school and show her the progress that has been made in our beautification project. We really appreciate the effort involved for Helen to come all the way out to Clare and we hope to see her again.



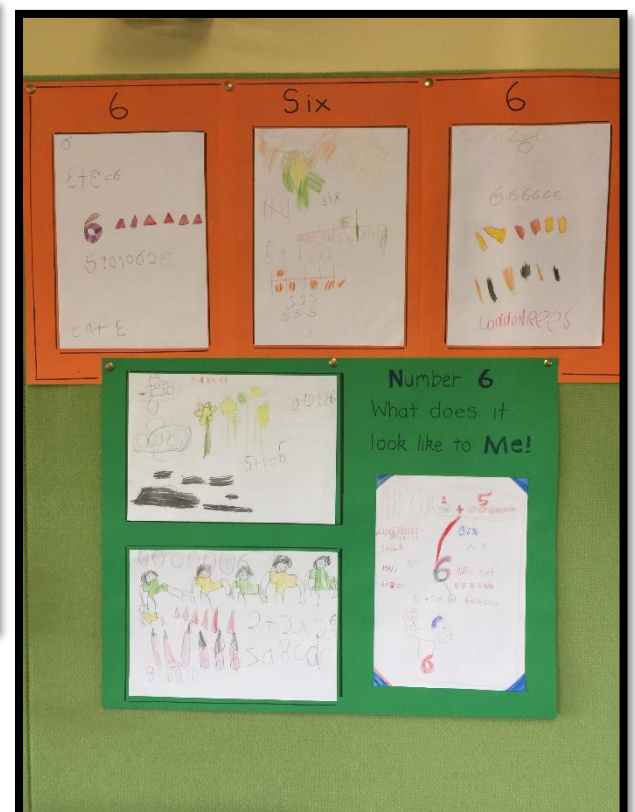
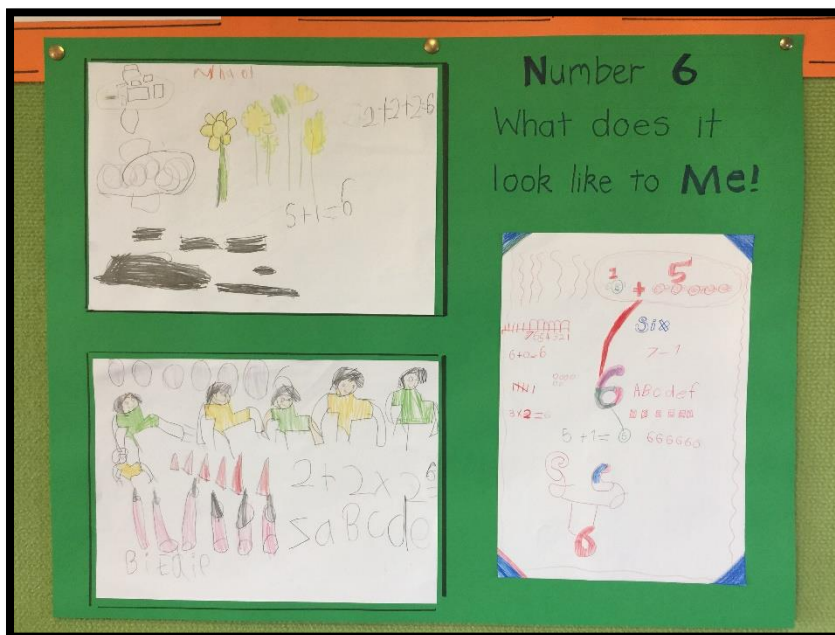


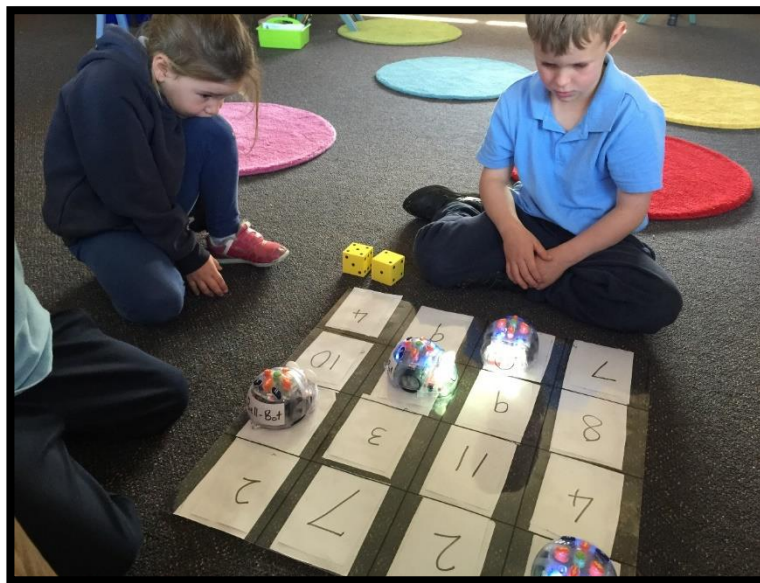
Assessments:

Teachers are busy at the moment undertaking assessments with the students to put together school reports. All of the students have worked very hard this semester demonstrating some remarkable growth and development. It will be a very rewarding process to write reports for our students this semester.

MATHS:

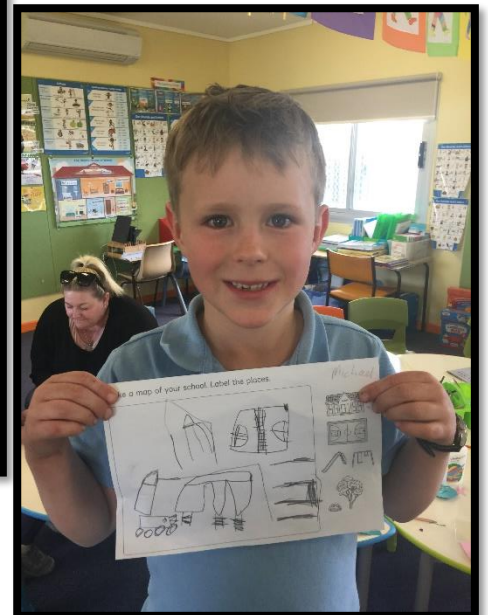
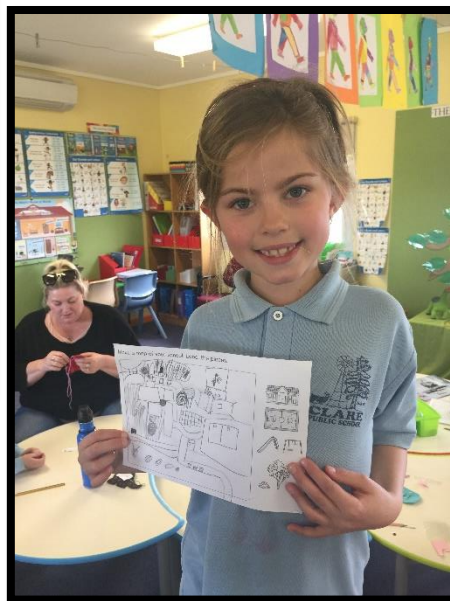
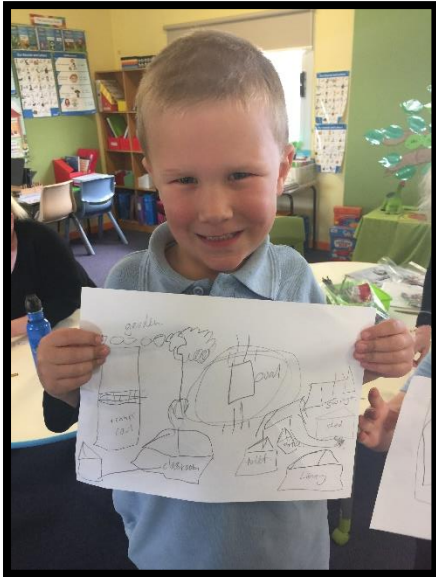
This week the students have been working with place value, understanding the value of hundreds, tens and units. Further work using a dice to add single digit numbers has allowed many of Kinders in particular to demonstrate their amazing growth in this area. Special mention this week to Edie who started counting on, and Mike who is adding single digit numbers at a glance. His record at the moment is 25 correct answers in one minute, which is amazing. Students have also been investigating the properties of numbers and what they really mean. Here are some posters showing what the students know about the number 6.





GEOGRAPHY:

Ms English has been guiding the students through investigations of their place in the world. They have been looking at the importance of special places and how we feel connection to different places in our lives. This week, the students were tackling the very tricky challenge of drawing maps of the school from a birds eye view. They all worked hard on this activity and achieved great results.



Literacy:

As you may recall, both Jack and Annabelle submitted entries to the Write4Fun short story competition earlier in the term. We shared their stories in the newsletter; 'Dinosaurs' and 'Penny and Percy's Adventures'. We are VERY PROUD to announce that both Jack and Annabelle have been successful in the making it through to the second round of judging in this competition and as a result, they will both be published in the compendium of stories titled 'The Inside Story'. This book will be released in November and we have already ordered a copy to display in the school office. Our school community is very proud of the effort and success of Jack and Annabelle and we cannot wait to read their stories in print. The final winners of the competition will be announced on 24 June on the Write4Fun Facebook page and we will be watching the page in anticipation on that day. However, regardless of who wins the competition, Jack and Annabelle are now published authors and that is something they will have forever. Congratulations to them both.



Creative Arts: This week with Ms English the children read 'The Magic Hat' by Mem Fox. They enjoyed the story and the students all created a wonderful mess as they created their own magic hats. London created her own Jehovah Hat which was a beautiful and featured two beautiful horses. The state of room reflected their level of creativity and the team work they showed in having the space cleaned up in no time at all was very impressive.



Drama:

Students have also been working well in developing their dramatic skills and this week we focused on using our bodies and faces for dramatic effect. We turned ourselves into furniture and created group freeze-frames. We also had a lot of fun using slow-motion video recordings of ourselves as fireworks.



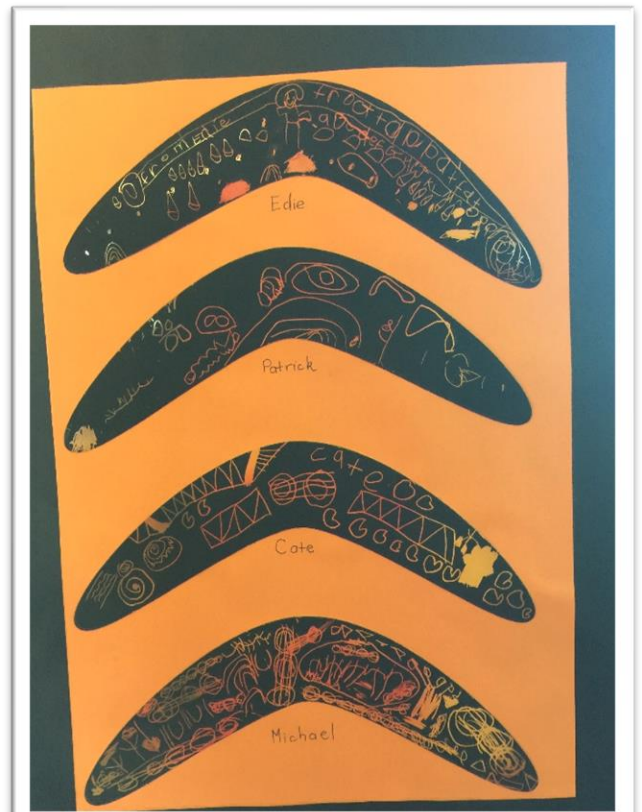
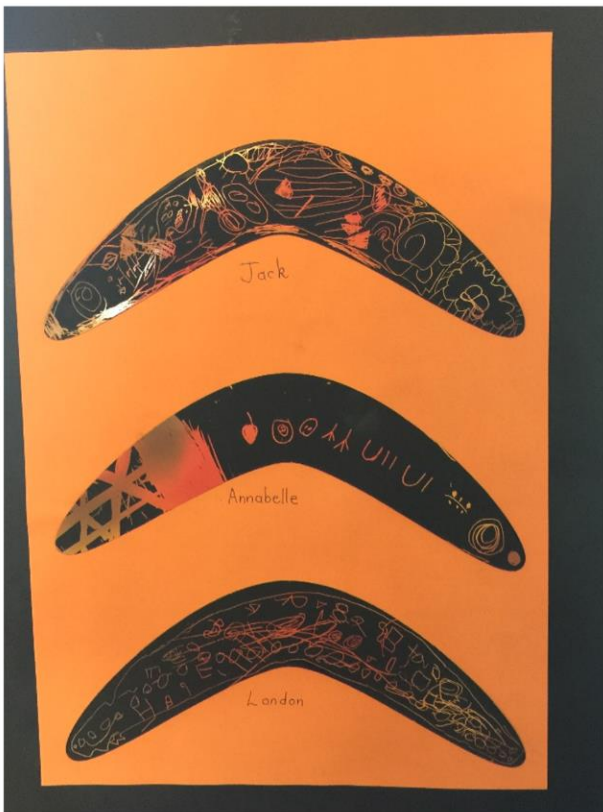
Super star cleaners:

All of the students have shown how capable they are in taking pride in their school by contributing to the cleaning of our room every day and sometimes more than once a day. Each day we vacuum the floor (sometimes more than once a day), wipe down our tables and chairs and empty the rubbish bins. Everyone is enthusiastic about helping out with this cleaning and they are doing a fantastic job. We are all very proud of them for taking such pride in their learning space and school and for working so well as a team.



Men at Work:

As I was looking out my office window I found all the men on our teaching staff working hard. Mr McBeth is in the process of making our garden surrounds safe, painting the flag pole and affixing a new rope and also planting some of our new natives. Mr Patterson has been hard at work cutting out boomerangs for an exciting lesson where the students can prepare and decorate their own boomerangs. With any luck, Mr Patterson can also use his outstanding boomerang throwing skills to teach everyone how to turn a stick into a boomerang by making it come back.



Sorry Day: Check out our boomerangs we made as part of our Sorry Day activities. To extend our learning and understanding further in the area of reconciliation and belonging, Ms English has invited Ms Johnstone from Ivanhoe Central School to connect with our students. We are looking forward to this opportunity to develop a better understanding of the local aboriginal culture and language.



Milestones:

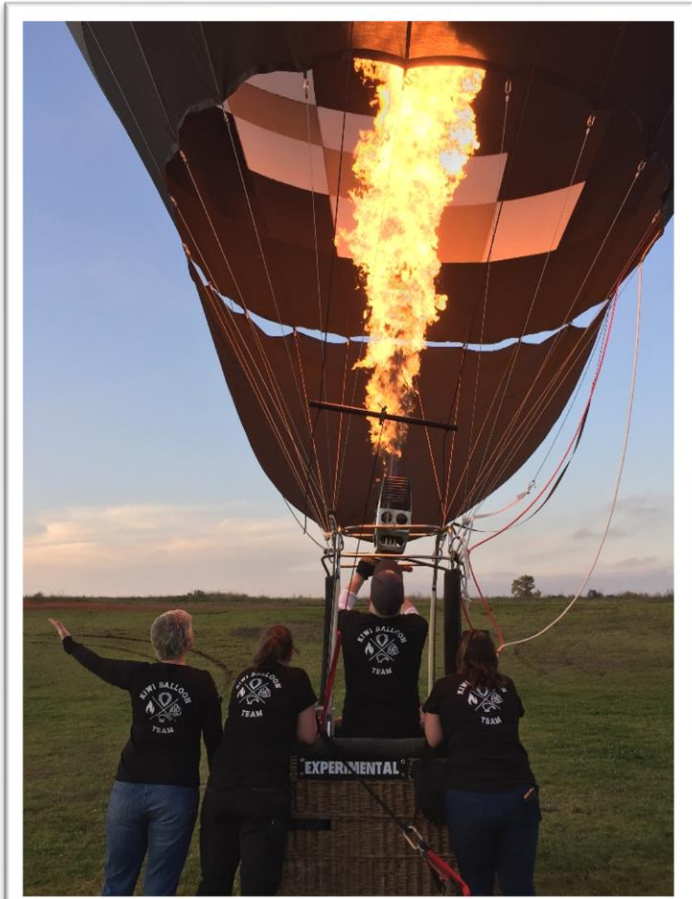
We would like to offer our congratulations to Marie and Ray on their 52nd wedding anniversary and Barb and Ewan on their 40th wedding anniversary. How remarkable to be married for so long! Combined, you all have nearly a century of wedded 'bliss' together. There are no words to describe how impressed we all are to have you reach remarkable numbers. You are all very blessed to have found someone and been able to make such a remarkable commitment. Congratulations also to past student Charli Scott on her 18th Birthday recently too!

Toilet Update:

I am feeling a little flushed with excitement that the toilet block may be on its way. Discussions with Assets indicates that the toilet block is currently under construction and with any luck will be onsite during the second week of the holidays. Now I don't want anyone holding their breath about that (unless you are standing next to our current septic, then holding your breath is a good idea) because there is every chance that it may not be until next term, but at least it is under construction.

An uplifting experience:

Ms Barrow was able to get out and about on the long weekend and make a trip to Griffith to see her brother Adam. Adam is a hot air balloon pilot and both he and Ms Barrow were to be attending the World Hot Air Ballooning Championships in Slovenia in September this year, however due to the dreaded virus, that has now been cancelled. Adam was in Griffith for the long weekend for the inaugural flight of his new balloon. It is a magnificent creation and one that he spent many, many hours diligently sewing together. He was hoping to bring his new balloon out to Clare to show-off....I mean showcase, to our community, we hope that one day this might still be able to happen.



Hanging out at Clare and other photos of us “out and about”



Funny Quotes:

“But you don’t work here, you live here!”

“Tiffany is gunna have a baby, I reckon it’s gunna be a boy or a girl.”