From Steve: The end of our second short week, which for some students has been very beneficial as they attune themselves to the demands of consecutive school days.

On Wednesday, I met with Elaine Stratford, the Interim Director of the Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment. As a school I believe that we have much to offer in relation to the current focus of student achievement and retention in our education system. In the current debate there is a limited focus on senior schooling without proper attention given to the impact that Primary schooling has on students perceptions of learning and why they’re doing it. I conveyed this message to Elaine, who as a result will arrange to visit the school sometime in Easter, with a view to having other practitioners visit us to learn from us. We are working hard to maintain a position of being a leading school in children’s education and we want the rest of the world to know it.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the AGM on Thursday, which as a result of having a quorum, proceeded in a timely manner with positive outcomes. Our thanks to all those outgoing Committee and Sub-Committee members, and congratulations and welcome to the incoming members. I look forward to working with you all and progressing our plans and vision for the school.

This week has seen Michelle work with the Prep children as they each complete the Performance Indicators in Primary Schools (PIPS). This initial multi faceted assessment provides us with rich information about each
child in relation to their individual development at this moment in time. The information that we receive back from the assessment will allow Michelle and Lee to accommodate individual needs during different lessons. PIPS will be repeated at the end of the year to determine growth in each individual, which in turn will inform the relevant Year 1 teacher in 2017.

Tomorrow is our first Working Bee, which always makes a big difference to how the school looks and works. The forecast is good and it will be a great chance for everyone to have a big catch up. Unfortunately on this occasion I shall be away in Melbourne, but I’ll make up for it later in the year.

This week one of our TA’s had to spend considerable time cleaning up a pile of dog poo outside of the Kinder room! The following information re: Dogs at School has been taken from the 2014 Decision Register.

- Dogs must be on a lead at all times
- Dogs must be attended by an adult – please don’t tie up your dog and leave it unattended and please don’t allow children to lead your dog around the playground
- Keep your dog away from classroom doors and high traffic areas – remember that some people are frightened of dogs
- Please bring a doggie-bag (and use it!)

2016 Committee & Sub Committee: A list of our new Committee and Sub Committee Members is attached. There are a couple of gaps on the Social Committee. This is the ‘fun’ sub committee – you just need to organise a couple of social get-togethers throughout the year and it could be as simple as a ‘cuppa’ at the end of term. Ideally we would like one more person on the Fair Committee – Elisia is happy to help pass on her fair knowledge so you wouldn’t be left ‘high and dry.’

A message for all: “Dear Cottage School friends, Thank you so much for your love and support during our journey with Matthew over this past month. From MRI and neurosurgeon consultation through to surgery to remove a sizeable brain tumour and critical complications, (all within one week), this was a terrifying journey. The meals, messages and drawings from little friends have surrounded us with so much care, reinforcing what an amazing community we are privileged to be part of. We are relieved to say that Matt is now making a remarkable recovery and was so happy to return this week to briefly visit staff and friends at Cottage School. With love from Harm, Anne and the Knibbe family”

Golden Handshakes: Our Golden Handshake recipients this week are:-
Amy Thurling: For being caring, helpful and a sensible role model as a Grade 1 leader
Bruno Bell: For taking up a leadership role, helping a Middle in Dodgeball and then asking them to join his clean up team
Bella Wright-Burbury: For her focus on task
Daniella Knibbe: For her persistence and perseverance in maths tasks
Hamish Clyne: For his creativity and imagination in written tasks this week

Music: Welcome back to Music for 2016 to all Cottage school children! Biggies don’t forget your guitars and music on Thursdays and Tom’s Middlies will need their recorders and folders on Fridays. If any parents have questions or concerns about the Music Program please see me on Fridays (preferably after school). Shona

Cheap Printer Inks: Sadly a couple of our printers haven’t lasted the summer break so we have a range of new and used ink cartridges. It would be a shame to recycle these when they are still able to be used, so hopefully someone has a compatible printer and is looking for a bargain.
Hewlett Packard 02 – BRAND NEW $5 each – Magenta, Light Magenta, Black, Light Cyan
USED $10 for the lot – Black x 2, Yellow, Light magenta x 2, Cyan, Light Cyan, Magenta
There is also brand new Black Laser Toner (Brother TN-3250) RRP $150 – going at only $50 – bargain!! If you are interested in any of these please see Simon in the Biggies.

Family List: Please find attached an updated Family Contact List. Hopefully all the details are correct. If you see any errors, let me know 😊

What’s On:
Love to Sing?: Please join the CLARENCE CITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR
This is a choir for children ages six to sixteen. It provides children with an exciting opportunity to
develop their singing in a fun environment. It is an active choir that performs at community events
and eisteddfods and has already achieved success in 2015. The Clarence City Children’s Choir
meets weekly at the Clarence Uniting Church, corner of Cambridge Road and York Street,
Bellerive on Wednesdays from 4.15 – 5.15 pm during school terms. No auditions required, just a
desire to sing and perform with others.
Phone 0419 312 041 for enquiries or email clarencecitychildrenschoir@gmail.com

The Hobart Embroiderers' Guild Young Stitchers Group (HEGYS) provides an opportunity for young stitching
enthusiasts to develop their embroidery skills, and to have some fun! Young stitchers aged from 7 can join.
We meet fortnightly at Goulburn Street Primary School. For more information, see
http://www.embroideryhobart.com/hegys or phone Ursula 6234 7698.

Attachments: Updated Family List, List of 2016 Committee Members and Sub-Committee Members