



Clapham Primary

Respect | Responsibility | Cooperation

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

At our recent Governing Council meeting we discussed the complex and difficult year of 2020 with its disappointments and frustrations but also its many positives. We know that there has been some personal disappointment with many of the changes (which often changed, due to South Australia's health position and the resulting changes in COVID Restrictions). We know that this created a level of anxiety amongst families and a feeling of being disconnected, we felt this with you. The complexities of COVID-19 impacted many of the day-to-day management processes of the school as well as school events. However, we followed the Department's (DfE) directives (based on SA Health advice), which helped to keep parents, staff and students safe and ensured we as a community supported the strong health position of South Australia. We wish to extend our deepest gratitude to the community which is to be commended for their efforts and continued support.

We also wanted to share that our aim for this year was to continue our strong focus on school improvement, improving student achievement and support student social and emotional needs. And at the same time ensure that we provided students with the opportunity to participate in 2020 scheduled events, where possible, based on current DfE directives and COVID Restrictions.

We also have heard and listened to the concern about parents feeling disconnected. Therefore, we would like to share with you some preliminary planning that the leadership team have been investigating for 2021. We understand that parents have felt unease about not being able to enter classrooms/corridors. The ideas listed on the last page are to assist parents to connect with their child's teacher, the school and to support teaching and learning. Recently our Primary Partnership Principals and the Chairperson (or representative) from each Governing Council met to discuss each school's highlights and challenges (especially given the challenging year of 2020). We met to learn with and from one another. At this meeting, all primary schools in our Partnership have directly seen the positive impact that we have also seen at Clapham with the reduction of adults in corridors / classrooms. Please note though that parents were able to volunteer in classrooms when restrictions were eased. Volunteering will continue in 2021 when restrictions allow.

The ideas listed on the last page are strategies that we will implement to enable parents and carers to feel more connected to their child's teacher/classroom. The ideas will be implemented when they can be allowed, based on COVID Restrictions at the time in 2021 (recognising that the restrictions again may change several times throughout the year). If restrictions remain, as they currently are (@December 2020), they cannot be enacted until the restrictions ease. Please be assured though that we will do our very best to implement what we can.

We also know that we will have to enact procedures that are directed by DfE as per this year that will minimise risk at these events. The procedures implemented will be based on DfE mandates (again these may change depending on the SA Health position). Some of the procedures **may** include: Site Entry Form (this form is provided by DfE) to be completed when on site; social distancing is maintained; limits on number of participants for events; a rolling timetable for participants to attend at different times; participants required to register for events (this is to ensure the school can follow distance requirements eg 1 per 4sqm); and applying hand sanitiser.

In Term 1 we are aiming to host Parent Information Sessions in Week 2 (COVID dependent. If possible, we aim to host a few classes each night and these sessions will be held in larger rooms. Further information to come in Term 1 – after reviewing the current COVID restrictions at the time). If on-site meetings/sessions are not permissible, we will provide these sessions online.

Later in Term 1 we will also be hosting 3-way learning conversations (previously parent/teacher interviews) – COVID dependent. More information to come next year.

Next year our Education and Communication Sub-Committee will consult with our parent community and seek feedback ie survey parents, meet to review responses and implement actions. Cassie Kopias will steer this committee. Please see 2020 Terms of Reference for this Sub-Committee on website / click on link <https://www.claphams.sa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020-Governing-Council-Terms-of-Ref.pdf>

As always parents can request to meet/speak with their child's teacher. If you wish to speak with your child's teacher please either email or phone (email preferred) so that the teacher can make contact with you to arrange a time for a meeting (this may be via phone, online or held in the meeting room).

Warmest Regards,
Jodie Kingham, Principal
11/12/2020

2021 Ideas

“Clapham Café”

Each term we would host “Clapham Café”. We will organise a Coffee Van to visit so that parents can purchase a tea/coffee/etc. When this commences the school will, for the first 6 months, subsidise the cost of each purchase. We would aim to host at least 2 Clapham Café mornings a term providing an opportunity for our community to connect with each other. Sometimes the school may host a Q&A on a particular topic or provide information about a learning area during this time. **NB:** We recently held a Clapham Cafe for our new Reception parents (COVID restrictions allowed this at this time) and it was a great success. We utilised our newly purchased round tables and set up a “Café” in the school gym. This assisted our leadership team getting to know families quickly and also for families to get to know one another.

“Showcasing Learning”

Each term each class hosts a ‘showcasing of learning’ event. Parents and carers are invited to come and see their child’s learning and children share the learning intentions they have been working towards along with examples of their work. These events could be held in the classroom or the gym depending on the restrictions at the time. These events may be during the school day or held after school in the evening. For example, last term (Term 3) Rooms 6 and 7 held a Book Launch event in the Gym in the evening. Students shared examples of their writing and their learning journey with their parents. The “Showcasing Learning” events will complement each child’s learning journey that is also regularly shared on the SeeSaw app.

“Volunteering in classrooms to support learning”

Volunteers are essential in supporting learning. It is important that Volunteers know their role so that learning opportunities for all students can be optimised. Therefore parents/volunteers support in classrooms for a specific purpose eg to support a curriculum based activity (in consultation with the teacher). All volunteers are required to complete an application form prior to volunteering. This includes a Working with Children Check and some training eg Responding to Abuse and Neglect. The application is then submitted to the principal or delegate for approval. Please see website for further info/Parent Info/Volunteers.

“Parent Workshop Sessions”

Hosting parent workshop sessions. These sessions are to parents to understand successful strategies that best support learning. For example, Listening to children read, how to deliver the Toe by Toe reading intervention program.