Welcome to 2015 at Clarke Creek School!
The children have turned up in full force, ready to DO school. It is a pleasure to be back with them.

Over the holidays I reflected on our year of learning at Clarke Creek, what we achieved and how we achieved it. Established in our school is the “Explicit Teaching” pedagogical approach to teaching and learning. Key lessons have an I DO beginning where I teach and demonstrate the new concept to be learnt. This is followed by the WE DO section of the lesson where I check for understanding by getting feedback from the students on the concept I have just taught. We then move to the YOU DO part of the lesson where the students apply their new understanding to a task. This is supported by monitoring, feedback and guidance from the teachers. Finally, we check for understanding with a quick summary of the lesson.

In my reflections I thought about how is it best for children (well, all of us) to learn. I found 5 strategies that are useful. [http://www.memory-improvement-tips.com/best-study-skills.html]

1. **Reduce interference.** Interference is when prior learning actually becomes a hindrance to the new concepts we want to learn. We have trouble distinguishing that the new learning is different from what we already know. You thought this was going to be about turning off the TV!

2. **Space it out.** Don’t try to do all of your learning in one hit. This is why in school we come back to the same concepts many times. If we don’t get it this time, we probably will the next time. It is just a case of fitting it into our schema. Sometimes a good night’s sleep will do this!

3. **Use Whole and Part learning.** That is, get the general gist of something first by looking at the new concept as a whole. Then break it up into little meaningful parts to make sense of it.

4. **Recite it.** Say it out loud. Read it, pause, look away from it and say it. Tell someone what you just learnt. You know those people who can always remember names? That is because they have learnt the skill of using the name a number of times as soon as possible. We can do the same when we learn new concepts.

5. **Use a study system.** Don’t just read or listen to something without questioning it, pulling it apart and putting it back together. We do this with spelling and reading to familiarize ourselves with words. Look for little words in big words, pull it apart and look closely at the tricky bits, make sense of it by relating it to words we already know.

I hope these thoughts help you to help your children to be the best that they can be.

Our newsletter is intended to celebrate the achievements and experiences of the community of Clarke Creek School. I regularly email “Notes from School” to keep you up to date on what’s on and what you need to know.

Always contact me if you are unsure or want a chat about school and your child. You are welcome!

Lisa R
Welcome our new Preppies for 2015, Nate Soutter, Lara Hart and Jhrayne Comollatti.

We love our pool and use it every day. We have lessons to improve our swimming skills in all strokes. We get swim fit by swimming lengths, and we just enjoy the water and have free time at lunch time. We have continued our Go’n’Run program in 2015. Our new comers are already getting close to their first badge, 10km, while we have some runners getting close to their 175km badge. We will tie it altogether with the second ever Clarke Creek TRIATHLON near the end of term so get those bikes oiled up and ready to go! Parents are welcome to tri it out too!
A BIG thankyou to Mr Roach for making easels for our students. The preppies were very excited about road testing their new easels.

Welcome Rhiannon Lehman to Clarke Creek School we hope your time with us will be memorable and rewarding.
Congratulations to Mick and Tom in being selected to represent the Marlborough District at the Rockhampton District Swim trials last week. Both boys put in a tremendous effort and swam well in both freestyle and breaststroke. Well done boys.

Awards

Congratulations to our award recipients from last week. Max Stevenson, Lara Hart, Ty Soutter, Tom Wallace, Mick Allgood and Cameron Hill for completing all set tasks in homework and getting 100% in spelling or maths or both!
Welcome to Clarke Creek School
Francesca and Audrey Lehman Yr 5
and Yr2.
Rakalem and Jhrayne Comollatti. Yr2
and Prep.

Thankyou to our wonderful
facilities officer, Lisa Wallace
for keeping our school looking
absolutely beautiful. Lisa
works hard to keep our pool
looking pristine, grounds
nicely manicured and our
school clean inside and out.
If you have any notices that you would like advertised in our community newsletter, please email Sue Sherry on ssher31@eq.edu.au

Congratulations to Jamie-Lee and Darren on the birth of their daughter Indy. A little sister for Jhrayne and Rakalem.

**Library News** - Children are able to change their library books twice a week at Clarke Creek State School. Library day is every Monday and Thursday.