



St Claudine Thévenet
School

Week Six Term Four Friday 18 November 2016

“Family, friends and relationships are the blessings of God. They are the best way to access God.”

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This week has most certainly been a challenging one in so many ways. We hope that all of you are beginning to recover after the earthquakes and flood.

This week we have been called on to make so many decisions and when people are tired and stressed this is always a little more difficult. We know that many children are stressed and we see our role as supporting them in any way we can.

On Monday we checked the school buildings to ensure they were safe to be used. We did not suffer any structural damage and only minimal classroom damage in terms of chairs falling down off tables and cupboards and drawers being opened in the shake. On Monday afternoon our property Manager visited the site to check for structural damage and we were given the all clear to open on Tuesday.

Tuesday was another story... We opened and had 120 out of 290 students at school. The many absences were justified and we made the decision to buddy classes and teachers up for the day to ensure everyone was supported. At morning tea time we received a phone call from the Emergency Welfare Team who informed us that road closures were occurring all over the city. We informed them that we were safe and would remain open. At 11.30am we received a phone call from Civil defence who informed us of the risk of the Konini creek flooding and that this would cause a risk of road closures making it difficult for parents to pick up their children. We made the decision to close as did the other schools in the area.

At this point we enacted our emergency plan. We took all students to the Fale and informed them that we had notified parents of the closure via the app, email and Facebook. As time drew on we began phoning parents of children remaining, beginning with the youngest students. Senior students remaining who had cell phones were asked to contact their parents. Several students did this. Many did not have access to call and if this was the case they were offered my phone to ring.

We were pleased with the evacuation procedure however there are always new learnings. For us these learnings include:

Ask parents to ensure updated numbers are recorded at school.

Ensure students have credit on their phone accounts.

Remind parents to download the school app

We would like to thank you so much for your support at this time. It has been a challenging week for us all. I applaud the efforts of all of our staff who have supported each other and our students. I am also very aware that they have done such a great job whilst also managing their own family's needs. We are all truly blessed.

Have a wonderful weekend

Sue Jury
Principal

WATER SKILLS/ WATER SAFETY – 2016

Due to the weather our schoolwide swimming programme was disrupted this week. We will endeavour to get to the pools next week...here's hoping.

Due to the fact we have missed the first week of swimming all families will be credited the cost of the first week (\$12.50) per student. These credits will appear on the final school statements.

Students from A2 – D3 will be taking part from Monday – Thursday. We will be teaching swimming skills for the first two days and water safety skills for the second two days.

There is an expectation that all students will take part as it is a requirement of the school curriculum. Students need to have a bag for their togs and towel, both should be named. If you are able to help out please let your child's teacher know.

The students will be travelling by bus and it will only be cancelled if it's too cold/wet. *Mr Mac*

St Claudine's School Swimming Programme 21st – 24th November – Mon– Thurs 10am – 12.30

<u>DEPART SCHOOL</u>	<u>SWIM</u>	<u>DEPART POOL</u>
(1) 9.45 a.m.	10am – 10.30	10.45am
(2) 10.15 a.m.	10.30 – 11am	11.15am
(3) 10.45 am.	11am – 11.30am	11.45am
(4) 11.15 a.m.	11.30 – 12noon	12.15pm
(5) 11.45am.	12noon – 12.30pm	12.45pm

Group 1 – 10am – 10.30 – B2 – 26 students / C3 – 22 students/C1 -10 students (58)

Group 2 – 10.30 – 11am – D2 – 27 students / C2 – 18 students/ C1 10 students (55)

Group 3 – 11am – 11.30am – A3 - 27 students/ B3 22 students (49)

Group 4 – 11.30 – 12noon – D1 – 27 students / A2 – 27 students (54)

Group 5 – Noon – 12.30– B1 -25 students / D3–27 students (52)

NOTE – In **group 4** the majority of A2 are non-confident year 1s and will be in the junior pool. There will be parents and teachers supervising these students.

Any cancellation/postponement notices will be advised via our app and on Facebook.

COMMUNICATION 2016

Communication is a very important part of our relationship with you. Below are the three forms of communication we use...

- Email – if you wish to receive communication via email please ensure the office have your correct email address. We are able to send all newsletters and notices via email
- Facebook
- Our school App – this is downloadable from the app store – if you already have the app you will need to update this for 2016 as there are some things which have been updated for ease of use.