



RATHMINES PUBLIC SCHOOL

RATHFINDER

Term 1 Week 11, 2024



Every Day Matters....



Rathmines overall attendance for weeks 9 & 10... 88.3%

Rathmines attendance prize for weeks 9 & 10 goes to ...

K-2 **2C**

3-6 **4E**

In weeks 9 & 10

2C had an overall attendance of **94%**

4E had an overall attendance of **94%**

Dear Parents and Carers,

From the Principal,

I commend all our students for the maturity, respect and sense of reverence they displayed during the special ANZAC Day Assembly conducted yesterday morning in our school hall. It is always very pleasing to witness the ability of students at Rathmines Public to rise to the occasion and make a positive contribution to significant school events through their standard of behaviour. This gathering of our school community was a very meaningful and thought-provoking celebration of thanks to those who have made sacrifices in order to preserve the freedoms we enjoy in

*Australia today. The enthusiastic singing by all students from Kinder to Year 6, the very mature manner in which our school leaders conducted the assembly and the flower laying by student representatives from all classes were highlights of a very moving ceremony. Special thanks must also be extended to **Helen Bristow** for her efforts in coordinating the assembly preparation, **James Fisher** for presenting the audio visuals, **Corporal Tristan Brewer** for delivering the ANZAC address and **Tibo Decraemer** for performing the Last Post and Reveille.*

*All students are encouraged to build on this display of respect for the ANZAC heritage through participating in the **ANZAC Day Marches** at Wangi Wangi and Rathmines on **Thursday 25th April**. Our school has an excellent tradition of involvement in these community celebrations. The march at Wangi Wangi will commence at 10:00am from Kent Place (behind the service station) and the Rathmines commemorative service will begin at 12:30pm outside the Rathmines Bowling Club. Children marching*

Vision Statement

Rathmines Public School's vision is to pursue and celebrate excellence in all areas and to ensure everyone has the opportunity to experience success within a supportive, safe, personalised and engaging learning environment which embraces the creative and productive use of technology and is free from all forms of discrimination.

Our vision is to educate students for life, to enable them to act with moral and ethical integrity, by fostering their sense of wellbeing and developing their personal values of honesty, resilience, empathy, respect and responsibility.

From the Principal cont'd

at Wangi are asked to meet Mr Wild and Mr Fisher at 9.30am. Mrs Bristow and I will meet the students at 12:30pm to assemble for the Rathmines march. Students are asked to wear their complete and summer uniforms including their school hats. I am mindful that the involvement of children in these events places extra demands on parents and I thank you in advance for your readiness to make this commitment.

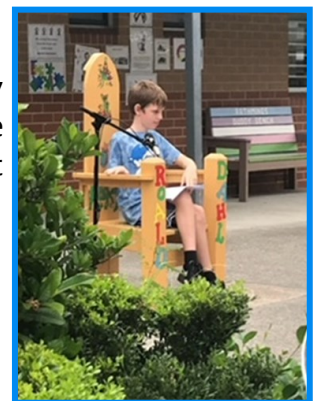
Autism Awareness Day

When I am speaking with parents and carers who are enrolling a child in our school, I always emphasise the fact that the interaction between the students in our three special education support classes and students in the mainstream classes, is one of the most positive and important elements within our school culture. Each and every day the teachers and staff within the unit highlight the aspect of our school vision statement which refers to "pursuing and celebrating excellence in all areas and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to experience success within a supportive, safe and engaging learning environment ." While the Special Education staff help on a daily basis to raise our students' awareness and understanding of the additional challenges and opportunities encountered by our special education students, they also play a leading role in coordination of school wide celebrations such as Autism Awareness Day. The following report by **Mr Wild** and the accompanying photos highlight the impact of the most recent celebration:

"On Tuesday of last week, Rathmines Public School came to school dressed in blue to show support for their peers living with Autism. World Autism Awareness Day is celebrated worldwide and this year, Rathmines PS were treated to a premier reading of *Blue 3* by the author himself, **William Crittenden**.



The entire student body sat poised, on the edge of their seats as they listened to the adventures of Blue, a toy very close to the heart of the author, as the character frolicked in the sea and delved briefly into rocket science with his good mate Orange, and Blue's new love interest, Pink!



I know that it means a lot to **The Gems** to see the whole school participating in this day every year with such enthusiasm. Sensitivity lessons about what Autism is and famous people who live with Autism were delivered across the school. A big thank you to **Karen Christie** for organising the day again this year."

From the Principal cont'd

Dave Riley Presentation

Staff and students were very pleased to be able to welcome **Mr Dave Riley** as a special guest at last week's whole school assembly. I have no doubt all members of our school community have noticed the impact that Dave has had on the overall presentation of our school grounds since he started volunteering his time in the second half of last year. We are very fortunate to have extensive play and recreation areas at RPS but the upkeep of the grounds places big demands on Nigel, our General Assistant, who is only employed for two days per week. Dave has given freely of his time during the school terms as well as during holiday breaks to not only help maintain but also to improve many aspects of the school landscape including : aerating and fertilizing the school oval (with amazing results) over the Christmas break, clearing all the undergrowth along the school fence lines, repairing the underground sprinkler system on the school oval , solving drainage problems around one of our special education classrooms, regularly pruning the hedges around the school flag area and completing a weekly "spruce up" of the grassed areas adjacent to school administration block. Dave is a fanatical golfer and can often be seen at Toronto Golf Club when he is not busy at RPS. With this in mind, our Student Voice team chose to present him with a Gift Card to the Pro Shop so he can pick up a new club which he hopes will reduce his tendency to slice to the right!



Sports News

I congratulate the children in stage two and three who represented our school at the **Soccer Gala Day** conducted by the Northern NSW Football Association at the Speers Point Complex on Tuesday. The teachers and support staff who accompanied our teams were full of praise for the manner in which the girls and boys conducted themselves on and off the field. In conversations with the children it was clear that they really enjoyed having the opportunity to play against teams from a range of schools in the Lake Macquarie and Newcastle areas. On behalf of all the children who attended the gala day I thank **Ben Wilkinson** and **James Sherry** for volunteering to referee games throughout the day.

The boys in the school's **Under 12 Rugby League** team are no doubt looking forward to testing their skills and teamwork when they participate in the **Newcastle Knights Blues 9's Carnival** at Windale today. They have been training well after school during the past few weeks and I am sure they will also appreciate having the opportunity to compete in this annual competition which is run by the Knights development team. The Under 10's team will play in their division of the Knights 9's on Thursday of the first week back next term.

I also take this opportunity to extend best wishes to **Taylor** and **Koah Ward** who will be representing Hunter PSSA at the NSW PSSA Swimming Championships in Sydney today, and to congratulate **Messiah Mata'utia** on his selection last week in the **Hunter PSSA Rugby League** team which will represent our region at the NSW PSSA Rugby League Championships next term.



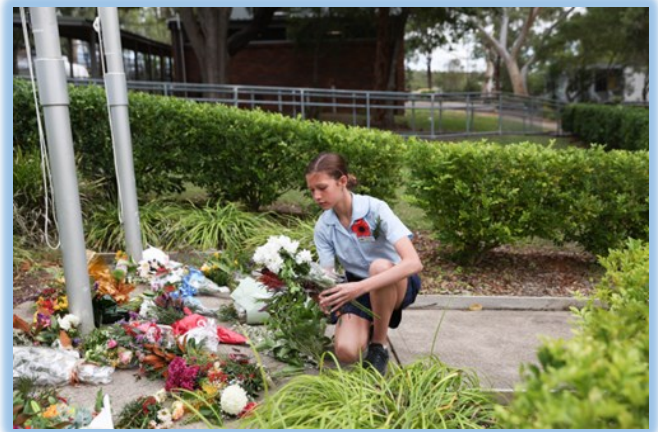
From the Principal cont'd

Easter Vacation

School will close for the autumn vacation tomorrow and will reopen on **Tuesday 30th April**. Best wishes to students, their families and members of staff for a relaxing and enjoyable break.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Walker
Principal



ANZAC Assembly



School Holiday Idea!



Classes 2C, 6W, and the Wonai group collaborated with **Miss Crawford, Miss Watson, and Miss Gibbons** to decorate MEGA butterfly sculptures for display at the upcoming exhibition "Mega Creatures" at Hunter Valley Gardens. 2C focused on the Rathmines natural environment, crafting a turquoise lake with sand and shells sourced from the local area. 6W selected Miss Watson's favourite colour, Pink, to create a butterfly adorned with an abundance of mini butterflies. The Wonai group incorporated our school colours and the colours of the Awabakal land into their beautiful butterfly through dot painting.

Visit Hunter Valley Gardens these School holidays and cast your vote for one (or all) of Rathmines' extraordinary MEGA butterfly artworks for our chance to win an excursion!

Library News

Friendly Reminder:

- *Students are encouraged to borrow from the library weekly- **they will need a library bag.**
- *The borrowing period is two weeks. After this time books are registered as overdue.
- *Students who have long standing overdue or lost books cannot borrow until an explanatory note from a parent is received.
- *Stage 2 & Stage 3 students- Keep working on your Premier's Reading Challenge!

Library Legends

Our fabulous Library Legends for 2024 have started their duties in the library and I am extremely grateful for these students who have already shown outstanding school values in the level of responsibility to their role. Congratulations Juleen, Elijah, Lotus, Jasmyn, Ryan T, Ryan M, Teddy, Lincoln, Jack, Jacinta and Brody!



2024 Premier's Reading Challenge

This year all Stage 2 and Stage 3 students will be participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge as part of the library program. In line with the challenge rules, students will need to complete this individually. The library program includes specific PRC lessons to assist students to complete this task. However, the reading of the books will need to be done in their own time. If students are reading regularly every night, this challenge can be completed without any extra work. Kindergarten and Stage 1 will be completing the challenge as a class.

If you are logging books online go to <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html> and use the same user name and password students use to log on the school computers. Alternatively, use the link placed on the student portal. Make sure they click on the 'Visit Student Site' link!

Some students have elected to use a paper log. Make sure you keep this in a safe place and to hand in to me so I can log the books before the end of the challenge.

Happy Reading
Mrs Priest

Opportunity Classes for 2025

Opportunity Class (OC) Applications

OC Year 5 entry in 2025: Applications are open 4 April-20 May 2024

What are opportunity classes?

Opportunity classes are one of the ways the NSW Department of Education supports high potential and gifted students. The classes help students learn by:

- grouping them with other gifted students
- using specialised teaching methods so students can learn concepts in more detail and more quickly
- supporting their wellbeing needs.

Most students in opportunity classes enjoy learning with peers who have similar abilities and interests. Opportunity classes are **not** zoned.

Where are they located?

There are 86 primary schools with opportunity classes in NSW each year.

- 54 schools are located in metropolitan Sydney
- 31 schools are located in rural or regional centres
- a virtual class, Aurora College, for rural and remote students is available in over 600 authorised host schools.

Students successfully placed attend the opportunity class full time in Years 5 and 6 at the relevant public school.

In most cases, students who have accepted a place in an opportunity class will leave their current school to attend the school with the opportunity class.

Should you apply?

If your child learns with greater ease and speed than their classmates, they may benefit from placement in an opportunity class. High potential and gifted children need to be challenged so they remain engaged with their education. Discuss the opportunity with your child and look through the information together on Opportunity classes – Year 5.

If you would like to discuss whether you think you should apply, please contact your child's teacher.

Ready to apply?

Apply online at: education.nsw.gov.au/oc

Starstruck

HOODIES [PULLOVER / ZIP] - 49 AUD • TRACKPANTS - 49 AUD • SNUGGIES - 69 AUD

unide.com.au/starstruckmerch

Star Struck 2024

ORDERS CLOSE

12 APRIL



GET
10% off
WHEN YOU BUY 2
OR MORE ITEMS

FEATURING A

PUFF PRINT

ON THE RED INK ON THE HOODIES & TRACKPANTS

Dates for your Diary

DATE	EVENT
Thursday 11th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.10pm Infants Assembly
Friday 12th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last Day of Term 1
Tuesday 30th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Day of Term 2
Wednesday 1st May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross Country Carnival Years 2 to 6
Thursday 2nd May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.10pm Infants Assembly
Thursday 9th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mother's Day BBQ Breakfast Harmony Day
Friday 10th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mother's Day Gift Stall

Community News

 **Lake Macquarie
Holiday Programs**

15 APR TORONTO PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGISTRATION LINK: [HTTPS://WWW.PLAYHQ.COM/
CRICKET-AUSTRALIA/REGISTER/5A4236](https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/register/5A4236)

19 APR COORANBONG PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGISTRATION LINK: [HTTPS://WWW.PLAYHQ.COM/
CRICKET-AUSTRALIA/REGISTER/5A4236](https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/register/5A4236)

BOTH PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED
FOR KIDS AGES 5-10 AND ARE **FREE!**

9.30AM-3.30PM



**IMAGINE
THE FUN** 



FREE School Holiday Programs

Thu 18 April CHARLESTOWN SOUTH
PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mon 22 April NEW LAMBTON
PUBLIC SCHOOL

 TO REGISTER, SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO:
[https://www.playhq.com/cricket-
australia/register/6a4b1f](https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/register/6a4b1f)



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



The Garden and Sustainability Club will be commencing again in Term 2 and we are looking for any parent/grandparent volunteers to help out on **Wednesdays** at recess time (1.45pm).

If you or a family member are interested, please contact

Miss Crawford by email at brittney.crawford3@det.nsw.edu.au



ABSENCE NOTIFICATIONS

If your child is absent from school, you can notify the school three ways -

- Use the Sentral for Parents app to lodge an absence
- Respond to the SMS that is sent by the school on the day, and give a reason for the absence
- Write a note to the class teacher giving the absence date and reason.

All absence notifications must be in writing, therefore please **DO NOT RING THE SCHOOL** as verbal notifications cannot be accepted.

UNWELL STUDENTS

If your child shows **any signs of being unwell please keep them home**. If they have any of the following symptoms they must also have a COVID test—

Runny nose

Sore throat

Cough

Temperature above 37.4

Diarrhoea/Nausea/Vomiting

Conjunctivitis



If they have a negative result and their symptoms have resolved, they are free to return to school. If they test **Positive** they must **stay home** until symptoms have gone.

If your child has **diarrhoea or vomiting**, they must **wait 24 hours** after the last episode before returning to school, **provided they have received a negative Covid test result**.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO ADVISE THE SCHOOL VIA THE APP OF YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE.



Head Lice

Please check your children's hair regularly and treat immediately if you suspect an unwelcome visitor.

THURSDAY 30TH MAY

10:30AM START

RATHMINES PARK

Please join the
TORONTO LEARNING COMMUNITY

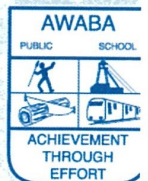
for our

RECONCILIATION WALK

as we show our support for the principles of
Reconciliation: truth, equity and healing.



Tangi Wangi
PUBLIC SCHOOL



Participation of Local Elders
Acknowledgment of Country
Smoking Ceremony
School & Local Artist Performances

NOW MORE THAN EVER

ACTIVE OOSH

RATHMINES

2024 INFORMATION



Why Active OOSH?

Active OOSH has been providing exceptional care for children in the Newcastle and Hunter regions since 2011. We prioritise building strong, genuine connections with our community by providing opportunities for children and families to be actively involved in the service and by supporting local initiatives and businesses.

Active OOSH excels in providing an extensive array of engaging experiences for children of all ages and abilities to enjoy on a daily basis. Our experienced and passionate team develop programs based on the interests and needs of the children and their families, while creating a space in which all children feel welcome, safe, valued and cared for.

For our littlest OOSHies, we run a specialised Kindergarten Transition Program which slowly introduces children to the routines and expectations of Big School in the comfort of a preschool style environment.

Hours & Fees

Before School Care:

6:30am - 9:30am | \$22

After School Care:

2:00pm - 6:00pm | \$27

Vacation Care:

6:30am - 6:00pm | \$76

(Fees above are before your Child Care Subsidy is applied)



Schools

- Rathmines PS
- Arcadia Vale PS
- Wangi Wangi PS

Please get in touch if you would like us to start picking up and dropping off to your school too! We welcome children from any school to join us during Vacation Care.

What's included?

Healthy menu: Nutritional breakfast and afternoon tea is provided each day.

Specialised Programs: We program a range of engaging opportunities each session including cooking; science; core values; cultural education; sustainability; sport; health and safety; imaginative play; dance; building and construction; creative arts; loose parts play and specialised infants activities.

Transport: Reliable, safe and efficient transport between Active OOSH Rathmines, local schools and Vacation Care excursions.

Homework Club: Tailored, small group learning experiences run daily by our qualified educators.



Contact Us

Phone: 0438 224 914

Email: rathmines@activeooshnsw.com

Visit us: Rathmines Public School

Book a tour of the service on our website: www.activeooshnsw.com