



Newsletter Week 9 Term 3 2018

Website: www.rathminespublicschool.com.au **20th September, 2018**

Email: rathmines-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Secret Corner Road
Rathmines 2283

Phone (02) 4975 1229

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Dear Parents and Carers,

*Letters detailing individual results for students who participated in the **2018 NAPLAN** program are being forwarded to parents and carers today. This information serves as a valuable guide to each child's progress in aspects of literacy and numeracy measured against a national standard. Please do not hesitate to consult with your child's class teacher if you would like to clarify or discuss any issues relating to the report. The NAPLAN data is also a valuable source of information on a whole school level particularly in regard to our future planning for the teaching of literacy and numeracy. During the next few weeks Mr McNamara and Mr Elston will lead a committee which will conduct a detailed analysis of this year's NAPLAN results and then report back to the whole staff regarding our strengths on a whole school level as well as the teaching strategies we can employ and initiatives we can put in place to address areas for improvement. We are also keen to ensure that parents gain a good understanding of the results for Year 3 and Year 5, the growth between Year 3 to Year 5 and Year 5 to Year 7, the school trends in literacy and numeracy results, and the implications for planning in relation to teaching and learning programs. With this in mind all parents and carers will be provided with an overview of the 2018 NAPLAN results and also the teaching and learning initiatives aimed at achieving ongoing improvements in these areas.*

Aboriginal Education Excursion

*On Tuesday of this week I was fortunate to be able to accompany Rebecca Verschoor, Erin Gavinlock, and all of the indigenous students in our "Wonai" indigenous culture group on a full day excursion to the **Awabakal Environmental Centre** at Dudley. I congratulate all of the children on the outstanding manner in which they conducted themselves while participating*





in a range of activities including: a nature walk in the Awabakal National Park, dramatising the dreamtime story of “Tiddalik the Frog”, participating in traditional dance, and an interactive lesson focusing on cultural artefacts. On behalf of all the children I thank Rebecca for not only organising this excursion but also for her ongoing work in coordinating the indigenous culture sessions held in the school library each fortnight.

Debating News

A very successful school debating season ended yesterday when the “Rathinators” narrowly lost their debate against a strong team representing Booragul Public. The Rathmines students were required to present the negative case on the topic that “**Parents Should Buy Pets For Their Children**” and their arguments were so convincing I left the hall thinking I should give away my dog Rogue and my goldfish even though my children left home many years ago! The adjudicator commented on the fact that the standard of debating displayed by both teams was indicative of the fact the competition had reached the stage where the final sixteen schools in the HCC Region were focused on winning the 2018 Debating Championship trophy. I congratulate the following members of “**Rathinators**” on their achievement in progressing further than any other Rathmines team since the inception of this competition: **Midori Rees, Emily Bradbury, Lexi Lavis and Brayden Behan**. Sincere thanks also to **Helen Bristow** for guiding and supporting both of our debating teams during the year.

Science Days

On Tuesday and Wednesday of next week students in our primary and infants classes will have the opportunity to participate in a series of learning activities focusing on the themes of “Electricity” and “Floating and Sinking,” which will be presented by **Dr Tony Wells** as part of our **National Science Week** celebrations. This is the third year that Tony has delivered the Science Day program for our students and the feedback from students and teachers has always been extremely positive. Tony has a genuine passion for fostering the interest of children in the world of science through a very “hands on” program involving demonstrations, experiments and discussions. I take this opportunity to thank **Rachelle Mitchell** and **Susan Burns** for once again coordinating this annual celebration.

ICAS Results

Each year students in our primary classes have the opportunity to test their academic knowledge and skills by participating in the ICAS assessments which are sponsored by the University of New South Wales. Over one million student entries are accepted from more than 6,300 schools in Australia and New Zealand annually. In addition, students from over 20 countries including Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and the USA participate in ICAS each year. On behalf of all the students who completed an ICAS test this year I thank **Mrs Priest** for giving generously of her time to coordinate and supervise the tests. I commend all the students for their readiness to challenge themselves in this way and offer special commendation to the following children who excelled in one or more of the tests:

Digital Technologies

Merit: William Roberts Yr 6 Credit: Keira Lo Yr 3, Chelsey Taylor Yr 3, Cruz Spencer Yr 4, Harrison Taylor Yr 4

Distinction: James Breitreuz Yr 5

English

Merit: Jack Mantle Yr 2, Taylor McGraw Yr 2, Chelsey Taylor Yr 3, Cruz Spencer Yr 4

Credit: Keira Lo Yr 3, Harrison Taylor Yr 4, William Roberts Yr 6

Science

Credit: William Roberts Yr 6 Distinction: Dustin Allan Yr 3, Lachlan Miller Yr 6



Spelling

Merit: Cleo Wyborn Yr 2, Dustin Allan Yr 3, Thomas Heymans Yr 3 Credit: Keira Lo Yr3, James Breitkreuz Yr 5

Writing

Credit: Cruz Spencer Yr 4, William Roberts Yr 6 Distinction: Cameron Gawn Yr 5

The results of the Maths tests are still to be published

Dogs in the Playground

An increasing number of parents have started to bring their dogs onto the school grounds when they are picking up their children after school and a few parents have contacted me to raise their concerns about the anxiety this practice creates for their children. While there have not been any incidents in which one of the visiting dogs has been aggressive towards a student I am aware that the actual presence of a dog in the already crowded playground can be very challenging for some students. **With this in mind I ask that all community members refrain from bringing dogs onto the playground.**

Sports News

The RPS girls and boys touch footy teams were great representatives for our school when they competed



in the **NSW Touch Association Primary Schools Gala Day** at Maitland last Thursday. The girls' **five out of five** winning record on the day was a true reflection of **Ellouise Boyd's** skill and experience in top level touch footy combined with her excellent coaching skills! The boy's team finished with two wins and a draw but most importantly they improved with every game. The inclusion of



a number of Yr 4 and Yr 5 students in both sides should ensure that we are able to build on the successes of this year when our teams compete in the 2019 PSSA competition.

Students in our primary classes will have a chance to participate in a new sports program next term as a result of a Mr Picot's successful application for a **Sporting Schools Grant of \$2900** to introduce table tennis to RPS. The grant will allow for the purchase of three more portable table tennis tables, playing equipment and five 2 hour coaching sessions.

Spring Vacation

School closes for the spring vacation tomorrow and reopens for students on **Monday 15th October**. I thank all students, parents and staff members for their contributions during another busy term and offer best wishes to everyone in our school community for a relaxing and enjoyable holiday.

Yours sincerely,
Nick Walker
Principal



Gardening Working Bee

Sunday 23rd September

Anytime you can make between 9-11am
R.P.S Vegetable Garden



With spring here we would love to have the support of families to help us get our vegetable garden ready for planting.

We already have two wonderful parent volunteers that have helped bring our school vegetable garden back to life. We would love some more support on Sunday with:

- Spreading out our generously donated mushroom compost from the Johnstone family.
- Weeding and tidying up of plants.
- Helping set up a T-Pee area within the garden for our children to enjoy.

We look forward to seeing anyone who is interested and can join in.

The Gardening Club Team: Clare Taylor, Lynda Maretich, Bev Austin and Liz Johnstone

Drought Relief Fundraiser



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the P&C's Dress Like a Farmer day. We all had a lot of fun dressing up and raising money for our drought-stricken farmers. **A special thank you also to our canteen for a generous donation of \$200.** In total we raised a massive \$885.55 which has been donated to the Buy a Bale campaign. Congratulations to James Hudson in KC who was the lucky winner of an Entertainment Book.

Lost Property

We are overloaded with unclaimed lost property. Please make some time to go through the pile before next Friday 28th September. All unclaimed clothing that have no names attached will be donated to the clothing pool and all other items will be disposed.



You Can Do It!

Throughout Term 3 students have worked on the final 'You Can Do It' key: **Resilience**. This learning will be consolidated with our final whole school 'You Can Do It' session next Thursday.

How can you help promote Resilience at home?

TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT RESILIENT THINKING

- When you are upset, you can find someone to talk to.
- When you are upset, you can find something fun to do.
- When you are upset, it is good to think "calm down" take three breaths "everything will be ok".



PRACTICAL THINGS YOU CAN DO TO DEVELOP RESILIENCE IN YOUR CHILD

- Accept that it is normal and healthy for your child to experience negative emotions.
- Provide your child with words to describe his/her own feelings.
- Teach your child to take three breaths before doing something he/she finds frightening or when he/she is angry or upset.
- Discuss with your child the importance of finding an adult to talk to when he/she has bad feelings. (This could be a parent or a teacher)
- Teach your child to think of all the positives when he or she gets upset or angry.
- Explain that if they are excluded from a game by a group of people they can find something fun to do with others.

Plastic Lid Collection



REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE

DON'T TOSS!!

REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE your plastic lids by paying them forward to Rathmines Public School. In term 4, interested students will be invited to participate in a group that uses recycled materials to make creative garden art for our already beautiful playground gardens. Hard lids from milk, softdrinks, medicine, spices, Nutella, etc are great.

So, if you have **plastic** lids of any size, shape or colour, please send them along with your child or drop them in the green plastic bucket located in the main COLA.

If all households manage to contribute at least 2 lids each week for the remainder of Term 3, we'll be well on the way to achieving our goal!

Keep creating change!

Lynda Maretich

Library News

Raise your hand if you love the author David Walliams...

I know 5E certainly does! This term Mr Elston and 5E have been busy reading *The World's Worst Children* by David Walliams and won the Book Week decorate your door competition with their theme inspired by this book. They received *The Worlds Worst Children 3* by David Walliams as their prize.

Since then, the library has had many requests for this book. Today I am excited to announce that as part of our funds raised by the book fair, the library has purchased not only the 3rd book in the series, but also 8 others by David Walliams!

There have been many new books adding to our library collection recently that have all come from student and class wish lists. It is very exciting to see the students requesting and enjoying quality literature in our library. I encourage you all to keep an eye on our bursting new book stand for many more great Fiction and Nonfiction titles.

Here is a sneak peak of our Origami books requested by a student in 5/6M and our David Walliams titles:

Grandpas's Great Escape, Awful Auntie, Demon Dentist, Ratburger, Gangsta Granny, Billionaire Boy, Mr Stink and Boy in a Dress.





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 21st September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Netball Gala Day (Snrs) Last day for Silver Coin Challenge Infants Assembly 2.30pm
Monday 24th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kindergarten excursion Stage 1 excursion
Tuesday 25th September	Science Day (Primary)
Wednesday 26th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science Day (Infants) Milo Cricket Gala Day
Friday 28th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infants Assembly 2.30 Last day of Term 3
TERM 4	
Monday 15th October	All students return for Term 4
Tuesday 23rd October	Bandfest
Friday 26th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grandparents Day Infants Sports Carnival International Teacher Appreciation Day

CANTEEN ROSTER

Friday 21st September	J.Bennett, N.Frost, J.Jessop, R.Jenkins (am), L.Feint,
Monday 24th September	A.Alley, J.Roberts
Wednesday 26th September	K.Herd, C.Williams, E.Spencer
Friday 28th September	L.Kerr, T.Warner, L.Feint, R.Jenkins (am), J.Jessop
TERM 4	
Monday 15th October	A.Greenwood, L.Feint
<p>If you are unavailable to do your rostered day, please phone Amanda Greenwood on 0412 534 774</p>	

UNIFORM SHOP

OPEN EVERY MONDAY
8.30—10.00 AM
Still in the 3/4S and 4S building

D & C NEWS

NEXT MEETING
 MONDAY 22ND OCTOBER
 7PM IN THE STAFF ROOM.

Silver coin class Challenge finishes this Friday 21st. The class who raises the most money wins a pizza lunch.



OFFICE NEWS

Donations of second-hand blue track pants, long grey pants and school skorts sizes 4-8 would be gratefully appreciated. Our stock of spare clothing is running very low. Thank you.



Education &
Communities

Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to [complete their schooling.](#)

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning website*

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 512

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities



NRL

HOLIDAY CLINICS

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM
 THURSDAY 4TH OCTOBER AT GRANGE OVAL, MARYLAND
 ADDRESS – GRANGE AVENUE, MARYLAND 2287
 TIME: 10:00AM – 1:00PM

PLAYNRL HOLIDAY CLINIC AT THE HOME OF THE WALLSEND/MARYLAND TIGERS
 The PlayNRL Holiday Clinic is a day program for kids aged 5-14 of any gender that focuses on fun, fitness and participation.
 Cost: \$40 per child which includes a PlayNRL Holiday Pack.
 What to bring: Hat, water bottle & lunch
 Game Development Officer Contact Details:
 Name: Luke Lawrence Phone Number: 0402 892 487 Email: llawrence@nrl.com.au
 REGISTER NOW AT www.playnrl.com UNDER THE CLINICS & PROGRAMS SECTION

PLAYNRL.COM

Wangi RSL Amateur Sailing Club

Wangi RSL Amateur Sailing Club
Learn to Sail & Intermediate Classes

6 week course - 8.30am - 10.30am
 Commencing 27 October 2018

- Accredited instructors
- \$130/person all equipment provided
- Participant needs to be able to swim 50m
- Limited places, register on club website

www.revolutionise.com.au/wangirls/

All enquiries - Scott Day 0414 689 091

FREE Swimming Lessons

For under fives

National Learn to Swim Week

Free lesson for under fives
 Saturday 6 October

Free CPR awareness training
 Charlestown Swim Centre - Tuesday 2 October
 Swansea Swim Centre - Wednesday 3 October
 West Wallsend Swim Centre - Thursday 4 October
 Just pay the pool entrance fee. All ages. Sessions start at 9am.

20% off school holiday Intensive Learn to Swim Class
 Tuesday 2 to Friday 5 October
 Charlestown, West Wallsend and Swansea Swim Centres.
 Limited places.

Book at Lake Mac Swim Centres:



Charlestown: 4921 0782
 Speers Point: 4921 0580
 Swansea: 4921 0733
 West Wallsend: 4921 0738

Kids' fishing workshop



Department of Primary Industries

Kids 8–14 years old are invited to come and learn to fish safely and responsibly. Instructors are experienced volunteers and staff from the Department of Primary Industries.

The day runs from 10 am to 2 pm and involves fishing techniques, bag and size limits, and fish handling for best release techniques.

COST is \$40 PER CHILD, and includes * rod and reel combination * shirt * hat * tackle box * show bag—all to take home!

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL. Maximum 25 participants.

Upcoming locations and dates

South West Rock, Kempsey	Tuesday 2 nd of Oct
Toronto, Lake Macquarie	Thursday 4 th of Oct
Soldiers Point, Port Stephens	Tuesday 10 th of Oct

To book email emma.mitchell@dpi.nsw.gov.au or call Emma Mitchell on 0438817906

Web details: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/info/workshop>

WESTLAKES PRESENTS

Brass, Wind & Song



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

2:00PM

Rathmines Public School Hall, Secret Corner Rd, Rathmines

Variety Concert with
**TORONTO BRASS, WESTLAKES CONCERT BAND
& STILLING STREET SINGERS**

**** Afternoon Tea included ****

TICKETS

Adults \$10, Children U16 and Afternoon Tea FREE

For tickets or more information phone 0402 003 214 or purchase at door





Active OOSH Rathmines Spring Holiday Program



Monday 1st Oct



Sorry we're closed for the long weekend.



Tuesday 2nd Oct

Hunter Sports Centre

Tackle the jungle fun, aerial madness, tumbling arena, trampolining plus the super fun Olympic games challenges.

10am - 1pm

Dynamic Mosaics

Design a colourful sand bottle using crushed chalk dust to deck out your bedroom. Make a batch of squishy slime to create endless bubble fun with your friends.

2pm - 4pm

Wednesday 3rd Oct

Marvellous Movies "Smallfoot"

Ticket & meal deal included in the daily fee.
11:30am - 2:30pm

Super dooper stalls

Create your own special stalls to auction off your hidden treasures at the OOSH mega markets.

Handball World Cup

Enter the contest to find the Active OOSH Rathmines world handball king and queen.

Thursday 4th Oct

Sweet Valley Baby Animals

Experience being up close and personal with a piglet, lamb, rabbit, baby goat, chicken, chicks, ducks and ducklings. You can bottle feed a baby lamb or piglet as well as brush and hand feed a cuddly goat or rabbit.

10am - 12pm

Tat Me Up

Pick a groovy design and have it air brushed on by the talented professionals.

2pm - 4pm

Friday 5th Oct

Picnic in the Park

Venture out for a fun filled day at Rathmines Park. Play on the fixed equipment and compete in group relays and other sports while enjoying a BBQ lunch and soothing drink.

Mythical Creatures

Get creative with dragons, unicorns and mermaids. Design your very own fairy and dinosaur garden.



Monday 8th Oct

Playground Sounds Roll into AOR

Strike a move at the silent hip hop dance party. Get ready to wear the retro wireless headphones and bust a move. Be a rockstar kid and have the chance to be the celebrity DJ on stage.

12pm - 3pm

Lego World Deluxe

Challenge your friends in the test against time to build the ultimate Lego creation.

Tuesday 9th Oct

Little Einstein's

Create your own slime, volcano lab, soap and bath bombs.

Inflatable World at Warners Bay

Jump and slide on the biggest, best and safest inflatables for hours of entertainment and fun.

Race through the obstacles to get the record time.
10am - 2pm

Wednesday 10th Oct

Games 2U

Wicked fun the kids will rave about for days. Tackle the games theatre, bumper balls, hamster ball and laser tag battle arena.
1:30pm - 3:30pm

Michelle's Master Class

Learn how to make and decorate a delicious cupcake after modelling sculptures and creating fluffy glittery slime.
10am - 12pm

Thursday 11th Oct

Webers Wicked Circus

Come with us on a wild west adventure with acrobats, funny clowns, trick dogs, miniature ponies and the Russian swing.
10am - 2pm

AOR Beauty School

Line up and have the talented OOSH educators work their magic creating trendy braids, sparkly nails and funky face paint designs.

Friday 12th Oct

Playgrounds Park

Take on the hired jumps and ramps testing your balance and skills. Race your friends on the obstacle courses.
10am - 2pm

Wonka's Wonderland

Stop by the Willy Wonka Factory to fill your belly with delicious chocolate treats.

Cloud Dough Slime

Create your own unicorn cloud dough to play with your friends.

Important Announcements

- Please ensure you have registered with XPLOR and have a password created prior to your first booked day.
- Active OOSH is an allergy aware service and we ask that no products containing nuts are packed in your child's bag.
- Active OOSH encourages all children to leave their devices at home as we have fun activities planned each day.
- Active OOSH require all children to have a packed bag with recess, lunch, snacks, a water bottle, a hat and a change of clothes.
- Active OOSH require all children to wear appropriate sun safe clothing and enclosed footwear daily. No singlets, crop tops, thongs or sandals are to be worn.



Service Contact Details:

Nicole
+0438 224 914
activeoosh Rathmines@gmail.com



Operating Hours:

6.30am - 6pm