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From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

The table below sets out the **top five** survey questions rated with the highest level of importance based upon the responses to the vision statement survey which was distributed to school community members towards the end of last term.

2018-2020

Top 5 Survey Questions with Level 5 Highest importance

1. Providing all students with access to high quality schooling that is free from all forms of discrimination.

80%

15. Ensuring that students develop personal values and attributes such as honesty, resilience, empathy and respect for others.

80%

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 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 by fostering their sense of wellbeing and developing their personal values of honesty, resilience, empathy, respect and responsibility.

From the Principal cont'd

19. Enabling students to act with moral and ethical integrity.

76.4%

7. Structuring personalised learning that aims to fulfil the diverse capabilities of each student.

72.7%

9. Developing the capacity of students to learn and to play an active role in their own learning as they strive to reach their full potential.

72.7%

A comparison of the results between the surveys conducted in 2015 and 2020 highlights the following points:

"Providing all students with access to high quality schooling that is free from all forms of discrimination" and "Ensuring that students develop personal values and attributes such as honesty, resilience, empathy and respect for others" remained as high priorities in both sets of survey results.

"Enabling students to act with moral and ethical integrity" and "Structuring personalised learning that aims to fulfil the diverse capabilities of each student" were rated as much higher priorities in the 2020 survey than had been the case in the previous survey.

The updated School Vision Statement which will highlight our focus, purpose and sense of direction for the 2021 to 2024 School Improvement Plan incorporates the feedback we have received via the survey. I take this opportunity to thank all members of our school community who have contributed to this process and offer special thanks to Jason Ruecroft for the leading role he has played in collating and presenting the results

School Vision Statement

"Rathmines Public School's vision is to pursue and celebrate excellence in all areas and to ensure every student has the opportunity to experience success within a supportive, safe, personalised and engaging learning environment which 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, to foster their sense of wellbeing and to develop their personal values of honesty, resilience, empathy, respect and responsibility."

School Improvement Plan 2021 to 2024

Staffing Update

Mrs Priest will resume her teacher librarian teaching responsibilities on Monday of next week after having been on maternity leave for the past twelve months. I take this opportunity to once again thank Miss Lizdenis for the very professional and diligent manner in which she has managed the library and the teacher librarian role during Mrs Priest's absence. Joanna will continue in her part time teaching role with 3/4GS for the remainder of the term. We will once again have a number of teachers filling fulltime temporary teaching positions next year. I will provide parents and carers with an overview of our 2021

From the Principal cont'd

staffing structure before the end of term but for parents of children in our special education classes I would like to provide advance notice that **Mrs Leanne Reid** will take up a fulltime temporary teaching position on one of the classes within the unit from the start of the new school year. Leanne has had extensive experience in teaching the students in all three classes during the past eighteen months and during that time she has demonstrated an outstanding capacity to provide an engaging and supportive learning environment for her students. I have no doubt she will be a wonderful addition to the special education team in 2021.

Sports News

I mentioned in an earlier newsletter that the Westlakes PSSA would be working hard during Term 4 to provide a range of inter school sporting opportunities to make up for the events that had to be cancelled this year due to the COVID 19 restrictions. Last Thursday our girls and boys touch football teams participated in the **Westlakes PSSA Touch Carnival** which was hosted by our school down at Rathmines Oval. The children in both teams played great touch and finished the day undefeated but more importantly they displayed great sportsmanship particularly when playing against less experienced teams. On Friday the boys in our school rugby league team travelled to Raymond Terrace to represent the school in a carnival conducted by the **Newcastle Knights** and once again went through the day undefeated. I was especially impressed with their outstanding efforts in defence in all games. This was a highlight of their last game against Swansea Public when they had to hold the opposition out for repeated sets of tackles to finish with a narrow win.

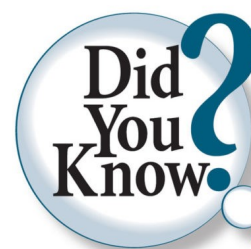
2021 Enrolments

Members of the school executive are currently working on the structure and make up of our classes for next year. At this stage the total enrolment for RPS will be at a record high and all of our classes are very close to maximum capacity. There are a number of enrolment applications that have had to be placed on a "waiting list" for certain classes. With this in mind I ask any parents who may be leaving the area or intend enrolling their children in a new school in 2021 to please contact and notify our office staff immediately. This will allow us to develop an accurate composition of classes and may allow other families to proceed with their enrolment applications.

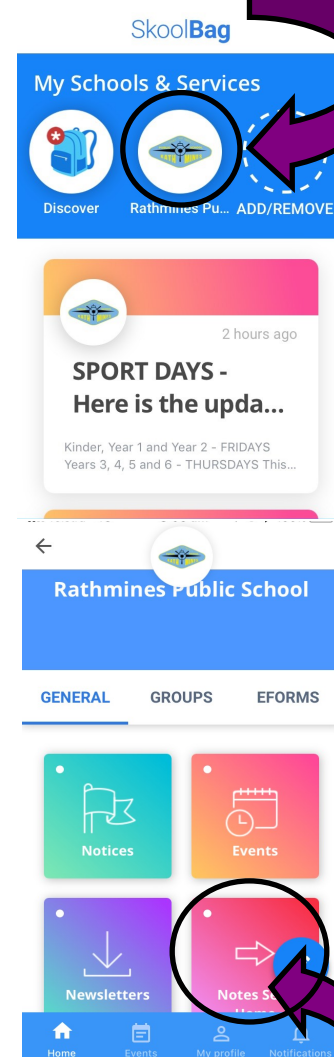
Yours sincerely,

Nick Walker

Principal



Any school notes that are sent home can also be found on the Skoolbag App. On the home screen, click on the Rathmines Public School link.



On the next screen click on Notes Sent Home. You can then scroll through to find the information you need.

KINDERGARTEN'S ASIA DAY



This term, Kindergarten has been learning about Asia. We have enjoyed looking at Asian celebrations, food and traditions. To finish off our unit of work, last Wednesday we had "Asia Day". We came to school dressed in Asian clothes and colours. During the day we joined in lots of fun activities. We made Chinese fans, decorated Indian elephants, had our face painted, and tried using chopsticks. Mrs Ruecroft, Mrs Fragar and Mrs Bowron had a great day of fun with our super Kindergarten



KINDERGARTEN'S ASIA DAY

On Asia Day we folded cherry blossom fans and we played snakes and ladders. We got some face painting done. We also made gold, glittery book marks. We also made beautiful Asian elephants.



On Asia Day we used chopsticks to pick up things. We made gold glittery book marks and folded cherry blossom fans. We got colourful face painting on our faces. It was a great day!



On Asia Day we had fun and we used chopsticks to pick up cookies. It was fun! We also got colourful face painting. Then we folded cherry blossom paper into fans.



SPECIALTY GROUP PHOTOS

Rathmines Public School Specialty Group Photographs

Specialty Group Photographs are available online.

These include Infants Choir, Debating, Wonai, School Band, School Leaders, Sports Captains, Zone Representatives and sports teams.

Newcastle School Portraits

Capturing your memories for over **29** Years

21 Broadmeadow Rd, Broadmeadow

Hours: 9am-3.30pm Mon-Fri

Closed School Holidays

Email: admin@newcastleschoolportraits.com

Ph: 49 654114

Order online at
www.newcastleschoolportraits.com
and follow the online ordering tabs to
School Specialty Groups

Password: 61300CE

Or ring our Broadmeadow office during school hours
Please note we are closed school holidays

WATER BOTTLES

Please remember to pack your child's

WATER BOTTLE EVERY DAY.

School bubblers are still unavailable and the school has only a limited supply of disposable cups.

Collapsible drink bottles are a great idea when there is limited space in your child's school bag.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

KINDER AND YEAR 1 PARENTS
Please pack spare undies and pants
in your child's bag.

School supplies of spare clothing are very limited and if we have nothing suitable, we will need to contact you to bring a change of clothes to school.

Thank you.



SCHOOL OFFICE **8.30am—3.00pm**

Cash payments can be left in the payments slot after hours (right hand side of counter).
EFTPOS only available before 3pm.

For the safety and well-being of all our students, please ensure

NO NUTS **OF ANY KIND**

are brought to school. This includes any type of nut butter, chocolate nut spread like Nutella and any snack foods containing nuts.



MAKING A PAYMENT?

To pay by card simply go online to
<https://rathmines-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

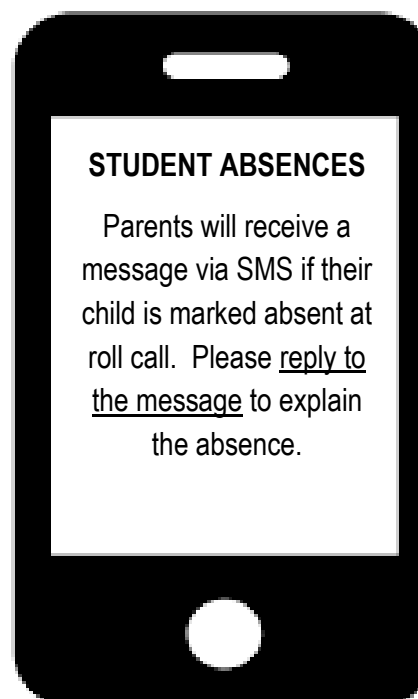
In the MAKE A PAYMENT tab enter your child's name and date of birth to begin the process.

Cash and EFTPOS are accepted at the school office **before 3pm.**



STUDENT ABSENCES

Parents will receive a message via SMS if their child is marked absent at roll call. Please reply to the message to explain the absence.



IMPORTANT DATES

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday 24th November	Primary Science Fair
Wednesday 25th November	Soccer Gala Day Stage 3
Monday 30th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swimming Scheme Starts for Year 2 only Kinder 2021 Information Session via ZOOM 5.30pm
Tuesday 1st December	Year 6 High School Orientation
Wednesday 2nd December	Cricket Blast Stage 2 and part Stage 3 Warners Bay
Thursday 3rd December	Cricket Gala Stage 3
Thursday 10th December	Last Day of Swimming Scheme
Friday 11th December	<p>Affirmation Assemblies</p> <p>Stage 1 - 9.00am to 11.00am</p> <p>Stage 2 - 11.00am to 1.00pm</p> <p>Stage 3 - 1.00pm to 3.00pm</p>
Monday 14th December	Presentation Day 9.30am
Monday 14th December	Kindergarten Affirmation Assembly 12.00pm
Tuesday 15th December	Infants Movie and Party Day
Tuesday 15th December	Year 6 Farewell
Wednesday 16th December	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

COMMUNITY NOTICES

 **The Athlete's Foot**

GET FITTED BY THE EXPERTS TODAY

In Partnership with
RATHMINES PUBLIC SCHOOL

\$5 DONATED BACK TO YOUR SCHOOL

Every time you buy a pair of shoes.

Good for Kids good for life

KEEP THE LUNCHBOX COOL

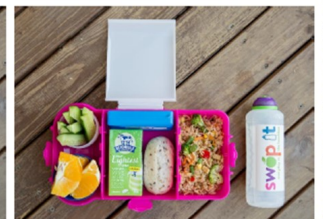
As the weather warms up it is important to keep the lunchbox cool so that food stays safe to eat.

Using an insulated lunchbox with an ice brick can keep the lunchbox 12° cooler.

You could also try a frozen:

- Water bottle
- Milk popper
- Yoghurt

These double as a refreshing drink or cool snack as they defrost.



 **Health**
Hunter New England
Local Health District

HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au
<http://www.goodforkids.nsw.gov.au/>



**WHAT GOT ME HOOKED
WAS BEING AMONGST
GIRLS WHO LOVED THE
SAME THINGS I DID**

GRACE JARVIS, GIRL GUIDE

Join us  GIRL GUIDES AUSTRALIA NSW ACT NT

 **toGROW**



The Coastal Valleys Region Girl Guides have vacancies for Girls aged from 5 – 14 years of age

We meet in all areas so if you would like to come along and Try it for 2 weeks free of charge you can phone our Membership Advisor Sandra Herbert on 0418 160 402 or e-mail HERBSHAVEN@bigpond.com for more information

Disclaimer: Rathmines Public School does not necessarily endorse the services or products which may be included in or attached to this newsletter and is in no way responsible for any issues arising from use of the services or products offered. No responsibility is accepted for errors or omissions.

Good for Kids good for life

MOVE AND PLAY EVERY DAY



For their best health, kids aged 5-13 years should aim for:



At least 60 minutes of physical activity each day – the more you huff and puff the better!



Non-educational screen-based activities limited to less than 2 hours each day. In your spare time, move more and sit less.



9-11 hours of uninterrupted sleep each night.

Source: Australian Movement Guidelines: www.health.gov.au

 **Health**
Hunter New England
Local Health District

HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au
<http://www.goodforkids.nsw.gov.au/>



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.





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.

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.

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



ACTIVE OOSH RATHMINES

2020 Parent Information Flyer

SERVICE DETAILS.

HOURS OF OPERATION.

Before School: 6:30am – 9:30am

After School: 1:30pm – 6pm

Vacation Care: 6:30am – 6pm

OUR SERVICE PRICES.

BSC: \$20.00

ASC: \$25.00

Vacation Care: \$70.00

Child Care Subsidy benefit can be claimed through Centrelink.

SCHOOLS WE SERVICE.

We offer a drop off and collection service for children attending Rathmines, Arcadia Vale, Coal Point, Wangi Wangi and Blackalls Park Public School.

ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS.

Phone: 0438224914

Email: activeoosh Rathmines@gmail.com

Website: activeooshnsw.com

Facebook page: Active OOSH Rathmines.

Address: Rathmines Public School – Rosemary Row, Rathmines, 2283.

About Active OOSH

Active OOSH provide a before school, after school and vacation care program for primary school aged children. We aim to provide a service that is supportive, stimulating, caring and inclusive. We value family partnerships and have an open door policy where families are encouraged to be actively involved in our service. All children are given the opportunity to learn and grow through play and enjoy a large variety of activities and experiences at the service through our child focused programming.

K-2 Zone.

The service K - 2 zone is an area that provides children from Kindergarten to Year 2 with a range of age appropriate games and activities. This area is developed to assist younger children with positive transitions to Primary School.

Homework.

OOSH homework club operates at the service before and after school care. Children participate in jolly phonics, home readers, spelling words, mathematics, projects and speeches. The children are assisted by an educator who will guide them with any questions they may have.

Extra curricular.

The service program extra curricular activities everyday based on the children and families interests. Some of the activities include:

- Dynamic Mosaics art club.
- OOSH MasterChef.
- Little Einstein's science.
- Yoga, dancing and drama.
- Specialised sport clinics.
- Cultural groups.
- Crafty Creations.

Daily Activities on offer.

There are a wide variety of activities on offer at the service that include:

- Drama and dance.
- Science experiments.
- Arcade games.
- Sustainability activities.
- Imaginative and creative play.
- Board and card games.
- Lego and construction activities.
- Sporting clinics.
- DIY slime and playdough.

Breakfast + Afternoon Tea Club.

Active OOSH provide breakfast and afternoon tea daily. This is all inclusive in the daily fee. The menu is developed in consultation with industry professionals and our menu is displayed at the service for families to view. The meals are designed to be nutritious and offer new tastes and textures so eating can be an educational and cultural experience. Children with food allergies or special dietary requirements are catered for in our inclusive programming practices. Water stations are available to children both inside and outside.