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## From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks to all students, parents and staff members for extending such a warm “welcome back” after my extended break during the past seven weeks. While I certainly enjoyed my time travelling in Italy, France and Spain it is good to be back at Rathmines and feeling very refreshed as we approach the busy second half of Term 4. I welcome this opportunity to publically thank **Cathie Ruecroft** not only for accepting the responsibility of being the Relieving Principal during my absence but also for once again displaying outstanding leadership and professionalism while fulfilling the role. I believe I am very fortunate to have been able to completely “switch off” from school issues during this time with the knowledge that the school was in safe hands under Cathie’s leadership with the support of a great executive team.

### Grandparents Day

When Cathie was providing me with an update regarding school events that have taken place while I was away she highlighted the success of

### 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

the traditional Grandparents Day celebrations which were held in conjunction with the Infants Sports Carnival on Friday of week two. The special assembly provided our school with an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the wonderful role grandparents play in the lives of our students as well as the outstanding contribution they make to Rathmines Public on a daily basis. Our guests of honour really appreciated the variety of entertainment which was provided as an expression of thanks from staff and students in our school community. I thank all of our visitors for making the effort to come along and join in this annual celebration. I take this opportunity to thank **Mrs McNamara** and **Mrs Cawley** for coordinating the Grandparents Day activities, and also **Mrs Maretich** for her efforts in running the very successful Infants Sports Day.

### Science Days

With all the scientific and technological innovations of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and jobs of the future that our children need to prepare for, there is increasing importance placed on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) in our schools. **Mrs Mitchell** and **Mrs Burns** play a leading role in this regard through the ongoing implementation of our K to 6 science program and the organisation of our annual National Science Week celebrations. On Tuesday of this week all students participated in STEM activities and Science experiments for a full day. Students made balloon rockets, rainclouds in a jar, problem-solved to clean up oil spills and designed the strongest table they could from 8 sheets of newspaper to name just a few of the activities completed. Our Science Day also celebrated the National Science Week theme of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the moon landing, with a slide show during the Science Fair and some moon themed projects. It also provided an opportunity for students with a passion in Science and Maths areas to shine in a public forum. During the previous six weeks students in our primary classes have been busily preparing their projects which focused on them answering a scientific question by designing, performing an experiment, or making a model. Students had to make a poster explaining what they did and learned and then delivered a presentation to students K-2 during our Science Day. On behalf of all students from Kinder to Year 6 I thank Rachelle and Susan for all the time and effort they contributed to ensuring this year's Science Day was such an outstanding success.



Science Fair



STEM Activities



## From the Principal cont'd

### 2019 NAPLAN Analysis

Parents and carers of students in Year 3 and Year 5 have recently received individual reports based on their child's participation in the **2019 NAPLAN** assessment program. While the reports provide valuable feedback regarding the achievements of individual students, the data gathered through this program is also an important source of information on a whole school basis. With this in mind each year we conduct an in-depth analysis of our school's results with particular focus on the percentage of students in each band, the growth in student achievement from Year 3 to Year 5 and from Year 5 to Year 7, the trends in performance data over time (previous three years) and the particular aspects of the assessments in which our students have either performed above or below the state average. **Mrs Buining Horne, Mr McNamara and Mr Elston** accepted the responsibility of conducting our 2019 analysis and have prepared a summary (see page 4) for your reference:

### Student Leadership

Tomorrow members of the current student leadership team will speak to all of the Year 5 students about the rewards and responsibilities associated with being a student leader at our school. This will be the first step in the process which will eventually lead to the selection of our school's student leaders for 2020. Members of the Year 5 class who decide to stand for election will present speeches to their peers and students from Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 on Wednesday of next week. After an initial round of voting by Year 5 and the SRC representatives from other classes, this group will be shortlisted prior to a second round of speeches in week 8 and the final selection of our 2020 student leaders. I encourage all students in Year 5 to think carefully about the information and advice presented by the Year 6 student leaders and to consider making a special contribution to Rathmines Public in 2020 by participating in this election process.

### Sports Photos

The annual Sports Photos and the Year 6 Class Photo for 2019 will be taken tomorrow morning. As the Year 6 photo will be taken first, all children in Year 6 are asked to wear their full summer uniform to school with special attention being given to the wearing of the correct school shoes and socks. The children who are involved in sports photos will be given the opportunity to change. The students who represented at zone level or beyond in cross country, swimming or athletics will wear their **sports uniform** for their squad photos. Members of the following PSSA rep teams will wear their **playing gear** for their team photos: netball, aerobics, basketball, touch football, soccer (football), league tag, rugby 7's, rugby league, cricket and softball. I ask all of our rep players to make a special effort to bring their playing attire with them tomorrow as the quality of the sports photos is diminished if any of the team members are "out of uniform".

Yours sincerely,

*Nick Walker*

Principal

# NAPLAN

## NAPLAN Student Achievement in 2019

In the **National Assessment Program**, the results for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 Literacy and Numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10. The achievement scale represents levels of skills and understanding demonstrated in these assessments.

Yr 3: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest for Year 3)

Yr 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)

Yr 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to band 9 (highest for Year 7)

### Literacy - NAPLAN Years 3 and 5.

#### Reading

Year 3 students achieved an average mark significantly higher (20.3 points) than the average for NSW. Year 3 had 58.3% of students in the top two bands, which is above the state average (14.2%). Even more notably, 38.9% of our Year 3 students achieved in the top band for Reading (18.2% above the state average). Rathmines Public School also had no students in the bottom band, meaning that all students in Year 3 achieved results that were at or above the National Minimum Standard.

Year 5 students achieved 5.9 points above the average for NSW schools in Reading. A total of 29.7% of Year 5 students achieved in the top two bands for Reading which is 4.3% below the state average for students in these top bands. Year 5 also had fewer students in the bottom two bands than the state average (5.4% vs 13.4%), with no students in Year 5 achieving a result in the bottom band for Reading in 2019. Year 5 students scored 4.6 points above the state for growth. 57.1% of Year 5 students achieved greater than or equal to expected growth in Reading, which is 1.3% above the state average.

YEAR	Reading Average Mark 2019	School	State
Year 3		448.8	428.5
Year 5		507.0	501.1

#### Writing

Year 3 achieved an average mark approximately 5 points above the average for NSW schools for Writing. 62.9% achieved in the top two bands for Writing, which is 7.8% above the state average. Year 3 had 3.6% less students represented in the bottom two bands than the average for NSW schools.

Year 5 students achieved an average mark 13.9 points above the average for NSW schools for Writing. 13.5% achieved in the top two bands for Writing, which is 3.7% below the state average. No students in Year 5 achieved in the bottom two bands which is 6.6% less than the average for NSW schools. No students in Year 5 at Rathmines Public School achieved results below the National Minimum Standard for Writing in 2019.

Year 5 students scored an average of 14.3 points below the state average for growth in Writing. 57.2% of Year 5 students achieved greater than or equal to expected growth in Writing.

Year	Writing Average Mark 2019	School	State
Year 3		429.7	425.0
Year 5		486.9	473.0

#### Grammar and Punctuation

Year 3 achieved an average mark above (19.7 points) the average for NSW schools. 61.3% of students performed in the top two bands, compared to 48.5% for schools in NSW. 10.8% of students who sat the Year 3 NAPLAN test in schools across NSW achieved results in the bottom two bands, compared to just 3.2% of students in Year 3 at Rathmines Public School.

Year 5 at Rathmines Public School achieved an average mark (0.28 points) on par with the average mark for NSW schools in Grammar and Punctuation. A total of 42.4% of students were in the top two bands for Grammar and Punctuation which is 8.3% higher than the state average of 34.1%. Year 5 students at Rathmines had 1.1% less students in the bottom two bands compared to the state average. Year 5 achieved slightly above average growth (3.59 points) compared to the NSW average. 54.8% of Year 5 students achieved better than expected growth in Grammar and Punctuation.

# NAPLAN

Year	Grammar and Punctuation Average Mark 2019	School	State
Year 3		458.8	439.09
Year 5		500.5	500.22

## Spelling

Year 3 students achieved significantly above (20.6 points) the average for NSW schools. 61.1% of students performed in the top two bands, roughly 15% more than the state average. Approximately 5% less students in Year 3 at Rathmines Public School performed in the bottom two bands than the state average.

Year 5 students achieved an average mark below (20.1 points) the average for NSW schools. Year 5 students had 11.3% less students in the top two bands for Spelling than the state average for students in these top bands. Rathmines Public School had approximately 5% less Year 5 students in the bottom two bands than the state average. Year 5 students scored 13.8 points below the state average for student growth in Spelling. A total of 42.9% of Year 5 students achieved greater than or equal to expected growth in Spelling, which is below (15.7%) the state average.

Year	Spelling Average Mark 2019	School	State
Year 3		443.5	422.9
Year 5		482.5	502.6

## Numeracy - NAPLAN Years 3 and 5

### Numeracy

The average score for Year 3 students in Numeracy was 25.6 points above the state average. Year 3 had no students in the bottom band for Numeracy and 8% of students were in Band 2 (7% below the state average for these bottom two bands). 40% of students in Year 3 at Rathmines Public School were in the top two bands for Numeracy. This is 4% higher than the state average.

Year 5 students achieved an average mark that was slightly below (0.7 points) the state average. 25% of Year 5 students at Rathmines Public School were in the top two bands for Numeracy, approximately 2% less than the state average for students in these top bands for Numeracy. Rathmines Public School had fewer Year 5 students in the bottom two bands than the state average for these two bands (14% vs 17%). 42% of students in Year 5 at Rathmines Public School achieved greater than or equal to expected growth with our average student growth being 17.3 points less than state average scaled score growth.

Year	Numeracy Average Mark 2019	School	State
Year 3		433.7	408.1
Year 5		494.9	495.6

## Overall

Rathmines Public School's results were mixed but, on average, pleasing. Year 3 results, in particular, were outstanding as were our results in Reading across the board. All in all, our students should be very proud of their efforts.



# EMERALD CLASS NEWS

In Emerald class we have been focussing on STEM initiatives. STEM isn't just about learning on iPads and computers but using real world objects to demonstrate STEM thinking. We had the pleasure of having Mrs. Thompson's kittens in and the students had to build obstacle courses and places where the kittens could rest. Thanks Mrs. Thompson, the children had a great time!

James Picot

Classroom Teacher

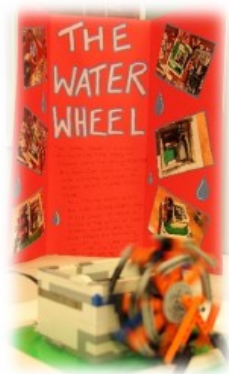
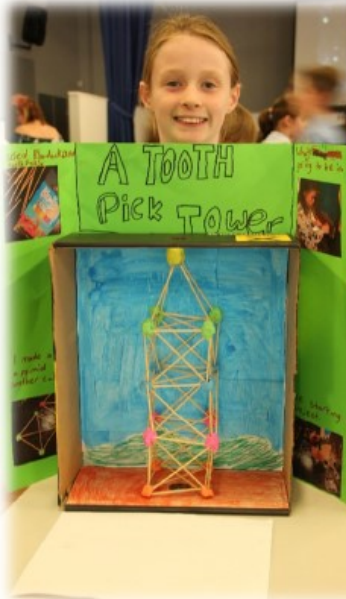
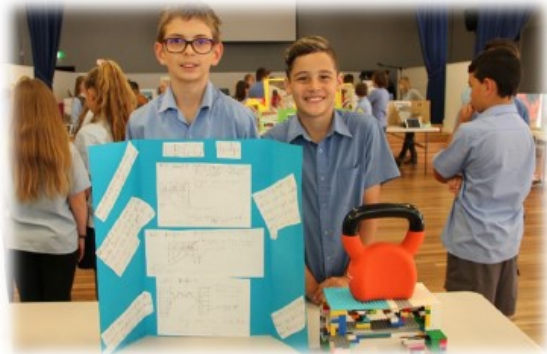
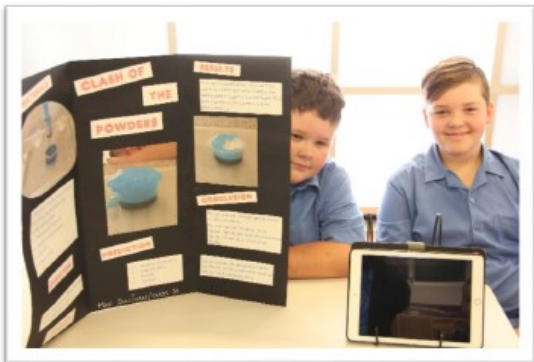




# SCIENCE DAYS



## Primary Science Fair





# SCIENCE DAYS



## Infants Science Day 2019





## MOVEMBER

### PLEASE HELP THE 'RPS MO BROS' RAISE MONEY AND AWARENESS OF MEN'S HEALTH THIS 'MOVEMBER'!

A number of dapper gentlemen from the RPS teaching community are banding together to raise money and awareness of men's health, and more specifically suicide prevention. Globally, the rate of suicide is alarmingly high, particularly in men. Too many men are 'toughing it out', keeping their feelings to themselves and struggling in silence. Movember is aiming to reduce the rate of male suicide by 25% by 2030.

Any donations to this worthy cause will be much appreciated!  
 Donate to our team at <https://moteam.co/rps-mo-bros-1?mc=1>

We will continue to post updates of our impressive 'mos' in the next two newsletters.  
 Thanks in advance guys!

The RPS 'Mo Bros'

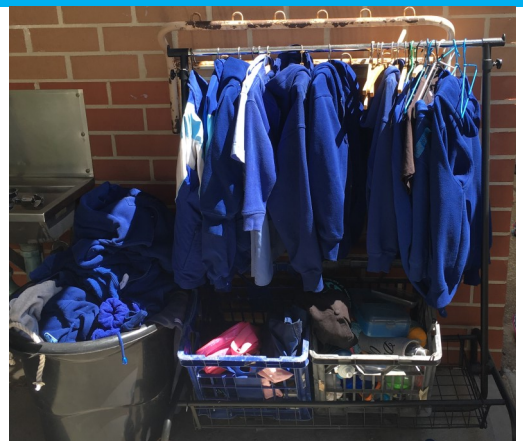


## LOST PROPERTY

Please Please **PLEASE**

CHECK LOST PROPERTY FOR YOUR CHILD'S  
 BELONGINGS. MANY ITEMS HAVE NAMES!

LOCATED OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY



# 2020 SCHOOL TRAVEL APPLICATIONS

Applications for student travel in 2020 opened on Friday, 11 October 2019.

Students progressing to year 3 and year 7 no longer need to re-apply *if* they:

- are continuing at the same school
- are residing at the same address
- have *not* been sent an expiry notification from Transport for NSW.

Where a student meets the new distance eligibility, the system will automatically update their entitlement. If they do not meet the new eligibility, they will receive an expiry notification via email.

Students who have an entitlement approved under a medical condition which is due to expire will receive a notification advising them to re-apply.

Term Bus Pass holders will receive a notification to re-apply.

If students need to update their information or re-apply, they should go online to <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/updateDetails>

Applications need to be submitted before 31 December 2019 to ensure student entitlements are updated and their current entitlement/card is not cancelled. If their application is submitted after 31 December 2019, the system will automatically cancel an entitlement/card and a new one will need to be issued.

Students in the Opal network applying for a SSTS or Term Bus Pass entitlement for the first time will receive their card at their nominated postal address. Cards will be mailed out from January 2020.

## 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.

## STUDENTS ARRIVING LATE OR LEAVING EARLY



must be signed in or out at the office by a responsible adult. Parents will receive an email notification if their child has arrived late to school unaccompanied by an adult. Please reply with an explanation.



# CARING FOR OUR FARMERS



## Caring for Our Farmers

Community Service

[@CaringForOurFarmers](https://www.facebook.com/CaringForOurFarmers)



### OUR FARMERS NEED OUR HELP!!

We are a locally owned and based Transport Company looking to help Mike from 'Caring for Our Farmers' send a convoy of trucks to the bush.

### How YOU can Help

We are asking the Community to help out with supplies.

Donations of Bottled Drinking Water, Tea, Coffee, Sugar, Dog Food and Toiletries such as Toilet Paper and Bars of Soaps.

### Drop off Locations & Times/Dates

**RATHMINES PUBLIC SCHOOL**

on

*Tuesday 3rd & Wednesday 4th December*

Between 8:45am & 12 noon

**STRICTLY NO CASH OR GIFTCARDS PLEASE** (Anybody wishing to make a monetary donation please refer to the Caring for Our Farmers Facebook page).

## IMPORTANT DATES

DATE	EVENT
Friday 8th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sport Teams &amp; Year 6 Photos</li> <li>Infants Assembly 2.15pm</li> </ul>
Thursday 14th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kinder 2020 Orientation 11.45am-1.45pm</li> <li>Special Ed. Excursion to Speers Point Park</li> </ul>
Monday 18th November	Primary Assembly 2.15pm
Thursday 21st November	Mini Fete
Friday 22nd November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supercars Excursion</li> <li>Infants Assembly 2.15pm</li> </ul>
Monday 25th November	Swim School starts for year 2
Tuesday 3rd December	Year 6 Toronto High Orientation Day

## END OF YEAR DATES

DATE	EVENT
Thursday 5th December	Thank You morning tea and Kinder concert
Wednesday 11th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affirmation Assembly K-2 9.30am in the hall</li> <li>Affirmation Assembly Yrs 5-6 12pm in hall</li> </ul>
Thursday 12th December	Affirmation Assembly Yrs 3-4 in the hall
Friday 13th December	Presentation Day at Avondale, Cooranbong 10.30am
Monday 16th December	Party Day / K-2 Movie Day
Tuesday 17th December	Year 6 Farewell
Wednesday 18th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 clap-out 2.30pm</li> <li>Last Day of school for all students</li> </ul>

## CANTEEN ROSTER

Friday 8th November	L.Johnstone, R.Jenkins (am), T. Warner, V.Ryan
Monday 11th November	G.Weston, J.Lowe
Wednesday 13th November	L.McAllister, C.Metcalf, L.Feint
Friday 15th November	L.Johnstone, R.Jenkins (am), J.Gorick, N.Hinchliffe, J.Jessop
Monday 18th November	A.Lilliss, L.Bicanic, N.Welsh
Wednesday 20th November	K.Betteridge, S.Kay, M.Breith, R.Robertson



## COMMUNITY NOTICES



Please come and support the Santa Lolly Run at our BBQ fundraiser.

**Saturday 16th November**  
**8:30am - 1pm**  
**Wangi Wangi IGA**

 wangisantalollyrun



### CAN YOU HELP?

#### WANGI WANGI GUN EMPLACEMENTS VEGETATION MANAGEMENT TRAINING AND SITE VEGETATION CLEARING.

Lake Macquarie Council in conjunction with local groups will be conducting a conservation and interpretation project for the site. This project will include restoration of the site and the construction of interpretation signs around the site.

If you are interested in undertaking this training and help with the conservation of this important historical site please contact Wangi RSL on 4375 1686, Scott Munro on 0409 751 092 or Loraine Nelson on 0409 848 860 for further information.



**Santa's coming to Toronto Diggers...**

***Saturday 23rd November***

Santa and his helpers will be collecting toys for disadvantaged kids and those in need throughout the Hunter

**Santa  
and  
Reindeers**



*arrive 1.30pm*

**All Donations welcome**

Toronto Diggers will be taking donations from Monday 14th October or bring them on the day and have your photo taken with Santa !



**FREE**

**Reptile  
Show**



*from 11.30am*

*Don't forget  
to Bring your camera*



Please come and support the Santa Lolly Run at our BBQ fundraiser.

**Saturday 30th November**  
**8:30am - 1pm**  
**Rathmines Butchery**

 wangisantalollyrun



*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.*




# Active OOSH



Active OOSH Rathmines provides professional, cost effective child care for before school, after school and vacation care.

Wanting your child to be involved in extra curricular activities without the running around and cost, look no further then Active OOSH Rathmines. We aim to provide a wide variety of experiences to enhance children's development, encourage individual interests and foster independence. Some of our amazing programs include:

- Cooking classes
  - Little Einsteins (science)
    - Dance
    - Drama
    - Soccer
    - Art
    - Yoga
  - Homework Club
  - Active OOSHIES
- Plus much more!!!



BSC: 6:30am-9:00am ASC: 2:30pm-6:00pm  
 Please enquire via phone, email or facebook  
 Phone Number: 0438224914  
 Email: [activeooshrathmines@gmail.com](mailto:activeooshrathmines@gmail.com)  
 Facebook: Active OOSH Rathmines



### Absence Note

My child ..... of class.....

was absent on (date/s).....

due to (reason).....

.....

.....

Signed (Parent / Guardian)..... Date:.....

.....

### Absence Note

My child ..... of class.....

was absent on (date/s).....

due to (reason).....

.....

.....

Signed (Parent / Guardian)..... Date:.....

.....

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My child ..... of class.....

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