



## IN THIS ISSUE

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## From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

### In This Together

The theme for this year's National Reconciliation Week takes on extra significance and relevance for our school community as we celebrate not only the second week of the return to full time face to face teaching for our students, but also the manner in which we have taken a very "in this together" approach to meeting the many and varied challenges associated with the impact of COVID 19 over the past six weeks of schooling. This first edition of the Rathfinder for Term 2 provides me with a welcome opportunity to once again thank all students, parent and carers, and staff members for your contributions to what has been a wonderful team effort as we made the adjustments to social distancing, online learning from home, flexible working arrangements, additional hygiene measures, and the restrictions placed on access to our school grounds. I extend a special word of thanks to:

- all parents and carers for successfully juggling the demands 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

home life while at the same time supporting your children in their learning from home.

- class teachers and support staff for the huge amount of time and effort devoted to developing and implementing the online learning programs;
- members of the school executive for the leadership and sense of direction given to their stage teams during rather uncertain times;
- Kay, Jen, Deb and Kate in the school office for continuing to be the very positive, welcoming and supportive “face of the school” while still managing a dramatically increased workload; and finally
- all of our students who were potentially the most vulnerable members of our community but displayed great resilience, adaptability and a positive attitude during their six week break from normal schooling.

When speaking to members of staff during our first face to face staff meeting for many weeks on Tuesday morning I emphasised that there is still a considerable amount of uncertainty about the timeframe for maintaining our current school based restrictions relating to :

access to school grounds for parents and carers  
 extra curricula activities such as dance, choir, debating and inter school sport  
 conducting of school assemblies  
 celebrating whole school events such as Book Week

As an interim measure we are planning to run our primary and infants assemblies using the newly developed ZOOM technology skills and we are hoping to recommence some extra curricula (in school) activities from the start of next term if the social distancing guidelines are further eased.

The Department of Education has given schools the option of delaying the issuing of Semester 1 reports until week six of Term 3 and deleting the use of the A to E reporting scales for these reports. Parents and carers are advised that the Semester 1 reports for our students will be sent home on Friday of week two next term. This will allow time for children to settle back into regular school routines prior to the completion of mid year assessments which will be used in conjunction with ongoing assessment data gathered since the start of the year to prepare the reports. As part of this assessment process all students will be asked to complete a brief reflection / survey regarding their participation in the online learning from home program during the last two weeks of Term 1 and the first four weeks of this term. The information gathered via the survey will provide the school and families with a valuable record of the impact of our efforts to provide continuity of education during this period.

### **Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week**

Students from Year 2 through to Year 6 gathered together on Tuesday morning to watch a very moving recording of Kevin Rudd's Apology in 2008 to the Stolen Generations on behalf of the Australian Parliament. The content of this memorable and very significant speech set the context for our school's commemoration of Sorry Day which occurs on the 26<sup>th</sup> May and leads into National Reconciliation Week with the theme of “**In This Together**”



# From the Principal cont'd

The following extract from Reconciliation Australia highlights the underlying message linked to this theme:

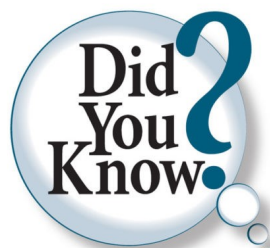
“Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians – as individuals, families, communities, organisations and importantly as a nation. At the heart of this journey are relationships between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We all have a role to play when it comes to reconciliation, and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures, and futures.”

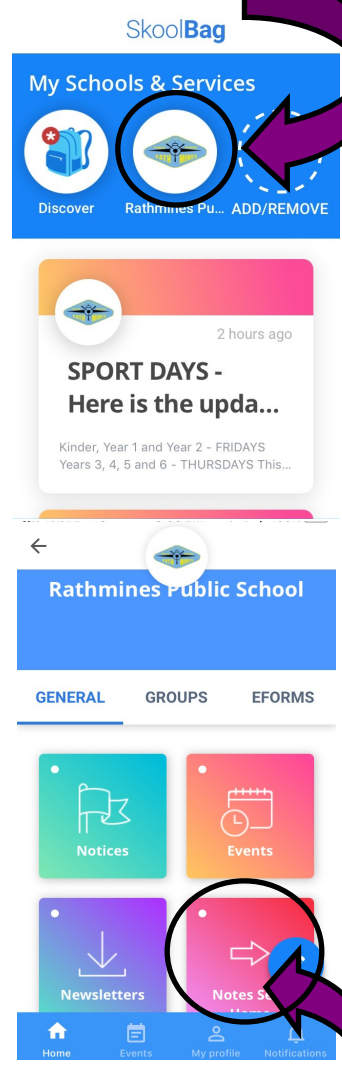
Reconciliation Week itself commemorates two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey — the successful 1967 referendum in which there was overwhelming support for Aboriginal people being included in the census, and the High Court Mabo decision which acknowledged native title and was a landmark step in the struggle for land rights. National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. During Reconciliation Week children in all classes have been involved in appropriately graded activities designed to foster their knowledge and understanding of Reconciliation and the importance of building positive respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. I take this opportunity to thank **Mrs Verschoor** and **Miss Gavenlock** for the leading roles they have played in promoting this very important week of learning in our school year.



Some of the amazing class artwork created during Reconciliation Week



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.

## From the Principal cont'd

### Kinder 2021 Transition

Each and every year we receive very positive feedback about the value of the “**Rathmines Rascals**” and “**Catalina Kids**” programs which are integral parts of the transition to school for our kindergarten students. At this stage we have 50 children enrolled for our kinder intake of 2021 and I have enjoyed having the opportunity to meet with many new families in recent weeks. Unfortunately the current social distancing restrictions will impact on the format for the Rascals playgroup which would normally



run during the last five weeks of this term. However, technology has once again enabled us to partially overcome the distancing restrictions. Newcastle School Portraits have visited the school on two occasions this week to film a virtual tour of the school as seen through the eyes of a kinder student. The “tour” will be emailed to the parents of our 2021 kinders within the next few weeks as a welcoming introduction to their new school. We will also be using Zoom technology to allow next year’s kinder students to meet and share in some traditional rascals activities from home. The plan at this stage is to

monitor the social distancing restrictions and hopefully run a couple of “on site” Rascals days prior to commencing the Catalina Kids weekly sessions in Term 3. Many thanks to Cathie and Jason Ruecroft for coordinating the technology adaptations to our Rascals program for this year.

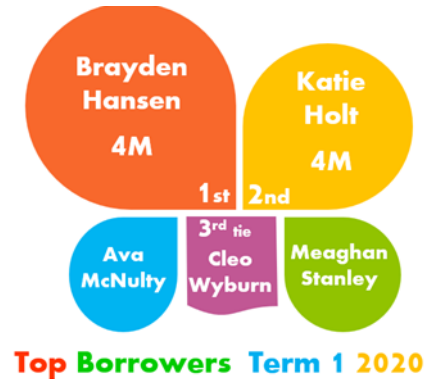
Yours sincerely,

*Nick Walker*

Principal

# LIBRARY NEWS

## Infographics



## Top Borrowed Books Term 1 2020

Student borrowing statistics from Term 1. Congratulations 4M who borrowed 199 books in Term 1.

## National Simultaneous Storytime



Most students were back at school in time for the 20<sup>th</sup> National Simultaneous Storytime. Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author, is chosen to be read to Australian students all over the country at the same time. The book chosen this year was 'Whitney and Britney Chicken Divas' by Lucinda Gifford. Students were able to unleash their hidden (or not so hidden!) diva, with activities such as making a tiara, writing a poem, making a necklace and dancing. Students pictured with tiaras are from 2/3R.

## Book Club

Book Club Issue 3 was fully virtual and has been delivered. Book Club Issue 4 is out now. Last date to order is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June. Online orders only. If there is a problem, please let me know.

*"Stories can conquer fear you know. They can make the heart bigger."*

*Quote by Ben Okri*

Mrs Styan

Teacher Librarian



# UNIFORM ORDER FORM K-2

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	PRICE	TOTAL
<b><i>GIRLS UNIFORM</i></b>									
Dress								\$55.00	
Hooded Zip Jacket								\$30.00	
or Hooded Jumper								\$25.00	
Hat – Reversible with sports house colour (please tick)	<input type="radio"/> Mariner (RED)	<input type="radio"/> Kingfisher (BLUE)	<input type="radio"/> Catalina (GREEN)	<input type="radio"/> Seagull (YELLOW)				\$15.00	
RPS Cap								\$12.00	
<b><i>GIRLS SPORTS UNIFORM</i></b>									
Unisex Polo Shirt								\$25.00	
Unisex Sports Shorts								\$15.00	
or Girls Sports Skort	N/A	N/A	N/A					\$30.00	
Tracksuit Jacket								\$35.00	
Fleece Tracksuit Pants								\$20.00	
Microfibre Tracksuit Pants								\$25.00	
<b><i>BOYS UNIFORM</i></b>									
Grey Cargo Shorts								\$17.00	
Grey Shorts Sz3 only								\$17.00	
Mid Blue Shirt								\$16.00	
Grey Long Pants								\$20.00	
Hooded Zip Jacket								\$30.00	
or Hooded Jumper								\$25.00	
Hat – Reversible with sports house colour (please tick)	<input type="radio"/> Mariner (RED)	<input type="radio"/> Kingfisher (BLUE)	<input type="radio"/> Catalina (GREEN)	<input type="radio"/> Seagull (YELLOW)	<input type="radio"/> S-M	<input type="radio"/> M-L	<input type="radio"/> Ex L	\$15.00	
RPS Cap								\$12.00	
<b><i>BOYS SPORTS UNIFORM</i></b>									
Unisex Polo Shirt								\$25.00	
Unisex Sport Shorts								\$15.00	
Tracksuit Jacket								\$35.00	
Fleece Tracksuit Pants								\$20.00	
Microfibre Tracksuit Pants								\$25.00	

## TO ORDER

- Complete this form
- Make payment online at [rathmines-p.schools.nsw.gov.au](http://rathmines-p.schools.nsw.gov.au)
- Write the receipt number on the form
- Return form to school office. Order will be filled and given to your child.

# UNIFORM ORDER FORM 3-6

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	PRICE	TOTAL
<b><i>GIRLS UNIFORM</i></b>									
Check Skort								\$45.00	
Check Skirt								\$40.00	
Peter Pan Blouse								\$22.00	
Hooded Zip Jacket								\$30.00	
or Hooded Jumper								\$25.00	
Hat – Reversible with sports house colour (please tick)	<input type="radio"/> Mariner (RED)	<input type="radio"/> Kingfisher (BLUE)	<input type="radio"/> Catalina (GREEN)	<input type="radio"/> Seagull (YELLOW)				\$15.00	
RPS Cap								\$12.00	
<b><i>GIRLS SPORTS UNIFORM</i></b>									
Unisex Polo Shirt								\$25.00	
Unisex Sports Shorts								\$15.00	
or Girls Sports Skort	N/A	N/A	N/A					\$30.00	
Tracksuit Jacket								\$35.00	
Fleece Tracksuit Pants								\$20.00	
Microfibre Tracksuit Pants								\$25.00	
<b><i>BOYS UNIFORM</i></b>									
Grey Cargo Shorts								\$17.00	
Mid Blue Shirt								\$16.00	
Grey Long Pants								\$20.00	
Hooded Zip Jacket								\$30.00	
or Hooded Jumper								\$25.00	
Hat – Reversible with sports house colour (please tick)	<input type="radio"/> Mariner (RED)	<input type="radio"/> Kingfisher (BLUE)	<input type="radio"/> Catalina (GREEN)	<input type="radio"/> Seagull (YELLOW)	<input type="radio"/> S-M	<input type="radio"/> M-L	<input type="radio"/> EXL	\$15.00	
RPS Cap								\$12.00	
<b><i>BOYS SPORTS UNIFORM</i></b>									
Unisex Polo Shirt								\$25.00	
Unisex Sport Shorts								\$15.00	
Tracksuit Jacket								\$35.00	
Fleece Tracksuit Pants								\$20.00	
Microfibre Tracksuit Pants								\$25.00	

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# SCHOOL INFORMATION



**Woof!**

**FRIDAY**

is School Banking day.

**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.

## 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.





# 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](http://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, Toronto, Wangi Wangi and Blackalls Park Public School.

#### ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS.

**Phone:** 0438224914

**Email:** activeooshathmines@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.