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## From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

The following extract from the National NAIDOC committee website provides an insightful and informative background to the theme for this year's NAIDOC Week celebrations.

### ***"Always Was, Always Will Be.***

*Always Was, Always Will Be. recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years.*

*We are spiritually and culturally connected to this country. This country was criss-crossed by generations of brilliant Nations. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were Australia's first explorers, first navigators, first engineers, first farmers, first botanists, first scientists, first diplomats, first astronomers and first artists. Australia has the world's oldest oral stories. The First Peoples engraved the world's first maps, made the earliest paintings of ceremony and invented unique technologies. We built and engineered structures - structures on Earth - predating well-known sites such as the Egyptian Pyramids and Stonehenge.*

### 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

*Our adaptation and intimate knowledge of Country enabled us to endure climate change, catastrophic droughts and rising sea levels. **Always Was, Always Will Be** acknowledges that hundreds of Nations and our cultures covered this continent. All were managing the land - the biggest estate on earth - to sustainably provide for their future. Through ingenious land management systems like fire stick farming we transformed the harshest habitable continent into a land of bounty. NAIDOC Week 2020 acknowledges and celebrates that our nation's story didn't begin with documented European contact whether in 1770 or 1606 - with the arrival of the Dutch on the western coast of the Cape York Peninsula. The very first footprints on this continent were those belonging to First Nations peoples. Our coastal Nations watched and interacted with at least 36 contacts made by Europeans prior to 1770. Many of them resulting in the charting of the northern, western and southern coastlines – of our lands and our waters. For us, this nation's story began at the dawn of time. NAIDOC 2020 invites all Australians to embrace the true history of this country – a history which dates back thousands of generations. It's about seeing, hearing and learning the First Nations' 65,000+ year history of this country - which is Australian history. We want all Australians to celebrate that we have the oldest continuing cultures on the planet and to recognise that our sovereignty was never ceded.*

***Always Was, Always Will Be.***

Celebrations of **NAIDOC Week** on a national level have been postponed till later in the year due to social distancing guidelines. However our school based celebrations and learning activities will be held as planned during the first week of next term. **Tim Selwyn**, from **Girra Girra Tours** will conduct a professional development session with staff members on Monday during the Staff Development Day and from Tuesday to Thursday will facilitate a range of “hands on” learning activities for students in all grades in an effort to help children develop a deeper understanding, awareness and appreciation of aboriginal history and culture.

### **Staffing Update**

On behalf of all members of our school community I congratulate **Mrs Styan** on her appointment to a permanent teaching position at Medowie Public School and wish her the best for this next stage in her teaching career. Helen will commence her new role from the start of next term. We are indebted to Helen for the very positive contribution she has made to our school during the past two terms while covering for Mrs Priest's maternity leave. **Miss Lizdenis** has accepted responsibility for fulfilling the teacher librarian role from Monday to Wednesday each week in addition to covering Mrs Gagg's maternity leave on Thursdays and Fridays. Joanna's readiness to take on these dual roles is much appreciated.

**Mrs Megan Bowron** has accepted responsibility for teaching KR while Mrs Roddam is on leave on Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week during Terms 3 and 4. Megan has worked extensively in the infants classes at RPS in a casual and temporary capacity and is highly regarded for her professionalism and her commitment to providing a supportive and engaging learning environment for the children in her care.

I am very pleased to be able to confirm that **Amanda Greenwood** has been reappointed to the role of **Canteen Supervisor** following a mandatory merit selection process conducted by DEC staffing and recruitment. I congratulate Amanda on her appointment and also take this opportunity to sincerely thank her on behalf of our school community for the wonderful contribution she has made to RPS during her previous four year contract.

## From the Principal cont'd

### Rascals Zoom

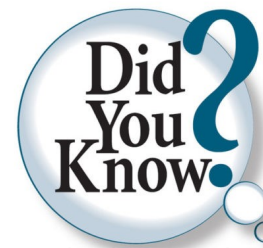
The social distancing restrictions linked to the management of COVID 19 have necessitated a number of changes to the normal operation of our school procedures during the first half of the year. The three **Rascals Zoom** sessions which Mrs Ruecroft conducted today with our 55 Kinder 2021 students were another example of the adaptations teachers have made to stay connected and engaged with our current and future students. Members of next year's Kinder classes have also received a commercially produced "**RPS Welcoming Video**" which is designed to help them become acquainted with the school setting in much the same way as they would have if the regular Rascals playgroup sessions had been able to go ahead. It is our intention to run a couple of Rascals gatherings early next term if restrictions are eased, prior to commencing our **Catalina Kids** transition program.

### Student Late Arrivals

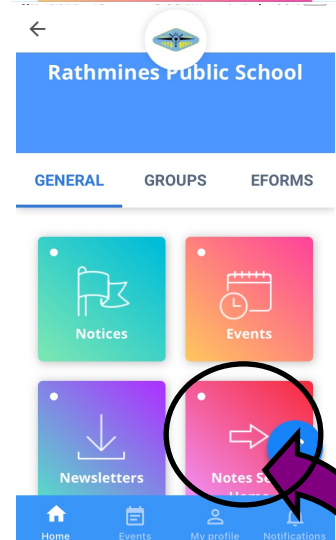
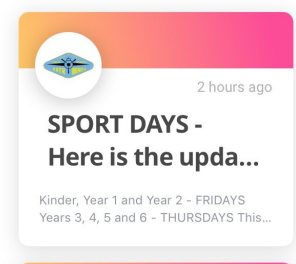
The DEC closely monitors attendance rates at all primary and secondary schools in order to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to support students whose education is being negatively impacted by interruptions to their schooling. Students arriving at school in time to line up with their class prior commencing lessons at **9:00am** is an important element of school attendance and as a result the department requires that all "late arrivals" are recorded in our attendance data. **There has been a marked increase in the number of students consistently arriving late for school since we returned to fulltime attendance after the COVID 19 learning from home period.** I encourage parents and carers to be really mindful of the importance of avoiding having your children arrive late for school unless there are exceptional circumstances that cannot be avoided. Mrs Ruecroft and I will monitor this pattern during the first two weeks of next term prior to referring individual cases to the department's Home School Liaison Officer for follow up.

### Primary Cross Country Carnival

The children in all classes from Year 2 through to Year 6 are looking forward to the running of our modified cross country carnival within our school grounds tomorrow. The carnival was originally scheduled to be held during the final weeks of first term and was one of the first cancellations arising from the impact of COVID 19. It is the first step in what will hopefully be a gradual resumption of our regular sports program in Term 3. The annual PSSA knockout competitions our school usually participates in have unfortunately been cancelled for this year but we are planning to arrange some "home and away" netball and soccer games against neighbouring schools. Planning is also underway



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.



# GARDENING CLUB

for gala days to be run by NSW Touch, the Newcastle Knights and NSW Cricket.

## **P and C Meeting**

The introduction of COVID 19 social distancing restrictions occurred just before the Annual General Meeting of our P & C Association was scheduled to take place. This long overdue meeting will be held in accordance with social distancing guidelines on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July** at 7pm in the school hall. Everyone is encouraged to show your support for the important contribution the P & C makes to the school by coming along to this meeting. The role of the association as a forum for discussion and sharing of ideas will be of even greater significance as we move into the second half of what will continue to be a rather unique and challenging school year.

## **Winter Vacation**

As Term 2 concludes and we all commence a well-earned break during the winter vacation I take this opportunity to once again thank all members of our school community for the manner in which you have responded to the challenges arising from the impact of COVID 19. I have mentioned to a few people in the past that one of my youngest son's favourite sayings is "**Pressure Builds Diamonds**". This has been particularly true during the first half of this year. The additional pressures and demands that have arisen since the final weeks of Term 1 have highlighted not only the strength of character within our school community but also the readiness of parents and carers, students, and members of staff to work together in order to address the variety of challenges that have come our way. Best wishes to everyone for a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. School will resume for students on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July**.

Yours sincerely,

*Nick Walker*

Principal



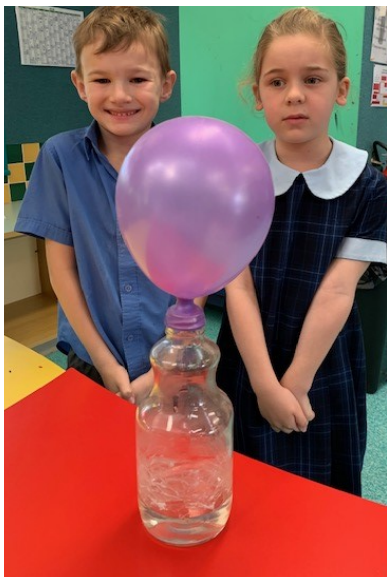
*Kindergarten is celebrating 100 days of big school today.*

*Thank you to Mrs Fragar for making this beautiful cake.*

## SCIENCE FUN IN 2F



*2F are enjoying investigating the chemical reactions of some mixtures.*



*The chemical reactions can be shown by catching the gases formed in a balloon and watching it inflate.*



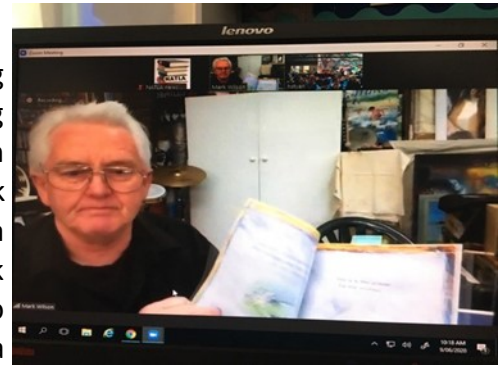


# LIBRARY NEWS

## Zoom visit from author Mark Wilson

This semester, our Year 5 and 6 students have been learning about the Gold Rush in Victoria in the 1850s. Before and during the school shut down, students watched a recording of Mrs Styan reading the story 'Eureka! A Story of the Goldfields' by Mark Wilson. As a special treat, Mark offered to visit the students via zoom and give a lesson on research, insight into writing a book and a drawing lesson. It was wonderful to see the students so engaged and it was empowering for them to connect with such a successful author and illustrator.

As an assessment on this unit of work, students had some choice; many chose to design and write a Kahoot quiz, some did a crossword or a newspaper article and others made a diorama, two are pictured.



## Curious Creatures

Curious Creatures, Wild Minds is the topic for this year's book week and book parade which has been postponed until Term 4, week 3. As a taster for the topic, Stage 2 designed and made their own bookmarks as shown by Ava and Jordyn from 3R.



Part of the fun of book week is in the decoration. Students from my Wednesday book club helped me make the curious creatures for our display. Curious creatures made by wild minds!

## Goodbye

It is with mixed feelings that I must say goodbye to Rathmines School. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the delightful students and friendly, passionate staff but have accepted a permanent position as Teacher Librarian at Medowie Public School. I wish you all the very best and hope that I have been able to pass on my passion for literature and stories to the students. Many thanks for the numerous cards made and written by students and the lovely flowers and cards from my wonderful library monitors.

Welcome to the library Ms Lizdenis, I am sure you will enjoy it. Best wishes.

*Books are a uniquely portable magic.*

*Quote by Stephen King*

Mrs Styan

Teacher Librarian

# ROAD RULES AROUND SCHOOLS

## An Important Message from Lake Macquarie Council

**We need your help to keep our kids safe.**

Lake Macquarie City Council Rangers have been patrolling schools during term 2.

Due to social distancing restrictions limiting capacity on our public transport system, we have noticed more parents are relying on their vehicles for school drop-off and pick-up.

The safety of all children is our number one priority and we would like your help to communicate to parents the correct parking rules including the following:

**No stopping** – you cannot stop here unless there is a medical or other emergency

**Bus zone** – you cannot stop here unless you are driving a bus

**No parking** – you can stop here for two minutes only to drop-off or pick-up and the driver must stay within three metres of your vehicle

**Pedestrian crossings** – you cannot stop within 20 metres before or 10 metres after a pedestrian crossing unless there is a control sign permitting parking

**Double parking** – you cannot stop on the road alongside other vehicles at any time to drop-off or pick-up.

Lake Mac Rangers will be increasing patrols around our local schools during term 3 to monitor illegal parking and safety issues. Rangers will be issuing infringements to drivers not following the rules.

We are asking for your help to communicate this message to all parents to ensure the safety of all your students.

For more information, please contact our customer service team on (02) 4921 0333 or email [council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au)

## IMPORTANT DATES

DATE	EVENT
Friday 3rd July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross Country for Years 2-6 at school</li> <li>• Last day of Term 2</li> </ul>
Monday 6th– Friday 17th July	<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</b>
Monday 20th July	Staff Development Day—no students at school
Tuesday 21st July	Students return to school for Term 3
Tuesday 21st July	Breakfast Club resumes 8.30am
Tuesday 21st—Thursday 23rd	NAIDOC Week celebrations at school
Wednesday 5th—Friday 7th August	Hill End excursion -Years 5 & 6 only

## CANTEEN ROSTER

Wednesday 22nd July	E.Gray, M.Breith, S.Myers
Friday 24th July	L.Johnstone, V.Olsen, K.Betteridge, K.Shoesmith (pm)
Monday 27th July	A.Lilliss, L.Bicanic, A.Telfer
Wednesday 29th July	M.Breith, L. McAllister, S.Guicciardi



# 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.

## 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.



# Active OOSH Rathmines

## Winter Vacation Care Program

### 6th July - 20th July 2020



#### MONDAY 6TH

##### The Balancing Man

Be wowed by the talent in this interactive show! Watch carefully as he balances a stack of items. Will they ever fall? Test your skills at balancing after the show!  
1pm - 3:30pm

##### Cupcake Wars

Calling all master chefs! Active OOSH is holding its tastiest competition yet. Break away into teams to make, bake and decorate your very own NAIDOC designed cupcakes to be judged by the OOSH educators.

#### TUESDAY 7TH

##### Bop Till You Drop Slime and Disco Party

Be entertained for hours by our special guests! Verse your friends and the educators in group games and dance battles to win the gold medal! Spend the day playing with awesome slime you've created and get to take home.  
1pm - 3:30pm

##### Cool Cartoon World

Exclusive fun with the one and only resident cartoon whiz Alex! Learn how to draw new and exciting NAIDOC designs.

#### WEDNESDAY 8TH

##### Games 2U

Outrageous fun you will rave about for days! Choose from the games theatre, bumper balls, hamster ball, laser tag arena, anki overdrive and the ultimate t-shirt cannon! A guaranteed wicked day out with all of your friends.  
1pm - 3pm

##### Cloud Dough Slime

Create fantastic fluffy black, yellow and red slime that won't stick to your clothes or mums furniture! Play with your friends to see who can create the biggest slime bubble!

#### THURSDAY 9TH

##### Super Air Combat Droning

Code the day away while you fly spectacular drones! Make your dynamic drone do crazy stunts and put on an incredible air show to impress all of your friends and the educators!  
1:30pm - 3:30pm

##### Trendy Tie Dying

Design the trendiest tee's on the block! Splash the NAIDOC colours over your boring white items to design an awesome black, yellow and red pattern. (BYO white clothing)

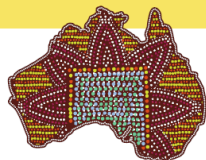
#### FRIDAY 10TH

##### Fit Fantastic Fun

Don't miss your chance to experience this brand new bootcamp! Guaranteed to be two fun-filled hours with nothing but laughter and smiles! Do you and your friends have what it takes to be crowned the OOSH team champions?  
1:30pm - 3:30pm

##### NAIDOC Celebration

Connect with our Indigenous cultures by participating in a range of traditional games, art and dance workshops, and Dreamtime stories to celebrate NAIDOC week.



**BOOK NOW @ 0438 224 914 OR**  
**activeooshrathmines@gmail.com**



#### MONDAY 13TH

##### Bricks 4 Kidz Lego Land

Construction gurus! Today is the day to let your imagination go wild with creative play. Build your skills using technical models with motors and batteries to make your Lego creation come to life!

##### Ultimate Gamerz Van

Enjoy a gaming party on wheels! Play the Xbox 1, PS4 and Wii. Use the giant screens inside the gaming theatre for friendly fun and competition with your friends.

#### TUESDAY 14TH

##### Wheelie Good Day

Bring your bike, scooter or skateboard to show us how it's done on the ramp and rail run. Can you beat your personal best in the obstacle course time trials?

Helmets are compulsory!  
12pm - 4pm

##### Lucy's Art Class

The incredibly talented Lucy is back to help you create 3D bubble wrap bees and special still life plants during her exclusive master class.  
9:30am - 11:30am

#### WEDNESDAY 15TH

##### Wicked Gamers Day Out

An unbeatable day of super sized fun! Start your day with giant Connect 4, Jenga and Twister before finishing off with a game of giant chess and O's & X's!  
10:30am - 2:30pm

##### Mexican Fiesta

Amigos, it's time for our Mexican Fiesta! Decide on your perfect ingredients and tantalise your taste buds when you chop, dice, grate, create and eat your very own tasty taco! Taco-bout a delicious afternoon!

#### THURSDAY 16TH

##### Big Sky Mobile Cinema

Bring your comfiest pillow and find the ultimate spot on the front grass to watch an all-time favourite movie on the outdoor big screen. Plus, there will be popcorn!  
10:30am - 2:30pm

##### Ritz and Glitz

Get glammed up and pampered celebrity style at the AOR beauty salon. Sit back and relax while you get your nails painted and hair braided with a sprinkle of glitter and sparkly gems.

#### FRIDAY 17TH

##### The Muttley Dog Crew

A delightful doggy day! This spectacular show is complete with an overload of fun and cuteness all wrapped up in one. Get ready to have your hearts melted with the Muttley Crew's pack of super dogs.  
2pm - 3:30pm

##### National Pyjama Day

Come dressed in your favourite PJ's and bring a gold coin donation to help The Pyjama Foundation raise awareness and funds for children in foster care.

**Daily fee is \$70 before CCS is applied.**

**All incursions, breakfast and afternoon tea is included.**



#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Authorisation forms must be completed prior to your child participating in any activities.
- The service will continue to align with all COVID-19 requirements, promoting good hygiene and limiting the number of children in each area of our service.
- Please ensure all children's items are clearly labelled with their full name.

#### MONDAY 20TH

##### Picnic in the Park + Hot Chippie Lunch

Test your skills in the ultimate playground obstacle course time trial challenge. Who will record a world record lap time? Gather your dream team and compete in the ultimate relay sprint off. Verse the educators in a game of continuous cricket, soccer, dodgeball and red rover cross over 1,2,3 to see who gets bragging rights!

##### Craving Cold Rock

Experience first class delivery at its best! Cool down and choose your favourite ice cream flavour mixed with your choice of sweet to satisfy your taste buds. A well earned treat to end the school holidays!



#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Follow us on Facebook "Active OOSH Rathmines" for daily updates and photos of child led play experiences.
- A nutritious breakfast and afternoon tea is provided each day.
- Parents must ensure their child has a packed recess, lunch and a refillable drink bottle each day.
- Children must wear sun safe clothing, enclosed shoes and a hat each day.