

RATHMINES PUBLIC SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Term 2 Week 2, 2021



Website: rathmines-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/



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From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

*I commend all of our students for the self-discipline, respect and sense of reverence they displayed during the special ANZAC Day assembly conducted on Wednesday of the first week of term. It is always very pleasing to witness the ability of students at Rathmines Public to rise to the occasion and make a positive contribution to significant school events through their standard of behaviour. This gathering of our school community was a very meaningful and thought provoking celebration of thanks to those who have made sacrifices in order to preserve the freedoms we enjoy in Australia today. The wonderful singing and the flower laying by student representatives from all classes were just two aspects of a very moving ceremony. I congratulate our school leaders for the special roles they played in the assembly. Special thanks must also be extended to **Helen Bristow** for her efforts in coordinating the assembly preparation, **Ellouise Wicks** and **James Fisher** for presenting the audio visuals, **Michelle Fragar** for preparing the primary choir, **Wing Commander Smallwood** who shared*

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.

From the Principal cont'd

his insights on the ANZAC theme with our students, and **Mr Chris Smith** for performing the Last Post and Reveille.



Students from all grades should also be proud of the manner in which they contributed to the ANZAC commemorative ceremonies conducted in the Wangi and Rathmines communities on ANZAC Day. The children once again rose to the occasion and represented our school with distinction. It was wonderful to see so many of our Kinder children marching and I encourage them to continue in this tradition throughout their primary schooling. I commend all the students on their willingness to give up some of their holiday time to attend these important events and thank all the parents and carers who facilitated the involvement of our students. I congratulate the school leaders who made special contributions to the community commemorations and offer special thanks also to **Helen Bristow, Cherylin Seymour, Kim McNulty, Kay Burgess and Rebecca McGovern** for helping with supervision of our students during the two marches. The following extract from an email sent to the school by a community member highlights the sense of appreciation people attending the march have for the participation and conduct of our students:

"I attended the ANZAC Day Rathmines Memorial Park commemoration today and wanted to convey my congratulations to the school representatives who placed a wreath with great dignity, and to your other attending students who added respect and commitment. They were very impressive and their attendance (and that of accompanying staff) was a valuable contribution to their community. – Karen Doyle"



From the Principal cont'd

2022 Kinder Enrolments

The enrolment process for the Kinder class of 2022 has commenced and I encourage any parents who wish to enrol a child in Kinder next year to contact the school as soon as possible. As in past years there will be an opportunity for children to participate in our Kinder transition program which includes the “**Rathmines Rascals**” program which will run on Friday mornings over the last five weeks of this term, the “**Catalina Kids**” transition program which will take place each Friday morning during Term 3 and the traditional **Kindergarten Orientation Days** and **Parent Information Evening** which are held during Term 4.

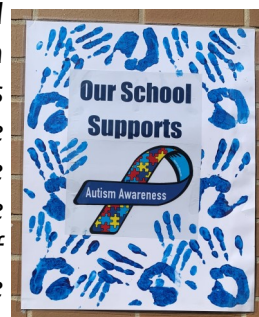
If you know of local families who do not have children already enrolled at RPS but are intending to enrol a child in Kinder for next year please advise them to contact the school office in order to complete an expression of interest form. Enrolment interviews for new families will be conducted during week four of this term.

Autism Awareness Day

Each year the members of staff within our Special Education Unit make a special contribution to our school community by facilitating our celebration of Autism



Awareness Day. The posters and visual displays posted around the school in addition to the highlighting of teaching resources for use in the classrooms from Kinder to Year 6 served to raise the children's awareness and understanding of the special talents and unique skills which are shared by many of our students with autism.



However, the absolute highlight of our Autism Awareness Day celebrations was **Alex**, one of special education students, and his teacher, **Tom Bidstrup** speaking “from the heart” at the whole school assembly about their experiences of being a student with autism, and the wonderful rewards that come from teaching autistic students. Every student and staff member present at the assembly was clearly moved and enlightened by the experience of listening to the words spoken by Alex and Tom.



Sports News

I congratulate all the children who represented our school at the Westlakes PSSA Cross Country Carnival which was held at Rathmines Park on Monday. The children gave of their best when competing on the challenging course and displayed great patience and cooperation while waiting to compete. **Ruby S** is to be commended on her success in winning her age group and gaining a place in the Zone Cross Country team to compete at the Hunter Cross Country Carnival. When speaking to students about the culture of our school I often refer to the fact that our students are always encouraged to give 100% to all their endeavours in the classroom or when taking part in extra curricula and sporting activities. This attitude was exemplified in a special way by **Allora** after she fell at the start of her race, badly grazed her knee

From the Principal cont'd

and hip, but got back up and finished the race before seeking first aid and subsequently finding out that she had also fractured her wrist in the fall!

The school's representative sporting teams are heading into a busy period as the PSSA competitions for 2021 commence. Our boys soccer team will play against **Coal Point Public** on Thursday of this week and the school rugby league team will compete in the **Newcastle Knights 9's Gala Day** on Thursday of next week. In addition the girls soccer team is training with **Mrs Priest** in preparation for their PSSA Round Robin in week five and **Miss Case** is in the process of selecting our boys and girls touch football teams. I take this opportunity to not only thank all the teachers who give so freely of their time in order to ensure that our students have the chance to take part in these competitions, but also to remind the students that the best way they can thank the teachers is by ensuring they always give of their best on and off the field.

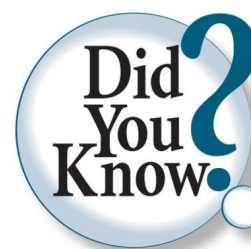
P and C Meeting and Mothers Day Activities

One of the goals included in our current school plan relates to the strengthening of the partnership between the school and the community of parents and carers through improved communication strategies. With this in mind Jason Ruecroft is organizing for the next P and C meeting to be **accessible via zoom technology** for those who cannot come along to the meeting in person. Please refer to the instructions provided on the next page. The meetings normally take place on the third Monday of the month at 7pm in the school library but the April meeting was postponed till next Tuesday as a result of the clash with the Easter holidays. To comply with COVID guidelines we follow social distancing rules and try to keep the meeting time to a maximum of one hour.

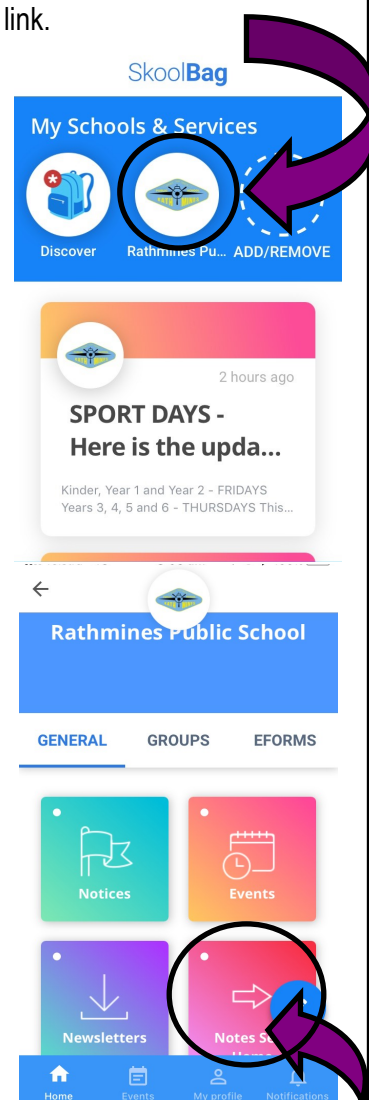
Finally I invite all of the mothers and the special women in the lives of our students to come along to a **Mothers Day BBQ Breakfast** next Friday 7th May. We will be serving up the famous prize-winning Rathmines Public bacon and egg rolls from 8:00am till 8:50am! Many thanks in advance to the P and C for the catering and staff members for helping with the cooking and hospitality. All students also received a note on Tuesday giving details of the Mothers Day stall which will be held next Thursday morning.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Walker



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.

KW NEWS

KW enjoyed writing a descriptive sentence about Dan the Dino this week in our writing lesson.

Logan, Avalin and Dan took a trek up to Mr Walker's office to display their work. Can you see Mr Walker's sticker on Dan's nose?!



P&C ZOOM MEETING

HOW TO CONNECT TO P&C ZOOM MEETING

Rathmines Public School is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Rathmines Public School's P&C Meeting

Time: May 4, 2021 07:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79898680413?pwd=Zk5jMDR4...>

Meeting ID: 798 9868 0413

Passcode: Rathmines1

NAPLAN INFORMATION

NAPLAN Online – Information for parents and carers

What is NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses the literacy and numeracy skills of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Students participate in NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

NAPLAN provides an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. The tests are just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process – it does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance.

NAPLAN also provides schools and education authorities with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

Moving to NAPLAN Online

Schools in all states and territories are moving from paper tests to online tests. It is expected that all NSW schools will transition to NAPLAN Online by 2022. The move to NAPLAN Online brings new benefits for teachers and students.

What are the benefits of NAPLAN Online?

More precise results with an adaptive design:

Tailored tests adapt to a student's performance and ask questions that match the student's achievement levels.

Better engagement: Research into online assessment indicates that students engage well with online tests as the questions are tailored to their achievement levels.

Tailored testing

Tailored testing provides a more precise assessment of students' performance. Students at each year level start with a similar set of questions. Depending on the number of questions they answered correctly, the next set of questions may be more, or less, difficult.

A student's NAPLAN result is based on both the number and difficulty of questions the student answers correctly. A student who completes a more difficult set of questions is more likely to achieve a higher score.

Watch a video (3:06 length) to learn more about tailored testing – <https://youtu.be/oGFseJAM3Ew>

Supporting your child

The best approach for preparing your child for NAPLAN is to encourage your child to do the best they can on the day.

Excessive preparation or the use of coaching providers is not recommended.

Students can use the public demonstration site to familiarise themselves with the tools and type of questions they will experience in NAPLAN Online – <https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

Students' digital skills

The digital skills required to complete NAPLAN Online are skills that students use in everyday classroom activities.

Students do not need to be able to touch type to complete the test. The online test is not about keyboard skills (just as the paper test is not about handwriting skills).

NAPLAN INFORMATION Cont'd

Withdrawals and exemptions

You can withdraw your child from NAPLAN tests.

A student may be granted a formal exemption if they have:

- a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the tests, or
- recently arrived in Australia and have a non-English speaking background.

Contact your child's school for further information and to complete the parent/carer consent form.

Practice tests

NSW schools participating in NAPLAN Online will participate in practice tests between 22 March and 1 April 2021.

The practice test is a trial-run and key preparation activity for NAPLAN Online in May. It is not an assessment of student ability.

Participation in the practice tests is highly beneficial as it allows schools and students to become familiar with the online assessment platform tools and processes.

NAPLAN Online 2021 test window

Practice test window: 22 March – 1 April

NAPLAN Online test window: 11 – 21 May

The assessment window for NAPLAN Online is nine days instead of the three days provided for the paper test. This is to give schools flexibility in scheduling and accommodate schools that may have fewer devices.

What if my child was absent on the day of a scheduled test?

Where possible, schools may arrange catch-up tests for individual students who were absent on the day of a scheduled NAPLAN Online test.

Catch-up tests are not permitted after Friday 21 May 2021.

COVID-19 advice

Parents should keep students at home if they are experiencing flu-like symptoms and monitor NSW Health advice on COVID-19 case locations across the state. For more information, visit <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19>.

Your child's school will be required to conduct NAPLAN testing in accordance with the latest NSW Government COVID-19 advice.

Year 3 writing test

The Year 3 writing test is conducted on paper at schools participating in NAPLAN Online. All other Year 3 NAPLAN tests will be online tests.

Privacy

NESA is responsible for the collection of personal information from NSW schools to be used during NAPLAN testing and reporting.

All data collection for NAPLAN is managed in accordance with NSW and Federal privacy legislation described in NESA's privacy management plan, which can be found on the NESA website:

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/who-we-are/privacy/naplan-privacy>

Results

Parents receive two reports showing their child's achievements in NAPLAN; the individual student report (ISR) and additional student report (ASR). The ISR and ASR should always be interpreted with care. Teachers will have the best insight into a child's educational progress.

Reports are usually dispatched to schools towards the end of Term 3. Schools then distribute the reports to parents.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance.



**NSW Education Standards Authority
NAPLAN team**

Phone: 1300 119 556 or 02 9367 8382

Email: naplan.nsw@nesa.nsw.edu.au

OPPORTUNITY CLASS YEAR 5 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Opportunity classes cater for academically gifted and high potential students who may otherwise be without sufficient classmates at their own academic and social level. Successful students will usually have to leave their current school to enrol in a school with an opportunity class for Years 5 and 6.

Testing and assessment

Applications for opportunity class placement are considered mainly on the combined results of the Opportunity Class Placement Test and school assessments. Students who wish to be considered for opportunity class placement will sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test on **Wednesday 21 July 2021**.

How to apply

If you would like to have your child considered for Year 5 opportunity class entry in 2022, you need to apply between **Tuesday 20 April 2021** and **Friday 7 May 2021**. You will need to access the online application at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5> . You must **not** use the child's email address.

If you do not have internet access, you could apply at a public library. If you have a disability that prevents you from using a computer, you can contact the Team for assistance after **Tuesday 20 April 2021**.

You must submit only **ONE application** for each student.

Important – the school cannot apply on your behalf.

STEWART HOUSE DONATION DRIVE

Donation envelopes have been sent home this week. Donations of \$2 or more will be entered into a draw to win a \$4,000 holiday destination of your choice. Envelopes should be returned to the school office by **FRIDAY 21ST MAY**.



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn



Make friends



Build skills through fun

education.nsw.gov.au



Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss days per year

5 mins
per day



=

3 days



30 mins
per day



=

18 days



Patterns of lateness
can have a serious
impact on your child's
education.

education.nsw.gov.au

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight



=

4 weeks



=

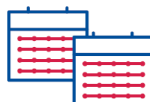
Over **1** year missed

1 day per week



=

8 weeks



=

Over **2.5** years missed

education.nsw.gov.au

IMPORTANT DATES

DATE

EVENT

Friday 30th April

9.15am Infants Assembly

Tuesday 4th May

7pm P&C Meeting in school library

Thursday 6th May

- Mothers Day Stall
- Knights League Gala Day

Friday 7th May

9.15am Infants Assembly

Monday 10th May

1.00pm Primary Assembly

Tuesday 11th May

NAPLAN begins

Thursday 20th May

Year 2 Excursion to Sydney Zoo

Friday 28th May

9.00am Rascals transition program starts for Kinder '22

CANTEEN ROSTER

WEEK 3

Mon 3rd May

A.Lilliss, E.Sampson, M.Breith

Tues 4th May

J.Bracken, L.Faint

Wed 5th May

A.Greenwood, L.Johnstone, K.Shen

Thurs 6th May

C.Brennan, A.Cruickshank, L.Faint, P.Perham

Fri 7th May

V.Olsen, V.Ryan, T.Warner, B.Ward, N.Ruse, M.Clare

WEEK 4

Mon 10th May

M.Breith, A.Wilkinson

Tues 11th May

L.Faint, A.Lilliss, L.McAllister

Wed 12th May

L.Johnstone, A.Smith

Thurs 13th May

L.Faint, M.Redgen, K.Hopkins

Fri 14th May

J.Sharp, K.Betteridge, K.Jenkins, A.Telfer, A.Holt

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/>

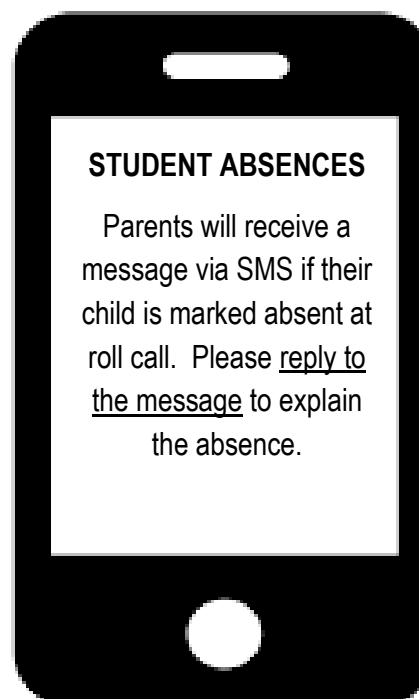
In the MAKE A PAYMENT tab enter your child's name and date of birth to begin the process.

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.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

LAKE MACQUARIE COUNCIL

LET'S CREATE A BETTER SPACE AT RATHMINES PARK

In October 2020, Council adopted the Rathmines Park Plan of Management and Master Plan. These Plans include the provision of a **children's playground area**, **youth hub** and **outdoor exercise equipment**. We would like to get your thoughts on the draft concept design for the children's play area, as well as what type of skate / BMX facility you would like to see replace the existing and the type of fitness equipment.

You can provide feedback by:

- completing the online survey
- attending a drop-in session at Rathmines on Tuesday 11 May

To learn more, including review of the concept plan and to complete the survey please go to the project webpage <https://shape.lakemac.com.au/rathmines-park>



Jules by the Lake Café

Shop 1/14 Fishing Point Road, Rathmines
Phone: 4975 5551

CAFE / RESTAURANT

OPEN from 8:30am for BREAKFAST, LUNCH and DINNER
(Closed Tuesdays)
Saturday & Sundays Open from 8:30am to 2:00pm

Experience casual dining with a fun, comfortable, friendly atmosphere
with table service and affordably priced menu

**\$15
SPECIALS**
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY
Chicken Schnitzel
or Steak
Served with chips & salad or vegetables
Available for lunch & dinner. Dine in or takeaway.

**KIDS EAT FREE
FOR BREAKFAST
SATURDAY
AND SUNDAYS**
when a full priced adults meal
is purchased – 12 years and under
Conditions apply.

FUNCTIONS CATERED FOR

DOGS WELCOME on the Verandah

Child Friendly

BYO

Full Menu Available for Take-away

• Burgers • Wraps • Fish & Chips • Milkshakes • Drinks • Coffee • Cake

***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 RATHMINES

2021 PARENT INFORMATION FLYER

SERVICE INFORMATION

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: \$72.00

(Before CCS is applied)

NOTE: No casual booking or enrolment fees are incurred to family accounts.

SCHOOLS WE SERVICE

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

HEALTHY MENU

Active OOSH provide a nutritious breakfast and afternoon tea every day. The meals are designed to be healthy and offer new tastes and textures so eating can be an educational and cultural experience. Children with food allergies or dietary requirements are catered for in our inclusive programming practices.

ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

Phone: 0438 224 914

Email:

activeooshathmines@gmail.com

Website: activeooshnsw.com

Facebook: Active OOSH Rathmines

Address: Rathmines Public School - Secret Corner Road, Rathmines.

ACTIVE OOSH

Active OOSH provide before school, after school and vacation care programs 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 that enter the Active OOSH doors are given the opportunity to learn and grow through play and enjoy a wide variety of activities and experiences as a result of our child focused programming.

The K - 2 zone is a designated area within the service for children in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2. The K - 2 Zone provides a safe place for our younger children to engage in a range of age appropriate games and activities.

**KINDY - YEAR 2
ZONE**



Our Point of Difference

We excel in providing an extensive variety of engaging and enjoyable experiences for children of all ages and abilities to enjoy on a daily basis. As part of this, we are continually planning and programming new and exciting activities for our children to partake in. All of our incursions, excursions, extra curricular activities, homework tuition, resources, transportation and meals are inclusive in the above fees. No enrolment or administration fee is charged to families.

PERSONALISED HOMEWORK CLUB



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We offer tailored, small group learning experiences with our qualified educators. These sessions are at no additional cost to families. Children can work on their homework tasks such as projects, spelling words, home readers and speeches. Alternatively, our qualified educators can create a personalised program to suit your child's individual needs.

Active OOSH has a range of extra curricular activities to choose from each day, including:

- Art Social Club
- Specialised Sport Clinics
- Junior Master Chef
- Little Einstein's Science Club
- Yoga, Dance and Drama Classes
- Cultural Group Activities
- Sustainability Activities
- Arcade, Board and Card Games
- Imaginative and Creative Play
- Lego and Construction Activities