



RATHMINES PUBLIC SCHOOL

RATHFINDER

Term 2 Week 4, 2024



Every Day Matters....



Rathmines overall attendance for weeks 2 & 3... **91%**

Rathmines attendance prize for weeks 2 & 3 goes to ...

K-2 **2C**

3-6 **6W**

In weeks 2 & 3

2C had an overall attendance of **94%**

6W had an overall attendance of **93%**

Dear Parents and Carers,

From the Principal,

Reconciliation Australia has announced that the theme of this year's National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is "**Now More Than Ever**". The following extract from the official NRW website provides an insightful background to the issues linked to their focus on this theme in 2024:

"The National Reconciliation Week theme for 2024, **Now More Than Ever**, is a reminder to all of us that no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will—and must—continue.

There have been many moments in Australia's reconciliation journey that make us want to turn away. But when things are divisive, the worst thing we can do is disengage or disconnect.

Now more than ever, we need to tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation. We know that the 6.2 million Australians who voted YES are committed to better outcomes for First Nations people and are with us.

Reconciliation supporters must stand up to defend and uphold the rights of First Nations peoples. To call out racism wherever we encounter it, and to actively reinforce the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across this continent.

Now more than ever, the work continues. In treaty making, in truth-telling, in understanding our history, in education, and in tackling racism. We need connection. We need respect. We need action. And we need change.

Now more than ever, we need reconciliation."

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, personalised 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, to enable them to act with moral and ethical integrity, by fostering their sense of wellbeing and developing their personal values of honesty, resilience, empathy, respect and responsibility.

From the Principal cont'd

During this very special week on our national calendar Reconciliation Australia invites all Australians to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories and to share that knowledge and help us grow as a nation. NRW is held annually from 27th May to 3rd June and is preceded by **National Sorry Day** on 26th May. The two dates commemorate 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 will be 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 Fragar, Miss Gavenlock, Miss Burns, Mrs Verschoor and Mrs Priest** for the leading role they have played in promoting this very important week of learning in our school year.

Mother's Day

It was wonderful to have such a large number of mothers, aunts, grandmothers and women who play special roles in the lives of our students come along and join us for our Mother's Day Breakfast on Thursday 9th May. Many thanks not only to the school's P and C Association for purchasing all the bacon, eggs and rolls but also to the staff members who assisted in cooking and serving up the three hundred and sixty breakfast rolls in a hectic rush between 8:00am and 9:00am. The children clearly enjoyed having the opportunity to share this special time with our visitors and loved watching their mothers display their skills in pickleball and table tennis as well as joining in with the students' "Just Dance" moves in the hall. I also thank the parents who ran the P and C Mother's Day Gift Stall on Friday to provide the children in all classes with an opportunity to purchase a gift for the Mother's Day celebrations in our community on Sunday. Photos on page 4 and 5.

Harmony Day

*The **Harmony Day** and class activities which were also held at school on Thursday 9th focused on celebrating the diversity in Australian culture and fostering the values of tolerance, inclusivity, and respect. On behalf of all staff members and students I thank **Mrs Verschoor** for all her efforts in planning and overseeing the Harmony Day celebrations. I take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the following students who have accepted the responsibility of being the school's **Multicultural Ambassadors** for the 2024 school year: **Lillian Baas, Grace Glyntzos, Blaine Gould-Goldsworthy, Abbygale Hardie, Harry Lulham, Madylin Milroy, Logan Tandy and Ella Wright.***

Yr 6 Outdoor Education Camp

Next Monday students in our two Yr 6 classes will head up to hills between Dungog and Barrington Tops for a three day outdoor education experience coordinated by the staff at Wangat Lodge. This excursion has the potential to yield many positive outcomes for our senior students especially in regard to their sense of wellbeing, their resilience, their appreciation of the importance of teamwork and their belief in themselves. When speaking to the Yr 6 children about the camp I have emphasised the fact that the degree to which these outcomes will be achieved will be dependent on them being prepared to contribute

From the Principal cont'd

in a positive way throughout the three days especially in terms of self-discipline, respect for others, and their sense of responsibility. Our school has built up an excellent reputation with the staff at Wangat Lodge and I am confident that the Yr 6 class of 2024 will maintain, or further enhance, this reputation through the manner in which they conduct themselves during the three days. I encourage the parents and carers of our Yr 6 students to discuss and support these expectations during your conversations with your children prior to the camp.

Toronto High School Students

Members of staff all appreciate having the opportunity to maintain contact with RPS students after they move onto high school and with this in mind the school has been open to the practice of Toronto High School students coming on site after school. It is disappointing that the behaviour of a minority of the high school students over a period of time has led to a change in our policy in regard to THS students accessing the school site after school. **The THS students have been told that they are now asked to wait outside our school gates after school if they are waiting to catch one of the school buses.** However, if any parents or carers would like to request that their high school student be given approval to enter the school grounds in order to escort a sibling home they are asked to send me an email setting out the details relating to the request. I will then arrange to meet with the high school student and ensure that she/he is aware of our expectations in terms of behaviour while on site e.g waiting in a set location away from our classrooms.

Sports News

The wet weather is continuing to disrupt the school sporting calendar, but we were thankfully able to run the Cross Country selection trials last week before the rain returned. I congratulate the following students who were selected to represent our school at the **Westlakes Cross Country Carnival at Avondale College:**

8/9yrs Boys	1 st Tauniva Keno	2 nd Vance Jones	3 rd Cooper Blackmore	4 th Noah Freudl
8/9yrs Girls	1 st Sienna Quigley	2 nd Avalin Hudson	3 rd Zara Hopkins	4 th Hunter Frappell
10yrs Boys	1 st Finnegan Taylor	2 nd Harry Poelaert	3 rd Ngariki Keno	4 th Ryan Larsen
10yrs Girls	1 st Sophie Wilkinson	2 nd Indianna Claassen	3 rd Poppy Bradley	4 th Zara Wright
11yrs Boys	1 st Bosten Ward	2 nd Elias Freudl	3 rd Hamish Austin	4 th Hayden Brown
11yrs Girls	1 st Monique Svay	2 nd Ella Mills	3 rd Stacey Ring	4 th Aida Conicella
12yrs Boys	1 st Elwood Doherty	2 nd Lawson Allan	3 rd Sam Dickie	4 th Oakley Claassen
12yrs Girls	1 st Hope Williams	2 nd Liana Sherry	3 rd Sophie Mantle	4 th Ella Wright

Please note that the date for this event has been changed to **Friday 31st May** due to the current condition of the track at Avondale.

Additional congratulations must go to **Elwood Doherty** who backed up his cross country success with selection in the **Westlakes Boys Touch** team to participate in the Hunter Touch trials on **7th June**.

From the Principal cont'd

P and C Meeting

The term two meeting of the school's Parent and Citizens Association will be held on **Wednesday 29th May at 6 pm** in the library. The P & C meetings provide an excellent forum for sharing of information and discussing initiatives focused on the ongoing development of our school. I encourage parents and carers to contribute to this process through your attendance at this meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Walker
Principal

Mother's Day Breakfast





Mother's Day Breakfast



**HAPPY
MOTHERS
DAY**



GEMS Excursion

Gems Boccia Competition

Issac Cooley-Meiners, Beau Phillips, Chelsea Jeffery, William Crittenden, Henri Sutcliffe and Juleen Rimoni (away sick) were selected to represent Rathmines Public School at the regional Boccia competition. These students played 7 games and ended up ranking **6th** in the region. I congratulate these students on their fantastic sportsmanship and willingness to attend this competition. A big thank you to **Ms Cara Ainsley** for driving the OOSH bus!

Mrs Laughton



All ready for the bus



Ready to play!



Rathmines School Wins!

SNOW TIME IN THE GARDEN



In Term 1, 2C, 6W and the Wonai group entered in a butterfly decorating competition through the Hunter Valley Gardens. These creations were displayed during the Mega Creatures Event. We are extremely excited to announce that Year 2 **won 2nd place**, earning themselves an excursion to the Hunter Valley Gardens!! They are looking forward to enjoying the Snow Time festivities at Hunter Valley Gardens on **4th July**. A big 'Congratulations' to Year 2!

Dates for your Diary

DATE	EVENT
Thursday 23rd May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.10pm Infants Assembly
Friday 24th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2pm Primary Assembly Kindergarten Jolly Phonics Day
Monday 27th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconciliation Week Year 6 Excursion to Wangat Lodge
Thursday 30th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole School Reconciliation Walk



Celebrating Canteen Week

Rathmines Public School would like to say a big 'Thank You' to our canteen manager, Emma Gray, Beth Abrahams, James O'Shea and all the volunteers who readily give of their free time to ensure all our students are catered for in our canteen.

The school canteen plays an important role in our students' day to day routine and we sincerely appreciate their efforts.



Kindergarten Transition Programs Rathmines Public School



Rathmines Rascals

A playgroup style program for children to visit the school with a parent, carer or grandparent.

Commences:

Friday 7th June 2024

5 weeks (Fridays)

9.15am until 10.45am

Phone the school to secure your place.

ph: 49751229

email: rathmines-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au



For more information, click here to watch a video about transition programs at Rathmines Public School.



Catalina Kids

Every Friday in Term 3.

Friday 26th July to Friday 27th September 2024.
9:15-10:45am.

Children will participate in a wide range of 'school' activities, supervised by the teachers.

Contact the school office if you would like your child to be involved in this exciting program!

Completed enrolment forms for children participating in "Catalina Kids" will need to be returned by the end of Term Two.



Classroom Visits

The final phase of our transition program is children spending time in the classrooms.

Session 1: Thursday 7th November 9.15 - 10.45am.

Session 2: Thursday 14th November 9.15 - 10.45am.

See our beautiful Kindergarten learning spaces and meet up with Year 4 buddies!

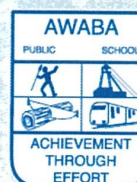
THURSDAY 30TH MAY

10:30AM START

RATHMINES PARK

Please join the
TORONTO LEARNING COMMUNITY
for our
RECONCILIATION WALK

as we show our support for the principles of
Reconciliation: truth, equity and healing.



Participation of Local Elders
Acknowledgment of Country
Smoking Ceremony
School & Local Artist Performances
NOW MORE THAN EVER

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



The Garden and Sustainability Club will be commencing again in Term 2 and we are looking for any parent/grandparent volunteers to help out on **Wednesdays** at recess time (1.45pm).

If you or a family member are interested, please contact

Miss Crawford by email at brittney.crawford3@det.nsw.edu.au



ABSENCE NOTIFICATIONS

If your child is absent from school, you can notify the school three ways -

- Use the Sentral for Parents app to lodge an absence
- Respond to the SMS that is sent by the school on the day, and give a reason for the absence
- Write a note to the class teacher giving the absence date and reason.

All absence notifications must be in writing, therefore please **DO NOT RING THE SCHOOL** as verbal notifications cannot be accepted.

UNWELL STUDENTS

If your child shows **any signs of being unwell please keep them home**. If they have any of the following symptoms they must also have a COVID test—

Runny nose

Sore throat

Cough

Temperature above 37.4

Diarrhoea/Nausea/Vomiting

Conjunctivitis



If they have a negative result and their symptoms have resolved, they are free to return to school. If they test **Positive** they must **stay home** until symptoms have gone.

If your child has **diarrhoea or vomiting**, they must **wait 24 hours** after the last episode before returning to school, **provided they have received a negative Covid test result**.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO ADVISE THE SCHOOL VIA THE APP OF YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE.



Head Lice

Please check your children's hair regularly and treat immediately if you suspect an unwelcome visitor.

ACTIVE OOSH

RATHMINES

2024 INFORMATION



Why Active OOSH?

Active OOSH has been providing exceptional care for children in the Newcastle and Hunter regions since 2011. We prioritise building strong, genuine connections with our community by providing opportunities for children and families to be actively involved in the service and by supporting local initiatives and businesses.

Active OOSH excels in providing an extensive array of engaging experiences for children of all ages and abilities to enjoy on a daily basis. Our experienced and passionate team develop programs based on the interests and needs of the children and their families, while creating a space in which all children feel welcome, safe, valued and cared for.

For our littlest OOSHies, we run a specialised Kindergarten Transition Program which slowly introduces children to the routines and expectations of Big School in the comfort of a preschool style environment.

Hours & Fees

Before School Care:

6:30am - 9:30am | \$22

After School Care:

2:00pm - 6:00pm | \$27

Vacation Care:

6:30am - 6:00pm | \$76

(Fees above are before your Child Care Subsidy is applied)



Schools

Rathmines PS
Arcadia Vale PS
Wangi Wangi PS

Please get in touch if you would like us to start picking up and dropping off to your school too! We welcome children from any school to join us during Vacation Care.

What's included?

Healthy menu: Nutritional breakfast and afternoon tea is provided each day.

Specialised Programs: We program a range of engaging opportunities each session including cooking; science; core values; cultural education; sustainability; sport; health and safety; imaginative play; dance; building and construction; creative arts; loose parts play and specialised infants activities.

Transport: Reliable, safe and efficient transport between Active OOSH Rathmines, local schools and Vacation Care excursions.

Homework Club: Tailored, small group learning experiences run daily by our qualified educators.

Contact Us

Phone: 0438 224 914

Email: rathmines@activeooshnsw.com

Visit us: Rathmines Public School

Book a tour of the service on our website: www.activeooshnsw.com

