



# RATHMINES PUBLIC SCHOOL

# RATHFINDER

Term 3 Week 10, 2024



## Every Day Matters....



Rathmines overall attendance for weeks 7 & 8... 89%

Rathmines attendance prize for weeks 7 & 8 goes to ...

K-2 **2C...92%**

3-6 **5W...92.8%**

From the Principal,

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is difficult to overstate the impact and value of Mitch Tambo's visit to our school on Thursday of last week. All of the rave reviews that we had heard regarding Mitch's performances, and his ability to engage with students of all ages proved to be true, and in fact, he exceeded our high expectations. Mitch shared a morning tea with the Mankillikan Elders and some of our staff members before thrilling our students with an

hour-long performance which was focused on maximum student participation and engagement. Three hundred and forty students enthusiastically singing in Gamilaraay, the choruses to "You're the Voice" and "Great Southern Land" was really special, but the audience participation seemed to go to another level when Mitch performed a Rap version of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." After the recess break the children in our Wonai group gathered with Mitch and the Elders for a "Yarn Up" during which he spoke to the students about how he was able to nurture his creative talents and eventually become an international performer. I am sure I speak on behalf of all members of our school community in offering thanks to **Mrs Fragar, Miss Burns, Mrs Priest and Mrs Verschoor** for all their special contributions towards providing our students with such a memorable experience. Particular thanks also to **Mrs Gagg** for liaising closely with Mitch Tambo in order to provide all the audio visual support needed for his performance.

## 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

## From the Principal cont'd



### Election of 2025 School Leaders

During the second week of next term members of the current student leadership team will speak to all 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 2025. 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 6th November. After an initial round of voting by Year 5 and the Student Voice representatives from other classes, this group will be shortlisted prior to a second round of speeches on 13th November and the final selection of our 2025 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 2025 by participating in this election.

### Kinder 2025 Transition



The second phase of our kinder 2025 transition programme will conclude tomorrow when our Catalina Kids meet for their final session with **Miss Crawford, Miss Poole, Mrs Cannings and Mrs Clarke**. A big percentage of our Kinder cohort for 2025 have been coming along each week during Term 3 and they have clearly enjoyed having the opportunity to get to know their future classmates and become familiar with the school environment while participating in a wide range of "preschool" activities. Many thanks to the school's P and C Association for providing a welcoming morning tea from 10:15 till 10:45 tomorrow morning for the parents and carers of our "Catalina Kids".



The final phase of the Kinder transition will focus on two Kinder Orientation Days which will be held in the Kinder classrooms from 9:15 am till 10:50am on **Thursday 7th November** and **Thursday 14th November**. Our Kinder 2025 students will also have the opportunity to meet their Year 3 buddies on these days. Parents and carers of next year's Kinder students will receive an invitation early next term to attend an information sharing meeting which **Mrs Fragar** will conduct on **Tuesday 5th November** from 6:00pm till 7:00pm.

## From the Principal cont'd

### Grandparents Day

I take this opportunity to remind all members of our school community that our annual Grandparents Day celebrations will take place on **Friday 25th October** in conjunction with an **“Open Day”** for members of the wider Rathmines community. We are extremely fortunate at Rathmines Public to have many grandparents who actively contribute to the life of our community through their involvement in a range of school activities. Grandparents hold a special place in the hearts of young children, and they connect them to the values, stories and histories of their families and the wider community. The children in all classes love to see their grandparents coming along to our school assemblies and special events, helping out with class reading programs, volunteering in the school canteen, at the school’s breakfast club and travelling to PSSA events to support school sports teams. Details regarding the format for our celebrations have been sent home in an Invitation Flyer.

### “Gems” Excursion to the Reptile Park

Whenever I am meeting with parents who are applying to enrol a child at RPS I always speak about the very positive impact that the students in our Special Education Unit have on the culture which exists in this school community. The “Gems,” who make up our three special education classes, add an extra dimension to Rathmines Public School through their daily contributions to life, inside and outside of their classrooms. In their own unique ways, they model the following values which we endeavour to foster in all of our students from kinder to Yr 6: integrity, resilience, empathy, respect and responsibility.

These attributes were very evident when I accompanied the “Gems” on their excursion to the **Australian Reptile Park** last Wednesday. The children brought great credit to themselves, and our school, during their visit to the park and also on the bus trips to and from the Central Coast. I was particularly impressed not just by the way the children were able to balance their excitement at seeing all the park displays, with wonderful manners and respect for others, but also by the way they regularly expressed their thanks to their teachers for organising this excursion. I take this opportunity to thank **Mr Wild** and all of the special education staff for the manner in which they support, but at the same time challenge, the “Gems” each day and inspire them to strive for excellence in all they do. Mr Wild will be taking paternity leave for term four. On behalf of the students and staff in the Special Education Unit I offer best wishes to Patrick for this special time with his family and I thank **Mrs Loughton** for once again accepting the role of Assistant Principal (Special Education) during his absence.



## From the Principal cont'd

### Science Fair

The attached summary of this year's Science Fair activities provides an insight into the broad range of learning experiences students from kinder to Yr 6 participated in as part of our annual celebration of Science Week. The hall was absolutely buzzing on Wednesday as excited young scientists shared their experiments with students from other classes. We are indebted to **Mrs Mitchell** for once again sharing her passion for Science with our students and for coordinating all of the logistics associated with the 2024 Science Fair.

### Infants Sports Day

The recent run of beautiful spring weather has unfortunately come to an end just in time for our previously postponed Infants Sports Day. The school oval is already very wet from today's rain and tomorrow's forecast is for more rain. The revised plan (Plan C) is to combine the sports day with our Grandparents Day celebrations on Friday 25th October: this will add an extra dimension to what will no doubt be a busy but enjoyable day for students, parents and the grandparents who are able to attend.

### Spring Vacation

School closes tomorrow for the spring vacation and reopens for students on **Monday 14th October**. I thank all students, parents and staff members for their contributions during this term and offer best wishes to everyone in our school community for a relaxing and enjoyable holiday.

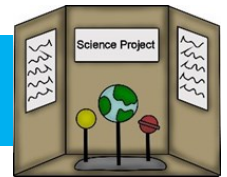
Yours sincerely,

*Nick Walker*

Principal



## Science Fair Week



On Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th October, we held our annual Infants and Primary Science Days. Students completed a rotation of activities, throughout the day. The theme for National Science Week this year is 'Species Survival'. This topic highlights that the children of today will be at the 'coalface' in the future, needing to solve many scientific problems around the decline in biodiversity and the threat climate change poses to life on Earth. I hope to see many of our budding scientists from today's 'Science Fair' working as scientists or engineers in the future!

This year for activity rotations, Stage 3 completed an escape room to save the Great Barrier Reef and explored the importance of bees and why bees use hexagons in their hives. Stage 2 completed a roller coaster stem challenge and investigated how sycamore seeds work like helicopters. K-2 investigated caterpillar camouflage, completed a 'floor is lava' stem challenge, explored the school's biodiversity on a bug hunt and planted seedlings.

Students in Years 3-6 participated in Science Fairs in the hall for their stage. Our 'Science Fair' offers opportunities for students to immerse themselves in a Science topic of choice in a meaningful and engaging way and experience deep learning of a topic. It was a pleasure to see students be able to explain their learning, thinking critically about why their experiments may or may not have worked as planned. They showed skills of critical and creative thinking, problem solving, communication and

## Science Week cont'd

presentation skills, time management, project management and collaboration! Students with strengths in STEM were able to shine but this activity allowed every student to experience success and build their confidence. Thank you to parents for your support and assistance with these projects, it is essential to make this day possible and extremely appreciated!

Rachelle Mitchell,

Science Co ordinator



Yr 3 making their roller coaster

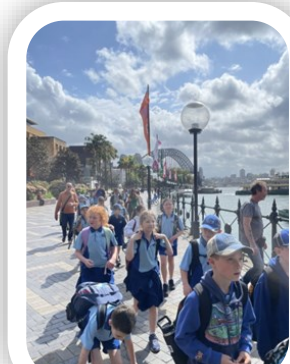


Testing time!

## Year 3 Excursion to 'The Rocks', Sydney

On Thursday the 12th of September, Year 3 went on an excursion to 'The Rocks' Sydney.

They went on an interactive and insightful guided tour of Sydney's iconic Rocks district exploring the days of first contact, colonial exploration and indigenous perspectives. They examined the timeline of our country's journey through time, from Aboriginal inhabitation to post-colonial Australia.



# MITCH TAMBO VISIT



# Dates for your Diary

## DATE

## EVENT

Friday 27th September

- 9.15am Catalina Kids
- 2pm Primary Assembly
- Last Day of Term 3

Monday 14th October

- First Day of Term 4

Thursday 17th October

- 2.10pm Infants Assembly

Friday 25th October

- Grandparents Day
- K-2 Sports Day

Thursday 31st October

- Halloween Disco

Friday 1st November

- Yr 6 Mini Fete Day

Thursday 7th November

- 9.15am Kinder Orientation (Session 1)
- 2.10pm Infants Assembly

Thursday 14th November

- 9.15am Kinder Orientation (Session 2)
- 2.10pm Infants Assembly

Hunter Wetlands Centre

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN

**Do the BAT Walk**  
Everyday of School Holidays  
Learn about these amazing creatures. Make a bat, pop into our special 'bat cave', judge the Bat Beauty competition and lots more. **Cost: FREE with Entry**

**Bat Talk & Craft**  
Monday 30th Sept & Tuesday 8th Oct at 10-11.30am  
Are bats scary bloodsuckers OR are they cute, furry native animals that are important for our ecosystem? Find out with Anne from Hunter Wildlife Rescue!  
**Cost: FREE with Entry - but book a seat online!**  
Get Tickets: [wetlands.org.au/upcoming-events](http://wetlands.org.au/upcoming-events)

**Reptile Encounters** Cost: \$5pp plus Entry  
Wed 2 Oct 11.00am We've added EXTRA  
Mon 7 Oct 11.00am Reptile Encounters  
Wed 9 Oct 11.00am in the school holidays!  
**PLUS EVERY Sat & Sun 11am**

**Wetlands Art & Writing Comp**  
Entries in our 40th Anniversary Primary School Students Art and Writing Competition will be on display from 30 September to 11 October 2024. Pop in and see the work of our talented students.

**1 Wetlands Pl Shortland**  
[wetlands.org.au](http://wetlands.org.au)

**Plus**  
Dipnetting  
Playgrounds  
Walking Trails  
Guided Walks  
Bird Feeding  
Animal House  
Egret Tower

**General lost property** is kept **outside the back of the office building**.

Please check there regularly for missing jumpers, jackets, hats, lunch boxes and drink bottles, etc.

**Any leftover lost property will be disposed of at the end of each term.**

**Precious items** like jewellery, wallets and purses are held **in the office**. If you or your child has lost something valuable or very special in the last two years, please ring, call in or email the office with a description of your lost item. We would love to reunite these precious pieces with their owners.

# Rathmines Community Information



**FAMILY FUN DAY!**

**Free activities for children up to 12 years at the Parliament of NSW**

Visit Australia's oldest Parliament to learn about democracy in NSW, and join in the fun for young citizens, future leaders and their families.

**Friday 11 October 9.30am - 3pm**

- Visit our heritage rooms
- Learn how to vote and make a law
- Give a speech for an election campaign
- Participate in a committee role play
- Make craft animals and objects
- Enjoy live music and more...

**FREE ENTRY**  
Activities 9.30am to 3pm

**LOCATION**  
Parliament of New South Wales,  
6 Macquarie Street  
Opposite Martin Place  
The public café will be open.

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**  
P: (02) 9230 2047 or  
E: [dps.education@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dps.education@parliament.nsw.gov.au)



## Celebrate with us at Wangi Creative Hub in the school holidays Wednesday 2 October

- **11:00 AM:** Smoking Ceremony & Owl Project Launch
  - **11:30 AM - 1:00 PM:** BBQ by the Lions Club
  - **11:00 AM - 2:00 PM:** Owl mask crafts, art stations, and story time.
  - **Family Painting:** Add to a giant owl sculpture
- Free entry, accessible activities, and BBQ available.** Visit Wangi HUB on Watkins Road.



**Are you ready to meet your new best friend?**



Network 10 is seeking families and individuals from all different backgrounds who would like to adopt a rescue dog! We work hand-in-hand with the Animal Welfare League NSW to match you with the best dog for your family.

**THE DOG HOUSE**  
**APPLY NOW**  
at [10play.com.au/casting](http://10play.com.au/casting)



**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.

**WonderCity**  
Civic Park Fountain  
28 Sept - 6 Oct

**TANTRUM NEW ANNUAL**

**Free | Family-Friendly**

Presented by **Tantrum Youth Arts**, *WonderCity* invites you to step into a version of Newcastle as imagined by young people, embarking on an intricate journey to uncover alternate perspectives and imagined futures of our city.


Curated by young artists, *WonderCity* is part game, part performance and part wayfinding adventure, weaving through the CBD among some of Newcastle's most iconic cultural institutions and landmarks.

**Dates:**  
Sat 28 Sept - 2:00pm + 7:00pm  
Sun 29 Sept - 2:00pm + 7:00pm  
Fri 04 Oct - 2:00pm + 7:00pm (Auslan interpreted)  
Sat 05 Oct - 2:00pm + 7:00pm  
Sun 06 Oct - 2:00pm + 7:00pm

**Location:** The event will start at the Civic Park Fountain, and end in Wheeler Place in Newcastle CBD.

**Cost:** Free (bookings essential).

Scan the QR code or visit [www.newannual.com](http://www.newannual.com) for tickets.



Tantrum Youth Arts is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW. This project is assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.  
[www.tantrum.org.au](http://www.tantrum.org.au)



## 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.

## 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.

Please keep our children safe and do not drop them off directly outside the school gates before 9.30am. Please use the kiss and ride area just past the front gate or walk them in. Thank you for your assistance.

### Park safe, stay safe

Parking rules around schools

**YOU CAN PARK HERE FOR TWO MINUTES**  
You can drop off or pick up passengers here, but you must stay in or within three metres of your vehicle  
Mobility Parking Permit holders are allowed to park for up to five minutes

**YOU CANNOT STOP HERE**  
You cannot drop off or pick up passengers here

**YOU CANNOT STOP HERE UNLESS DRIVING A BUS**  
You cannot drop off or pick up passengers here



# 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!

# ACTIVE OOSH RATHMINES 2025



Active OOSH is a leading Out of School Hours Care provider in the Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Hunter regions. Established in 2011, we are locally owned and operated and excel in delivering a diverse range of enriching experiences that cater for children of all ages and abilities.

Our experienced and passionate team develop programs tailored to the interests and needs of both the children and their families, fostering an environment where every child feels welcome, safe, valued and cared for.



## Types of Care

Before School Care (BSC)  
After School Care (ASC)  
Vacation Care (VC)



## Operating Hours

BSC: 6:30am - 9:30am  
ASC: 2:00pm - 6:00pm  
VC: 6:30am - 6:00pm



## Programs

We program a range of engaging experiences each session including cooking; science; culture; imaginative play; sustainability; health and safety; construction; creative arts; loose parts play and specialised infants activities.



## Menu

We are an allergy aware service and provide nutritional, inclusive options for breakfast and afternoon tea each day, including during VC.



## Fees (before Childcare Subsidy)

BSC: \$23  
ASC: \$28  
VC: \$78



## Schools

We drop off and pick up children from a range of local primary schools. Contact us to see if we can accommodate your local school! We welcome children from any school to join us during VC!



## Transport

We provide reliable, safe and efficient transport between Active OOSH Rathmines and local schools (during BSC & ASC) and to excursion venues during VC.



## Homework Club

Our qualified educators run tailored, small group learning and support experiences each day.