



RATHMINES PUBLIC SCHOOL

RATHFINDER

Term 1, Week 6, 2025



Every Day Matters....



Rathmines overall
attendance for weeks
4 & 5
was 94%

From the Principal,

Dear Parents and Carers,

I was very pleased to be able to spend two days with our Year 6 students during their **Elizabeth Beach Outdoor Education Camp** at Pacific Palms during week four. The children are to be commended not only for their behaviour but also for the positive and

supportive sense of class spirit they displayed throughout the trip, especially when torrential rain hit our campsite on Thursday night just before the final item in the "Talent Quest". In addition to the wet weather, the camp challenges included: a beach, headland and rainforest walk from midway along Seven Mile Beach back to the campsite at Elizabeth Beach; wading races, beach flags and "classical catches"; taking down and packing up wet and battered tents after surviving the deluge, and sand crab spotting in the rain at dawn on Friday morning.

The trip back to Rathmines on Friday included a short stopover in Forster to walk along the break wall and check out the beautiful harbour. As a bonus, a pod of dolphins and a small shark made an appearance while the children were waiting for their lunches to be delivered! Supervising children during these excursions can be a very rewarding experience for teachers, especially when the students in your care respond in such a positive and enthusiastic manner to the challenges they encounter during the excursion. However, I am also mindful of the demands these extra responsibilities place on class teachers. I am sure I speak on behalf of the Yr6 students and their parents in expressing sincere thanks to

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

Mrs Verschoor, Mrs Shafren and Mr Fisher for providing the children with what was a rather new experience for many of the children who attended the camp. The children are no doubt looking forward to their next outdoor education adventure, which will be a three day stay in the Barrington Tops National Park during term two.

Parents and Citizens Association

Many thanks to the parents and carers who came along in record numbers to the Parents and Citizens Meeting in the library last Wednesday evening. The P and C Association makes an important contribution by fundraising for teaching resources as well as providing a forum for discussion on matters relating to the achievement of the goals linked to our school vision. Both of these roles are greatly enhanced when the association is well supported through strong levels of attendance by parents and carers at the meetings which are conducted twice each term, and I encourage you to continue to attend throughout the year.

I take this opportunity to thank the following parents who have accepted responsibilities as members of the P and C Executive for 2025:

President: James O'Shea Vice Presidents: Jessica Felk and Rebecca Cherniayeff
 Treasurer: Carly Felk Secretary: Nadine Hinchliffe
 Fundraising Committee: TBA

Behaviour Code for Students

The Behaviour Code for Students which has been formulated by the NSW Department of Education is a valuable guide for all students in terms of the school's expectations for student behaviour. I encourage parents and carers to read through and discuss the code with their children.

"NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students.

In NSW public schools' students are expected to:

- * **Respect other students, their teachers and school staff and community members**
- * **Follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers**
- * **Strive for the highest standards in learning**
- * **Respect all members of the school community and show courtesy to all students, teachers and community members**
- * **Resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly**
- * **Comply with the school's uniform policy or dress code**
- * **Attend school every day (unless legally excused)**
- * **Respect all property**
- * **Not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco into our schools**
- * **Not bully, harass, intimidate or discriminate against anyone in our schools**

Schools take strong action in response to behaviour that is detrimental to self or to the achievement of high-quality teaching and learning".

School Sport

Students at Rathmines Public are fortunate to be able to participate in a wide variety of sporting opportunities which are provided as part of an overall sports program for students in primary classes. I

From the Principal cont'd

believe there is value in taking time to highlight not only the different aspects of this program, but also the guidelines which the school is required to follow. **Miss Case** and **Mrs Wicks** have accepted responsibility for overseeing all matters relating to primary sport, as well as organising our annual Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics carnivals. I thank Niesa and Ellouise in advance for all the time and effort they will contribute to fulfilling their Sports Coordinator roles during the 2025 school year.

Rathmines Public enters teams in eleven different PSSA competitions and also participates in competitions run by NSW Touch, the Northern NSW Football Association, NSW OZ tag and the Newcastle Knights. Inclusion in these representative sporting teams is based on the outcome of school-based selection trials and guidelines provided by the NSW PSSA. Students who gain selection in a team are required to display a high level of commitment to training sessions, before or after school, and to also display the highest level of sportsmanship and team spirit when playing for the school.

In addition, students with above average ability in a particular sport are eligible to take part in **zone selection trials** conducted by the Westlakes PSSA. Selection in a Westlakes squad is the first step on a pathway to possible selection in a **NSW PSSA** representative team. In the same way, students who are selected to represent RPS at the zone swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals as a result of their performances at a school carnival, have the chance to progress through to Hunter and possibly NSW PSSA representation. It is important to note that the NSW PSSA is responsible for setting the guidelines for selection procedures. Strict limitations are placed on the number of students who can participate at each level of the selection process. Emphasis is placed on the fact that participants must have demonstrated **above average ability** in the sport, and as a result would usually have previous competition experience which has led to selection in a representative team. Details regarding a student's previous playing experience are used in conjunction with school-based selection trials to determine the school's nominations for a Zone trial. Parents are asked to note the following additional points when they are considering nominating their child for inclusion in a Zone trial:

- (1) Zone Convenors are nominated by the local PSSA for the conducting of each trial. The Convenors are responsible for supervision of students during the trial.
- (2) Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from the trials.
- (3) It is mandatory for all students to wear the appropriate safety gear relating to the sport.
- (4) If parents have any concerns about the conducting of a trial, they should speak initially to **Miss Case** or **Mrs Wicks** rather than the Trial Convenor on the day of the trial.

The Westlakes PSSA also conducts a series of annual **Gala Days**, which are **non-competitive**, and are designed to give all primary students the chance to play sport with students from other schools in our zone. These gala days generally run on separate days for junior (Years 3 and 4) and senior (Years 5 and 6) students.

We have high expectations for students in terms of their behaviour on and off the field. Many schools associated with the **NSW Primary Schools Sports Association** also have a requirement for parents and carers to sign a **Parents/Spectators Code of Conduct** prior to their children being granted permission to represent the school in a sports event. It is really pleasing to be able to say that parents and carers in the Rathmines school community have overwhelmingly displayed the highest standards of personal conduct when supporting any of our sporting teams and as a result I have not considered it necessary to

From the Principal cont'd

implement that practice. However, I believe it is beneficial to take time each year to highlight and hopefully raise the awareness of the following expectations we have in this regard:

- * **Focus on your child's efforts and performance rather than winning and losing.**
- * **Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment and fulfilment.**
- * **Provide a model of good sports behaviour for your child to copy and always remember that children learn by example.**
- * **Appreciate and applaud good performances and skilful play by all participants.**
- * **Be courteous and respectful in your communication with players, coaches and game officials.**
- * **Support all efforts to remove verbal abuse from sporting venues.**
- * **Show appreciation for teacher-coaches and officials who give up their time to provide sporting opportunities for students at our school. Without them your child would not have the opportunity to participate.**
- * **Respect the decisions made by officials and teach your children to do the same.**
- * **Do not coach from the sideline.**
- * **Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game.**
- * **Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, age, cultural background, or religion.**

I strongly encourage all parents and carers to reflect on these expectations whenever they attend a sporting event in which their child is representing Rathmines Public School.

School Debating

Mrs Helen Bristow has once again volunteered to coordinate our school's involvement in the NSW Primary Schools Debating Competition this year. We are very fortunate to have a member of staff not only with such a high level of interest, expertise and knowledge in the art of debating, but also the readiness to give freely of her time to coach and inspire our debating team. In previous newsletters I have made mention of the fact that Helen actually was a member of the debating team that won the inaugural debating competition in 1910, and she undoubtedly maintains the same passion for the sport that she displayed in her primary school years! I congratulate the following Yr 6 students who have been selected to represent Rathmines Public in this year's competition:



Emily Breitzkreuz	Mack McClay	Chael Palmer	Stacey Ring	Grace Combe	Olivia Samulski	Annabelle Greener
----------------------	----------------	-----------------	----------------	----------------	--------------------	----------------------

Recognising the important role that the Catalina Air Base played in the history of Rathmines, the team has been registered for the Challenge as the **Rathmines Public Black Cats**.

The Black Cats was the nickname given to the Catalinas that flew from the Air Base, primarily because they made up the majority of seaplanes at the base and were painted black to avoid detection.

From the Principal cont'd

Parent Information Sessions

I trust that the parent information sessions conducted last week proved to be beneficial for parents and carers. Overviews of the content covered in the meetings are available from class teachers for anyone who was unable to attend due to other commitments. I take this opportunity to once again stress that the meetings should be seen as a **first step** in developing a relationship of shared responsibility with class teachers for your child's education. As the school year progresses, I encourage you not to hesitate to contact class teachers regarding an appointment if you wish to discuss any matters of concern. Formal **parent teacher interviews** will be conducted in week ten of this term (the week beginning on Monday 31st March). Details re the process for booking interview times through the **Sentral for Parents** app will be published next week.

Sports News



Hamish Austin has just returned from representing our school and the Hunter PSSA at the **NSW PSSA Cricket Championships** in Armidale. Hamish had the daunting task of opening the batting for the Hunter team in their games against PSSA regional teams from across NSW, with his most successful innings being a score of thirty against the strong South Coast team.

I commend all of the students who represented our school in rather cool and windy conditions at the **Zone Swimming Carnival at Speers Point Swimming Complex** on Monday. **Miss Case** and **Mr Relf** were very impressed not only with the children's performances in the pool but also with the manner in which they conducted themselves while waiting for their events. Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent Westlakes PSSA at the Hunter PSSA Swimming Carnival on **Monday 10th March**:



Zara Wright

1st place 11yrs girls Breaststroke and 11 yrs Girls Backstroke

2nd place Senior Girls 200m Individual Medley, 11yrs Girls Butterfly and 11yrs Girls 50m Freestyle



Koah Ward

1st place Junior Boys 200m Individual Medley

2nd place Junior Boys Backstroke, Junior Boys Breaststroke, Junior Boys Butterfly and 10yrs 50m Freestyle



Sonny Sabic

3rd place Junior Boys Breaststroke



Avalin Hudson

3rd place 10yrs Girls 50m Freestyle

From the Principal cont'd

Toronto High School Yr 7 2026

Mr Mark McConville, the Principal of Toronto High School, has asked me to once again extend an invitation for parents and carers to attend an information session he will be presenting in our school library next Wednesday afternoon (12th March) from 3:30pm till 4:30pm. While the session is primarily for parents and carers of students in Yr 6, Mark has stressed that the session is certainly open to families with students in younger grades who may be starting to give some thought to high school options. This presents as a valuable opportunity for parents and carers to not only gather an insight into the excellent teaching and learning environment on offer at THS, but also to ask questions and seek clarification on any matters relating to the transition from Yr 6 to Yr 7.

Yours sincerely,

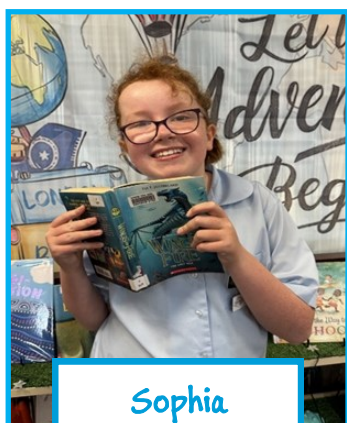
Nick Walker
Principal

Fun at Elizabeth Beach

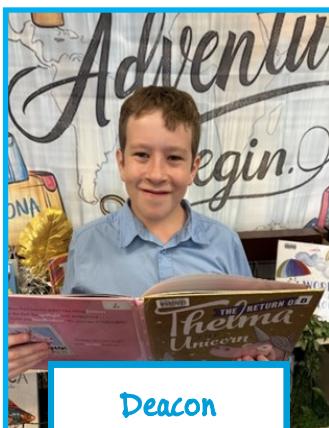


Library News

Please welcome our Amazing Library Legends for 2025



Sophia



Deacon



Thomas



William



Olivia



Taj

Always happy to help with a big smile!

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 6th March

- 2.15pm Infants Assembly

Wednesday 12th March

- 3.30pm Toronto High School Information Session in Library

Thursday 13th March

- 2.15pm Infants Assembly

Monday 17th March

- 2.15pm Primary Assembly

Wednesday 26th March

- School Cross Country (TBC)

Thursday 27th March

- Whole School Photos

Wonai News



This term we are working with **Roo Faulkner** from Winanga-y Dreaming to explore Aboriginal culture. Each Tuesday afternoon Roo works with one of our classes or year groups on a range of topics including Awabakal Language, Creation Stories, Traditional Games and Dance. So far, Roo has worked with Stage 3 and our Gems. The students have shown extremely high levels of engagement during these sessions and have enjoyed the discussions, stories and activities that they have shared with Roo.



Community News



Australian Air League
NSW Group

JOIN NOW

NSW GROUP IS NOW ENROLLING





Since 1934 the Australian Air League has been teaching young boys and girls nationwide all about aviation, while helping them develop important life skills like leadership, discipline, self confidence and teamwork. When you join the league you will make new friends and take part in fun and exciting activities, on the ground and in the air.

Each week you will attend your local squadron where you will learn valuable skills and take part in fun and interesting activities and classes. Some of our classes include Meteorology, Navigation, Photography and Community Service. Squadrons also attend training camps, sport and recreational days, flying experiences and ceremonial drill.

We welcome boys and girls from the age of 8 years old from all different cultures and backgrounds. Parents and families are welcome to support or even join their local squadron as a volunteer. All adult members and volunteers are Working with Children Checked.

The Australian Air League is running both a fun and educational programme that is making fine citizens out of our young Australians.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE AUSTRALIAN AIR LEAGUE AND YOUR CLOSEST SQUADRON PLEASE CONTACT

www.airleague.com.au Email: info@airleague.com.au
Free Call: 1800 502 175



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.



Get moving, stay active!


Keeping kids active every day is one of the best ways to support their health, happiness, and learning. Regular physical activity helps children build strong bones and muscles, improve coordination, and even boost their focus in the classroom.

Primary school-aged children should aim for at least 60 minutes of active play each day. This could be running, jumping, dancing, or even a bike ride to school!

Easy ways to get kids moving:

- 1. Make it fun - Play a game of tag, kick a ball, or dance to their favourite song.
- 2. Use active transport - Walk, scoot, or ride to school instead of driving when possible.
- 3. Limit screen time - Swap some screen time for outdoor play or a fun family activity.
- 4. Be a role model - Join in and be active together!







Hunter New England
Local Health District

[@HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au)
hltcaz/goodforkids.nsw.gov.au

Good for Kids acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land that we live and work on as the first people of this country, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Travelling Australia or Overseas?



If you are..



Travelling for 10 weeks or more - up to 1 school year (200 Days), then stay enrolled with your current school, whilst accessing learning and attending through Distance Education.

Learning Together!

DISTANCE EDUCATION



The New South Wales Department of education has a Public School Service to be there on the journey with you and your children.



NORTH EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

We provide learning designs for students on the move. The programs are personalised to suit your child's learning needs, your supervision & management of the learning and your travelling context & environment.



North East Public School of Distance Education | School Street | PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444
P: (02) 6584 1118 | E: northeast-d.school@det.nsw.edu.au

PHOTO DAY IS THURSDAY 27TH MARCH



Rathmines Public School 2025 School Photos

2025 School Photos can be ordered online.

To view packages and to place your order please visit
www.newcastleschoolportraits.com
 and enter your code.

27TH MARCH **520360** **27TH MARCH**

Orders to be done before photo day to avoid late fee.
 Payments can be made with any Mastercard or Visa cards.

School Packages

Qty Ordered	A Pack	\$77	<p>Traditional Class Photo, Composite Class Photo.</p> <p>Portraits included: Colour 1-(5x7) 2-(2.5x3.5) 4-Wallets with an extra set in BW & a 8x12" Enlargement & Free low res Digital Image of individual.</p> <p>Softcover Album 8x10" to store many years of photos. (Holds 32 photos)</p>
Qty Ordered	B Pack	\$53	<p>Traditional Class Photo, Composite Class Photo.</p> <p>Colour 1-(5x7) 2-(2.5x3.5) 4-Wallets with an extra set in BW & a 8x12" Enlargement & Free low res Digital Image of individual.</p>
Qty Ordered	C Pack	\$45	<p>Traditional Class Photo, Composite Class Photo.</p> <p>Free low res Digital Image of individual.</p>
Qty Ordered	D Pack	\$30	<p>Traditional Class Photo, Composite Class Photo.</p> <p><i>There are no individual photos in this package.</i></p>
Qty Ordered	E Pack	\$30	<p>1-(5x7) 2-(2.5x3.5) 4- Wallets & low res digital image.</p>
Qty Ordered	Photo Album	\$30	<p>8x10" Photo Album (Holds 32 Photos) A great way to store your child's photos over the years. Photo Album is available for purchase without purchasing a photo pack. These albums contain no photos.</p>

Family Package are also available online but must be ordered by 9pm the night before Family photo day.

Family Packages

Qty Ordered	Family A Pack	\$35	<p>1-(5x7) 2-(2.5x3.5) 4- Wallets & Digital Low Res image</p>
Qty Ordered	Family B Pack	\$45	<p>1-(5x7) 2-(2.5x3.5) 4- Wallets, 8x12" Enlargement & Digital Low Res image</p>

EXCLUSIVE PACKAGES AVAILABLE ONLINE

Newcastle School Portraits
 Capturing your memories for over **30 Years**

www.newcastleschoolportraits.com
 21 Broadmeadow Rd, Broadmeadow 2292
 4965 4114

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.

ROAD SAFETY AROUND OUR SCHOOL

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

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.