

What's On

14 December	Amazing Achievers and PBL Assembly
15 December	Last day for Students for 2017
30 January 2018	First day for students for 2018



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As we come to the end of 2017 we take time to reflect on the year. We trust your child has made progress and is displaying skills gained throughout 2017 and that their report gave you insight as to what your child has achieved this year.

We are already planning for a great 2018!

You will receive a note which will contain the following information: the name of the teacher/s and the SLSO/s your child will have in 2018 and the classroom number.

Over the past few weeks we have had many successful and memorable events take place.

- Thank you for assisting to make the Special Children's Christmas Party or the Variety Christmas Party such a success. Without your assistance students would not have the opportunity to attend. Thank you also to the organisers, volunteers and the staff.
- The alternate party here at school was also a fun day. Thank you to those who organised and participated.
- Thank you to our signing choir and Aboriginal dance group, The Ponds Possums, for performing at the celebration of International Day Of People With Disabilities at Blacktown Showground and at our celebration assembly.
- Thank you to all that organised and attended our celebration assembly and were able to see first-hand the fantastic achievements our students have made.
- Thank you to the Commonwealth Bank for donating \$10 000 to our school.
- Thank you to Disability Services Australia for creating a great fruit, vegetable and herb garden adjacent to Class 19.
- Congratulations to our Student Leaders for 2018, they will be very recognisable next year in their teal shirts (provided by The Ponds School)
- Congratulations to Aiden, for successfully completing Year 12 and being the very first student to graduate from The Ponds School. We wish you all the best for your post school option future.
- Our students graduating to high school and already in high school shared a very happy pizza party to celebrate. What great social skills these students displayed.
- Thank you to the organisers and all the volunteers that made our Carols By Candlelight a success. It was great to see so many students and families attend.
- Thank you to our wonderful SLSOs that organised a wonderful Christmas craft day for our students, everyone had a great time!
- 9am Thursday 14th December is our final PBL and Amazing Achievers Assembly. We have over 100 students gaining certificates, ribbons and bronze bag tags on this day.
- Thank you to Making It Happen - for children with disabilities that ran a highly successful Twilight Markets, assisted with the Carols and the Christmas hamper raffle. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 14th December.

Exciting Happenings

- Recently, Wiggles and Giggles Preschool held their Annual Art Exhibition and donated the profits to The Children's Hospital at Westmead and our school. Wiggles and Giggles representatives will be joining us at assembly on Thursday to present us with a big cheque!
- During the holidays two shipping containers will be installed due to our growing need for storage space.
- The oval will be top dressed to ensure it continues to be an appropriate space for our student's to play.

Staff

We also have to say Goodbye to a number of great staff:

Renee Ross – off to be a mainstream AP

Mel A – off to sunny Queensland

Liz – who has left to live in England

Casey – who is returning to her home town in north western NSW

The following staff have been successful in gaining positions at Riverstone PS.

Six Kindergarten classes of students with disabilities will be starting at our old site in 2018.

Lisa H

Bronwen

Alex

Karyn

Thank you for being a great part of The Ponds School You will be missed. We wish you all the best for the future.

Principals Message from Celebration Day

Today we are not only celebrating our students. We wish to thank everyone who assists our students achieve their goals. Thank you to parents/caregivers and families that ensure students are at school and ready to learn daily. Thank you to all the wonderful staff of our school, our DP, APs, Teachers, SLSOs and SASS – your dedication, professionalism and unwavering high expectations of our students and of yourselves makes our school a truly unique innovative learning environment – and a great school!

I **believe** our school is great.

What makes a great school I hear you ask.

A great school is built on values and attitudes **and** a can do approach – I see examples of this every day.

It is built on communication, a common language, an unending focus to give all students a voice.

It is built collaboratively – with everyone working together to achieve their goals.

It is built on a belief and a foundation of learning, caring and being safe.

It is built on a premise that education is the key to unlocking the world for our students.

The most important aspect is that it is built for people – students, families, staff and the community.

Today we have all those people here.

You are all an important part of our school community

Without you ourschool would not be great.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to making our school great.

Wishing you and yours a great break and a wonderful 2018

Leonie Donaldson

Principal

Rooty Hill Multicultural Carers Support Group

Family

Christmas Party

When: 23rd December, 2017

Where: Mount Druitt Hub

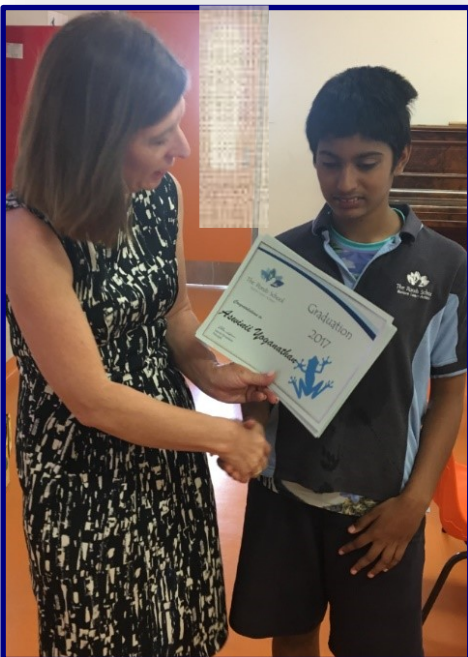
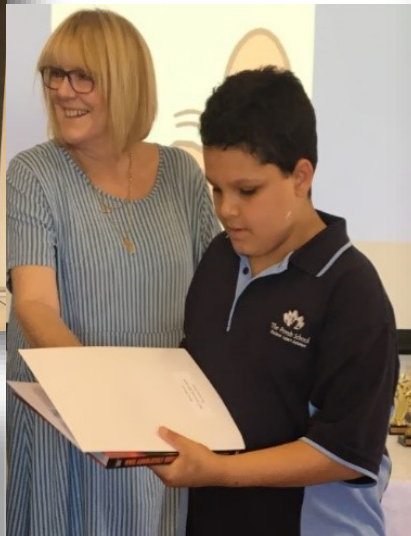
9 Ayres Grove, Mount Druitt

Time: 10.00am—4.00pm

Contact: Gladys

Phone: 9625-9876

Celebration Assembly and Graduation





Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD) Two Day Introductory Workshop



Presented by Harriet Korner

Sydney

24 & 25 January 2018

Time: 9.00am – 4.30pm (Registration: 8.30am)

Venue: **Royal Rehab** – Clive Austin Conference Centre
235 Morrison Rd, Ryde, NSW, 2112.

Enquiries: Please email Harriet at hkorner@netspace.net.au or call on 0418 629 707.



Harriet Korner Consulting

ABN: 52 849 087 354

Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD) Two Day Introductory Workshop

Registration Form / Tax Invoice

Sydney Workshop: 24 & 25 January 2018

Cost includes lunch, morning and afternoon teas and a PODD Workshop Manual

Full Rate: \$500 for bookings paid by 16th January 2018

Earlybird Rate: \$450 for bookings paid by 16th December 2017

Allowah SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

8TH - 12TH JANUARY 2018



IT'S A HOKEY-POKEY HOLIDAY!

1,2,3... 1,2,3... Are you ready for a week of music and dance!

We will be getting our dancing shoes on and warming up our voices before heading to the Allowah Disco Hall of Fame, complete with a disco ball and party lights.

This week we will sing songs from around the world, meet dancers from a local dance company, hear live music and even watch a musical movie or two. We will make some musical instruments... and some noise.

We will be making a dance costume and learning a dance that we can enjoy together... look out Dancing with the Stars! Here we come!

And everyone is invited for a concert on the Thursday in the Allowah Disco Hall of Fame where we will showcase our style. And on Friday we will head out for an excursion together.

Join us for a week of music and dance... go on! Do the Hokey-Pokey with us!

Allowah Disability Support Services
8 Perry Street, Dundas Valley, 2117
allowah.org.au



Allowah SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

2ND - 5TH JANUARY 2018



MAD SCIENTIST WEEK!

This is a week of mad, mad science!

We will be donning our lab coats entering the Allowah Laboratory where we will mix, muddle and generally make mahem! Look out for the oobleck! (Yes, that really is a thing.)

We will be making exploding volcanoes, colour-changing flowers, and elephant toothpaste. There will be rainbow jars and mad, scientific cooking. There will be slimy jelly and so much more!

And in between we will make mad friends, enjoy our meals together, sing science songs (Ah, yes... not sure there is such a thing, but we'll work on it!)

We will even host a real live scientist... mwa ha ha!

And on Friday we will head out into the mad, mad world for an excursion before heading back to Allowah for a well earned rest.

Join us for a week of scientific madness! It's going to be fun!

Give us a call to enquire or book - Ph: 8877 3400 and ask for Maura Hanney

Allowah Disability Support Services
8 Perry Street, Dundas Valley, 2117
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Allowah SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

22ND - 25TH JANUARY 2018



Does your child become bored in the school holidays?
Would you like your child to have interesting and stimulating activities to do?
Are you worried that your child with a disability may not be well cared for?

ALLOWAH'S THE ANSWER!

Allowah's School Holiday program is open to all children with moderate to severe disabilities. Children with complex medical needs are most welcome. The program may not suit all children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, but please have a chat with us so we can see what might work.

Allowah staff have experience in caring for children with disabilities and complex medical needs, so your child will have a happy, safe experience. The Allowah School Holiday program is run by our Child Life Therapist and your child will be helped by recreation workers and assistants in nursing. These staff are also fully trained to provide personal care and eating/ drinking support.

We will meet with you prior to your child attending the Allowah School Holiday program so that we can get to know what you and your child need.

Allowah School Holiday program can be paid for from the core supports budget in your child's NDIS plan or through private payment. Children admitted to the hospital at the time may be able to join in if they are well enough and where places are available.

Come for one day, come for a couple of days and stay overnight or come for the whole week of fun.

Give us a call to enquire or book - Ph: 8877 3400 and ask for Maura Hanney

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Allowah SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

15TH - 19TH JANUARY 2018



IN THE GARDEN!

We love our garden at Allowah, and we'd love to share it with you for this week of gardening fun in the sun.

On Monday to Thursday this week we will be making some great planters, a mini garden and an egg head! We will even be planting magic bean stalks... Shhhhh! Don't tell Jack! We will make rock friends and a gnome or fairy for your room. We will get our hands dirty... and quite probably we'll get wet and a little muddy, but that's OK.

And we will sing and listen to stories and feed the birds and generally enjoy the outdoors as much as we can.

And on Friday, we will be visiting a lovely garden in our community.

Join us for a week of smelling the roses... and cabbages and anything else we can plant!

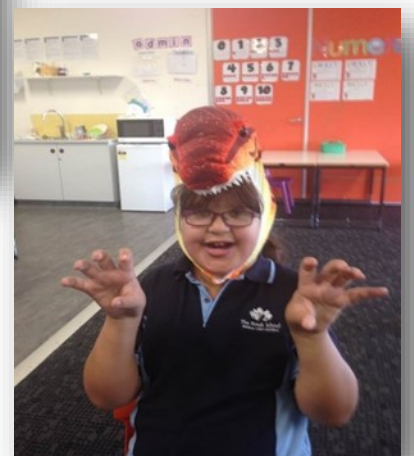
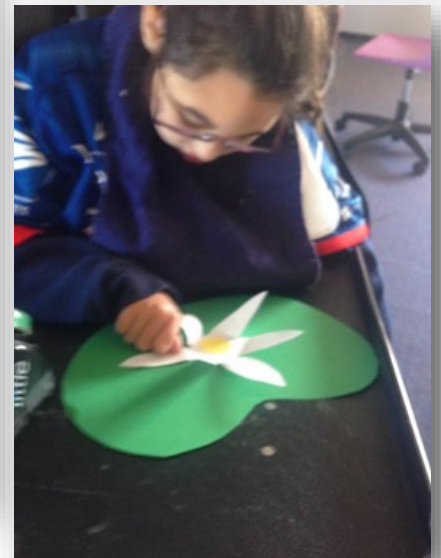
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CREATIVE ARTS RFF

We have had lots of fun this semester in Creative Arts! We have read lots of wonderful books and then created artworks based on the story. We have dressed up in various costumes and acted out the scenes and scenarios. We've sung songs, played musical instruments and learnt some pretty cool dance moves.

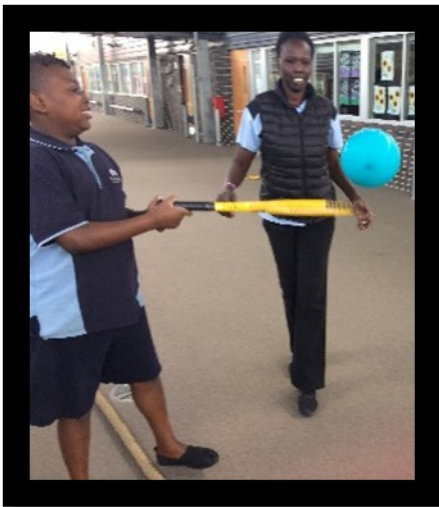
It's been a fun and exciting time!

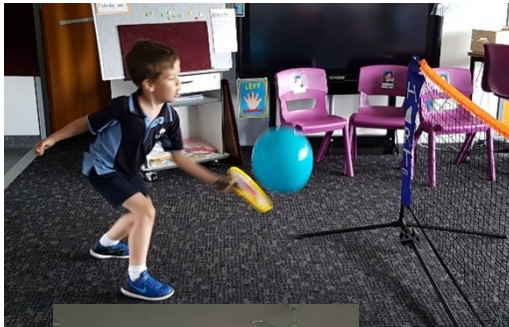


PE at THE PONDS

This term many classes across the school have been involved in a tennis program. Our main fundamental movement skill focus has been on movement and ball skills. We started working with balloons and plastic bats before some students moved on to tennis balls and junior tennis racquets. Sometimes the ball goes in the right direction but we do a lot of running to pick them up at the end.

Watch out for us on the local tennis courts!





Library

Dear Parents and Caregivers,
This semester during RFF many of the students have participated in a PDHPE program learning skills about how to stay healthy and how to play tennis. They have enjoyed learning a new game and it has been so much fun to see their progress and joy.
Andi

