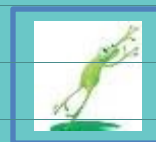


1 November 2018

Issue 17

## What's On

Mon, 5 Nov	Student Placement Reviews
Tues, 6 Nov	Key word signing course
Wed, 7 Nov	Epilepsy awareness day fundraiser
Thurs, 8 Nov	Official opening of the playground
Mon, 12 Nov	Student Placement Reviews
Wed, 14 Nov	Year 7 immunisation
Tues, 27 Nov	Variety Christmas Party / The Ponds School Christmas Party
Fri, 30 Nov	Year 6 Graduation Lunch
Thurs, 6 Dec	Celebration Assembly
Fri, 7 Dec	Metropolitan Swimming Carnival
Thurs, 13 Dec	Amazing Achiever and PBL Assembly
Fri, 14 Dec	Christmas craft day
Wed, 19 Dec	Last day of term for students



CARE
LEARN
BE SAFE

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It is fantastic to see more and more students learning the skills they need to access the community. Daily, I see students and staff walk around the school as a group. This is a skill each student will require to access the community, when they graduate school and attend community engagement. More and more students are participating in Community Access and learning a range of skills needed to be part of the community.

### External Validation

The Ponds School was chosen for External Validation this year. This culminated in a panel meeting on Thursday, 25 October. The following were the members of the External Validation Team:

Anne Ezzy	Principal School Leadership
Denise Hazell	Peer Principal, Crestwood PS
Emma Kriketos	Director, Educational Leadership The Ponds Network
Liam Holland	Parent
Sharon Twycross	School Learning Support Officer
Morgan Costa	Classroom Teacher and Accreditation Mentor
Sharon Stone	Relieving Assistant Principal
Alicia Stroud	Relieving Assistant Principal
Linda Hess	Assistant Principal
Carolyn Heffernan	Assistant Principal
Anne Bennett	Relieving Deputy Principal
Leonie Donaldson	Principal

The school leaders greeted our visitors on the day. A range of classes were visited, the signing choir signed, 'This is me' and caused a few visitor's eyes to leak. The meeting was an excellent outcome after a term of hard work. Our visitors tweeted the following:

*" The only external validation panel I have been to that required tissues. The ultimate example of ensuring every student is known, valued and cared for. A brilliant reminder of the privileged role of the DEL. High expectations even if it looks different!"*

*" EV #thePondsSchool 1 of those diamond days in my EDU life! Epitome of #privilege 2cnsidr thr balance of #rigour #SEF judgement & HOPE #evidence 2unlock potential in EACH Stdnt/Staff. If 1st key doesn't work Usearch till Ufind #THEKey ."*

Emma Kriketos, borrowed our folder of evidence, annotations and analysis to show to Cathy Brennan, the Executive Director of Metropolitan North!

**All parents are invited to join us for a High Tea and an informative session on our External Validation journey on Tuesday, 20 November at 1pm.** A note will be sent home shortly to gain numbers for catering purposes.

### **Official Playground Opening**

I hope you have marked the Thursday, 8 November in your diary and will be attending the Official Opening of our new playground. Assembly starts at 9am. Light refreshments will be provided.

### **Reports**

Reports will be sent home the week beginning Monday, 10 December.

### **Christmas Parties**

The Ponds School students will have the opportunity to attend The Variety Christmas Party at the International Convention Centre at Darling Harbour on Tuesday, 27 November if they are under 13 years old. Staff are currently deciding on which students will enjoy and participate as a class in this experience. If parents wish to take their child to The Variety Christmas Party at the International Convention Centre at Darling Harbour, please complete the note that will be sent home shortly.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to secure any tickets to The Special Children's Christmas Party at Rosehill this year.

Making it Happen... for children with disabilities, in conjunction with The Salvation Army will be hosting a Christmas Party for students that do not attend The Variety Christmas Party on the same day here at The Ponds School. We are hoping to have jumping castles, food, water play, animals and a gift for all.

Regards

Leonie Donaldson

Principal

### **Registrations now open - Free event**

Information Day for young people living with low vision/blindness (and those who care for them).

Saturday, 3 November 2018  
9.30am—4.00pm



Please see below link for further information:  
<http://www.savesightinstitute.org.au/news/community-information-day-2018/>

# INVICTUS GAMES

SYDNEY 2018





What a memorable and uplifting day. The Ponds students got to witness first-hand the tremendous efforts of service men and women from all over the world. We went to see the swimming event in Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre.

From the moment we walked in there was an electric atmosphere, the competitors were strong and resilient and gave the event their very best.

The students really enjoyed watching the swimmers and we even got to speak to some of the soldiers afterwards.

Towards the end of the day we got to meet two lovely service dogs, Alfie and Milly. The students really enjoyed getting to interact with the dogs, particularly Caitlin. Over all we had a fantastic day and really felt like we were in the company of really dedicated and extraordinary people.



# Class 6

Class 6 is having an amazing time, learning all sorts of new and exciting things!

We are reading the Thirteen Story Treehouse in English. After reading the chapter called The Adventures of Super Finger, students used a program on the Tap It to create their own super heroes!

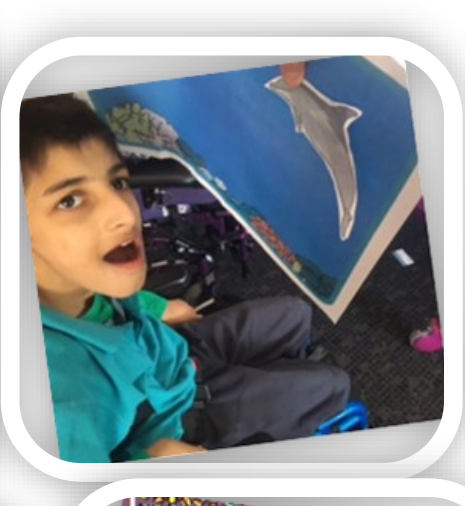
In Numeracy, we are learning about Data. Throughout the term, students will be taking turns to ask each other data collection questions and exploring different ways that this information can be represented, such as with tally marks and various types of graphs.

We are continuing our Geography unit, which we started in Term 3. So far, Class 6 has learnt about different Australian landscapes (Desert, Ocean, Urban, Rainforest, Bush and Country). We will soon move into exploring information about various Asian countries and looking at what is the same and different about each of these countries, in comparison to Australia.

Students have been enjoying their dance and music lessons for our Creative and Performing Arts unit this term. In dance, students focus on moving to the music. In our Friday afternoon music lessons, we team up with Class 5. We focus on a different instrument each week and students follow the beat, identifying whether the music is fast or slow, and loud or soft.

Class 6 is continuing to meet with our buddy class, Class 12 this term, to participate in STEM activities. In Week 1, students took a virtual reality whale watching tour! We are really looking forward to our next STEM lesson with Class 12.

We anticipate that Term 4 will continue to be a wonderful learning experience for everyone in Class 6, as we move on toward the end of the year!!!





# Class 15

This term we have started bowling with Class 16.

Last week was our first week and we travelled to Blacktown using public transport. We first caught a bus and then got the train. It was a new experience for everyone changing from bus to train.

The programme focuses on skill development and fostering ongoing participation. Sessions are kept short and active to maintain student engagement; encouraging the students to become more involved in the sport and continue to be active.

We had some very talented bowlers in our presence. Kai was our top scorer for the day with 110 points. Georgia, Michael, Vinny and Denzel also showed off their great talents and continually improved on their technique throughout the session. Everyone is already excited about going again this week.

