

# Newsletter

February 2018

Issue 01

## What's On

8 February	Assembly and Special Leaders Presentation
14 February	Meet'n'Greet 3.30pm (Parents only please)
21 March	Harmony Day
29 March	Easter Fun Day
30 March	Good Friday
2 April	Easter Monday
12 April	PBL and Amazing Achiever Assembly
13 April	Last day of Term



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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to our new students and their families!

Welcome back to our students and families who are returning for another year of learning, caring and being safe! Please make our new staff feel welcome.

It is great to see all our students settling into the routine of school. I have seen classes working hard in their classrooms, completing jobs around the school, participating in Hydrotherapy, getting some physical exercise, completing works of art, communicating with staff and one another and becoming as independent as possible. This year we are introducing a range of new initiatives. Some procedures that the Department of Education has mandated and some as a school community we feel are important to our students now and in the future. Our 2017 School Report will be published on our website at the end of term 1.

2018 is the year our next School Plan begins. Our School Plan is triennial and will be completed in 2020. There will be more information to come in regards to our strategic directions for the next three years.

### 2018 Meet'n'Greet

This year we are inviting you to attend our annual Meet and Greet at 3.30pm on Wednesday 14 February. This Meet and Greet will be in the hall and begin with informative presentations on new and updated programs and procedures for your child that will include:

- So Safe – promoting social safety
  - Personalised Learning Plans – new procedures
  - Working with externally funded service providers delivering health, disability and wellbeing services to students
- After these presentations, afternoon tea will be provided and there will be an opportunity to meet the staff and ask questions.

This event is for parents and carers only. There is no child care available. If you are unable to attend we will be videoing sections and placing them on facebook and /or the school website.

You will have received a note in regards to this event. Please complete the tear off portion and return it to school by Tuesday 13 February.

### Student Leaders

Our Student Leaders will be presented with their special shirts at the school assembly on Thursday 8 February

2018 Student Leaders are:

Aayan, Kai, Denzel, Clarisse, Anogen

## Music Engagement

During first semester Classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 17 will be participating in Music Engagement with our Music Therapist, Pete McDonald.

A note was sent home last week and needs to be returned with payment if you wish your child to participate in Music Engagement lessons on Thursdays.

## Special Events

- During Term One, we will be holding our first swimming carnival including novelty races. The date of this event is yet to be set.
- We will be raising money for the Children's Hospital through the Bandaged Bear appeal in March.
- An Easter Fun Day will be organised for Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

## Assembly

Assembly is a whole school weekly event that occurs each Thursday from 9am. Parents and Carers are always welcome to attend. Each class takes a turn in presenting assembly and an item.

## Introducing our Staff

### School Administration Staff

School Administration Manager: Judy Welsh

School Admin Officers: Jette Hilgers and Jane Relyea (Monday to Thursday)

Relieving School Admin Officer: Vicki Roberts (Fridays)

### School Executive

Assistant Principals: Anne Bennett, Carolyn Heffernan, Linda Hess

Relieving Assistant Principal: Alicia Stroud (for 2018) and Sharon Stone (when Executives are on leave)

Deputy Principal: Greg Wood

Principal: Leonie Donaldson

## Thank you

- For assisting your child to have a smooth transition back to school.
- For labeling all your child's items
- For your patience whilst procedures are established for 2018

We look forward to working with you throughout the year and to having a great 2018.

Leonie Donaldson

Principal

## *Make Online Payments*

You no longer need to pay for your child's excursions, uniforms etc. by cash or cheque because it is now possible for parents to make online payments to the school via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac located on our school's website. You are still able to make payments by cash or cheque if this is more convenient for you.

Online payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the school's website by selecting [Pay Online](#).

Please visit our web site for Newsletter, Pay Online (POP), Uniform Pricelist and Order form and much, much more. <http://www.theponds.schoolnsw.com.au/>



## 2 in 3 car seats are not being used properly

Make sure your child is safe with a free inspection by Authorised Restraint Fitters. You can have your child car seats, harnesses and booster seats checked for safety and fit.

**DATE:** Tuesday, 20 February  
**TIME:** 9.00 am - 1.30 pm  
**LOCATION:** Westfield Carpark Mount Druitt  
 (Covered section between K Mart & food court entrance)  
 No booking required  
 For more information contact 9839 6014.  
 Not available to family daycarers



An initiative of your local council as part of the Local Government Road Safety Program.



hireup

**Looking for a great support worker now that school's back?**

Hireup is the online platform for people with disability or their families to find, hire and manage support workers who fit their needs and share their interests.

Find support workers for before school, after school, sporting activities, help with homework, and more!

[WWW.HIREUP.COM.AU](http://WWW.HIREUP.COM.AU)



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positive partnerships

Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

## Free Two Day Workshop for Parents and Carers

Rouse Hill

14 & 15 February 2018

### Positive Partnerships is coming to a location near you!

Join us for 2 days of learning with other parents and carers of school aged children on the autism spectrum, designed to help you foster productive school, family and community relationships to provide the best kind of support for your child. Our workshops are for parents, carers and grandparents wanting to understand more about autism and learn practical strategies using evidence based resources to help maximise their young person's learning.

### What will you gain by attending this workshop?

- An increased understanding of the impact of autism
- Further knowledge about how to develop effective partnerships with your school
- Information to help you access further support both inside and outside of school
- An opportunity to be part of a support network where you can share strategies and experiences with other parents/carers
- An understanding of a planning tool that can be used to share key information related to your child

### Workshop details

- Venue:** The Fiddler  
Corner of Commercial & Windsor Road  
Rouse Hill NSW 2155
- When:** Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 February 2018  
9.30 am – 2.30 pm (Registration from 8.45 am)
- Catering:** Morning tea and lunch is provided. Please advise any dietary requirements upon registration.
- Register Online:** [positivepartnerships.com.au](http://positivepartnerships.com.au) Registrations open 15 November 2017 and close one business day prior to the workshop. Register early as places are limited!
- Questions?** If you are not able to register online please call the Positive Partnerships Infoline : 1300 881 971 or email [parentcarer@autismspectrum.org.au](mailto:parentcarer@autismspectrum.org.au)

The Positive Partnerships initiative is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training through the Helping Children with Autism package and is delivered by Autism Spectrum Australia. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or the Department of Education and Training.



### The Ponds Newsletter

Now our school has grown the cost of printing our newsletter in colour is becoming more expensive. If you are able to have your newsletter emailed instead of receiving a hard copy from school it would be greatly appreciated. Please fill in the below details and return to the school.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to be emailed The Ponds School newsletter on a fortnightly basis.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Class 1

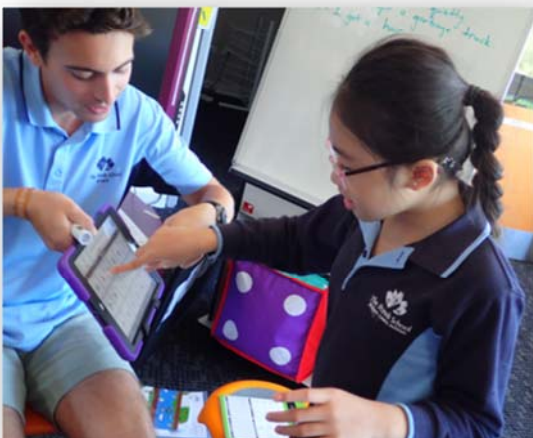
Class 1 has started 2018 with a bang!

We've been busy settling into our new classroom and routines, whilst building positive relationships with each other. We've been learning to take turns and share space with those around us as we make new friends.

We're planting vegetables in our school garden that we hope to use in our cooking program, whilst learning to care for other living things. We've also started to learn about astronomy, and are excited to investigate what we can find beyond our planet.

We're looking forward to where this year takes us!

We hope you like our photos of some of our favourite activities we've done over the past two weeks.





# Class 10

Class 10 have been settling in well to Term 1 of 2018.

Here are some photos of us engaging in Art, Numeracy, and Literacy, during Weeks 1 and 2

