

What's On

Wed, 22 August	Parent Information Session, 9.15am
Thu, 23 August	Dental Hygienist visit after assembly, approx. 9.30am
Tue, 28 August	Teen Ranch Camp
Thu, 30 August	Fathers Day stall
Wed, 10 September	Year 7 Immunisation
Fri, 28 September	Last day of Term 3



CARE
LEARN
BE SAFE

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you to those parents and caregivers that have met and talked to your child's classroom teacher about their first semester report, reviewed the Personalised Learning Plan and updated information. We greatly appreciate your time.

Playground

Monday was the day that the construction of the playground began. We had students standing at the fence during the breaks watching the post digger and the builders working. We had a slight hiccup when the water pipe was hit, but the emergency plumbers arrived and construction was back on track on Tuesday. By the end of this week all the playground equipment should be constructed and then on Monday, 20th August, the soft fall impact layer will be poured, and the remainder of the soft fall and artificial grass will be completed. The playground is scheduled to be completed on the 28th August, and then we will celebrate with all the wonderful fundraisers that worked hard to fund our playground. We are all looking forward to seeing how much our students enjoy playing on the new equipment.

Teen Ranch Camp

On Tuesday 28th till Wednesday, 29th August, 14 students will be attending our very first overnight school camp at Teen Ranch. During this camp, students will be participating in a range of challenging and exciting outdoors activities; including bushcraft (cooking damper on a camp fire), giant swing, rock climbing, bushwalking and archery. The staff and executive have thought very carefully about the selection criteria for camp as our number one priority is to keep everybody safe and to ensure that this camp will be a successful learning opportunity for the students involved. The selection criteria includes being in at least Grade 6, having a proven history of successful community access participation, and being able to generalise behaviour and social skills to new people and places. This initial group of students have been selected because they have met this criteria. We are looking forward to the success of this camp and to planning future camps that will cater for the different needs of our students. Future camps may include a camp for students with higher support needs, and a camp where parents are able to attend to support their child. At The Ponds School, we are committed to providing a range of experiences that are inclusive of all our students.

Parent Information Session

The next parent information session will be held on Wednesday, 22nd August at 9.15am. We will be presenting information on: the new structure of the day, Wellbeing, Class 19 and External Validation. We look forward to you attending and joining in the discussion.

Oral Hygienist Visit

All parents and carers are invited to join students for an information session on, caring for your teeth. The session will begin after assembly on Thursday, 23rd August, around 9.30am. Dental Hygienist, Jinky Marsh, will be the presenter. The session will be less than 30 minutes.

Quotable Quote

"Hope is not blind optimism. It's not ignoring the enormity of the task ahead or the roadblocks that stand in our path. It's not sitting on the sidelines or shirking from a fight. Hope is that thing inside us that insists, despite all evidence to the contrary, that something better awaits us if we have the courage to reach for it, and to work for it, and to fight for it. Hope is the belief that destiny will not be written for us, but by us, by the men and women who are not content to settle for the world as it is, who have the courage to remake the world as it should be."

Barack Obama 2008

Leonie Donaldson

Principal

BLACKTOWN AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP



The Autism Community Network provides free support during school terms for families living with autism conditions. If you would like to meet other carers who understand you or find social opportunities for your ASD child and their siblings, please contact us or come along to our free support group meetings

When: First Wednesdays 10 am to Noon

Venue: Westpoint Blacktown - in the Food Court, Coffeeland café

For more information :

www.autismcommunity.org.au | info@autismcommunity.org.au | 9543 9036

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 _____

Inclusive Sensory Movie Day

Sunday the 18th of August



'The Butterfly Effect Services for Families' is your local community 'Sensory Movie Day' Coordinator on behalf of organiser 'Sensory Souls' and hosted by Event Cinemas.

The Butterfly Effect Services coordinates the following Event Cinema locations:

- Castle Hill
- Parramatta
- Top Ryde
- Hornsby

Date: 18.8.18

NDIS and Community Info
Session starts: 9:30 AM to
12:30 PM

Movie Screening starts: 10:30
AM

Price: \$6 pp

Bookings can be made online
or at the Box Office under
'sensory screening' on the
day.

<https://www.eventcinemas.com.au/EventsFestivals/SensoryFriendlyScreenings>

About Sensory Movie sessions:

These inclusive sessions are hosted one Sunday a month showing the latest animated family movie. The sessions are open to the general public with additional accommodations in place for families with additional sensory related requirements.

Sessions include:

- *Dimmed lighting
- *Lowered volume
- *Commercial Free
- *Additional staff/volunteers supervising exit points so everybody can safely move around the cinema, at their leisure
- *NDIS and Community Info Desk with various reps from local providers and community organisations on-site at some sessions to share information and assist families with any industry related enquiries

Disclaimer: this month's screening 'The Incredibles 2' contains sequences of flashing lights which may affect customers with epilepsy or photosensitivity



ABAlink **SUPERSITTERS[®]**

*School Holidays approaching?
Need an extra set of hands?*

Our highly trained ABA Super Sitters are here to give your kids an opportunity to do fun things in the home or out in the community with a supportive buddy.

You can relax knowing they are in good hands and having fun

ABAlink's Super Sitters are trained to intentionally interact, engage, and take advantage of the many teaching opportunities presented when supporting your child.

- We can stay in home or go out in the community
- Can work with your goals
- Are discreet, reliable and professional
- Are trained to engage in a fun and interactive way
- Are trained in managing Behaviour using Applied Behaviour Analysis methods
- Can support your family and therapy strategies

Our friendly experienced coordinators are ready to help

✉ enquiries@abalink.com.au

☎ 02 9411 4618

www.abalink.com.au/super-sitting

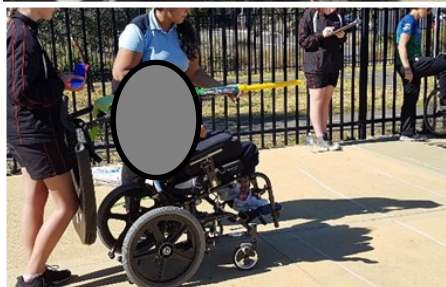
ABAlink is an approved provider to participants of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)



Class 2



Class 2 loved every minute of the Children's Book Council of Australia's Book Week and dressed up to the theme: Find Your Treasure. We had a terrific Athletics Carnival and took part in a collection of adapted track and field sporting events such as running, egg-and-spoon races, javelin throwing and our own version of archery



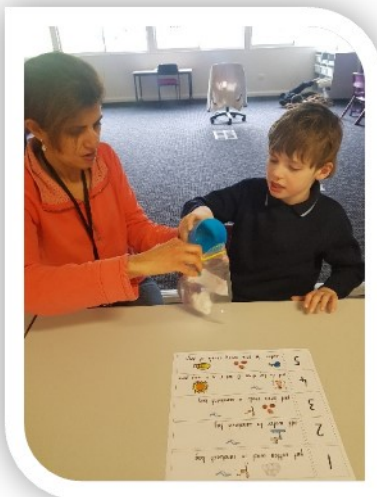
Class 11

Hello from class 11

We have been very busy since our last article. Last semester we dove into learning all about various natural disasters including; bushfires, tornados, cyclones, volcanoes and snow storms. A few highlights for us were the various sensory experiences we completed, erupting our own volcanoes and creating a blizzard in the classroom.



This semester we are looking at life in the garden including plants and mini beasts. We have started to grow our own plants and record their growth over the weeks. We were very excited to see that our bean seeds had started to sprout over the weekend. Fingers crossed all our plants will grow.



The sports carnival was another highlight for our class. We were very excited to receive lots of ribbons for our efforts in the running races, shot put, javelin and long jump. Winners are grinners. It was nice to be joined by some family members who also participated in the events.

That's all from us for now. Stayed tuned for more updates of all the wonderful things we are doing. Ari, Isaac, Kaidyn, Jeremy, Joshua and Taane.