



15 November 2018

Issue 18

## What's On

Mon, 19 Nov	Student Placement Reviews
Tue, 20 Nov	1pm - Parent / Caregiver High Tea & External Validation Celebration
Tues, 27 Nov	Variety Christmas Party / The Ponds School Christmas Party
Fri, 30 Nov	Year 6 Graduation Lunch
Wed, 5 Dec	International Day for People with Disabilities—Blacktown Showground ( Ponds Possums & Signing Choir performing )
Thurs, 6 Dec	Celebration Assembly
Fri, 7 Dec	Metropolitan Swimming Carnival
Mon 10, Dec	Colour Run
Thurs, 13 Dec	Amazing Achiever and PBL Assembly
Fri, 14 Dec	Christmas craft day
Wed, 19 Dec	Last day of term for students



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are all in the midst of busy times. Here at The Ponds School students are busy learning a variety of new skills in a range of environments. Caring about themselves and others being safe at all times. Staff are busy teaching, report writing, evaluating and planning for the end of year and for 2019. There are many special events that are happening during the last half of this term. Please read what's on above so you are aware of what is happening at the Ponds School.

### **Epilepsy Awareness Fundraising Day**

The Ponds School supported Epilepsy Awareness Day by wearing the colour purple, donating a gold coin and purchasing merchandise such as: Purple helium filled balloons, purple playdough and plaster moulds to paint. Thank you to all that contributed to the final total raised \$324. Every student received a free pair of purple shoelaces and a wristband which were donated by Epilepsy Action Australia.

### **Official Opening of the Accessible Playground**

The culmination of all the fundraising and planning and building occurred on Thursday 8 November with the Official Opening of our Accessible Playground. This was an opportunity to thank all those that contributed to the mammoth fundraising effort. We thank: Variety Children's Charity, Blacktown The Ponds Lions Club, Australian Lions Foundation, TAG Financial, The Primary Club, Wiggles and Giggles, Commonwealth Bank – Rouse Hill and Making it Happen-for Children with Disabilities.

Thank you goes to all those families and friends that supported the fundraising that has occurred in our school over the past three years.

What is great about our playground? Every day I see students learning new skills in the playground. By expanding the outdoor learning areas with accessible playground equipment, we aim to improve student skills and outcomes in the following areas.

**Social Skills** : students will learn to take turns, develop relationships, share, initiate activities with others, be able to self regulate and understand emotions.

**It will enhance Communication:** students will request activities independently, comment, make choices, describe experiences and the environment, and express feelings.

**The playground will enhance Life Skills:** such as decision making, assessing risks, being safe, understanding cause and consequences, following instructions, self-care and awareness of time and pre vocational work.

**The equipment will support Physical development:** both gross and fine motor skills, develop muscle tone and physical skills e.g climbing up and down stairs.

**Students enjoy the Sensory nature of the equipment:** It can help regulate sensory processing and develop touch, smell, hearing, sight and taste.

**We can learn about Science in the playground:** such as the various states of matter, textures, principles of physics such as gravity, motion and resistance, understand weather and seasons.

All this can be achieved by using our playground.

### **Student Placement Reviews**

Student Placement Reviews take place on an annual basis. The purpose is to check on the appropriateness of your child's current placement at The Ponds School. Half the student reviews were completed on Monday 12 November and the remainder will be completed on Monday 19 November. If you have not returned the Annual Student Review form, could you please sign and return it to school as soon as possible.

### **Parent/ Caregiver High Tea and External Validation Celebration**

All parents and carers are invited to High Tea on Tuesday 20 November at 1pm at The Ponds School. The schools External Validation team will introduce you to the External Validation process that has taken place and share with you the outcomes of the process. A note will be sent home today for you to complete for catering purposes. We hope you will be able to join us.

### **It's Party Time**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> is Party day at The Ponds School. Some students will be attending the Variety Children's Christmas Party and some will be at school enjoying a party. All students will be presented with a gift. Students at school will have the following opportunities: water play, jumping castle, face painting, sausage sizzle, interacting with animals, disco and watching a movie.

Notes in regards to the Variety Christmas Party will be sent home today. All students under 12 years of age have the opportunity to attend. Some classes are attending as a group. Students whose classes are not attending have the opportunity to attend with their parents/carers.

Leonie Donaldson

Principal



# Playground Opening



## MISSING LINK OFFICIALLY OPEN

**Gary Hamilton-Irvine**

LAST Thursday The Ponds School officially opened its \$200,000 playground which was "the only thing missing" from its grounds.

The school caters for 112 students from kindergarten to Year living with a moderate or severe Intellectual disability.

After opening on a temporary site at Riverstone High School in 2012, the school moved to its

premises at The Ponds Blvd in 2015.

"We moved to our new school in 2015 and it was fantastic; the only thing that was missing was a playground," principal Leonie Donaldson said.

"Wanting our students to be learning, engaged, healthy and happy are the reasons we built the playground."

Plenty of grants and fundraising went into making the project a reality,

which cost just under \$200,000, Ms Donaldson said.

The new facility is a far cry from other traditional playgrounds and features specialist equipment. That includes a wheelchair-accessible slide tower, a trampoline for students in wheelchairs, a hammock, climbing nets and softfall and artificial grass.

The school thanked all those people who helped make the project a reality.







## Making It Happen



We recently had the Grand opening of the fabulous new playground. As the current secretary I wanted to make a personal thanks to NIKHAYLAH who worked many hours to help raise the \$20,000.00 that the Charity donated to the school for this amazing playground. Without NIKHAYLAH's hard work we would not have been able to make such a big contribution. I hope that in the future we can all continue to work together and provide other things the school needs.

Christmas is only 5 weeks and 6 days away! Can you believe it? We have worked hard to create an amazing inclusive event for the Ponds families and wider community. We hope all the families come along to the Christmas Markets and Carols.

It is on 8<sup>th</sup> December from 1pm to 6pm. We have over 40 stalls with a variety of great Christmas gifts, food and entertainment. We will have Silent Auction items to bid on, raffle tickets to buy and lots more.

The Inner playground will be open on the day of the markets also – a Gold Coin Donation will get you 15 min of play. More information to come soon!



### Requests:

**Christmas Raffle:** We are looking for raffle items. If you have anything that we can add to hampers – like mince pies, Christmas treats please send them into school. Anything you would like to have in a Christmas Hamper or as a raffle prize we would greatly accept.

**International Food Stall:** We are still looking for people to let us know what foods they can make and donate to our "School Food Stall". Please send a message to school if you need an Expression of Interest form. We need ingredients listed, so anyone with allergies knows what they can and can't buy.

**Facebook:** There is a Parents Group on Facebook, have you joined? Search for Parents/carers of The Ponds School. Tell us your Child's name and the class they are in, then we will add you to the group. [Parents/carers of The Ponds School](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/914501605290876/?ref=bookmarks>

**Meetings:** Making it Happen for Children with Disabilities Inc meets every month to discuss what we are doing to help our families and the kids from The Ponds School. We would love you to come and join us and we would love more families to become members of the charity. There are lots of ways you can help and contribute to the charity, so come and learn what we are all about.

We meet on the first Monday of the month at 9.15 in demountable 19, the next meeting is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December.



International Day of  
People with Disability

## You are invited to Picnic in the Park

Join us in celebrating International Day of People with Disability 2018.

Date: **Wednesday, 5th December**

Time: **10am - 2pm**

Location: **Blacktown Showground,  
Entry via Richmond Road**

Free event with BBQ, entertainment and lots of activities including a silent disco, art in the park, and much, much more!

For information and to RSVP, contact DSA's Customer Connections team on 1300 372 121 or email [customerconnections@dsa.org.au](mailto:customerconnections@dsa.org.au)



Delivering the NDIS in your community



## Understanding the NDIS - Arabic

We're here to help!

Come along and speak to a Local Area Coordinator and ask any question about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Learn about:

- What Local Area Coordinators do
- How to access the NDIS
- How to use the funding
- Reviews and what you need to do
- Linking to funded and unfunded services.

If you would like to attend please RSVP on 4723 9444 OR

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/understanding-the-ndis-tickets-51697646051>

If you require AUSLAN or language interpreting services, please advise at the time of the booking.

Date	Location	Time
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	St Mary's Memorial Hall, Corner Great Western Highway and Mamre Road, St Mary's	10:00am – 11:30am

# HILLS DISABILITY EXPO



**Save the date**  
Monday, 19 November 2018  
12pm – 6pm  
Pioneer Theatre  
Castle Grand Community Centre  
Corner of Castle and Pennant Streets, Castle Hill

**Connect with  
Service Providers and  
Organisations based  
in The Hills.**

All enquiries to:  
Sonal Chatrath – Ability Links  
0488 682 312 | [schatrath@ssi.org.au](mailto:schatrath@ssi.org.au)



International Day of  
People with Disability

## PERFORMER CALL OUT

We invite you to be part of Blacktown's Celebration of International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPwD).

We are running a talent showcase at the Max Webber Library Function Centre, Blacktown on Monday 3 December 2018 between 10 am and 2 pm.

The performance can be singing, dancing, art exhibition or even a speech.

This event is aimed at Empowering People with Disabilities and ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality- IDPwD theme for 2018!

Duration of each performance will be up to 15 minutes.

Parking is available under the library, which is accessible from Alpha Street.

We will be having a professional sound technician who will manage your microphone needs and music on the day.

Please check in with the sound technician half an hour prior to your performance and provide your music on a USB at this time.

Please complete the EOJ and returned by Monday 12 November 2018 to James Ansumana by email [James.Ansumana@blacktown.nsw.gov.au](mailto:James.Ansumana@blacktown.nsw.gov.au).

There will only be 12 performances on the day.

All applications will be considered by the IDPwD Planning Committee and successful applicants will be informed by Monday 19 November 2018.



For more information visit [blacktown.nsw.gov.au](http://blacktown.nsw.gov.au)





**750**  
DREAM  
RIDES



**2,400+**  
LAPS OF  
SYDNEY MOTORSPORT PARK



**250**  
LUXURY &  
CLASSIC CARS



**COUNTLESS SMILES**



**FREE ENTRY!**

Festival activities 9.00-3.00pm

The SOAR & ROAR festival is Australia's most inclusive motoring festival celebrating International Day of People with a Disability. On **Sunday 9 December 2018**, luxury car brands and motorbikes from around NSW will make their way to Sydney Motorsport Park.

In addition to the roar of bikes and cars, the festival offers a variety of fun, inclusive activities for people of all ages, including:

- Live stage entertainment
- Dream Rides for people with an intellectual disability
- Hot laps in a Formula Ford
- Dance Spectacular
- Amusement rides for the kids
- Car displays including over 200 cars, fire trucks, police cars and more!
- Show & Shine Car Show
  
- Petting Zoo with live animals
- Sport demonstrations by Special Olympics Athletes
- Helicopter rides
- Entertainment by Rob and Tahir
- Market stalls
- Wheeler Dance Spectacular
- Billycart Race

**PHONE: 1300 225 762**

**EMAIL: [SOARANDROAR@SPECIALOLYMPICS.COM.AU](mailto:SOARANDROAR@SPECIALOLYMPICS.COM.AU)**

**FACEBOOK.COM/SOARANDROAR**



# Class 8

The students in Class 8 have been very busy this semester. Alverein, Ashton, Dieter, Isabella, Imogen, Luca and Noah all enjoyed getting out for Community Access.

Last term they walked around Ironbark Lake, fed the ducks fresh greens and mini carrot sticks before visiting Lakes Edge Park for some physical activity on the playground equipment. This term the students have been walking to The Ponds Shopping Centre to purchase ingredients for our Cooking Program every Friday. They all look forward to selecting a piece of fruit to eat while they wait for a lift back to school on the school bus.

Class 8 have also had lots of fun participating in a variety of whole school events. The students dressed up as pirates and followed a map looking for lost treasure at the Book Fair. They conducted interesting experiments, learnt about fire safety and got to see and touch a few Australian animals during Science Week. Another highlight was building a gigantic scarecrow and dressing up for Farmer Day.

Some students participated in the signing choir and The Ponds Possums dance group on special occasions. They were all intrigued about the smoking ceremony on NAIDOC Day and excited to participate in the activities that followed. Many students in Class 8 went 'purple' for Epilepsy Action day and bought all things purple including balloons and playdough.

We would like to thank all our wonderful parents that helped to prepare the students for each of these special events!





# Class 17

Hello from Class 17 – Amelia, Marinel, Olivia, Sarah, Jason and Max!

We have had a fantastic Term 4 so far, packed with lots of fun and learning activities every day.

## We are safe when out in the community:

We have been enjoying beautiful weather during community access in fabulous parks: Peel Reserve in The Ponds and Governor Phillip Park in Windsor, learning to get on and off the bus, walk safely to and from the park and to share the playground equipment.

## We are learning:

During math lessons we have been busy practicing position words, measuring, learning to add and subtract. We have been also exploring Peru and the USA during our geography and history lessons this term.

## We are caring:

We are trying to stay as active as we can by participating in weekly Movement Skills Program, Hydrotherapy and PE sessions. We enjoy jumping on the trampolines, riding bikes and scooters during our movement breaks. We have also participated in the Ponds Olympic Games organized by class 7 with classes 4,7 and 8 as part of our Ancient Greece Unit.

We are looking forward to more fun in the upcoming weeks as there is always something exciting happening in The Ponds School!





