


## What's On

Sat, 7 Dec	Carols at The Ponds School 4.30pm		CARE
Thu, 12 Dec	Amazing Achiever & PBL Assembly		LEARN
Wed, 18 Dec	Students' last day of school 2019		BE SAFE
Wed, 29 Jan	Students back to school Term 1 2020		

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I am looking forward to seeing many students and their families on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December at our Carols event. Gates open at 4.30pm and carols begin at 6pm. There will be free water, jumping castles, face painting and great entertainment. The Ponds School will be running a stall selling Christmas cards, small gifts etc. Please let all your family and friends know about our carols event.

### Thank you

- for ensuring your children arrive and depart school at the set times.
- for attending the People with Disability Assembly
- for assisting on community access
- for taking your children to the various Christmas parties
- for attending our Celebration Assembly
- for paying your fees
- for signing notes and sending notes to your child's teacher when they are absent and letting the school know
- for supporting your child and being proud of their achievements

### Farewells and See you Later

It is always sad to say goodbye to great teachers whether for a year or three or for good.

- Carina is enjoying teaching in Far North West New South Wales and will continue teaching there for 2020
- Carolyn will be joining the Learning and Wellbeing Team at Nirimba for up to three years
- Alicia has gained an Assistant Principal Support Position at Sherwood Ridge PS
- Two of our valued temporary teachers, Marina and Monique, will be starting at new schools in 2020

We wish them all the very best for this new chapter in their lives.

### Reports and Classes for 2020

Teachers have been working hard getting the end of year student reports ready to be sent home. They have also been preparing handover information on each and every student to pass on to their new teacher for 2020.

Reports will be sent home by Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> December and we will be able to inform you of your child's 2020 teacher and SLSO the week beginning Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> December.

### Schools Spectacular

Don't forget to watch or record Channel 7 on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm.

## **Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability**

This is a challenging item to write about and I believe it is also challenging for parents and carers of children with a disability to hear about.

On 5th April 2019, the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, and Minister for Families and Social Services, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, announced the establishment of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

As part of the hearings of the Commission there is an education issues paper.

The following is for your information from the Commission, not my own words as Principal.

“The issues paper has been adapted from a paper developed for a workshop on education and learning held in Melbourne on 3 October, 2019 with representatives from community and disability organisations and education academics.

The Royal Commission has identified that abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability in the education sector is an important topic to address.

Research suggests that children with disability experience higher rates of suspension and expulsion from schools and that children with disability may be excluded from school activities, such as excursions, assemblies, sports carnivals etc.

Over the last decade, the segregation of children with disability into special education units/classes or 'special' schools has increased.

Students with autism have been disproportionately affected by this increase. First Nations students with disability are also disproportionately over-represented in special schools.

The Royal Commission issues paper on education outlines the Commission's preliminary understanding of the key issues and barriers experienced by students with disability and asks 13 questions.

One of the 13 questions is as follows:

Q11. “What is essential to facilitate the transition from segregated or integrated settings to inclusive education settings, and to sustain the change?”

<https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/Documents/education-learning-issues-paper.pdf>

The Royal Commission is encouraging responses from individuals and organisations to the issues paper, if possible, by 20 December 2019 although submissions will be accepted after that date.

Responses to the issues paper should be provided, either:  
electronically to [DRCEnquiries@royalcommission.gov.au](mailto:DRCEnquiries@royalcommission.gov.au),  
or in writing to GPO Box 1422, Brisbane, Queensland 4001.

These are my words below:

I wanted to let you all know that it is vital that you have your voice heard by the Commission, as many other voices are in this space using phrases such as “isolated and segregated special schools” and others want recommendations for us to be phased out to provide an ‘inclusive’ system .

This is offensive to me. We don’t segregate as a special school, we are actually the only truly inclusive schools and we pride ourselves on providing the best education and care for our most deserving and complex learners. Main-stream schools usually can’t.

Unfortunately, others who don’t know what we do and have never ever visited to see what we do, are making submissions and influencing decisions on behalf of our students, your children.

Please have your say so that the voice of our parents of our special schools are heard across Australia. You can watch the hearings and get transcripts here:  
<https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/>

I believe that our schools perform a vital role.

Regards

Leonie Donaldson  
Principal



Schools Spectacular





# Class 6

We are nearing the end of the year and Class 6 are still working hard, achieving personal goals and learning new things every day. In science this term the students have been exploring the properties of water and what happens when we cool or heat water. They have been involved in various experiments with ice and water and were able to predict the outcome of experiments using visuals and pictures.



Class 6 had the opportunity to visit Livvi's Place Playground in Elara this term. They all had a wonderful time exploring the playground equipment and the water play area. The students also enjoyed having their morning tea outdoors for a change. They were all excellent advocates for The Ponds School, we are very proud of them.



The students in Class 6 have enjoyed mathematics lessons this term. They have been exploring numbers up to 10 by looking at and feeling numbers and listening to numbers being counted out or counting out objects to represent numbers. They have also explored mass this term, feeling and comparing light and heavy items from the classroom.





# Class 9



## Class 9

Featuring

James, Jeremy, Rence, Sarah & Taane

We've been busy decorating our classroom with Christmas cheer and using our communication devices to talk about all the colours, materials and tools that we've been using.

Term 4 has brought Class 9 lots of fun and sunshine as you can see we have been taking our lessons to the outdoors as we enjoy this beautiful weather. As the year is coming to an end, we've learnt to make new friends, have fun and to keep smiling whilst learning.

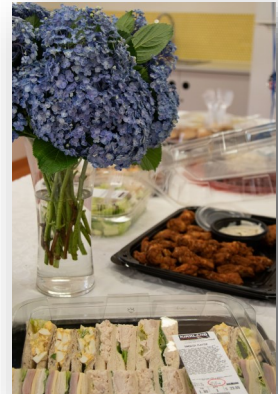
We hope you all have a fabulous end to Term 4.

"Thanks for the adventure. Now go have a new one."  
- Walt Disney animation movie 'Up'

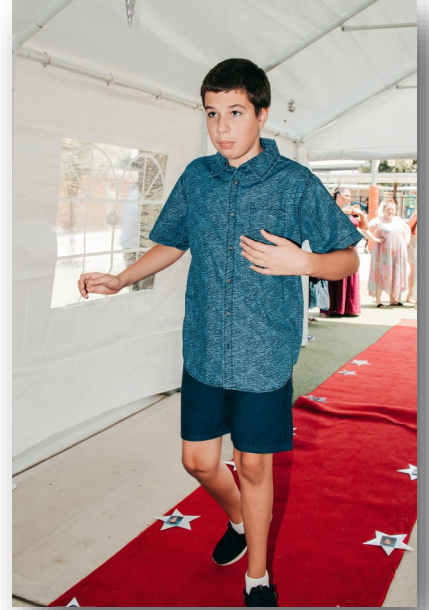




# Year 6 Graduation









# RECYCLING CERTIFICATE

Presented to

The Ponds School

Thank you for your support

The total weight collected 44 Kg's

## WAR ON E-WASTE

RECYCLING PROGRAM



SIMS  
RECYCLING  
SOLUTIONS



PRESENTED BY *The Salvation Army* IN CONJUNCTION WITH *Hills Musical Theatre Company*

CAROLS AT

# The Ponds

SCHOOL  
2019

## The CAROLS EVENT

CAROLS  
START  
6pm

JUMPING  
CASTLE

SANTA  
CLAUS

FOOD  
TRUCKS

SAFE FOR  
PEOPLE  
WITH  
DISABILITIES



THE PONDS SCHOOL - 201 THE PONDS BLVD, THE PONDS  
**SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 4:30PM**