

7 February 2019

Issue 01

## What's On

Thurs, 7 February	Music Engagement
Wed, 13 February	Parent Teacher Meeting
Fri, 8 March	Movement Skills ( every Friday until 31st June )
Thurs, 21 March	World Syndrome Day
Mon, 3 June – Fri, 14 June	Group 1—Swimming school
Mon, 17 June— Fri, 28 June	Group 2—Swimming school

CARE
LEARN
BE SAFE

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2019. Please take the time to read the newsletter to find out what is happening at The Ponds School. If you misplace your paper copy or delete the emailed copy you can find the newsletter on our website.

If you wish to gain any information regarding The Ponds School there are many ways to communicate with the school and in the future there will be more.

Current methods of communication include:

- Drop in for a quick chat
- Book a meetings
- Phone the school
- Send an email
- Write in your child's communication book and/or in class Dojo
- Send a message to The Ponds School Facebook page

Currently we are looking into gaining a school App. If you have used a school App, please give us some feedback on what you like/dislike about it.

### **Congratulations and Staff Movement**

During the last few days of the 2018 school year there was some staff movement and changes that we were unable to inform you about until now.

- Congratulations to Skye for gaining a permanent teaching position at our school
- Our Assistant Principal, Carolyn has accepted a temporary placement at Norree for Term 1 as Deputy Principal
- Alicia and Sharon have been successful in gaining Assistant Principal Positions at our school
- Leonie S and Tish were successful in gaining a transfer
- Morgan will be Relieving Assistant Principal whilst Carolyn is at Noree
- Judy (our Administration Manager) and Jette (our Administration Officer) are on leave due to ill health. Jane is our Relieving Administration Manager. Megan, Alicia and Jo are our Relieving Administration Officers.

Due to this staff movement we will be forming a panel and advertising for up to three teachers during this term.

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Notes were sent home on Tuesday in regards to Parent Teacher meetings which are being held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February in the afternoon. Please complete the form and send it back to school by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February.

## Parent Information Meetings

We wish to survey parents and caregivers to find the best time to hold Parent Information sessions. We will be creating a poll on The Ponds School Facebook page and would like your input. Please go to our Facebook Page to take part in our poll. <https://www.facebook.com/ThePondsSchool/>

## Parent Code of Conduct

The Department has created a Parent Code of Conduct – A communication Charter for all NSW Public School Communities. This document was produced to ensure optimal learning and development outcomes occur for all students; through parents/caregivers, staff and students creating positive partnerships.

We will be holding a parent Information Session shortly to present and discuss the Parent Code of Conduct.

At the conclusion of this parent information session, we will also share this information through:

the School Website <https://theponds-s.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

on the School Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ThePondsSchool/> our School Newsletter

We look forward to the positive relationships and collaboration that we have always had with our parents/carers continuing in 2019.

## School Values

Over the past years at The Ponds School we have built a school culture that supports families, encourages independence and assists our students to become valued members of the community now and into the future. We achieve this by upholding the values of inclusivity, kindness, respect, honesty, integrity, empathy, understanding, privacy, dignity, confidentiality and responsibility; just to list a few.

Several reports have been made over the past couple of weeks that leads me to believe that some recent posts on the parents/carers of The Ponds School Facebook page may not have always represented these values. I would like to remind the whole school community that the parents/carers of the Ponds School Facebook page is not managed by The Ponds School. The views and opinions expressed on the parents of The Ponds School Facebook page do not necessarily represent those of the Ponds School. I would also like to remind parents/carers that if they are seeking information about The Ponds School, Special events, excursions, in-school programs and activities that they should contact the school directly via phone, email, in person at our front office, via their child's communication book/Class Dojo or by messaging the official Ponds School Facebook page. I know these are rare incidents and the majority of The Ponds School Community uphold the values included in our Wellbeing Procedures and listed above. Thank you!

## Student Absences

Education for your child is important and regular attendance is essential for your child to achieve their educational best. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their child of compulsory school age is enrolled at, and regularly attends school. On occasion your child may need to be absent from school. Following an absence from school you must ensure that the school is provided with a written explanation for the absence. This written explanation needs to be given to the school within 7 days of the first day of absence.

Please note that an "*exemption*" can no longer be granted for students travelling during term time, including family holidays and other extended travel. An application for Extended Leave – travel must be completed for consideration by the Principal prior to any leave being taken. If granted the absence will be recorded as "*leave*". For some of our students medical conditions may impact on school attendance or they may need to attend doctors' or therapy appointments and assessments during school hours. These absences also require a written explanation, medical certificate or certificate of attendance at the appointment. By doing this we are following all school and Departmental (DEC) policies and procedures and ensuring the very best learning outcomes for all our students at The Ponds School. Congratulations to the Ponds possums dance group who performed at the official Opening of North Kellyville PS. Thank you to the staff that provide the instruction and organised the performance. You all did us proud and contribute to the great reputation our school has within our community!

### **Ponds Possums Dance at the Official Opening of North Kellyville PS**

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### **PBL Update**

The Ponds School PBL team would like to start the year with a reminder about our **school expectations**. At The Ponds School, ***we leap forward by being safe, caring and learning!***

We would also like to introduce you to our first behaviour **Focus of the month...I wear my hat to be safe in the sun!** All our students will be learning about sun safety in their lessons and during assembly. Please talk to your child about this, send a hat to school (clearly marked with your child's name and encourage your child to wear their hats when playing outside after school and on the weekends.

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Leonie Donaldson

Principal



The Ponds School



**Making It Happen – *for children with disabilities inc.***

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E: [makingithappen@mail.com](mailto:makingithappen@mail.com) w: [www.facebook.com/makingithappenforchildreninc](http://www.facebook.com/makingithappenforchildreninc)

## Welcome to 2019!

2019 will be another fun year ahead with lots of options to catch up with other parents, to fundraise and to get involved.

We hope you have had a great break over the holidays

- We will have monthly meetings where everyone is welcome. In the demountable at the back of school – Mondays 9.15am. Starting date to be advised.
  - We will have a membership drive in the next month, membership is \$2.00 per person.
  - If you have any ideas on ways to support the school and the community then please send an email to [makingithappen@mail.com](mailto:makingithappen@mail.com)
    - What do you think we need to fundraise for at school?
      - Please follow us on facebook
- <https://www.facebook.com/makingithappenforchildreninc/>
- President is Rachel Privitera
  - Vice President is Simone Tierney
  - Treasurer is Gabrielle Koles
  - Secretary is Patricia Jonas

*Working together to make 2019 a fabulous year!*





## Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD) Two Day Introductory Workshop



**Presented by Harriet Korner**  
Sydney  
22 & 23 February 2019

**Time:** 9.00am – 4.30pm (Registration: 8.30am)  
**Venue:** Royal Rehab – Blunt & Schardt Conference Rooms  
235 Morrison Rd, Ryde, NSW, 2112.  
**Enquiries:** Please email Harriet at [hkorner@netspace.net.au](mailto:hkorner@netspace.net.au) or call on 0418 629 707.

**A two-day workshop for speech pathologists, teachers, parents, carers, and professionals specialising in Augmentative and Alternative Communication.**

This Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD) Introductory Workshop provides participants with an understanding of the theory and practice related to PODD communication systems. PODD systems assist people with complex communication needs to learn to understand and use language to enable autonomous communication.

This workshop will focus on:

- Creative and practical solutions through video and case examples
- Hands on supported practice using PODD communication books
- Using PODD communication books for initial language learning
- Customizing PODD templates to suit individual needs
- Genuine communication in all daily environments

PODD communication books:

- Enable quick access to predictable messages
- Provide a broad range of vocabulary for spontaneous, unpredicted messages
- Are designed for varying communication, language, sensory and physical access needs.



## Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD)

### Alternative Access Workshop

**Presented by Gayle Porter**

**March 25, 2019**  
8.30am registration (for 9.00am start) to 4.30pm

**Venue: Clive Austin Conference Centre  
Royal Rehab**  
235 Morrison Rd, Ryde, NSW, 2112

**Note:** Completion of a two-day PODD introductory workshop is a pre-requisite for this course.

#### Workshop Content:

**A one-day workshop for speech pathologists, teachers, parents, carers, and professionals specialising in Augmentative and Alternative Communication.**

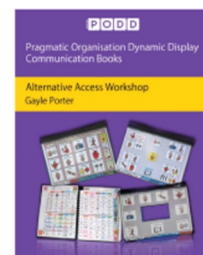
The focus of this workshop is on PODD communication books designed for individuals who cannot point directly to a display with their hands. The content will build on the information relating to the purpose, design principles, intervention strategies and use of PODD communication books covered in the two-day introductory workshop.

A range of alternative access PODD communication book will be discussed including: eye-gaze (eye-pointing), partner-assisted scanning (visual, auditory, visual plus auditory scanning), combination access, and coded access. The design features to suit individuals and the procedures to operate and teach each access method will be presented. Participants will have the opportunity to practice each access method.

#### Learning Outcomes:

Participants will be able to:

- Describe the different PODD design considerations/options to accommodate for alternative access methods.
- Outline the considerations for selecting different access methods to suit individual requirements.
- Perform the partner operational procedures to use a range of alternate access methods.
- Problem-solve methods for developing operational skills for individuals who have severe movement difficulties (e.g. developing accept/reject movements for scanning).





# The Ponds Possums



# Class 18

Class 18 are off to a great start for the year. We are learning to stay together as a group, getting ready for Community Access which will start soon.

We are looking forward to swimming, electives, cooking, Zumba, art and all the other fun lessons this year.



Jacob, Aayan, Clarisse, Michael, Georgia, Jahnaya, Kai and Maxim along With Sharon and Lisa.



# Class 8

The students in Class 8 this year are Ashton, Ethan E, Gurleen, Mikail, Luca, Ethan G and Aahnaf who has just joined us from another school. We have had so much fun getting to know each other this term! Every day we take little leaps forward by Learning, Caring and Being Safe together at The Ponds School.

During our morning meeting, we greet our teachers and friends by waving, shaking hands and doing hi-fives. We 'wake up' our numbers and letters by singing some lively songs then 'Build the Day' as we record the season, day, month, date, weather and time.

We are learning to unpack our bags, write our names, build puzzles and complete matching and sorting tasks.

We like to listen to a stories and enjoy taking turns on the mini trampoline or big sensory chair in our classroom.

Linda and Yvonne have been very busy setting up and organizing our classroom so that we can learn and play safely together. We follow a visual timetable so we know what is happening next. When the bell rings we all go out to play. It is fun to run around and explore the playground along with all our friends from other classes. We especially like playing in the inner playground on the special climbing equipment!

We are learning to wear our hats and keep our shoes on when we go outside.

