


What's On

Wed, 18 Dec	Students' last day of school 2019		CARE
Wed, 29 Jan	Students back to school Term 1		LEARN
			BE SAFE

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As we move towards the end of 2019 it is timely to reflect on the year and thank each and everyone who has assisted us Believe Learn and Achieve.

To our amazing Ponds School Community partners, thank you for your ongoing support:

- CSC Salvation Army
- TAG Financial
- Blacktown Ponds Lions Club
- Wiggles and Giggles Pre – School
- Woolworths – The Ponds

Thank you to all that assist in making every day a good day at The Ponds School:

- our parents/carers for getting your child to school each day, participating in school activities, volunteering and working in partnership with the school
- our Therapists for working in collaboration with the school and towards great outcomes for our students
- our Drivers and ATSOs that ensure students arrive and return home safely
- our Cleaners, Kim and Laila – who do a great job of cleaning our school everyday
- our General Assistants, Alan and Jasper, who fix anything and everything and have our school looking good
- our Office staff that greet and assist our parents/carers and staff with any issue, while keeping our school running smoothly
- our SLSOs that always do a great job, we could not do it without you!
- our Teachers for inspiring, encouraging, motivating, knowing, valuing and caring (along with teaching) our students.
- our Executive team who ensure that their Collegiate Support teams are all doing a great job, chairing teams, coaching, mentoring, being collaborative and teaching their classes

Without any component our school would not be the great place that it is!

Thank you TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More!)

Farewells continued

It is always sad to say goodbye to great teachers.

- Margaret has been successful at Merit Selection to become a Teacher in the Support Unit at the new Bella Vista PS.
- Will has gained a transfer to Greenacre PS. He will be teaching in their Support Unit.

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

Congratulations

Congratulations Morgan for being the successful candidate for our Assistant Principal position.

Welcome

With sad farewells there is also the opportunity to welcome staff to our school.

We welcome the following teachers:

- Lisa and Alex as permanent teachers
- Matthew, Pragati, Terri, Maddy and Maroina (some who have been working with us this term) as temporary teachers.

We welcome the following SLSOs:

- Penny and Jerry (who has been working with us this term) as temporary SLSOs

As with previous years, change is our constant and we will wait and see what 2020 brings.

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.

All reports will be sent home by Tuesday, 17th December. We will inform you of your child's teacher and SLSO the week beginning Monday, 16th December.

First Day of 2020

The first day for students for 2020 is Wednesday, 29th January 2020.

Wishing you all the best for the holidays. Enjoy the time together. Do things that make you happy.

Best Wishes

Leonie Donaldson

Principal



DARE2BDIFFERENT
28th December 2019 - 1st January



sunsw.org.au/events/dare-2b-different

you're invited to **come as you are**
for **a week away** over the new year
that will be **unforgettable!**

dare2bdifferent is a unique camp
where **everyone is welcome**

all young people
with and without disabilities
ages 13-18 years



sign-up

SUNSW.ORG.AU/EVENTS/DARE-2B-DIFFERENT

cost \$329 (loans & scholarships available)

contact

d2bdbcamp@gmail.com

location

wedderburn
christian campsite
208 minerva rd
wedderburn NSW



School Plan

We are currently completing the second year of our three year school plan. We have three Strategic directions and within those Strategic Directions we set milestones to achieve.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

To prepare our students to be life long learners that contribute to their community now and in the future

Milestones

- Expo – service providers, provided information about options for the future
- Bus tour – parents had the opportunity to visit post school option day programs
- Year 10 Transition meetings held with the Support Teacher Transition - 100% attendance.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2

Create highly skilled, strong, resilient and confident 21st Century thinking staff

Milestones

- Dedicated Assistant Principal to support, mentor and coach Beginning Teachers and assist with teacher accreditation
- Ensure our professional learning is NESA accredited
- The introduction of STEM including Professional Learning and Team Teaching

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

Creating a shared conversation about learning to drive continuous improvement

Milestones

- Increased amount of students achieving PLP goals. 2018 – 49% ; 2019 - 64%; Target of 74% for 2020
- Personalised Learning Plans refined by adding five steps to success
- All classes have Bump- up walls for each student
- Celebrated student achievement four times a year through Positive Behaviour for Learning and Amazing Achiever Assemblies
- Naming our Positive Behaviour for Learning frog Bunji, and redesigning our Froggy awards

RFF

Performing Arts in Term 4

Our Creative and Performing Arts staff and students have been extremely busy throughout Term 4! Seven students from our Signing Choir were selected to perform at our very first Schools Spectacular this year. We participated in intensive rehearsals throughout Terms 3 and 4. Each student from The Ponds School had a buddy from the hearing unit at Robert Townson High School. The buddies were great mentors, who assisted our students in learning the sign language and choreography for the performances at Qudos Bank Arena. Our students really grew in their performance skills and had an amazing experience. If you missed seeing 2019 Schools Spectacular, you can head on over to the 7Plus app and view it there. You won't be disappointed!

Our Combined Dance Groups and Signing Choir were invited to participate in the Rouse Hill Town Centre Santa Parade and Christmas Concert. We had a great crowd, who watched our entire performance and cheered very enthusiastically at the end of our performance. We also performed at Blacktown Council's International Day of People with Disability festival. Once again, our Signing Choir and Dance Groups put on a fantastic performance. Students reported at the end of the day that they had lots of fun at the festival. Last but definitely not least, was our Signing Choir's performance at The Ponds School Carols. This included many favourite Christmas songs. Many staff and parents who attended this event commented on how much our students have grown in their confidence and performance skills over the year.

We are so proud of each and every one of our performers. We hope that you all have a great break over the holidays and look forward to seeing you on stage at school and in our community in 2020!



Class 11

It is hard to believe that this is the last newsletter for 2019 and our last few days in Class 11.

This semester, we have continued our Community Access program. We went to The Ponds Shopping Centre every Monday to purchase our ingredients for our cooking program. The students all travel safely on the school bus and put their seatbelts on independently. We also went to Livvi's Place in Kellyville. Samuel and Ovini particularly enjoyed going on the swings. Mikail, Ari and Max enjoyed playing in the water and Cornell loved going on the slippery dip.

Samuel, Ovini, Mikail, Ari, Max, Cornell, Niamh and Natalee would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a nice holiday.



The Ponds School Christmas Party







NEED A LITTLE HELPING HAND THIS CHRISTMAS?

christmas cheer family support

THE SALVATION ARMY ROUSE HILL REGION WOULD LIKE TO HELP SUPPORT YOU TO MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR SOMETHING SPECIAL.



christmas cheer family support

CHRISTMAS CAN BE AN EXPENSIVE TIME OF YEAR!
DID YOU KNOW THAT THE SALVATION ARMY ROUSE HILL REGION CAN SUPPORT FAMILIES IN NEED OF A LITTLE EXTRA HELP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?

WE CAN ASSIST FAMILIES WITH FOOD AND GIFTS.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME EXTRA SUPPORT TO HELP CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR?
WE WOULD LOVE TO HELP!

PLEASE CONTACT SAN ON 0408406136
OR ALLI HOLLAND 0425291470



Rouse Hill Region
ENCOUNTER ENCOURAGE ENGAGE