


What's On

Thur, 21 March	Harmony Day		
Fri, 22 March	World Down Syndrome Day		
Wed, 10 April	Easter Fun Day		
Thur, 11 April	Amazing Achiever Assembly		CARE
Fri, 12 April	Last day of Term 1		LEARN
Tues, 30 April	Students return to school for Term 2		BE SAFE
Mon, 3 June - Fri, 14 June	Group 1—Swim school		
Mon, 17 June—Fri, 28 June	Group 2—Swim school		

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank You

- for reading the newsletter so you can be up to date with the happenings at The Ponds School
- for returning notes
- for communicating with the school
- for labelling your child's belongings
- for paying your voluntary contribution
- for paying for extra curricular activities
- for assisting to sell raffle tickets
- for being a vital member of The Ponds School Community

Meet the Community Sausage Sizzle

Thank you to all that attended our *Meet the Community Sausage Sizzle* on Friday night. We had between 60 and 70 participants. It was fantastic to see families enjoying a meal together in a safe environment. A big Thank You to Families in the Kitchen who made great coleslaw and cooked vegetarian and chicken sausages. We greatly appreciate the fantastic efforts of parents/carers and CSC Salvation Army for assisting with the setup, the cooking of the sausages, the pack up and the wonderful jumping castles. What a great community we have at The Ponds School! If you are interested in participating in an event like this each term, please let us know. We are interested in ideas for these evenings for the future.

Timetables

Teachers will be sending Class timetables home asap. Some parents/carers will have already received their class timetables.

The great benefits from having a class timetable are:

- you can discuss and ask questions about your child's day
- you can make appointments and know what your child will be missing
- it will remind you to send in specific items on specific days e.g. swimmers when it is Hydrotherapy Day and money for canteen on Fridays

Timetables sometimes change and teachers will send updated versions when this occurs.

Parent/Carers Coffee and Information Morning

On Thursday, 14 March at 9.40am, you are invited to attend our Parent/Carers Coffee and Information Morning. We will provide a School overview, discuss therapists and plan topics for future meetings. We are looking forward to seeing you!

Survey Monkey and Other Surveys

Unfortunately, we did not get a great response to the Survey Monkey that was emailed to all families. We do value your opinion. There will be two other surveys that will be sent to your inbox over the next month or so. One is the *360 Reflection survey* and the other is the *Tell Them From Me survey*. These surveys give you the opportunity to have your say and the results will be acted upon. If you did not receive this email, please contact the office to update your email details.

Resolving Issues

From time to time you may have an issue that requires an answer or a resolution. Your first point of call is your child's classroom teacher. If you do not feel comfortable discussing the matter with your child's classroom teacher, you need to speak to our Deputy Principal; Anne Bennett or our Principal; Leonie Donaldson. If the issue is not resolved by them you can contact a Learning and Engagement Officer at Nirimba or Emma Kriketos, Director Educational Leadership, The Ponds Network on 02 9208 7611.

Good News

Just this week I have taught one of my students about sharing. Using the CommBox touch screen, this student typically presses icons a number of times. However, on this occasion he learnt how to drag and drop, using his finger as the cursor. The student shared presents between children, using online game Mathseeds. Each child received one present each, dragging and dropping presents from a basket into the child's hands. I became excited as he mastered a new skill and he was also happy when I rejoiced with him.

Harmony Day and Down Syndrome Fundraising Day

Since the last newsletter we have swapped the dates of two events that will be happening this term. We will now celebrate Harmony Day on Thursday, 21 March and World Down Syndrome fundraising day on Friday, 22 March.

Voluntary Contribution

All families will be receiving an invoice shortly, which will include the Voluntary contribution of \$25 per Term or \$100 per year. This payment is voluntary. This money will go towards purchasing additional teaching resources and shade over our playground.

Payment for Extra Curricular Activities

On the invoice you will receive, there will be payments for Music Engagement and/or Movement Skills if your child is participating in these activities and you have not paid. If you could pay for these activities as soon as possible that will assist the school in paying for the staff that provide these services

Leonie Donaldson

Principal

Class 1



Settled into class routines . . .
Made our preferences known . . .
Went on incursions to . . .
The library . . . The play-ground . . .
The pool . . . And music . . .
We've learned a little . . .
And played a lot



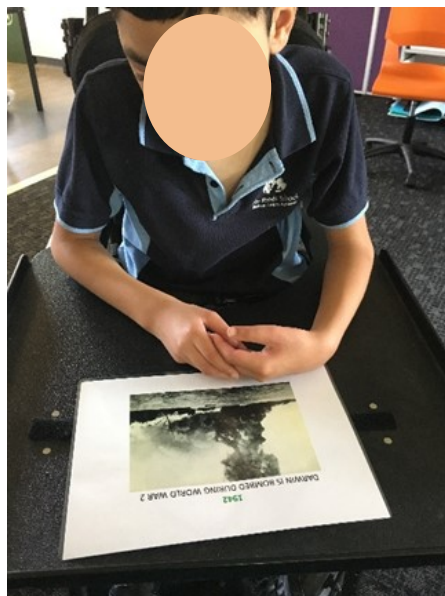
Class 2

It has been a fast and furious start to the term, the students in Class 2 have worked so very hard getting to know the new staff and students with them this year. This year we have the following exceptional students in our classroom: Shakira, Lennox, Sithusha, Rori, Christian and Peter. Class 2 are a very creative group and we have started the year with great excitement and enthusiasm.

We have chosen a number of different recipes to try out including zucchini slice, fried rice and our first choice was sweet delicious brownies. The students used a switch to activate the electrical equipment and watched with great excitement at our brownies getting mixed together.



In our History program we have been learning about the first settlers in Australia. The students have been having fun discovering the many different symbols the Aboriginal people used to Communicate, while also looking at timelines of how far back the first settlers arrived.



ELIJAH'S BOOKS

Every year the Holland family donate hundreds of books to different organisations in honour of their son, Elijah, who loved to read. We are one of the very lucky recipients and thank the Hollands for their generosity. Apart from the books just being fabulous anyway, a number of them are signed by their authors to make them even more special. Every book has a label, usually inside the front cover, identifying it as one of Elijah's Books. Keep your eye out for this if you happen to have school library books at home.

Elijah sadly passed away in 2008 but his memory definitely lives on in our school library and these books are enjoyed daily by our students and our staff. Our Student Leaders did a fabulous job of thanking the Hollands and enjoying a first lucky look at some of the books.



MEET THE COMMUNITY SAUSAGE SIZZLE



Become a foster carer

Help us make a positive difference to the lives of children in your community. As a Key Assets foster carer, you will be provided with 24/7 support, a dedicated social worker and on-going training.

Change a child's life today.

1800 WE CARE
iwanttofooster.com.au

Your Care is Our Priority

Australian National Care

Registered NDIS Provider

Your Australian National Care team will give you trusted independent advice and services that are right for you to enable you to live in your home and community.

Call us today!
 0474823473

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