


## What's On

Wed, 10 April	Easter Fun Day		
Thurs, 11 April	Amazing Achiever Assembly		
Fri, 12 April	Last day of Term 1		
Tues, 30 April	Students return to school for Term 2		CARE
Wed, 15 May	The Ponds School - Photo day		LEARN
Mon, 3 June - Fri, 14 June	Group 1—Swim school		BE SAFE
Mon, 17 June—Fri, 28 June	Group 2—Swim school		

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Niamh (Class 11), Raquel (Class 19) and Pauline (from another Special School) for gaining permanent teaching positions at The Ponds School. We also have Amie returning from maternity leave ready for the start of Term 2. There will be a few changes due to all this great news. We will be contacting parents and carers of students involved in these changes.

### **Harmony Day**

Thank you to everyone involved in making Harmony Day such a great celebration of cultures. Thank you to The Ponds Possums Dance group for entertaining us all and to the parents and staff that work so hard to ensure The Ponds Possums look so great and dance so well. Thank you to the parents and carers for attending and sharing a great morning tea. Thank you to Salvation Army Rouse Hill CSC for assisting with a grant, organising activities and volunteering on the day. Thank you to the staff for organising another successful Harmony Day.

### **teach.NSW Media**

On Friday, 29 March we had three visitors from teach.NSW media. Throughout the day they visited number of students and saw amazing students and staff learning, caring and being safe. Firstly they visited Class 12 to see a Literacy lesson, then it was onto Class 17 to watch our students complete a STEM lesson. Next they observed and assisted class 18 students completing Preparing for Life activities, such as sorting, counting and bagging items. Classes 13 and 14 were busy in their Creative and Performing Art lesson. They were making music by playing the keyboard, making collages and making a whole school sculpture by weaving and painting on a canvas. Then it was off to the pool to view Class 8 demonstrate their water safety and swimming skills. Lastly, they visited the Hall to see students participating in Movement Skills.

They were exceedingly amazed by all that they saw and asked if they could return on another occasion. Thank you to the entire Ponds School Community for assisting us with this visit.

### **Amazing Achievers and Positive Behaviour for Learning Awards**

At 9am on Thursday, 11 April we will be holding our first Amazing Achiever and Positive Behaviour for Learning Assembly for 2019. Parents of students gaining awards will be notified.

### **Downs Syndrome Day Fundraiser**

Thank you to our wonderful community for supporting our fundraising efforts for Downs Syndrome. There were many students and staff, Rocking their Socks, donating a gold coin and purchasing a cake. The Ponds School raised \$242 to support Downs Syndrome.

### **School Report**

The Annual Report for 2018 is being finalised this week. You will find The Ponds School Report on our website. If you would like a paper copy please do not hesitate to ask.

### **Autism Awareness Fundraising**

The Ponds School will be celebrating and fundraising for Autism Awareness Day on Thursday, 2 May. A note will be coming home in regards to this next week. It will be a Go Blue for Autism Day.

### **Easter Fun Day**

On Wednesday, 10 April we will be celebrating Easter with art, craft and cooking activities and an egg hunt. We are going to have students from Pacific Hills Christian School volunteering on the day. Notes will be coming home soon.

### **Notes for Term 2**

Many classes are sending notes home ready for term 2. These notes will include Hydrotherapy, Community Access, Term 2 Music Engagement fees, Electives (for High School Aged Students) and Movement Skills fees. Please read, complete and return these notes as soon as possible.

### **Term 2 Diary Dates**

Please see the attached overview with all the diary dates for the first seven weeks of Term 2. Put it up on your fridge so you remember important dates.

### **NAPLAN**

Notes will be coming home early in Term 2 regarding NAPLAN.

### **Facebook Page**

Please post your favourite things to do and places to visit during the holidays.

Enjoy the break!

Leonie Donaldson

Principal

### **Communication**

At The Ponds School, we are always working to improve our practices and procedures to ensure the very best learning outcomes for our students. This year, one of our Wellbeing focuses has been looking for strategies to improve our communication with parents and carers. This has been as a direct result of the feedback and suggestions that we have received from parents, carers and staff; through our ongoing self-assessment and improvement processes. Some strategies that we will begin implementing in Term 2 include:

- working towards a consistent school-wide communication proforma,
- ensuring that every class provides photos and information about students learning and progress via Class Dojo or a photo journal at least once per week;
- for each staff member to share a 'Good News' story with a parent or carer once per week;
- a 'Tea and Tim Tam' morning on Thursday of Week 2 at 9:30am each term, to listen to, connect with and share information with our families; and
- a 'Community Fun Night' during Week 5 of each term.

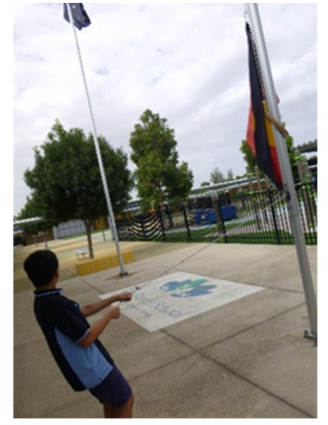
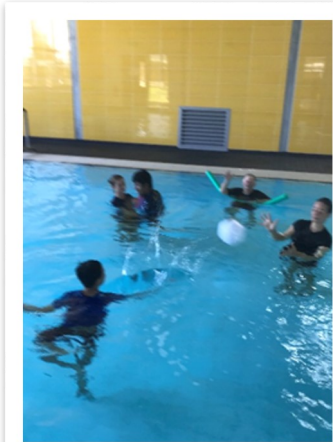
At The Ponds School, these are some of the ways we 'know, value and care for' each and every one of our students and families.

Anne Bennett  
Deputy Principal

## The Ponds School Term 2 2019 Planner

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>29 April</b>  <b>Staff Development Day</b>	<b>30 April</b>  First Day for Students	<b>1 May</b>	<b>2 May</b> Assembly <b>Go Blue for Autism Fundraising Day</b> Music Engagement	<b>3 May</b> Baked Goods Tribe parents  Movement Skills for Selected students
<b>6 May</b> Newsletter Week	<b>7 May</b>	<b>8 May</b>	<b>9 May</b> Assembly – The Ponds High School band playing <b>9.30am Tea and Tim Tams</b> <b>Mother's Day Stall</b> Music Engagement	<b>10 May</b> Baked Goods Tribe parents Movement Skills for Selected students
<b>13 May</b>	<b>14 May</b>	<b>15 May</b>  <b>School Photos</b>	<b>16 May</b> Assembly Music Engagement	<b>17 May</b> Baked Goods Tribe parents Movement Skills for Selected students
<b>20 May</b>  Newsletter Week	<b>21 May</b>	<b>22 May</b>  TAG Golf Day	<b>23 May</b> Assembly – The Ponds High School dance groups performing  Music Engagement	<b>24 May</b> Baked Goods Tribe parents Movement Skills for Selected students
<b>27 May</b>	<b>28 May</b>	<b>29 May</b>	<b>30 May</b> Assembly  Music Engagement	<b>31 May</b> Baked Goods Tribe parents Movement Skills for Selected students <b>5pm – 7pm Community Fun Night - Movie</b>
<b>3 June</b> <b>SWIM SCHOOL</b> Newsletter Week	<b>4 June</b> <b>SWIM SCHOOL</b>	<b>5 June</b> <b>SWIM SCHOOL</b>	<b>6 June</b> Assembly – The Ponds High School Guitar group playing <b>SWIM SCHOOL</b> Music Engagement	<b>7 June</b> <b>SWIM SCHOOL</b>  Baked Goods Tribe parents
<b>10 June</b> <b>Queens Birthday Long Weekend</b>	<b>11 June</b> <b>SWIM SCHOOL</b>	<b>12 June</b> <b>SWIM SCHOOL</b>	<b>13 June</b> <b>SWIM SCHOOL</b> Assembly Music Engagement	<b>14 June</b> <b>SWIM SCHOOL</b> Baked Goods Tribe parents

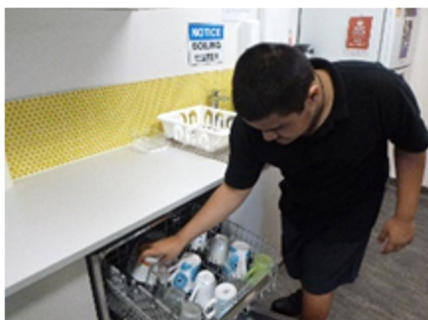
# Class 14



The end of Term 1 is just around the corner and what a busy term it has been for Class 14! Hans, Aswinii, James P and Jaden have been really enjoying working on developing a lot of life skills: going for morning walks to work on staying with the group, recycling bottles, dishwashing duties, laundry work, swimming and cooking delicious meals like Pizza and Mac'n'Cheese.

Class 14 have also been learning to:

- \* Be safe by staying with the group during activities and transitions.
- \* Care by caring for the classroom and completing class jobs.
- \* Work independently to follow instructions to complete tasks.



# Class 15

We have settled well into Term 1 with many programs getting us out of the classroom and moving around the school.

This term, together with Class 19, we have been enjoying community access to Nurranginy Reserve where we explore the environment, feed the ducks lettuce grown at school and enjoy a BBQ lunch.



### **Keep coughing kids home and see your GP.**

Whooping cough (also called pertussis) began increasing across NSW towards the end of 2018, especially in children between the ages of 5 and 14 years. NSW Health anticipates that this increase will continue into 2019.

School-aged children who are infected with whooping cough usually experience a troubling cough that can persist for months, but they rarely get severe illness. However they can spread the infection to younger siblings and other more vulnerable people, who are at higher risk of severe disease. Whooping cough can be a life threatening infection in babies.

What can you do to prevent whooping cough?

1. Make sure vaccinations are up to date for all family members
2. Be alert for symptoms of whooping cough
3. Keep coughing kids home, to prevent them spreading the infection to others, and see your GP to get them tested for whooping cough

For more information on Whooping Cough and vaccination visit the

**NSW Health Website** (<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/whoopingcough/Pages/default.aspx>)

(<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/whoopingcough/Pages/default.aspx>)

You can also find out about other important infectious disease alerts by visiting the

**alerts page** (<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/alerts/Pages/default.aspx>)

(<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/alerts/Pages/default.aspx>).

## **Save the Date** **Tea and TimTams morning**

**Term 2, Week 2 ( 9th May 2019 )**  
**Thursday at 9.30am**

**Come and find out how we create our shared language of learning at The Ponds School and how you can support your child's learning at home.**

CRAZY SOCK DAY



# Girraween Children's Respite



# OPEN DAY

Wednesday 17 April 2019  
11.00am – 3.00pm

Come and view our Children's Respite House and discover all the fun your child can have with Northcott:

- ★ Arts and crafts activities
- ★ Baking activities
- ★ Outdoor play
- ★ Snacks

Northcott staff will be on hand to answer your questions about our respite service. *Please note, children cannot be left unattended at the Open Day.*

Location: 28 Normac Rd, Girraween, NSW Cost: Free!

RSVP by Wednesday 10 April 2019:

1800 818 286  
northcott@northcott.com.au  
northcott.com.au



The Northcott Society ACN: 000 022 911 ABN: 67 302 064 152



Hi ,

Registrations are now open for the upcoming **Puberty, Sexuality and Relationships Workshop** for Parents and Carers of People with Intellectual Disability and Autism, being held in Lakemba on **Tuesday, April 2**.

Come join the team at Family Planning NSW for an interactive workshop that will cover issues across the lifespan, and find out how to support your family member's personal development and sexuality in a positive way.

Details are as follows:

**Date:** Tuesday 02 April 2019

**Time:** 6:00pm – 8:00pm

**Location:** Canterbury City Community Centre, 130 Railway Parade Lakemba

**Cost:** FREE, funded by Canterbury Bankstown Council

Please note this workshop is for parents and unpaid carers, and is not suitable for professionals.

**REGISTER YOUR PLACE**



# TRY TIME RUGBY LEAGUE



## Demonstration & Information Day!

In Conjunction with our good friends from Wentworthville Try Time – We will be holding another Information day which will include a training session & games against Kellyville Competition Sides.

The aim of the day is to show potential new members how the program operates.

**WHEN:**  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019  
**TIME:** 1pm  
**WHERE:** Kellyville Park,  
Memorial Ave, Kellyville  
**FREE:** BBQ (Please RSVP!)



The Try Time Rugby League program provides a safe, enjoyable and inclusive environment where children, teenagers and adults with Special Needs and Intellectual Disabilities can play Rugby League in their local community. Catering for both females & males who have Special Needs and Intellectual Disabilities ranging from but not limited to: Autism, Down Syndrome, Developmental Delay and Vision Impaired with the core focus on Ability not their Disability.

For More Information To Register your interest  
[www.thebushrangers.com.au](http://www.thebushrangers.com.au)

**THE MIGHTY BUSHRANGERS - EVERYONES CLUB!**

# ABILITY LINKS

## Carers' Support Computer Project

WANT TO KNOW HOW TO SECURELY ACCESS myGov AND USE YOUR NDIS PORTAL?

Please register your interest in this **FULLY FUNDED** 10 week course enrolling by Tuesday, April 9 with classes starting on April 30 from 10AM – 1PM. This course will be held at TAFE in Hornsby.

You will attend a TAFE NSW facilitated course covering

- 7 weeks of how to access a computer and myGov
- navigate the internet securely whilst logging on and off of sites and
- 3 weeks of NDIS support to securely navigate your NDIS Portal.

Please contact **BRYONY GLIDDON 94721524** for bookings and further information



## OPEN DAY INVITATION

DSA's Community Solutions Centre at Blacktown has a new look.

Join us for a tour around our newly refurbished centre that provides customers with the opportunity to develop new skills and increase their independence.

Participate in social and recreational activities that are designed around individual goals, interests and support needs.

**When:** Friday, 5th April  
10:00am - 2:30pm

**Where:** 9, Second Avenue,  
Blacktown NSW 2148

**RSVP:** Tuesday, 2nd April

We look forward to seeing you.



To RSVP and for more information call

- ☎ 1300 372 121
- ✉ [customerconnections@dsa.org.au](mailto:customerconnections@dsa.org.au)
- 🌐 [www.dsa.org.au](http://www.dsa.org.au)

