


Newsletter

5 January 2020

Issue 1

What's On

12/02/20	Meet the parents – 3.30pm		CARE
26/02/20	PLP Meetings from 3.30pm – 5pm		LEARN
28/02/20	Rare Disease Day		BE SAFE
20/03/20	Harmony Day		
02/04/20	Amazing Achievers and PBL Assembly		
09/04/20	Zoomobile		

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to The Ponds School for the 2020 school year. It was great to see our students arrive on the first day of school with smiles on their faces. Some students told me the name of their teacher and their SLSO and what class they were in! Well done to all the parents and carers that prepared students to be ready for school. I am delighted to say that all the students have settled in well and are learning, caring and being safe. We welcome new families to The Ponds School community. We had two Kindergarten students start school this year, they are already showing us their skills and abilities.

Over the break many improvements were made within the school. We now have gates on both sides of the bike track to allow vehicle access. Our shrinking, fading and uneven polysoft was removed from around our trees in front of the hall, in the inner playground and separating the grassed area. It is great to have the entire playground as level as possible with no gaps. One of our classrooms was painted also.

We have put in a misting fan outside Class 17 and access to a new playground area behind Classes 17 and 18. We are just waiting on the fencing and gate. Then we will need to look at gaining some seating and shade for that area.

Unfortunately, our plan was to have our Sun Safe Shade Sails in for the beginning of the year. This did not happen, but the Sun Safe Shade Sails will be installed during the next holidays in April.

This year, for the first time we have about half of our students in Primary and the other half in High School aged classes. The high school aged students will be participating in electives one session a week, a combined music session with Pete McDonald our Music Therapist on Fridays and some will be participating in Sport on Wednesdays, either at our school and/or with students from The Ponds High School. There will be more information being sent home regarding this.

Our primary aged students will attend Music Engagement for a half hour session weekly with their class and their teacher and SLSO. They will participate for one semester each.

This year we have taken the cost of Music Engagement out of our School Budget. This means that there will not be a payment due for Music Therapy this year. There will be costs for electives, some sport activities, cooking (\$30 for High School students and \$20 for Primary students, notes will be sent home ASAP) and community access. Our high school aged students will be actively learning skills for post school, which will include: Working in the TAG Café, Froggy Food Spot (canteen), Bunji Café – just for students and no payment is required, Drinks Trolley, Return and Earn, recycling paper, distributing items to classrooms, participating in Work Experience etc

Our Assembly will remain 9am on Thursday mornings and parents and carers are always invited to attend.

If you have any questions in regards to your child's education at The Ponds School, please do not hesitate to come in and see us or contact us via phone, email or written communication.

Staff are looking forward to meeting you at our Meet the Staff afternoon (see below) and creating your child's Personalised Learning Plan (PLP) with you on Wednesday, 26th February or an alternative time.

Attached please find the Term 1 overview.

Meet the staff

A note was sent home earlier this week to invite you to meet the staff. We hope you can join us on Wednesday, 12th February at 3.30pm to meet the staff that educate, know, value and care for your child whilst they attend The Ponds School. During this meeting you will get to know the staff, discuss the curriculum, the classroom timetable, procedures, expectations and communication methods. We are very fortunate to have some great new staff.

Michael Vassili Awards

The Ponds Blacktown Lions Club are hosting the Michael Vassili awards on Saturday, 22nd February. Two of our high school aged students will be receiving awards and our Signing Choir will be performing. Thank you to those parents and carers who have sold raffle tickets to raise money for The Ponds Blacktown Lions Club that so generously supports The Ponds School.

MyTime

Please find a link below to a support group that may suit some of our parents and carers. It is a link to My Time, the support group I was telling you about www.mytime.net.au/ and is a free service. The website states: Meet other parents and family carers of children with disabilities. MyTime is a place to socialise, to discuss, to get information, and to support and be supported by other carers. All MyTime groups have a trained facilitator, who helps group members get to know each other and learn more about local resources and support services.

There is a find my group section that you could look to find your closest group. The closest locations to the Ponds are Kellyville and Westmead.

The details for the Kellyville group are: Coordinator: Kate McNamara from Tresillian. Phone 9787 0871.

Reminders

- Please ensure all your child's items are labelled with their name
- Students all need a change of clothes in their bags
- Our drive way is 10km per hour and is one way- follow the arrows. We need to ensure the safety of everyone, please be patient.
- If your child is absent from school please provide a note as to why they were absent
- If your child has vomited or had diarrhoea they need to remain home for 24 hours after the last episode. We have a number of students that have low immunity. We need to ensure that all students remain healthy.

Regards

Leonie Donaldson
Principal

Term 1, 2020 Overview (as at 3/2/2020)

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Feb	3	4	5	6 Assembly Class 1	7 Music Engagement
3 Feb	10	11	12 3.30pm Meet the Staff	13 Assembly Class 2	14 Music Engagement
4 Feb	17	18	19 High School Sport	20 Assembly Class 3	21 Music Engagement
5 Feb	24	25	26 PLP Meetings from 3.30pm – 5pm High School Sport	27 Assembly Class 4	28 Music Engagement Rare Disease Day
6 March	2	3	4 High School Sport	5 Assembly Class 5	6 Music Engagement
7 March	9	10	11 High School Sport	12 Assembly Class 6	13 Music Engagement
8 March	16	17	18 High School Sport	19 Assembly Class 7	20 Music Engagement Harmony Day
9 March	23	24	25 High School Sport	26 Assembly Class 8	27 Music Engagement
10 March April	30	31	1 High School Sport	2 Amazing Achievers and PBL Assembly	3 Music Engagement
11 April	6	7	8	9 Easter Fun Day Last Day of Term 1 - ZOOMOBILE	10 Good Friday

CLASS 11

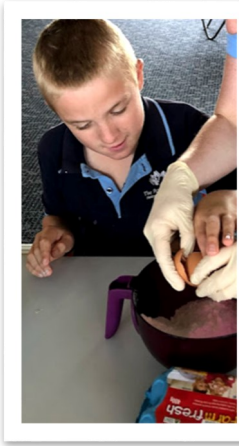
Class 11 students have had an active first week and are settling well into the first term of school. So far, we have been learning to work at our independent work stations and we have been playing together as friends.

It is a fun time as we are all getting to know each other and learn about our favourite things to do.

Class 11 have many exciting things planned for the term including running 'The Froggy Food Spot', a weekly visit to Michel's Patisserie for our community access and working closely with Class 12 for our Visual Arts and Photography Elective - 'Under the Water'



Class 16



*A big welcome back to all of The Ponds School students and a special welcome to our new students and families.
Class 16 had a fun first week getting to know each other and getting back into routine and school life.*

We are learning all about the Zones of Regulation.

There are 4 zones:

RED ZONE

BLUE ZONE

YELLOW ZONE

GREEN ZONE

The zones can be compared to traffic signs.

We are also learning about different strategies that can be used in all the zones. We will keep you all posted about the zones in our next newsletter contribution.

From Joshua, Samuel, Toni, Victor, Aayan, Harry, Amon, Lisa and Niamh





Kevin Conolly MP Member for Riverstone

30 January 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

THE PONDS SCHOOL GETS \$86,554 FROM THE NSW GOVERNMENT

Member for Riverstone Kevin Conolly was delighted to join The Ponds School principal Leonie Donaldson and the committee of the Blacktown Ponds Lions Club in presenting a NSW Government grant for the installation of Sun safe shade sails for The Ponds School outdoor playground area.

The Blacktown Ponds Lions Club led by Rissa and Paul McInnes is the project sponsor and was instrumental in obtaining funding of \$86,554 from the NSW Government as part of the My Community Grants program.

The shade sails will ensure that the students can play in the outdoor playground area throughout the summer months and provide much needed sun protection.

"Being physically active and sun safe, will enhance the health and wellbeing of all the students at the school and I thank the Blacktown Ponds Lions Club for their support of this school in making this project happen," said Mr Conolly.

Work will commence shortly and many thanks go to the Blacktown Ponds Lions Club for the support they are providing to The Ponds School students and their families.

The NSW Government is investing a total of \$24.68 million in projects across NSW to help improve the wellbeing of the people and communities. My Community Project is made possible by the NSW Generations Fund. The fund helps keep the state's debt at a sustainable level, while sharing the benefits of its returns with the people of NSW by funding community projects.



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The TAG Café at The Ponds



An invitation for drivers, ATSDs, parents and carers.

Wednesdays, Term 1

9-10 am

BYO MUG!

Selected students from Class 19 are running a Café during Term 1.

We would appreciate your support in running this enterprise.

Join us at the TAG Café by the carpark.

When - Wednesdays 9-10 am
(starting Week 3 - Week 11).

Tees, Coffee or Hot chocolate - \$2 a cup
Bottled water - \$1
Cakes or Slices - \$2



Language Acquisition through Motor Planning

What is LAMP?

Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP) is a therapeutic approach based on neurological and motor learning principles. The goal is to provide individuals a method of independently and spontaneously expressing themselves in any setting. The LAMP approach can be used with both Unity® & Words for Life.

Who can attend?

This event is targeted at professionals working with people who use AAC. However, it is appropriate for anyone who is keenly interested in learning more about LAMP, or who is already using the LAMP approach. Attendees may be parents, carers, therapists, educators, education support, or university students who have some knowledge of AAC.

What is covered?

AAC theory, LAMP theory and evidence base, the five components of LAMP, how to assess for, and implement the LAMP therapy approach.

Sydney - Monday and Tuesday 16th / 17th March 2020

Time: Monday 9-4pm, Tuesday 9-3:30pm

Venue: The Ponds School for Specific Purposes,
201 The Ponds Boulevard, The Ponds NSW 2769

Rate: \$490 full price / \$350 parents & carers (includes lunch)

Earlybird rate: \$450 if you register by 6th March

Registrations close Friday 13th March or when sold out - places are limited!

Register online at <http://tix.vt/lamp-sydney-march-2020>

www.liberator.net.au

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M: 0424 662 728



Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD) Communication Partner Workshop



Presented by Harriet Korner

Sydney

28 February 2020

Time: 9.30am – 2.30pm

Venue: **Royal Rehab** – Blunt Conference Room
235 Morrison Rd, Ryde, NSW, 2112.

Enquiries: Please email Harriet at hkorner@netspace.net.au or call on 0418 629 707.

A workshop for parents, family, carers, teachers, support staff, therapists and others who live or work with people who have little or no speech and use augmentative and alternative communication.

This workshop aims to assist people to become more familiar with PODD communication books. Come and learn strategies to assist people who cannot speak and require other methods of communication. Learn how PODD communication systems support two-way interactions and enable access to language.

This workshop provides hands on practice and time to answer your questions.

Topics:

- What is a PODD communication book?
- Why is there so much vocabulary?
- Why use a paper book? Why not just use a device?
- How will this effect development of speech?
- Can this approach be used with adults as well as children?

Harriet Korner Consulting



Learning Outcomes

Participants will:

- Be familiar with PODD communication books
- Understand key features of PODD communication systems
- Learn about options - paper books and PODD page-sets on electronic devices
- Use PODD communication books to express frequently used messages
- Learn ways to support others to use PODD in everyday situations
- Feel more confident in using PODD communication books.

About the Presenter



Harriet Korner is a certified PODD Presenter, currently working as a speech pathology consultant in private practice. Harriet uses an aided language approach in her work with children and adults who have complex communication needs.

Harriet completed the Master of Research program at Macquarie University in 2019, researching parent and child outcomes when coaching parents to implement a PODD communication system at home.

Harriet has worked for the Cerebral Palsy Alliance, Northcott Disability Services and the Independent Living Centre NSW.

Harriet has also:

- Worked on the project *Collaborative Teamwork for Students with High Support Needs*, Special Education Centre, Macquarie University.
- Developed a curriculum support document *Communication Programming for Students with Severe Intellectual Disability* for the NSW Department of Education.
- Presented at international and national conferences.