


# Newsletter

20 January 2020

Issue 2

## What's On

26/02/20	PLP Meetings 3.30pm – 5.00pm		CARE
28/02/20	Rare Disease Day Fundraiser		LEARN
19/03/20	Harmony Day		BE SAFE
02/04/20	Amazing Achievers and PBL Assembly		
09/04/20	Zoomobile / Easter Fun Day		
09/04/20	Last day for Term 1		

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We have had a good start to the year and I am seeing great teaching and learning taking place every day. I want to thank parents and careers for:

- attending the Meet the Staff afternoon
- getting students to school before 9am and being on time for pick up in the afternoon
- signing notes and returning them to school
- paying for cooking and community access
- selling raffle tickets for The Ponds Blacktown Lions Club (please return sold and unsold raffle tickets ASAP)
- contacting the school if your child is absent

### Personalised Learning Plan meetings

A note was sent home yesterday in regards to attending a meeting to develop your child's Personalised Learning Plan on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February. Please complete the form and return it to school.

### Rare Disease Day

On Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February we are raising money for Rare Diseases and donating money to ARCAN. ARCAN assists children with rare chromosomal disorders. ARCAN is an organisation created by parents, for families and the community, to raise awareness for rare chromosome disorders. With ARCAN you will never feel alone and we will celebrate our differences together. A note will be coming home soon asking all students to wear denim and bring a gold coin donation on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February.

### TAG Café

TAG Café is open for business every Wednesday of the term from 9am – 10am. Our students staff the café and are learning many skills needed for their post school lives. All types of coffee, tea and hot chocolate along with cakes/muffins/biscuits are available. Please bring your family and friends and support our students.

### Harmony Day

On Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March we will be celebrating Harmony Day. Students are encouraged to wear national dress or wear the colour orange. All students will participate in a 45 minute drumming session (cost \$14) and there will be special activities to complete. We hope to have a shared meal with parents and carers contributing a plate of food from their country of origin. More information will be forthcoming soon.

### Easter Fun Day

We are planning an Easter Fun Day on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April. This day will include a visit from the Zoomobile, jumping castles and more.

### Reminders:

- Our school is a safe environment; if you open a gate please do not forget to close it. Our motto is: Be Safe Shut the Gate.
- If your child is going on Extended Leave (5 days or more) an application for extended leave needs to be completed along with travel documentation supplied. Application for Extended Leave forms are available from our Administration Office.
- Attendance at school is important. If a student is absent for one day a week that equates to being absent for 20% of learning time, which means that a student is only attending school 80% of the time. When a student's unexplained absences are lower than 80% our Home School Liaison Officer becomes involved.

The Term 1 overview is always evolving. Put it up on your fridge and you won't miss an important event.

Regards

Leonie Donaldson  
Principal



# The TAG Cafe The Ponds School

*An invitation for drivers, ATSOs, parents and carers.*

**Wednesdays, Term 1**  
**9.00—10:00am**

*BYO MUG*

*Tea Coffee or Hot Chocolate—\$2.00 a cup*

*Bottled water—\$1.00*

*Cakes and slices*

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

*We would appreciate your support in  
running this enterprise.*

*Join us at the TAG Cafe by the carpark.  
Starting Week 3 - Week 11*

*Hope to see you there :)*

# Term 1, 2020 Overview

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>4 Feb</b>	17	18	19 TAG Cafe Primary Sport High School Sport	20 Assembly Class 3	21 Music Engagement
<b>5 Feb</b>	24	25	26 TAG Cafe Primary Sport High School Sport PLP Meetings from 3.30pm – 5pm	27 Assembly Class 4	28 Music Engagement Rare Disease Day – wear denim, bring gold coin
<b>6 March</b>	2	3	4 TAG Cafe Primary Sport High School Sport	5 Assembly Class 5	6 Music Engagement
<b>7 March</b>	9	10	11 TAG Cafe Primary Sport High School Sport	12 Assembly Class 6	13 Music Engagement
<b>8 March</b>	16 LAMP training in the hall	17 LAMP training in the hall	18 TAG Cafe Primary Sport High School Sport	19 Assembly Class 7 Harmony Day Drumming	20 Music Engagement
<b>9 March</b>	23	24	25 TAG Cafe Primary Sport High School Sport	26 Assembly Class 8	27 Music Engagement
<b>10 March April</b>	30	31	1 TAG Cafe Primary Sport High School Sport	2 Amazing Achievers and PBL Assembly	3 Music Engagement
<b>11 April</b>	6	7	8 TAG Cafe Pacific Hills Christian School Service Day	9 Easter Fun Day Zoomobile Last Day of Term 1	10 Good Friday

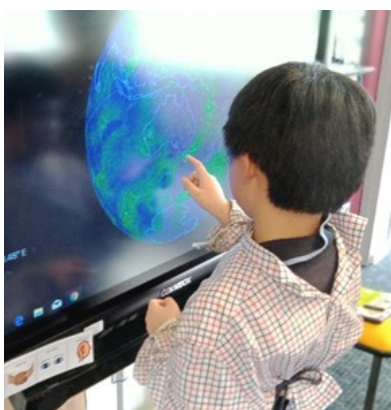
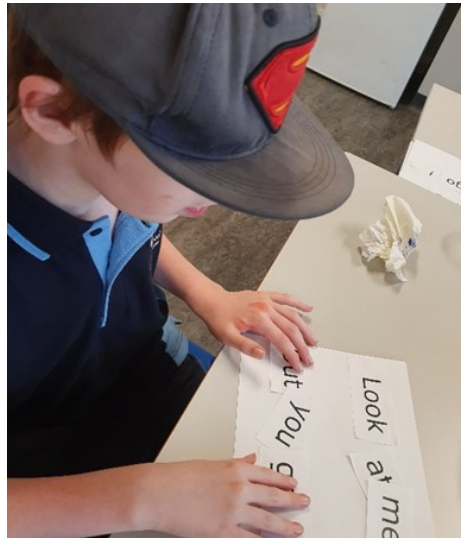


# CLASS 6

*In Class 6 we are learning about our world and where we fit into it.*

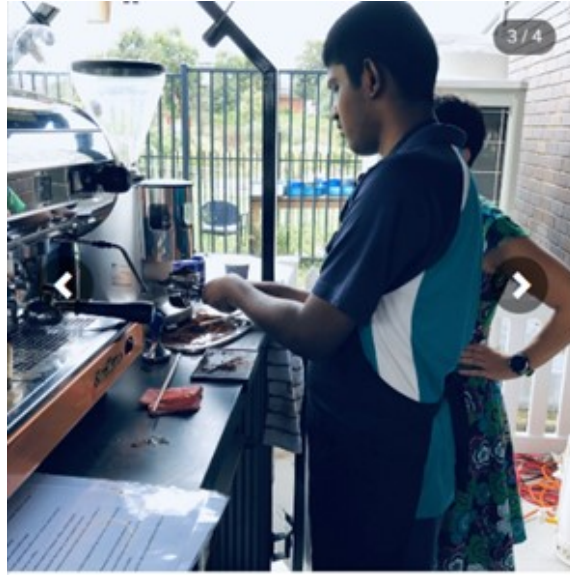
*Our students have settled in and work well together.*

*We attend hydrotherapy, ride our bikes, cook, play, read and learn.*





# Class 19



*Class 19 are settling into their new class quickly. Clarisse, Denzel, Michael, Vinny, Manwel, Lachlan, Anogen and Ashhad are working well together and learning lots of different work and life skills. Our focus this year is about increasing independence across a range of areas. The students are helping to run the TAG Café and our new Bunji Kids Café every Wednesday, and are practising money skills in these programs.*

*Some of the students have also started work experience at Thorndale Industries in Werrington. We are looking forward to a great year.*





# RECYCLING CERTIFICATE

Presented to

The Ponds School

Thank you for your support

The total weight collected 44 Kg's

**WAR ON E-WASTE**

RECYCLING PROGRAM



**SIMS  
RECYCLING  
SOLUTIONS**



## Blacktown Ponds Lions Club Inc

### The Mayoress Christmas Toys Gift

#### Appeal.

On 11 December BLACKTOWN PONDS LIONS CLUB INC MEMBERS together with the Blacktown Mayoress visited The Mt. Drutt Children's Ward Hospital in support towards The Mayoress Christmas Toys Gift Appeal. Our club donated and gave away Lions Teddy Bears and some goody biscuits to the sick Children in the ward. The joy of seeing the cheerful happy smiling faces of the children and their parents lifted up as we walked in was priceless! The staff nurses and everyone in the Children's ward were so friendly and welcomed us with open arms and gave us a tour around the place. It was the best feelings and memorable experience for all of us.



### Ponds School for Special Need Children

On the 17th December Blacktown Ponds Lions Club and the Pond High School Leo Club cooked a free sausage sizzle for the 114 students staff and teachers at the Pond School for Special Need Children.

After the Christmas Toys Distribution it was followed by the presentation of a Cheque by BLACKTOWN PONDS LIONS CLUB INC donation of \$86,554 towards The Ponds School building of the Sun Shade Sail.





*Kirsty is an occupational therapist and NDIS specialist behaviour support practitioner. She brings the skills from both of these disciplines to work collaboratively with families, students and teachers to meet their goals.*

*Kirsty has provided support to people with multiple and complex support needs for over 14 years.*

*This has been with government and non-government organisations in senior clinical, and practice leadership roles. In 2019 she started up Learning, Doing, Living which provides behaviour support and occupational therapy services.*

*Kirsty will be working at The Ponds School on a Wednesday throughout 2020. Her role will be to support staff in:*

- *developing individual and whole class behaviour support strategies to support independence, learning and engagement;*
- *provide strategies for self-regulation;*
- *advise on developing Behaviour Support Plans and Crisis Management Plans; and*
- *provide Professional Learning and support for staff in best practice when managing behaviour.*



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



**Presented by Harriet Korner**  
**30 & 31 March 2020**

**Time:** 8.30am Registration; Workshop 9.00am – 5.00pm  
**Venue:** Clive Austen Conference Centre  
Royal Rehab  
235 Morrison Rd, Ryde, NSW, 2112.

**Enquiries:**

**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 language and communicate.

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.

### Harriet Korner Consulting

#### Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- Describe the challenges in creating augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) systems in relation to making vocabulary available and implementing systems to meet people's individual needs in everyday life.
- Reflect on and evaluate strategies for teaching communication skills
- Discuss the features of a PODD communication system in terms of vocabulary organisation, layout, design, range of access strategies and customising for individual requirements.
- Use PODD generic template resources to begin the process of dynamic assessment and to produce customised communication books.
- Use PODD communication books to express frequently used messages.
- Discuss the teaching and learning strategies for implementing PODD communication systems with individuals and their team members.
- Teach people with complex communication needs and their communication partners to use PODD communication books in everyday environments, so communication happens across the day, anywhere and at any time.

#### 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 augmentative and alternative communication using 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.

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 Ashfield on Saturday, 29 February.

Come join the team at Family Planning NSW and our special guest speaker Liz Dore 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: Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Time: 10:00am – 1:30pm (light lunch provided)

Location: Family Planning NSW, 328-336 Liverpool Road, Ashfield 2131

Cost: FREE, funded by the Inner West Council

To register visit: <https://fpnsw.wufoo.com/forms/p7b5v1m0kqy5c7/>

## Puberty, Sexuality and Relationships:

A workshop for parents and carers of people with intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorders

Find out how to support your family member's personal development and sexuality in a positive way!



Come join the team at Family Planning NSW and special guest Liz Dore (Relationships & Private Stuff) for an interactive workshop that will cover issues across the lifespan including:

- Disability and sexuality
- Preparing for puberty
- Decision making and safety
- Taking care of health and hygiene
- Supporting friendship and relationship development
- Supporting positive and safe sexual expression
- Tips for talking about sex and answering tricky questions

Parents, foster parents, relatives and other unpaid carers of people with intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorders of all ages are welcome.

Unfortunately we are unable to accept registrations from professionals for this event.

This forum is not suitable for children. We regret we are unable to provide respite/childcare.

**Date:**  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> of February 2020

**Time:**  
10:00am – 1:30pm  
(light lunch provided)

**Venue:**  
Family Planning NSW  
328-336 Liverpool Road  
Ashfield 2131

**Cost:**  
This workshop is fully funded by



**For more information:**

**Erin Donnelly**  
Family Planning NSW  
P: 02 8752 4312  
E: [erind@fpnsw.org.au](mailto:erind@fpnsw.org.au)

[Click here to register online](https://fpnsw.wufoo.com/forms/p7b5v1m0kqy5c7/)

## Meet the team

**Erin Donnelly** (Health Promotion Officer – Disability)



Erin has a background in psychology and public health along with three years of experience in delivering state wide health promotion programs and workshop facilitation. In her role at Family Planning NSW, Erin leads a number of health promotion projects to address the reproductive and sexual health and rights of people with intellectual disability.

**Liz Dore** (Counsellor – Relationships & Private Stuff)



Liz Dore has been working with people with disability to help them achieve their educational, employment and personal goals for 25 years. This includes 15 years experience in relationships counselling and sexuality education. She has qualifications in Special Education, Relationships Counselling, and Sexuality and Training.

### Want to learn more?

Family Planning NSW have a range of innovative 'easy to read' resources to support our education activities, along with an extensive range of books and resources available to loan from our Disability Resource Collection.

To learn more and keep up-to-date with our latest events contact the Disability team:

Phone: (02) 8752 4300

Email: [healthpromotion@fpnsw.org.au](mailto:healthpromotion@fpnsw.org.au)