


Newsletter

12 March 2021

Issue 3

What's On

17/3/21	African Drumming		CARE
1/4/21	PBL Amazing Achiever Assembly / Students last day of Term 1		LEARN
2/4/21	Good Friday		
5/5/21	School Photos		BE SAFE

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is great to be able to welcome you all back into The Ponds School!

The Department of Education has stated that: Parents and carers are able to enter school grounds but should continue to follow COVID-safe practices, including physical distancing between adults 1.5 metres.

Parents and Carers are welcome to attend Assembly on Thursdays. Our High School Assembly starts at 9.10am and our primary Assembly starts at approximately 9.30am.

Harmony Week 15th - 19th March

Harmony Week is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.

Harmony Week is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into our community.

A note in regards to Harmony Week should have been attached to your child's communication book this week. There are a variety of activities available for parents/carers to join including: Cake decorating, Art Mindfulness, Flow painting, Walking group and water Aerobics. The booking process is described on the information sent home. Please book early as numbers are limited and we don't want you to miss out!

On Wednesday 17th March, students will be asked to wear their national costume or Orange for Harmony Week and all students will be attending an African drumming Session.

Rare Disease Fundraising

Thank you to everyone that supported our fundraising and raising awareness for Rare Disease Day by wearing green, purple, blue or pink and making a donation or purchasing a jelly cup or playdough. Due to your generosity we have been able to donate \$196 to Syndromes Without A Name (SWAN).

Strategic Improvement Meeting

You are invited to a face to face meeting at The Ponds School in regards to our Strategic Improvement Plan for 2021 – 2024. On Friday 19th March at 2pm in the School hall, refreshments will be provided.

A note has been sent this week for you to confirm your attendance.

P&C / Charity - Further information

We held a Zoom meeting on Tuesday 2nd March to gain more information on forming a P&C or re-establishing our Charity. Our aim was to record the meeting, but unfortunately this could not happen so you will see the information discussed below. We were fortunate to have Debbie Clifford from the P&C as part of our Zoom meeting. The next step will be a survey to gain your feedback in regards to what you would like to be part of in the future.

[P&C information from Debbie Clifford](#)

P&Cs are autonomous from the school a community meeting will need to be held to establish a P&C.

A working party would be formed, we could have as many people participate as we like but no fewer than 5 and we would require a person to be the convener

- The working party would decide on a constitution, by-laws and membership processes
- The P&C Association provides fact sheets on all of the processes and procedures needed
- Then a Foundation meeting would be held and everyone would gain the information that the working party had put together
- Office bearers would be elected (can have 5 or 4 with a casual vacancy for the 5th member) and they would become signatories on accounts
- An Incorporated P&C is a legal entity and thus office bearers are not individually liable. An Incorporated P&C is able to employ people and apply for grants
- The P&C Association give newly established P&Cs free membership for one year and 50 million dollar Public Liability Insurance. Insurance after the first year is up to the P&C
- The P&C Association offer student injury insurance for a fee which covers students in and outside of school
- The P&C association has relevant information on their website and P&Cs can adopt what is on the website. Debbie Clifford would assist us
- The decision makers of a P&C are not the Office bearers but the members. Office bearers are the management team
- P&Cs are a charity and ACNC registered

Purpose: To raise money and have a voice in The Ponds Schools planning and financial management and hear what is happening at The Ponds School.

Making It Happen ... for Children with Disabilities

- Established in 2014, held a membership drive and an Annual General Meeting to elect office bearers
- Office Bearers included: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and members
- The office bearers wrote the constitution, objects and statement of purpose.
- A logo was developed
- Meetings were held on a regular basis
- Difficulties included: accountancy/MYOB, completing the ACNC, ASIC and ATO paperwork
- Many fundraising activities were held. The charity donated \$20 000 towards our fist bus and donated the same amount towards our inclusive playground

Purpose: to raise money to assist the students at The Ponds school

Are you a parent/carers that would like to take on a role in either the P&C or the Charity? We will be gaining your input into what you believe will be the best option for the future of our school.

Kind Regards

Leonie Donaldson
Principal



Class 12



This Term Class 12 have really been enjoying Music engagement with Peter and Kiri.

They have been exploring different types of percussion and pitched instruments and what sounds they make. We have really enjoyed matching fast and slow beats as well as exploring tempo and rhythm.



Class 17

This year Class 17 is comprised of 6 students Georgia, Jahnaya, Hans, Aswinii, Toni and Joshua. We had a busy and enjoyable term 1 so far, settling into our new classroom, new routines and getting to know our new classmates.

Our classroom is in COLA 3 and some of us have never been in this part of school and it is exciting for us as we have a brand new playground area! We are enjoying sharing the space with class 18 and 19. We also like visiting class 18 and 19 sometimes to learn new things and make new friends.

A quick look at our routine will show you how exciting each week is for us at The Ponds School! Everyday we get together as a class during our morning meeting and talk about what we are going to do today. We also share news, do some numeracy/literacy activities on the white board and take turns to make choices to watch some fun and educational videos. We take a action break and go for a walk and it will help us feel refreshed and ready for some serious class work.

Each day we have a special activity which we look forward to that motivates us to do our best. On Mondays, we go to Hydrotherapy pool and enjoy a good swim. On Tuesdays we do Food Technology and have lots of fun cooking. On Wednesdays, our focus is sport and work skills. On Thursdays we enjoy going on the bus to community access. On Fridays, we look forward to Music Therapy! Take a quick look at the fun and engaging photos of the learning experiences we participate in at school.



Work Education at The Ponds School



We have been shredding paper at school in the Work Centre.

We take the paper to the Pet Shop



They make a bed for the animals with our shredding.



Each week we fold McDonalds cardboard trays at school to help develop our fine motor skills.

We then load the trays into big bags to take on The Ponds School bus.

We then deliver the trays to Werrington McDonalds, where we are rewarded with a hard earned ice-cream.



Hello :)

My name is Sargon Odisho and I am a School Psychologist. I work at The Ponds School on Wednesdays and Fridays.

School Psychologists work with children and their families to help make school a happy place where they can learn. School Psychologists also:

- Conduct regular reviews for every student attending the ponds school to help determine the most suitable educational placement
- Collect information through psychological assessments and observation of the student, teacher and parents
- Write School Counsellor reports providing a summary of the assessment results and recommendations for the continued support of the student
- Link families to appropriate services that can support their child's ongoing needs
- Provide advice to the school to help support the learning and wellbeing of students.



If you would like to learn more or if you have any questions, please contact me at the school and I will be happy to help.

Thank you.



Artwork by Janin Class 9



The Sydney
children's
Hospitals Network

care, advocacy, research, education

OUR EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT HAS MOVED

The Children's Hospital at Westmead's Emergency Department has moved to the Westmead Health Precinct's newest building.

When travelling down Hawkesbury Road, turn left when you see the Children's Emergency sign. It is also just a 250m walk up Hawkesbury Road from our main entry. You can also access the Emergency Department from inside the Hospital.

Parking is available underneath the building as well as a 15 minute drop-off and pick-up zone, located outside the front doors.



Walking route from our current Hospital to the new building.

