

Russell Lea
PUBLIC SCHOOL



Newsletter

Term 1, Week 4 Friday 21 February 2020

Important Dates

Please refer to our website calendar for a full list of 2020 school dates

February 21

PSSA Starts

March 7

Welcome BBQ 3-5pm

March 9

Photo Day

Anaphylaxis Talk

March 10

P&C Meeting 7.30

March 11

Yoga Starts

March 23 – April 3

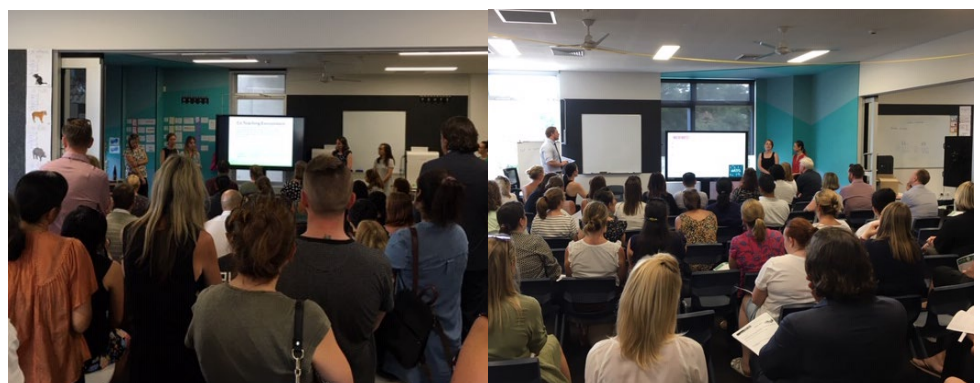
Parent/Teacher Interviews

Meet The Teacher

This week we enjoyed sharing Meet The Teacher with parents. Each stage was very well attended and teachers were able to explain teaching and learning arrangements and curriculum content for 2020. Events such as these provide a bridge between school and home, allowing shared understanding about how children learn and grow. Learning programs change from year to year and even experienced parents were able to gain new understanding and knowledge. We also use this forum to understand our community and their expectations and given this were pleased to take some very thoughtful questions and comments.

For those unable to attend and those wanting further information please contact the school to make an appointment with your child's teacher. In Weeks 9 and 10 time is set aside for one to one Parent Teacher interviews. This is the ideal time to learn about your child's progress and learning goals.

Dan Sprange
Principal



Apple Expert Visit

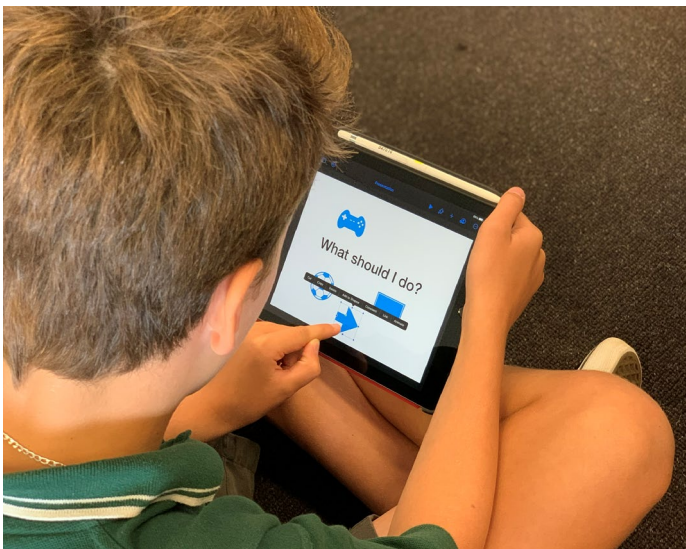
In Week 3 Stage 3 students worked with a group of Apple Experts from the city Apple store to create their own Apps. Students were given the opportunity to think of an application they could use in their everyday life. These ideas were then mapped out as a series of connected screens and then each screen was created in key note. Each screen was then connected via a coding process following the logic created in each student's mind. This task demanded an important combination of creativity, critical thinking and problem solving skills. Like all good future focused learning, student thinking was tested without constraining creativity. Open ended tasks like this always provide an insight into the minds of students. They come up with ideas most adults could not imagine and because they own the idea they are highly motivated to work them through to completion.

As teachers are learners too we also worked with the Apple Experts and attempted our own Apps during our afternoon professional learning session. This process allowed teachers from across the school to understand how to teach the process to students and what it feels like bring an abstract idea to life in an App.

The Apple team advised the incursion to our school was the first of its kind in the world. It is a pilot project and they are keen to work with us again. This year students will take an excursion to the city Apple store to continue with more future focused learning projects.

Chess Club

Chess Club runs each Wednesday lunch time and is available to Year 1-6 students. After learning the basic game students are given the chance to improve with higher level moves and competition against peers. Students enjoy this alternative way of spending lunch and getting their brains sweaty.



Stage/Composite Classes

In 2020 our classes are again organised into stage groups. This means students are matched with students from different year groups in all classes except for Kindergarten. Syllabus documents sequence learning in stages and each stage includes the year groups described in the class organisation table in the previous newsletter

Concern is sometimes expressed regarding composite class arrangements due to the perception that students will be given instruction which is not matched to their age or school year. There is also a belief that students have been graded academically and placed in classes based on academic achievement. The reality is students at RLPS are placed in classes to ensure each class has a healthy balance of achievement levels and student needs and personalities. Effective teaching is about addressing the needs of students through ongoing (formative) assessment. Teachers use the year group as the starting point and move quickly into teaching students in groups at the level they are currently achieving for each aspect of the curriculum. The level they are taught at may be below or beyond their school year. This is a more effective approach than restricting students to the curriculum attached to their school year. For example it is very common for a Year 4 student to be achieving (or capable of achieving) at a Year 5 level. Similarly a Year 4 student may struggle doing Year 4 learning and be more suited to mastering Year 3 curriculum in some areas before moving in to Year 4 content. Restricting learning to only Year 4 content would not result in learning growth in both cases because the learning is either too easy or too hard.

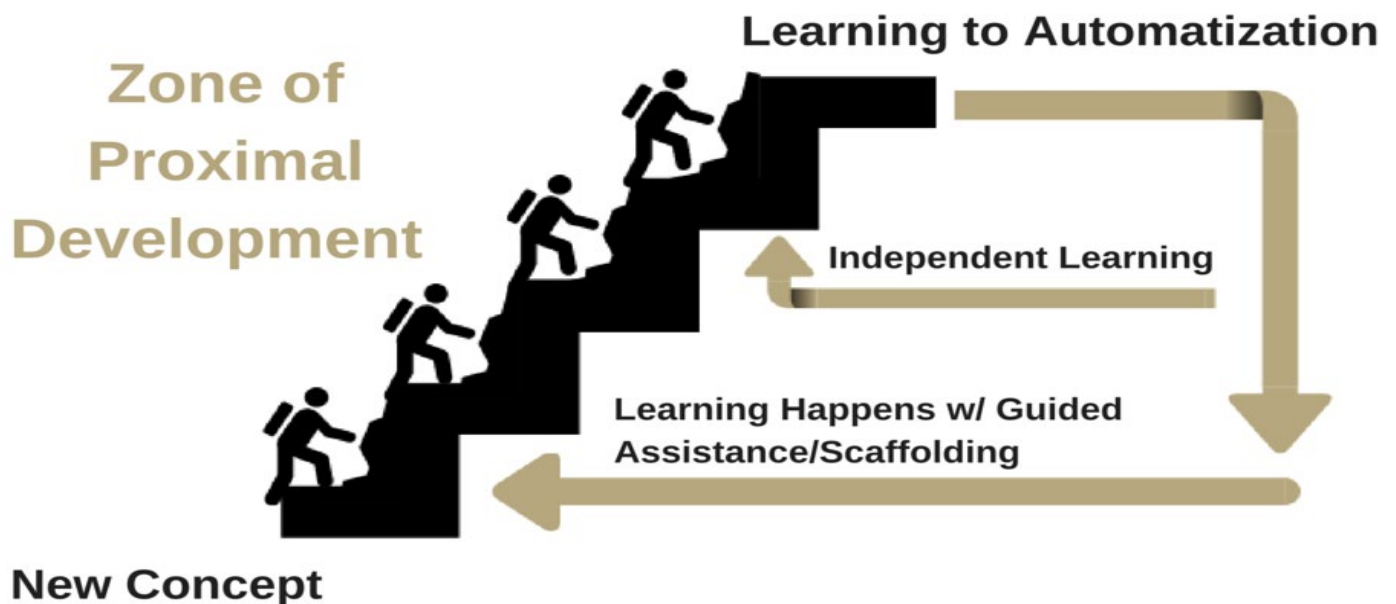
Put simply, good teaching places students in the Zone of Proximal Development (see diagram next page) throughout the day using formative assessment and differentiated teaching. When this aspect of teaching is understood it is easy to see that the composite classes pose no threat to student outcomes as teachers are encouraged to teach the students in front of them rather than blindly teaching them as a year group. It takes great skill and commitment over time to successfully implement formative assessment and ensure each student is learning as much as they can for each minute of each day. The complexity required to teach two year groups is virtually identical to the complexity of teaching one year group. Given this good educators do not pay much attention to composite class structures and are instead obsessed with knowing their students, their achievement levels and what each of them needs to learn next.

There is also a perception that composite classes might place students in groups with other students who are more or less socially developed. The advice relating to academic achievement also applies here as all students mature at different rates and have different levels of social competency. On average older children are likely to be more socially capable but this is not a given for each individual. Again it comes down to the teacher and how they value, teach and model social-emotional skills. A well led classroom allows students who are not as socially developed to grow through the observation of the behaviours that are modelled to them by older students. This is generally a one way street as older students are much less likely to regress and be influenced by the social and emotional skills of younger peers.

In practical terms composite classes are also used to ensure classes are balanced in number and student characteristics. For example if we have 32 Year 2 students. We could put 25 of them into a straight Year 2 class which would leave 7 students to go into a 1-2 class or a 2-3 class. This would most likely mean some students might feel singled out for being one of only 3 boys or girls of their year in that class. This was the case last year but was managed appropriately as our two 2-3 classes worked in a team teaching model providing more numbers for students in this situation. Similarly if we have 46 Year 3 students. We could have two classes of 23 however this is lower than the mandated quota meaning we would need to have larger classes elsewhere in the school such as a straight Year 4 class of 30. This would not be a fair arrangement and it is also not ideal for future enrolments. If a new Year 4 student enrolled we would only have the option of placing them in the Year 4 class taking it to 31. Under current arrangements we would have the choice of placing in them one of the three 3-4 classes taking into account the balance of numbers and student characteristics of those classes.

Most schools in Sydney have stage/composite classes to varying degrees and there is no research to suggest this disadvantages students. We have them across the school for the reasons described above. If you continue to be concerned about composite classes please organise a time to speak with Mr Sprange.

Learning is Too Hard: Anxiety



Learning is Too Easy: Boredom

RLPS has partnered with Well Street to provide lunch time Yoga and relaxation. Well Street are experienced practitioners and work in other schools. If you are interested in your child attending head to the Well Street website and reserve a spot (see below).

NEW!

Lunchtime Yoga & Relaxation Classes



TERM 1: 2020
WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIMES
11 MARCH - 1 APRIL
4 WEEKS | \$40

Our classes get kids moving, building their fitness, flexibility and co-ordination through age appropriate yoga. We also introduce them to important breathing exercises to encourage calmness and self regulation, building their ability to deal with stress and anxiety. These techniques are also extremely beneficial for children who battle with sleep!



Bookings and more info @
wellstreet.com.au

Stage three are writing persuasive texts. Harper from 5/6N has written this very well researched and persuasive piece on social media. We have included it in the newsletter for information and as an example of exemplary student writing.

Social Media



Undercover Spies?

Some social media sites have had histories of doing things wrong - Take Tiktok for example - They were fined **5.7 million** dollars because they illegally tracked the location, the Email addresses, the real names and the pictures of children under thirteen years of age. Now, the rules have changed, with users required to be thirteen or over, and anyone thirteen to eighteen must have a trusted adults' permission. However, this rule is not strict at all, as there are many children under the age of thirteen (a.k.a tweens) using the app.

Terms & Conditions

With a lot of social media platforms, before you 'sign up', 'log in' or 'upgrade', it will come up with a 'terms and conditions' page. A very large amount of people don't actually read the terms and conditions. A survey in the U.S showed (for all websites, not just social media) that 91% of Americans agree to the conditions of the website they're using without actually reading. Social media platforms are so dependent on this, because without reading it thoroughly, you wouldn't have a clue of where your videos, pictures and messages go. They don't want you to know their dark side: how they can sell your data, track your location and more. A lot of people would assume that this is illegal (even I did) but it is not. So when you press agree... you are letting them take control of your data, pictures and emails.

Friend Requests, Group Chats & Parties

A heap of social media sites - almost **all** of them - let you 'friend' people, make group chats and/or parties online. PS4 - now, to be fair, PS4 is not a social media site (or Xbox, Wii or Nintendo for that matter) - lets you make friends online. By making friends, you get access to friends' friends, get to talk or make an online party with them and a whole lot more. But what if you're friends with somebody you do not know? What if the person you just 'friended' sounds like a kid - but is really just a 48 year old man? I'd rather have someone over and play with them, rather than playing online with someone I don't know well. Also, with group chats or parties, the people you are 'partying' with can or will swear, share inappropriate topics or messages and share private information about you. They can also 'cyber bully' you - this is just like bullying or teasing in real life. And anyone who has been bullied will know what it is like.

Be Warned...

Take all this information as a warning. It is up to you (or your parents) to decide if you are allowed to use social media or what you're going to do in social media. If you are going to use it, be very, very careful.

Harper Taplin - Published on Monday, 17 February.



THE DOCKERS WANT YOU!

- Games played locally on Sundays
- Training and home games – Five Dock Park
- U/6 – Free Registration
- Juniors - \$100 Registration Fee
- Jersey, shorts and socks all yours!
- Play Safe Rules
- Accepting Active Kids Vouchers

Follow us on social media or contact Club Secretary, Kim Towells, for more information.

0434 379 297

secretary@fivedockdockers.com

Five Dock RSL "Dockers" Rugby League Club

ACTIVE KIDS

@FIVEDOCK_DOCKERS1963

NSW RUGBY LEAGUE

Buddy Program

Our Stage 3 students have regular time with our new Kindergarten cohort. Following on from the orientation and transition programs completed in 2019 they assist with learning activities and help our new students feel safe and welcome. This week 5/6N helped KR and KA on a 2D shape treasure hunt. Using iPads they took photos of various shapes and questioned which ones were actually regular shapes such as triangles.



Zone Swimming

Congratulations to all our Zone qualifiers. We know you will represent RLPS with great pride and determination.

Freestyle 8 Years		Erica Bhatti		April Horton			
Freestyle 9 Years		Audrey Allan		Georgina Maniscalco			
Freestyle 10 Years		Lily Diaz		Kayla Petrides		Elizabeth Allan	
Freestyle 11 Years		Audrey Mak		Jessica Bell			
Freestyle 12/13 Years		Felicity Fargie		Maleeha Dada			
Junior Relay	Lily Diaz		Charlotte Allan		Elizabeth Allan		Kayla Petrides
Senior Relay	Jessica Bell		Felicity Fargie		Willow Meares		Audrey Mak
100m Freestyle All Age				Audrey Mak			
Breaststroke Juniors		Kayla Petrides			Charlotte Allan		
Breaststroke 11 Years		Audrey Mak			Willow Meares		
Breaststroke Seniors		Felicity Fargie					
Butterfly Juniors		Elizabeth Allan			Charlotte Allan		
Butterfly 11 Years		Audrey Mak			Jessica Bell		
Butterfly Seniors		Felicity Fargie					
Backstroke Juniors	Kayla Petrides			Elizabeth Allan		Charlotte Allan	
Backstroke 11 Years	Audrey Mak			Jessica Bell			
Backstroke Seniors	Maleeha Dada						
Medley 11 years				Audrey Mak			

Zone Swimming (continued)

Freestyle 8 Years		Harry Culpan-Hammon		Jude Wilson
Freestyle 9 Years		Zion Sharman		Jacob Longo
Freestyle 10 Years		Cohen van Loo		Noah Hale
Freestyle 11 Years		William Bolton		Jaxon Lewis
Freestyle 12/13 Years		Ryan Le		Toby Hansen
Junior Relay	Noah Hale	Zion Sharman	Zander	Cohen van Loo
Senior Relay	Toby Hanson	William Bolton	Jaxon Lewis	Ryan Le
100m Freestyle All Age		Ryan Le		
Breaststroke Juniors		Noah Hale		
Breaststroke 11 Years		Jaxon Lewis		
Breaststroke Seniors		Ryan Le		
Butterfly Juniors		Cohen van Loo		
Butterfly 11 Years		William Bolton		
Butterfly Seniors		Ryan Le		
Backstroke Juniors		Cohen van Loo		
Backstroke 11 Years		William Bolton		
Backstroke Seniors		Ryan Le		
Medley Seniors		Ryan Le		

The Power of Play in Nature

The evidence is that play in nature can enhance creativity, bolster mood, lower stress, foster social skills, improve mental acuity, well-being and productivity. Why don't our schools do more?

Never has there been a more vital time to discuss and debate how we can improve education for our young people. A must-attend seminar for parents and educators.



— **Keynote speaker: Prof. Pasi Sahlberg**
Professor of Educational Policy, Deputy Director, Gonski Institute for Education, UNSW and author of *Let the Children Play: How More Play Will Save Our Schools and Help Children Thrive*



— **Special guest: Prof. Tonia Gray PhD**
Senior Researcher, Centre for Educational Research, Western Sydney University. International Researcher in Nature Based Education, Children in Nature, Wellbeing and Resilience



— **Master of ceremonies: Lucy Clark**
The Guardian's Associate Editor and author of *Beautiful Failures*

**Thursday
5 March 2020
4pm–6:30pm**

Register here:
www.glenaeon.nsw.edu.au/play

Event enquiries call:
+61 2 9417 3193

Where:
The Concourse Theatre
409 Victoria Ave,
Chatswood

This is a free public event
proudly sponsored by



Glenaeon
Rudolf Steiner School

Meaningful Lives

glenaeon.nsw.edu.au

facebook.com/GlenaeonRudolfSteinerSchool
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 instagram.com/glenaeonrudolfsteinerschool
 linkedin.com/school/glenaeon-rudolf-steiner-school

CRICOS Provider Number: 02282B

2020 ANZTHS Todd Woodbridge Cup

The exciting introduction of the ANZTHS Todd Woodbridge Cup, specifically for students in grades 3 & 4, is not just about selecting the best students, but encouraging participation, providing a positive experience playing tennis, growing friendships and giving students the opportunity to represent their school in a team environment. For the majority of students, this may be their first experience representing their school.

The ANZTHS Todd Woodbridge Cup is a red ball competition, using low compression balls on a modified tennis court. Students play both doubles and mixed doubles matches.



- Each team is made up of 8-10 students: 4 boys and 4 girls with an optional 2 substitutes
- Schools can enter multiple teams (1 teacher per 10-30 students)
- Students do not need previous experience playing tennis - the event encourages participation, teamwork and a positive experience in physical activity

Watch as Todd introduces the Todd Woodbridge Cup through the Tennis NSW Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/TennisNSW/videos/1907963079268360/>

Cost is \$3 per student for court hire. [Register your team on the TA website.](#) Contact me for more information:

Mark Barreca
Ph: 0409 248 212
mbarreca@tennis.com.au
School Development Coordinator
Tennis NSW



MOVIES UNDER THE STARS

6 March 2020

Disney
Aladdin
(PG)



Campbell Park Chiswick

7pm to 10pm

Free Event



Light refreshments to purchase
BYO re-usable coffee cups

 City of
Canada Bay
Proudly supported by City of Canada Bay Council

Chiswick Community Activities Group Inc



KCENTRAL DAY!

SUN 15/3 - ABBOTSFORD PRESBYTERIAN
SUN 22/3 - ASHFIELD PRESBYTERIAN

TWO JAM-PACKED AFTERNOONS OF DETECTIVE-
THEMED GAMES, CRAFT, ACTIVITIES, AND BIBLE
TEACHING FOR KIDS IN SCHOOL YEARS K-6!

REGISTER AT KCENTRALINFO.COM