



Russell Lea  
PUBLIC SCHOOL



Newsletter

Term 1, Week 8 Friday 20 March 2020

## Important Dates

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

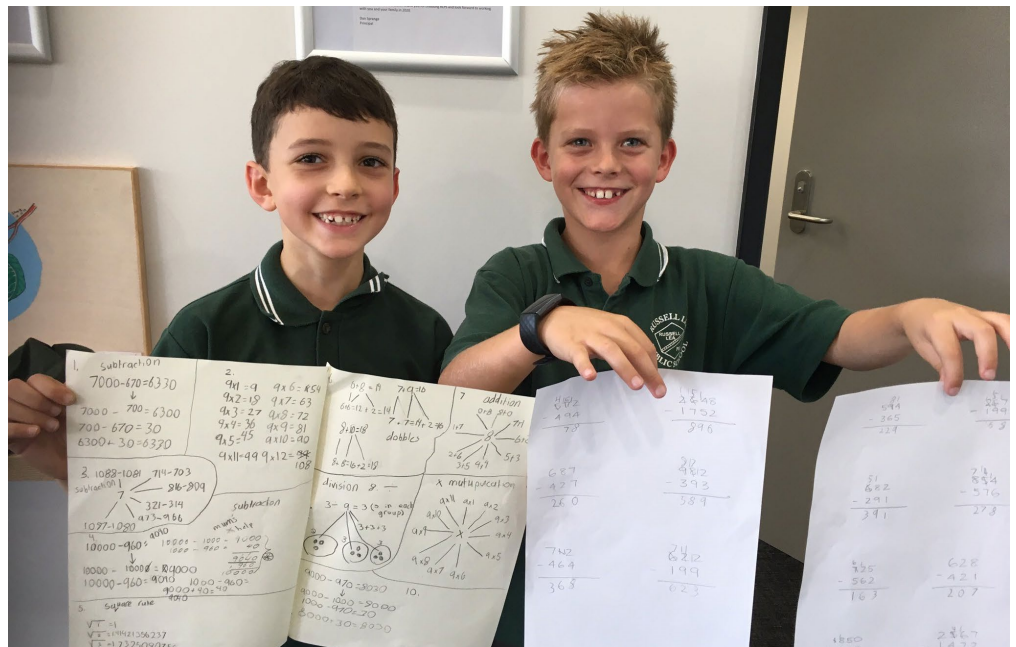
March 23 – April 3

Parent/Teacher Interviews

April 10

Last Day of Term 1

## A Focus On Growth



At RLPS we spend a lot of time building learning skills in our students. Successful learners understand what they need to be able to do to progress to the next level in their learning. They focus on the skills and knowledge required to achieve each level and are very good at recognizing when they have met each benchmark. Using this approach students get a clear understanding of the progress they are making and in turn they develop increased desire to continue pushing themselves to higher levels. This focus on ongoing growth, rather than simply achieving stage standards, means students end up working beyond stage standards. The two students pictured above have demonstrated exemplary learning skills and desire to move forward in their learning. In numeracy they have created their own learning questions aimed at standards beyond their stage level. They provide the booklets and questions to each other for homework and enjoy the challenge of seeing how far they can take their learning.

Dan Sprange  
Principal

## Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

Advice regarding the management of COVID-19 in schools and the community remains unaltered from the advice provided on Monday. Although we have developed home learning plans the school remains open and students are expected to attend school. Students with medically diagnosed suppressed immunity are excused from attending and are eligible for home learning resources. We are aware some families have chosen to voluntarily keep their children at home and while this choice is respected it is recorded as an unjustified absence. A general guide to home learning is provided below. As previously noted all students returning from any international travel are excluded from school for 14 days from the date they arrived in Australia. Any student presenting with cold or flu like symptoms should remain at home until they are well again irrespective of whether they have travelled overseas. Students presenting with these symptoms will be sent home until their symptoms resolve. In the event a child is diagnosed with COVID-19 the school should be made aware as soon as possible.

Teachers are continuing with student learning and ensuring the school day remains as normal as possible. It is important for children to have their school day free from worries about the larger issues beyond the school gates. I acknowledge our teachers for the leadership, care and stability they have provided this week. They are continuing to ensure students wash their hands regularly and maintain social distance wherever possible. We have good supplies of soap however hand sanitizer is becoming more difficult to obtain so donations or personal supplies are encouraged. Team teaching and unnecessary group activities have ceased and as previously noted excursions, school events such as Whole School Assemblies, Harmony Day and the Easter Hat Parade, SRE (Scripture) Ethics and PSSA competition has also been suspended until further notice. Parent teacher interviews will continue as planned and we look forward to seeing you at school for this.

As previously noted it is perfectly normal for children to have questions about events that are covered in the media, such as the information currently being distributed about COVID-19. Children look to the significant adults in their lives for guidance on how to manage their reactions and you can help your child by remaining calm and reassuring them. There is a common misunderstanding that talking with your child about a topic such as COVID-19 may increase their anxiety. This is not the case. It is important to listen to your child and answer their questions as honestly as possible and correct any misunderstandings. This will help them feel informed and understand what is happening. Keeping up to date with the facts from reliable sources will help keep conversations calm, considered, and constructive. Provide information in words that are appropriate to the age of your child. Children can be distressed by hearing repeated stories so monitor how much your child is being exposed to television and social media and encourage them to talk to you about what they are seeing and hearing.

While it is clear the decision to keep schools open is contentious, these decisions are informed by advice from the Chief Medical Officer through The Department of Education. RLPS will remain open unless a specific directive to close is given by these authorities. Please support the school by carefully following the advice provided, especially expectations about the quarantining of children with coughs, fever or sore throat. If you have concerns or queries you are most welcome to contact me.

Regards

Dan Sprange  
Principal  
Russell Lea Public School

### Girls In STEM

RLPS has an evolving partnership with Concord High School. This relationship gives our senior students access to events and programs which expand horizons and opportunity. Last week our Year 6 girls were invited to listen to award winning speaker, entrepreneur and engineer Felicity Furey as part of International Women's Day. She spoke of the real world examples of how everyone in our community can make smart personal and economic choices by understanding the importance of diversity in the future focused area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). Felicity also discussed different pathways to a career in STEM. Students returned to school full of energy for STEM and the possibilities ahead.



### SRE and Ethics Volunteers

As you may be aware we had to suspend SRE and Ethics classes this week due to COVID-19. This is an unfortunate situation as it is clear to see that students gain much from these opportunities. Last week we were lucky enough to observe some Ethics classes in action. We witnessed students being challenged with problematic ideas and responding with great passion and enthusiasm. Students are very lucky to have such capable volunteers helping them entertain such deep thinking and debate. Thank you.



## Zone Swimming Carnival

We always have faith in the students we send to represent our school at various events. They can be relied upon to demonstrate all the elements that make RLPS a great place to learn. Our swimmers seem to be particularly good at this. They work hard to be their best, are kind and friendly competitors and achieve strong results with humility. No doubt these attitudes and dispositions helped RLPS to do very well in the Zone Carnival. Our team combined to produce results which placed us 2<sup>nd</sup> in the proportional score. This means for the size of our school we have one of the best swimming teams in the zone. It is definitely a team effort and we congratulate all the students mentioned in the previous newsletter for their contribution. We particularly acknowledge Audrey and Ryan who qualified for the Regional Championships in multiple events. Our Junior Girls Relay including Kayla, Charlotte, Elizabeth and Lily placed a strong 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Thank you to our incredibly supportive team of parents and teachers for enjoying the day with our students and helping them shine.



## Beautiful Empathy From Kindergarten Students

Over the last week we have been maintaining our focus on learning and ensuring students are not exposed to ideas about COVID-19 which provoke anxiety. Our teachers have sought opportunities for students to have gratitude for the simple things and empathy for others. In the example provided below the students of KR sent a letter of appreciation to our local Coles Supermarket staff. Well done students. I am sure your messages will be well received.



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## Continuation of learning suggestions for students not attending on a voluntary basis

We are aware some families have chosen to voluntarily keep their children at home. While this choice is respected it is not recommended. If you have chosen to keep your child at home the general guide to home learning provided below should be followed. In the event of school closure more detailed and class specific programs will be provided.

### Please explore this website:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home/key-information>

This website has information for parents who are faced with keeping their child at home and is regularly updated. It includes teaching and learning activities, some of which are specifically related to K-6. It also provides advice to parents about setting up the learning environment, using technology, strategies to consider when remote learning and how to focus on your child's wellbeing while they are learning from home. There is some excellent information contained in this website and we encourage all parents to explore it if you are required to keep your child at home.

### How to provide support during remote learning:

- establish routines and expectations
- define a space for your child to work in
- monitor communication from school
- begin and end each day with a check-in
- take an active role in helping your child process their learning – talk them through their tasks before and after
- encourage physical activity
- encourage strategies to manage stress – try the smiling mind app – we use this at school
- monitor how much time is spent online
- keep your children social – as much as possible – maybe face time Grandma and Grandpa!
- set expectations early – establish routines, use a timetable to set hours for learning. Setting expectations in the first day is important – you may notice if you don't your child will struggle without routine. It will be more difficult to set one later in your isolation
- keep normal bedtime routines

### Reading:

For ALL students K-6 it is vital and our strong recommendation that your child continues to read every single day. For our younger students this might mean having quality texts read to them. Please utilise your local library if it is open. For older students who are able to read independently, listen to them read a passage and then ask them about the text – try to ask them questions where the answer is in the book (here questions), where the answer is implied in the book (hidden questions) and where the answer isn't in the book, and some independent thought is required (head questions). It's really important that you listen to older children read and ask questions – so often they are able to decode, but comprehension is another thing!

Here is a link to the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge book list for books that your child can read during this time:  
<http://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/booklist/home.html>

### Writing Activities:

- keep a diary or journal
- send postcards to friends or family
- email Grandma, Grandpa, Aunties and Uncles

### Mathematics Activities:

- bake a cake and measure ingredients
- build a large 3D structure using newspaper and sticky tape
- use dice and add/subtract
- play card games

# WRITERS WANTED...

## \$1000 CASH and your choice of;

- Nintendo Switch
- Playstation 4
- \$500 Rebel Sport Gift Card
- Xbox One X



Gift Card



Playstation 4



Xbox One X



Nintendo Switch

### THE PRIZES

#### For Poetry:

1st \$1000 CASH (\$500 to YOU & \$500 to YOUR SCHOOL!) And YOUR CHOICE of: A Nintendo Switch OR a Playstation 4 OR a \$500 Gift Card (Rebel Sport) OR an Xbox One X.

2nd \$250 CASH + Write4fun Gift Pack

3rd \$150 CASH + Write4fun Gift Pack

15 x Finalists Write4fun Gift Pack

#### For Short Story:

1st \$1000 CASH (\$500 to YOU & \$500 to YOUR SCHOOL!) And YOUR CHOICE of: A Nintendo Switch OR a Playstation 4 OR a \$500 Gift Card (Rebel Sport) OR an Xbox One X.

2nd \$250 CASH + Write4fun Gift Pack

3rd \$150 CASH + Write4fun Gift Pack

15 x Finalists Write4fun Gift Pack



"Promoting Writing Competitions since the year 2000"

## THE COMPETITION

Entry is NOW OPEN in the 2020 Schools Writing Competition! Students all over Australia are invited to enter their Poems or Short Stories and battle it out for the great cash prizes on offer.

**There is no theme!!** Entrants are encouraged to let their imaginations run wild and to write on ANY TOPIC and in ANY STYLE. Students from ALL GRADES are welcome to enter - Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Enter online at [www.write4fun.net](http://www.write4fun.net) OR email to [enter@write4fun.net](mailto:enter@write4fun.net) OR fax to (07) 5574 3644 OR post with entry form details to Write4fun P.O. Box 2734, Nerang DC, QLD 4211

**Entry is FREE!** Competition closes 30th April 2020 at 5pm.

## THE RULES

- Only one entry per student - either a Poem OR Short Story.
- Entries to be typed or neatly handwritten.
- Poems must not exceed 16 lines and Short Stories must not exceed 500 words.
- Entries must be in by 30th April 2020.
- Entries must be the original work of the author.
- Co-written entries will be disqualified.
- Entry form details must accompany each entry.

## THE BOOK

Poems and short stories entered into the competition will be considered for inclusion into our 2020 Write4fun anthology! Those selected will have the opportunity to purchase the edition at a discounted rate. 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizewinners will receive a complimentary copy of the book. "We are very excited to be sponsoring this competition," stated Julia Woods, Managing Editor for Write4Fun. "Our hope is that competitions such as these inspire students, in a fun way, to be creative with words!"



20 YEARS  
ANNIVERSARY

Ms Moriarty will collect entries after the holidays or enter online.

write4fun.net

Enter online [www.write4fun.net](http://www.write4fun.net)  
Email to [enter@write4fun.net](mailto:enter@write4fun.net)  
Mail: Write4fun, PO Box 2734,  
Nerang DC, QLD 4211  
Fax: (07) 55743644 Phone: (07) 55743622



# LEGO<sup>®</sup> JAM

## Looking for school holiday plans?

Bring the whole family together for three days of free LEGO filled fun at Cabarita Conservatory.

**Where:** Cabarita Conservatory  
138 Cabarita Rd, Cabarita

**When:** 16–18 April 2020  
10am–3pm

**Tickets:** free entry.  
Register your interest at  
[legojam2020.eventbrite.com.au](https://legojam2020.eventbrite.com.au)

## Lego competition

Enter the Build Your Own City competition to be in the running to win great prizes for you and your school.

For more information visit:  
[bit.ly/legojamcomp](https://bit.ly/legojamcomp)

