

*Russell Lea*  
PUBLIC SCHOOL



## Newsletter

Term 4 Week 4 Friday 29 October 2021

### Important Dates

Please refer to our website calendar for a full list of 2021 school dates

November 12

Student Fun Day

November 19

Just Like You Workshop  
K-2

December 9

Presentation Day

December 16

Last Day Of Term

### World Teachers Day



As today is World Teachers Day we take this opportunity to acknowledge the skill, generosity and care our teachers demonstrate every day. As home learning has shown us, teaching is a highly skilled and challenging job. It takes a special kind of person to do it well, to engage and understand up to 30 students every minute, of every school day. Every child is different and needs to be treated as an individual. Our teachers stretch themselves each day to make sure students feel valued, successful, and cared for. As adults we can all remember those special teachers who made a difference, challenged us, and made us feel safe and capable. I remember my Kindergarten teacher Mrs Carotta. She taught me to persevere and how to read. I knew she cared because she would always know if I was not trying my best. I tried hard because I didn't want to let her down. Mrs Thorpe in Year 3 helped me understand my strengths of creativity and kindness. Mr Shrubb and Mr Buckley in high school constantly challenged my thinking and expanded my horizons. Mr Payne helped me understand how to push myself physically and translate that discipline to all aspects of my life. They and others had a profound impact on me. If you wish to share your own experiences of great teachers (or those of your own children at RLPS) please click on the link on the following page to share your story.

Dan Sprange  
**Principal**

## Great teachers Pass and Present

Is there a teacher who has had positive and lasting impact on you or your child? As part of World Teachers Day we are collecting stories about amazing teachers to share with school staff. If you want to share please click on the link below and tell us your story.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6RZX9K7SApO5uQLftYUxA3adKU8FFOOV0iQq53Wmzp7j5g/viewform?usp=pp\\_url](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6RZX9K7SApO5uQLftYUxA3adKU8FFOOV0iQq53Wmzp7j5g/viewform?usp=pp_url)



## Thank You P&C

As mentioned in the last Newsletter our P&C has been working hard to deliver learning resources including sound equipment. This week we received additional staging which will allow us to run Presentation Day in Wangal and include performances such as dance when these activities are permissible. We are very grateful that our parents generously support our school and provide students and teachers with the best opportunity for success.

## Selective High School Year 7 2023 (Reminder)

Selective high schools cater for academically gifted students with high potential who may otherwise be without sufficient classmates at their own academic standard. Selective high schools help these students to learn by grouping them with students of similar ability, and by using specialised teaching methods.

If you would like to have your child considered for Year 7 selective high school entry in 2023, you need to apply on the internet using a valid email address (not the student's email address).

The Selective High School Placement Test will be held on Thursday 10 March 2022.

Detailed instructions on how to apply and the link to the online form will be available in early-October 2021 at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7>.

Applications open on 19 October 2021 and close on 17 November 2021. You must apply before the closing date.

You must submit only ONE application for each student.



## New Check In Process (Reminder)

A single School Visitor Check-in system for every school across the state is coming from 18 October!

The Department of Education has partnered with Service NSW to provide a streamlined, digital school sign-in system for visitors and contractors at every NSW government school.

Benefits of the new system include:


- Accelerating your check-ins to as fast as 20 seconds!
- Linked to NSW Health's COVID-19 contact tracing ensuring every school is compliant with the NSW COVID-19 mandate.[External link](#)
- Giving every school greater access to streamlined NSW Government services.

Watch our short parent video[External link](#) to see how it works for parents or our contractor video[External link](#).

Who can use School Visitor check-in

- Visitors such as parents and carers, contractors, service providers and volunteers.
- Students or visitors under the age of 18 are not required to use School Visitor Check-in.

School Visitor Check-in will be ready from 18 October at all NSW Government schools. For more information visit [School Visitor Check-in](#) on the department website.

 NSW Department of Education

# School Visitor Check-in



All visitors and contractors are required to check-in at the front office at all times.

## “Coming Home to Country” by Bronwyn Bancroft

This term Kindergarten and Stage 1 have been looking at the Character Strengths of “Hope”, “Appreciation of Beauty and Excellence” and “Spirituality.” As part of this focus, we have enjoyed looking at some wonderfully talented Indigenous authors and illustrators to demonstrate these peoples (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) profound spiritual connection to our land where country is loved, needed, and cared for, and country loves, needs, and cares for her peoples in return. Bronwyn Bancroft is the author and illustrator of “Coming Home to Country.” She writes using the five senses to describe the beauty of coming home to Country. As we have been learning from home for so long, Stage 1 used our five senses to write poems “Coming Back to School.”

Here is a collection! Please enjoy how happy our students are to be “back.”

Mrs Stewart-Slaats

### “Coming Back to School” by Stage 1

I see the beautiful birds flying above the treetops.  
I hear joyful kids playing.  
I feel the soft silk of my uniform.  
I smell the fresh food coming out of my lunch.  
I taste the beautiful, orange carrots for crunch and sip.  
By Lucy W 1/2P

I see the tall metal walls and classrooms.  
I hear my mum saying “Good-bye.”  
I feel my backpack on my back.  
I smell the breeze.  
I taste my luscious apple in my mouth.  
By Ethan D 1/2P

I see teachers and friends through the gates.  
I hear the leaves rustling on the trees in the school grounds.  
I feel the breeze passing through my veins.  
I smell the flowers planted in the ground.  
I taste the nice lunch  
By Emi 1/2P

I see clouds moving calmly through the blue sky.  
I hear wildlife rustling through leaves.  
I feel my warm jumper against my skin.  
I smell the fresh spring oxygen from leaves.  
I taste my bitter saliva against my lips.  
By Xander F 1/2MY

I see children playing with bouncy balls.  
I hear blue birds chirping in the green bushes of a tree.  
I feel the excitement of being back at school.  
I smell kid’s lunches in their colourful lunch boxes.  
I taste the breeze of the plants in our school’s garden.  
By Oliver G 1/2MY

I see a mango in my crunch waiting to get bitten.  
I hear the warm breeze howling through the trees.  
I feel safe and happy at school with my best friends.  
I smell the fresh food in my crunch box.  
I taste the breeze flowing in my mouth.  
By Alena 1/2MY

I see trees that are standing very still.  
I hear birds chirping happy songs.  
I feel the relaxing breeze twirling around my legs.  
I smell people’s lunches outside.  
I taste the cool air coming into my watering mouth.  
By Hana 1/2D

I see bubbles welcoming people before school starts.  
I hear children screaming with delight and bubbles popping.  
I feel the crispy grass on the ground.  
I smell mint and plants from the garden.  
I taste the fresh air from the wonderful sky.  
By Scarlett 1/2D

I see kids having fun in the playground.  
I hear teachers saying, “Welcome back!”  
I feel the grass swaying in the wind.  
I smell the nice, delicious lunches.  
I taste my lovely cheese and vegemite sandwich.  
By Ethan O 1/2D

I see kids laughing and popping colourful balloons.  
I hear the green leaves on the old tree rustling.  
I feel the breeze gently wafting against my skin.  
I smell the smell of freshly cut grass as I drive to school.  
I taste my salty popcorn as I eat it at recess.  
By Arden 1/2M

I see kids playing in the playground with their friends.

I hear happy, colourful birds singing lovely songs.

I feel the crispy, green grass blowing in the wind.

I smell the fresh flowers blooming in the ground.

I taste the yummy sandwich for my lunch that my parents gave me.

By Kira 1/2M

I see the happy, chattering people so excited to come back.

I hear the streamers rustling past me and the screams from children.

I feel the pencil on my hand and my arms swinging around lots of people.

I smell the blossoming flowers and the perfume from the office.

I taste the wonderful, yummy lunch my mummy packed me for my first day back.

By Mala 1/2M

I see the teachers opening the gates really wide, so we can run straight in.

I hear all the kids chatting and playing happily in the breeze.

I feel my shivers calming down when I see my friends.

I smell the yummy, crunchy crunch bouncing up and down.

I taste the old love from the playground and the teachers.

By Annabelle 1/2N

I see the colourful decorations at the gate.

I hear the wet bubbles popping.

I feel the cold wind blowing near me.

I smell the minty mint in the garden.

I taste the juicy strawberries that I had for lunch.

By Elena 1/2N

I see the beautiful sun shining in the warm sky.

I hear the colourful birds flapping their wings

I feel the fresh air touch my smooth skin.

I smell the delicious lunches of the happy people.

I taste my sandwich crunch in my mouth.

By Christine 1/2N



**Clean** your hands with soap and water, or hand sanitiser.



**Cover** your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.



**Avoid** close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.



**Stay home** if you are sick.

### Student COVID Testing

If your child is unwell with symptoms which could be COVID related it is essential that they do not attend school until a negative COVID test has been obtained. If you are unsure please contact the office and discuss the circumstances. If your child is at school and they develop symptoms which could be COVID related we will call you and ask that they be picked up. In recent months several local schools have been closed due to COVID cases. If we have a COVID case it is likely our school community will be closed for a period causing significant disruption to all families. We thank you for your cooperation and will continue to be vigilant with infection control to ensure education continuity and good health amongst students and staff.

## Road Safety

As all students have returned to school this week it is a good time to think about the safety of students at pick up and drop off times. Behaviours such as double parking, stopping in no standing zones and walking students across the road instead of using the crossing create unnecessary danger to children. These behaviours can seem insignificant in isolation however over time they increase, risk and can cause injury. If one person double parks others are likely to follow. It is busy at pick up time and there is not enough space for all parents to park along the perimeter of the school. Please park on one of the neighbouring streets and walk up to school if you are unable to find a parking spot next to the school. We thank those parents who always park safely and appreciate the positive responses from parents who have been asked to move their cars.

You can help us ensure student safety by:

- Using the crossing to cross Whittall Street (unless you are crossing at the intersection of McCulloch Street or Brent Street).
- Not parking in no stopping or no parking zones.
- Not double parking.
- Never walking between parked cars with children or encouraging them to do the same.

# ILLEGAL PARKING PUTS CHILDREN'S LIVES AT RISK



Children are small, harder to see, behave unpredictably and are extremely vulnerable. They need YOU to take extra care when driving and parking around school zones.



### No Parking

No waiting. You have 2 minutes to drop-off or pick-up. You must stay within 3 metres of your vehicle.



### No Stopping

You must not stop on a length of road with a No Stopping sign. The first 10m from an intersection is a no stopping zone. Yellow kerb lines are also No Stopping zones.



### Bus Zone

Only a public bus can stop in a bus zone.



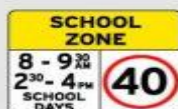
### Mobile Phones

Extra fines apply for using mobile phones in a school zone.



May be subject to Double Demerits

### Speeding Offences



40km/h is the limit. Children are vulnerable, so slow down in school zones.



May be subject to Double Demerits

### Pedestrian Crossings

1. In a queue of traffic, no part of your vehicle can stop on a pedestrian crossing.
2. Do not let your child in or out of a vehicle at a pedestrian crossing as this is a No Stopping zone.



### Driveways & Footpaths

Do not park on or across a driveway or footpath.



### U turns

Illegal on or near a pedestrian crossing and across double white lines.



### Double Parking

Double parking is illegal and is very dangerous in a school zone.



**INNER WEST COUNCIL**

\*Fines current as of March 2018. Fines and demerit points are subject to change. For more information check out the NSW Centre for Road Safety website.



## Students Return

It has been inspiring to see students return to face to face learning over the last couple of weeks. The transition has gone well with most students enjoying school routines and the opportunity to see friends. Thank you to the parents who helped make our entrances look so welcoming with bunting, bubbles and welcome back signage.



## Classroom Ventilation and COVID Safety

To ensure we understand how well ventilated our classrooms are we have been monitoring CO<sub>2</sub> levels in each classroom. Readings have been taken randomly and at various times of the day. CO<sub>2</sub> levels are at safe levels in each classroom as they are almost always close to 400ppm which is in line with ambient levels. Although higher readings have been observed they are not beyond safe levels. We will continue to monitor our learning spaces to ensure ventilation guidelines are being followed and the risk of COVID infection is minimized.

