



*Russell Lea*  
PUBLIC SCHOOL



## Newsletter

Term 1 Week 6 Friday 3 March 2023

## Important Dates

Please refer to our website calendar for a full list of 2023 school dates

<https://russelllea-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/russell-lea-public-school-calendar.html>

**March 6**  
School Photo Day

**March 10**  
Pulse Alive Concert

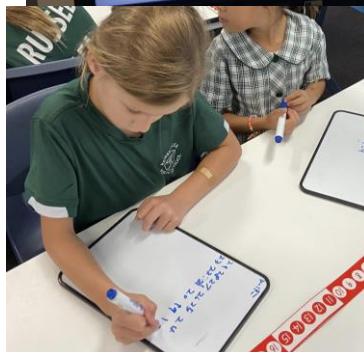
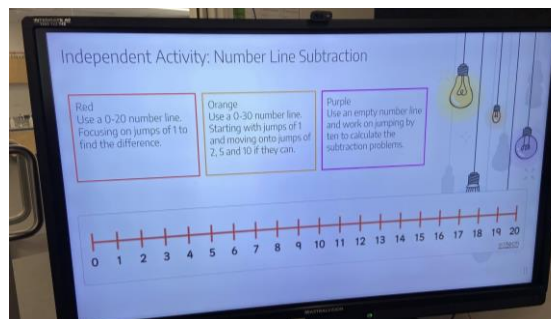
**March 20**  
Stage 3 Camp

**March 14**  
P&C Meeting

**March 15**  
NAPLAN Starts

**March 20**  
Stage 3 Camp

**March 21**  
Harmony Day



### Not too easy, not too hard

Differentiation is one of the most important and difficult to implement elements of teaching. With a differentiated approach each child is given learning experiences which are matched to their current level of achievement. The ultimate goal may be similar across the class group, but different access points are provided for each achievement level. This approach is often supported by using flexible grouping of students. A pre-assessment places students into a particular group based on their achievement level. If they progress well, they will move into the next group. When this is done effectively students are constantly working in their 'Zone Of Proximal Development' (ZPD). The ZPD is a sweet spot where the learning is not too hard or too easy. In this zone students learn confidently and efficiently. It takes a lot of careful planning and ongoing adjustment to make this happen. We acknowledge our teachers for committing to this approach and making a difference every day.

Dan Sprange  
Principal



## Swimming Carnival

Mr Ainsworth has many great qualities but organizing the weather for the swimming carnival is not one of them. Thankfully student enthusiasm was not dampened (ha ha) by the rain and the event went ahead as planned. With newly appointed house captains leading the way and a team of parents helping out, the event was fun and competitive. Over 20 students qualified for the Zone Carnival held the following week. Our students did an incredible job to win the zone event outright, with Erica awarded age champion and our girls winning the female point score. This is an improvement on the proportional win last year and an amazing achievement for a school of our size. Well done students and thank you parents and Mr Ainsworth and Ms Stanizzo for providing this opportunity.







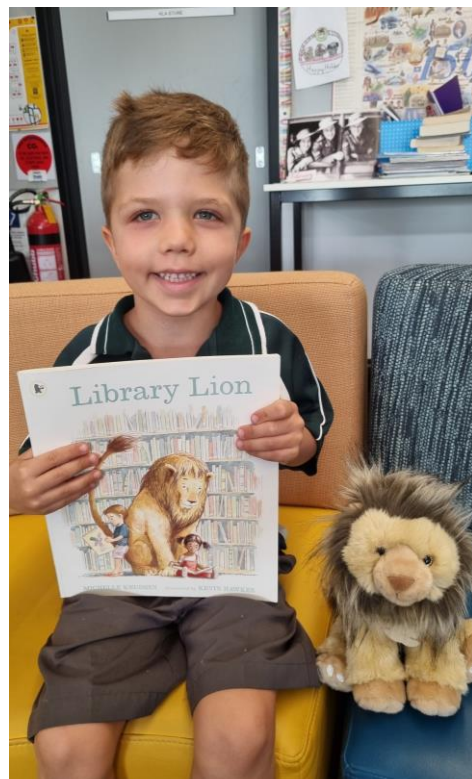
## Zone Champions





## Love of Literacy = Power of Literacy

Libraries give students a love of reading and a love of reading gives students the power of literacy. As these photos show our library team does a great job presenting and engaging students in books. We thank our librarians for making our library a vibrant place to build a love of literacy.





## Maths Olympiad

The maths Olympiad at RLPS is designed to stimulate and challenge students by teaching them problem solving strategies. It is suitable for students who have a passion for maths and want to strengthen their mathematical intuition. It introduces students to important mathematical concepts and helps them develop flexibility in problem solving. It fosters creativity and ingenuity. Students typically enjoy the thrill of working with peers to meet the challenges presented. We thank Ms Lee for bringing the Olympiad to RLPS and for stretching those students with high potential and gifted skills in maths.

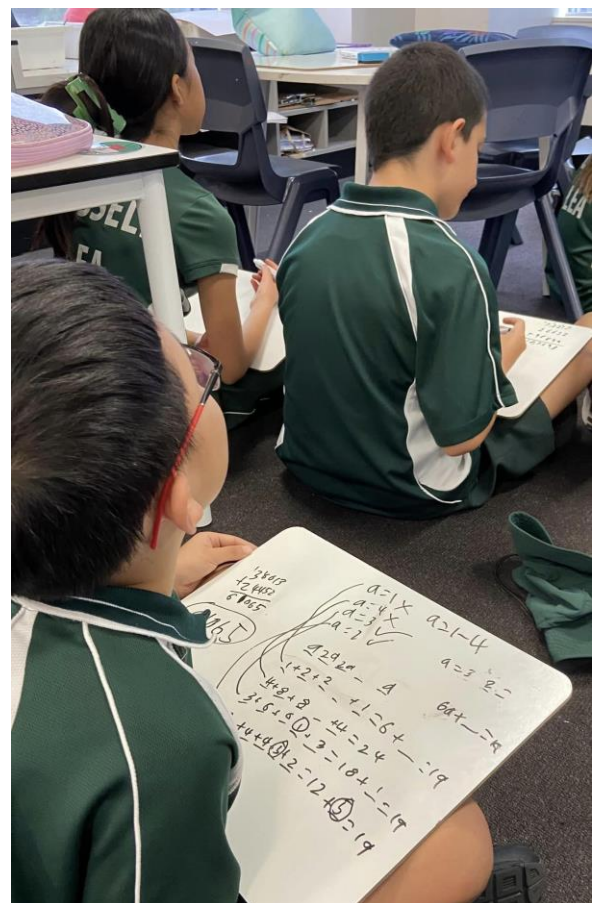
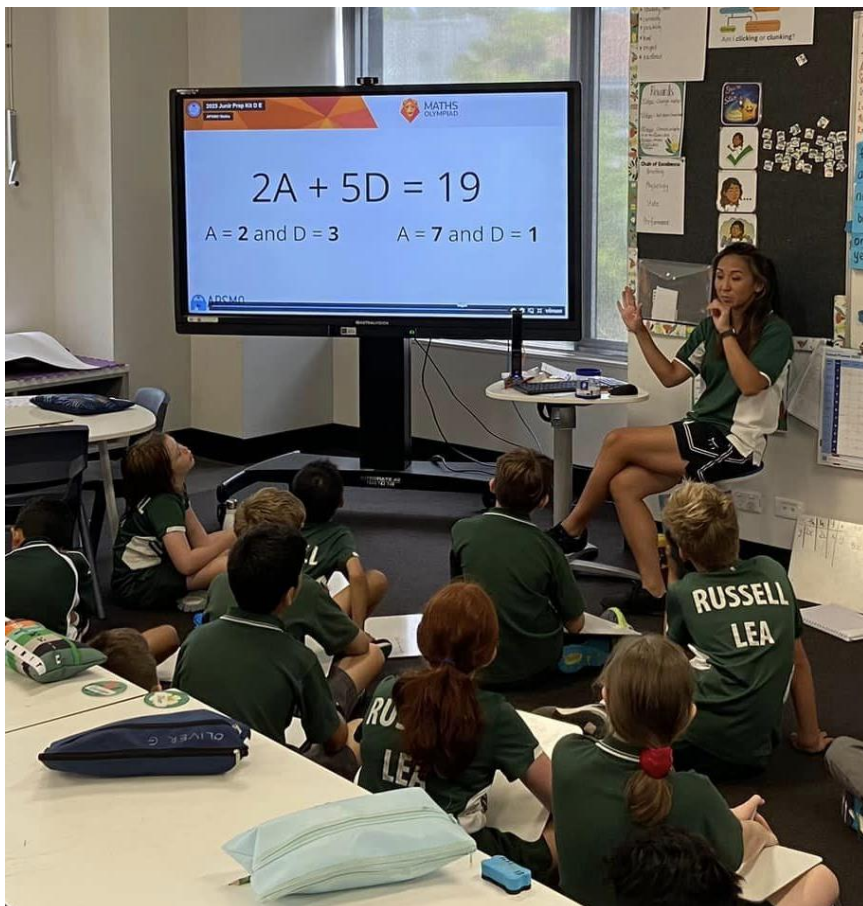






Image: Gwiyaala Aboriginal Art  
and family leading an art  
workshop in November 2022

**SUNDAY, 12  
MARCH 2023**  
5 SENSES GARDEN  
FROM 10:30AM

## FIRST NATIONS MEET-UP

Are you Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander? We're back in 2023 with another First Nations community barbecue on Sunday, 12 March from 10:30am at 5 Senses Garden, Killoola Street, Concord West.

Join Uncle Jimmy Smith and our Senior Landscape Architect Wendy Wright to enjoy the tastes and stories of a bush tucker workshop, and meet other First Nations people living and working in the area.



**RSVP:**

[firstnationsmeetup.eventbrite.com.au](https://firstnationsmeetup.eventbrite.com.au)  
[collaborate@canadabay.nsw.gov.au](mailto:collaborate@canadabay.nsw.gov.au)



City of  
Canada Bay





# Compass

## Compass Is Coming

We are transitioning to Compass software in the next two weeks. This transition will require parents to download a new App which will replace SkoolBag and other software. Compass will be used for student reports, communication, interview scheduling, roll marking, absence notification, event permissions and much more. You will receive notification of this change and how to make the transition in the coming weeks. Please ensure you read these communications carefully so the school can administer matters relating to your child effectively.



## Toys and Trading Cards

Many students enjoying bringing toys and trading cards from home to school. Most of the time these items provide positive playing experiences. Students enjoy playing together and sharing their interests. Unfortunately toys and trading cards can be broken or lost at school. When this happens it is not possible for teachers to spend large amounts of time trying to locate cards or to interview students to determine where each card may be. We do not encourage students to bring these items to school however there is no ban on them as many students have positive experiences. If your child brings these items to school please be aware that we cannot guarantee they will safe from damage or loss. If these items are precious to your child it is best they do not come to school.



### Conceptual English Approach

After the successful transition to a Conceptual English approach to planning English lessons in K-2, we have commenced with this method across the school. This approach to teaching English runs in parallel with our already well-established reading, spelling and phonics programs of study.

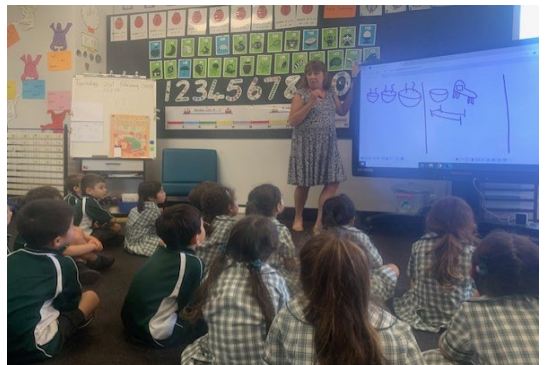
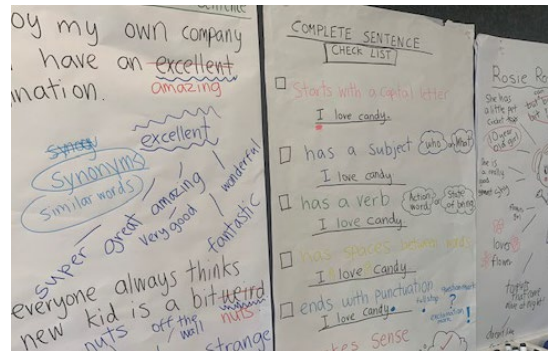
Over the past couple of terms, teachers have received training from Dr Lorraine Beveridge from the *Primary English Teachers Association Australia* to support stage teams in planning for and delivering high impact English lessons that focus on quality literature. This enables students to deconstruct texts to identify what good writers do and to emulate this in their own writing.

Across the school we are using the new English syllabus that aligns closely with this approach. In term 1, all stage teams have been focusing on the concepts on Characterisation and Narrative, as well as ensuring plenty of explicit instruction time is dedicated to the learning of syntax and transcription skills such as sentence-level grammar, punctuation, word-level language, and vocabulary.

This shift in focus continues to be supported by our P&C who have generously funded class sets of texts being studied in classrooms across K-6. We thank them for their support of this initiative as the positive impact is easily observable across the school.

To learn more about textual concepts visit:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/english/textual-concepts>





# Jeff Viskovich Tennis School

Tennis Australia Qualified and Certified Coaching

## Junior Development Program

## **Tennis Coaching**

Directed by a certified club professional coach

**2023**

### After School Term 2 classes

Starting Monday 24th April  
through Friday 28th

### Saturday Morning classes

Starting 29th April

All classes 1 hour per week for 10 weeks

Max 7 per group **Cost \$220** incl.GST

- Children 5-16 years of age
- Beginners to Advanced players
- Training squads for competition players

*For booking and enquires  
please contact Jeff Viskovich*

**0408 169 543**

***jeffviskovich@gmail.com***

**2023**

### Easter Holiday Camps

**Camp 1 April 11th to 14th**

( Tuesday to Friday ) 9am - 1pm

\$200 per child ( \$50 per day ) incl.GST

**Camp 2 April 17th to 21st**

( Monday to Friday ) 9am - 1pm

\$250 per child ( \$50 per day ) incl.GST

#### • **Private lessons available**

\$45 - 1/2 hr, \$90 - 1 hr

For Children and Adults,  
all standards and ages

**Court hire \$24/hr**

**All prices inclusive GST**

**All programs under the direction of Jeff Viskovich**  
**Former world ranked Australian and overseas touring player**  
**Tennis Australia club professional coach**

*( Any classes cancelled due to rain, can be made up on another day )*

### TENNIS COACHING ENROLMENT FORM

Please complete and mail to: **PO Box 3423 Wareemba NSW 2046** or Email: **jeffviskovich@gmail.com**

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work/Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Ability level (approx): ☐ Beginner ☐ Advanced Beginner ☐ Intermediate ☐ Advanced

Preferred days and times: \_\_\_\_\_



# School holiday camps on sale now!

**ROBLOX****LEGENDS**

**PLUS** YouTube Creators • Coding • Drones  
Animation • DJ • Minions • Jurassic World

Book now at [codecamp.com.au/flyer](https://codecamp.com.au/flyer)

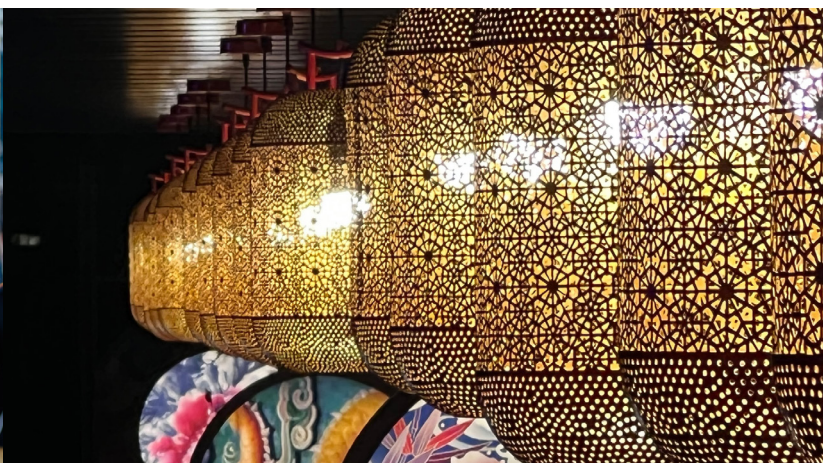
**SAVE \$25**

Use coupon code  
**EARLY25** at checkout



**CLAIM YOUR  
\$100 REBATE**





## SmartPhone Creative Photography Workshops

As the saying goes... 'The best camera is the one that is with you'.

This course is designed for people who have an interest in smartphone photography. From complete beginners, to those with more experience, learn how to take photos that exceed your expectations!

### BEGINNERS SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE

#### Topics:

- Basic operation skills
- Composition methods
- Defining a good subject
- Playing with light
- Basic editing skills

5 Week Program – 1 February to 1 March 2023

Cost: \$26.00

### ADVANCED SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE

#### Topics:

- Using various Apps and accessories to improve your phone photography.
- Different editing methods and options.
- Advanced photo taking methods.

4 Week Program – 8 March to 29 March 2023

Cost: \$22.00

#### What to Bring?

- A fully charged smartphone – any model
- Comfortable shoes as some classes will involve practical exercises for students taking photos with their smartphone

**Wednesdays**

5pm – 7pm

**Venue:** Fitzroy Hall,  
22 Church Street,  
Burwood

Beginners Course  
1 Feb – 1 March 2023  
5 sessions  
Cost: \$26.00

Advanced Course  
8 March – 29 March 2023  
4 sessions  
Cost: \$22.00

**Registration is essential.**

Book online at [https://smartphone\\_photographyT123.eventbrite.com.au](https://smartphone_photographyT123.eventbrite.com.au) or contact Burwood Council on 9911 9855 or [www.burwood.nsw.gov.au](http://www.burwood.nsw.gov.au) for assistance.





# DOG WALKING CREW

**\$5 for 10 - 20 min walk**

**\$8 special for 2 dogs**

(Walkers are Casper and Luca age 10)

**Availability:**

3:20 pm - 5:00 pm weekdays (after school)

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm weekends

You'll need to provide us with dog bags

**TEXT 0418161616 TO BOOK**



# **TEAM UP TO CLEAN UP!**

# **CLEAN UP**

# **AUSTRALIA DAY**

**Sunday, 5 March 2023**  
**10am–3pm**

Join us for a community clean up  
this Clean Up Australia Day at the  
following locations:

- Rodd Park, Rodd Point
- Foreshore Park, Rhodes

There will be a free BBQ for  
all volunteers at Council's  
clean-up sites.

For more information scan  
the QR code or visit  
[bit.ly/ccb-cleanup](https://bit.ly/ccb-cleanup).





# The BreastScreen mobile van is coming

Park Avenue, Burwood  
(Across the road from  
Westfield Burwood)

27 February – 24 March 2023  
Monday – Friday, 8.45am–4pm

No GP  
referral  
needed

**FREE**  
breast x-rays



- All female staff
- Especially for women aged 50-74
- 20 minutes every 2 years could save your life

Call to book

**13 20 50**

Telephone Interpreter Service

**13 14 50**



To the RLPS community,

Invitation to the 11<sup>th</sup> annual **Jelly Bean Ball** hosted by the Danii Meads-Barlow Foundation

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023  
Time: 6:30pm  
Where: Hyatt Regency Sydney, 161 Sussex Street  
Dress code: Black Tie  
Cost: Adult \$249, table of 10 \$2,400 (tickets purchased [here](#))

Type 1 diabetes is the fastest growing chronic disease in Australian children. There are over 140,000 Australians with type 1 diabetes. With approximately six new cases every day, Australia has one of the highest rates in the world. The number of Australian children being diagnosed with this disease is increasing by 6% every year.

Statistics [suggest](#) that in our small RLPS catchment zone there could be 30 children and young adults (aged 0-19) living with type 1 diabetes. Type 1 diabetes requires lifelong management. Technology (including continuous glucose monitors and insulin pumps) is available to assist in the management of type 1 diabetes but it can be expensive. If not managed well it can be debilitating or worse, fatal.

The [Danii Meads-Barlow Foundation](#) is dedicated to supporting type 1 diabetics and their carers to access lifesaving technology and education. The website needs to be updated following recent government funding for CGM technology, we are now providing scholarships for insulin pump technology (valued at approximately \$10,000) rather than CGM.

The Jelly Bean Ball is the largest fundraising event for the Danii Foundation. The night includes a 3 course meal, drinks, live entertainment, silent and live auctions. I seek your support for the Jelly Bean Ball this year, please consider buying tickets to attend on the night and/or whether you are able to donate auction items.

If you have any questions or would like to donate auction items, please speak to me at the Stage 2 school gate or email Robert Hossary at [ceo@danii.org.au](mailto:ceo@danii.org.au).

I look forward to seeing you at the Jelly Bean Ball on 24 June.

Kind regards

Peter Fogarty  
Type 1 Diabetic and Chair of the Danii Foundation



# *Russell Lea Public School*

## *Museum*



**Have you visited the School's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Museum?**

**The Museum is open every Monday afternoon (situated on Level 2 opposite the Library) from 3pm until 4pm.**

View the official annual school photo albums and memorabilia.

There are albums also from 1931 with records of school events.

Many former students have discovered photos of themselves (previously unseen) when the school was a separate Infants' School.

Bring your mobile phone to take photographs of 'photographs'!

Please share this invitation with any families who attended the school.

RLPS Archival Museum committee

Whittall Street, Russell Lea, NSW 2046



## Composite Classes

As you are aware our classes are 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 group described in the table below:

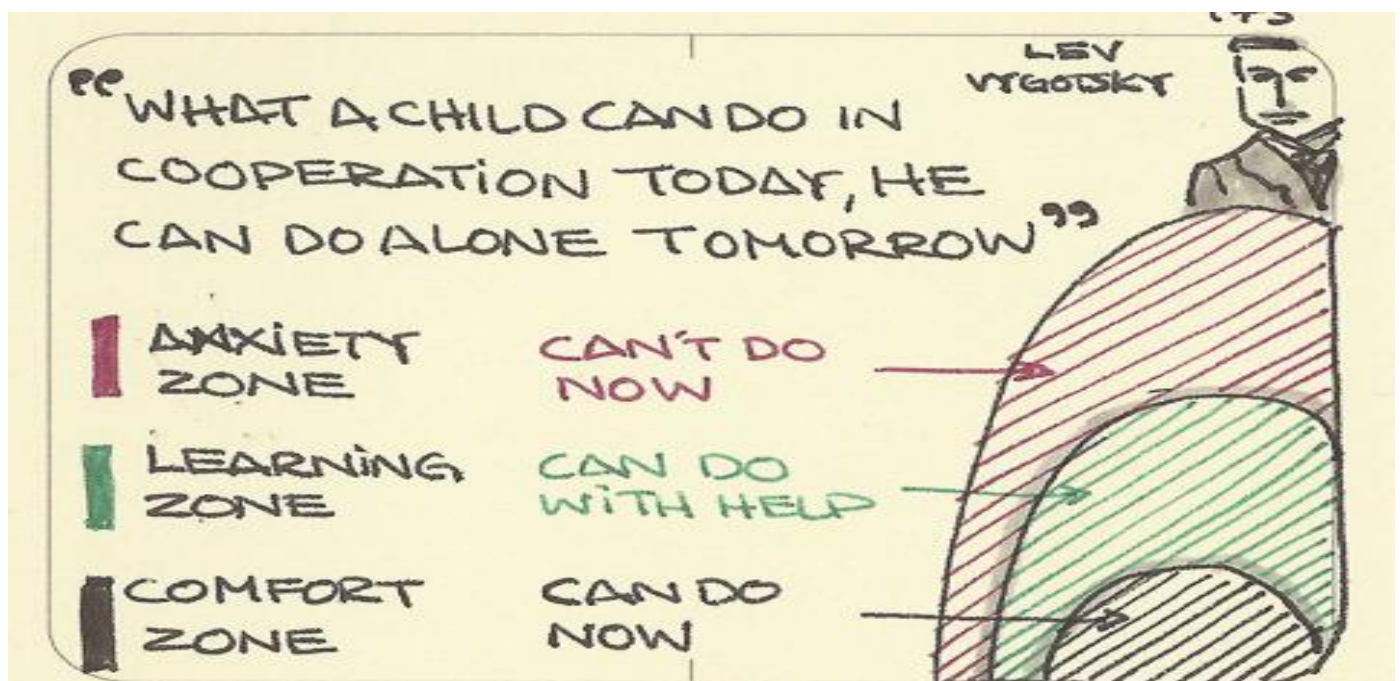
Stage	Year Group
Early Stage One	Kindergarten
Stage 1	Year 1 and year 2
Stage 2	Year 3 and Year 4
Stage 3	Year 5 and Year 6

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 their Zone of Proximal Development (see diagram below) 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 we have 32 Year 2 students. We could put 25 students 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. 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.

Our teachers engage in professional learning and programming in stage teams. As each teacher has the same composition in each stage teachers are able to plan together ensuring consistently quality and collective input for learning programs. Teachers are able to work to their strengths and use the strengths of the team around them. 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 are concerned about composite classes please organise a time to speak with Mr Sprange.