



## 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>

**April 8-12**  
Healthy Harold

**April 9**  
P&C Meeting

**24 May**  
Zone Cross Country

**May 31**  
Open Day

**June 1**  
Police Band Workshop

**June 21**  
Athletics Carnival

**June 30**  
Last day of Term 2



### Oxford University via RLPS

We always welcome former students back to RLPS because we enjoy hearing their stories and learning about their success beyond school. This week Neave and her father Steven visited to generously donate a drum kit. Neave graduated from Russell Lea Infants School in 2008 and Steven was P&C treasurer. They toured the school including the museum and met up with teachers including Ms Rigney. Neave is about to undertake a PhD in Chemistry at Oxford University and remembered her time at RLPS fondly.

If you are a former student you are welcome to visit anytime. We enjoy hearing first hand history of RLPS and knowing about your story beyond school.

Dan Sprange  
**Principal**



## Lest We Forget

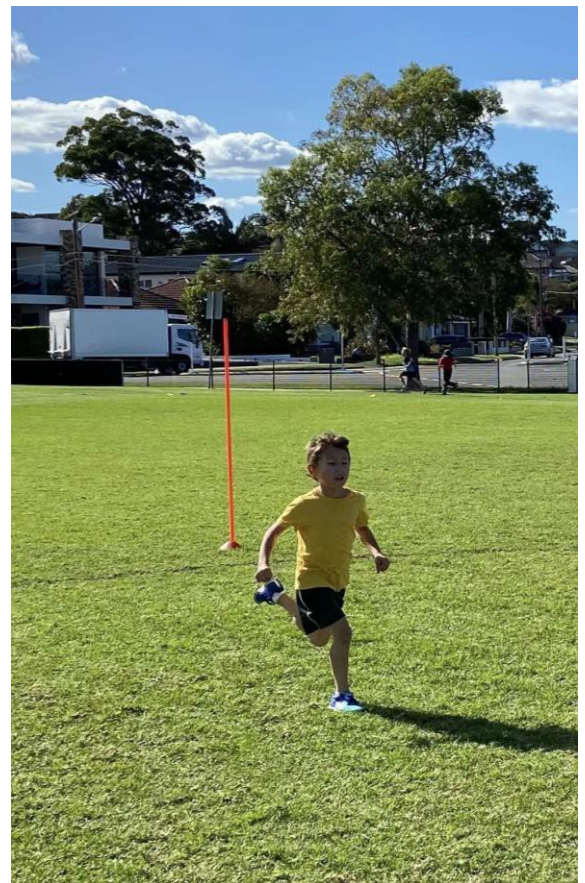
On ANZAC Day and on the first day of Term 2 students led and participated in ANZAC ceremonies to acknowledge those who have served and made the ultimate sacrifice. Student leaders spoke with great respect and helped students and staff focus their minds on those who have brought us the freedom we enjoy today. Owen and his father Colin inspired us with their stirring playing of The Rouse. Students and staff remembered our ANZAC with great pride and compassion.





## Cross Country 2023

This year all students K-6 participated in the Cross Country. The Zone competition caters for students 8 years and older, however as we have many keen and capable runners in younger years, they were given the opportunity to run. As a school we encourage all students to have a go and it is great to see the effort students put in, irrespective of their place in the field. Pushing hard and trying your physical best is an important experience for children and the cross-country gives students this opportunity. We congratulate all students for trying their best. The top four students in each age group will represent the school at the Zone event. These students will be acknowledged in the next assembly. Thank you Mr Ainsworth for running our biggest cross country and giving all students the chance to run.





## Teachers Are Learners Too

At the beginning of the term RLPS teachers engaged in a professional learning day focused on Aboriginal Education. Along with teachers in all public schools in NSW RLPS teachers were given the opportunity to understand the Education Departments policy and commitments to Aboriginal students and understanding of culture. Aboriginal woman and RLPS teacher Ms Pearce led the day and shared her experiences and culture.



## Top Scorer

Last weekend Eisla competed in the NSW Junior Touch Football Regional Championships. Her team finished second on the ladder going into the finals. Eisla demonstrated extraordinary skill to be the highest try scorer, with 11 tries. The photos provided below tell the story. Eisla is an amazing athlete and it is exciting to see her achieving so much in a state competition.





## School Spectacular

The School Spectacular is an extraordinary event. If you have been you will appreciate the incredible scale of the production and the work that is required to make it all happen. Our Hip Hop group has been working hard to gain a place in the final event. The competition is tough but every student has been representing the school proudly and giving themselves the best chance to be selected.



## Kindness

It is always nice to catch students doing something kind and caring. This is especially the case when it is being done for no reason other than a desire to make the world a better place. These two dedicated students help every day watering plants and cleaning up our playground. They don't expect any reward or special attention. They simply enjoy helping others. They are also a great team and thrive on each other's enthusiasm. Along the way they are providing a model to other students. Take a bow Giselle and Evie. RLPS is lucky to have you both brightening up our school day.



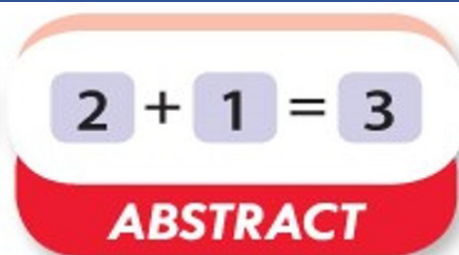
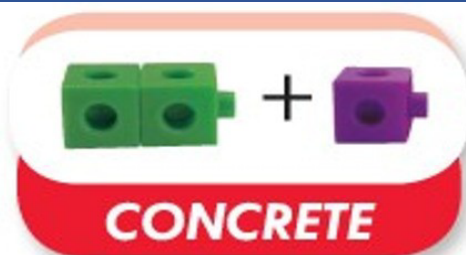


## The Impact of Hands-On-Approach on Student Academic Performance in Mathematics

Obanya (2012) stated that the average retention rate of learning by lecture is 5% while that of practice by doing (Activity-orientated) is about 75%, demonstrating that learning increases progressively with the use of more interactive and activity-orientated teaching methods. This is supported by a study by Ekwueme et al. (2015) that demonstrated positive improvement on student performance and participation in mathematics when teachers used a hands-on-approach in communicating mathematical concepts to their students. It demonstrated that when students are given the opportunity to manipulate the objects they are studying and become active participants within the classroom, it enhances the child's ability to think critically and enables them to manipulate objects which makes abstract knowledge concrete and clearer.

This research supports the Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract teaching strategy whereby teachers use physical and visual aids to build a child's understanding of abstract topics. Pupils are introduced to a new mathematical concept using concrete resources. When they are comfortable solving problems with physical aids, they are given problems with pictures. Then they are asked to solve problems where they only have the abstract i.e., numbers or other symbols. Building these steps across a series of lessons can help pupils better understand the relationship between numbers and the real world, and therefore helps secure their understanding of the mathematical concept they are learning (Johnson, 2022).

In Term 1, the P&C funded the purchase of essential hands-on mathematical resources for all our classes. This has enabled teachers to bring concepts to life during explicit teaching and create activity-based lessons that support student conceptual understanding of mathematics. We are already seeing the impact that this is having on student concept understanding and their ability to explain and demonstrate their mathematical thinking to others.



**Concrete** is the 'doing' stage, using concrete objects to solve problems. It brings concepts to life by allowing children to handle physical objects themselves.

**Pictorial** is the 'seeing' stage, using representations of the objects involved in maths problems. This stage encourages children to make a mental connection between the physical object and abstract levels of understanding, by drawing or looking at pictures, circles, diagrams or models which represent the objects in the problem.

**Abstract** is the 'symbolic' stage, where children are able to use abstract symbols to model and solve maths problems.





Community Programs & Activities



# After School Community Soccer Program - Term 2 2023

**BRING IT ON SOCCER!!**

**YOU SAY "LET'S PLAY.." WE SAY "BRING IT ON"!**

Burwood Council is offering a community soccer program for ages 5 to 12.

## Come on down and bring your friends

This is a great opportunity to learn some fundamental soccer skills and game play as well as life skills such as communication, teamwork and sportsmanship.

The soccer program will be delivered using modified games that are fun, inclusive, safe and engaging.

**Beginners welcome, no experience necessary.**

**Nine week program, Term pass: \$45.00 per child**

## Wet Weather - We Got you Covered!

There will be no cancellations for wet weather, we will simply take it indoors and focus on skill development, tactics and modified activities with the children.

**Registration is essential due to limited places**

**Book online at [Burwood Community Soccer](https://www.burwoodcommunitysoccer.com.au) or contact Burwood Council on 9911 9911 or [www.burwood.nsw.gov.au](http://www.burwood.nsw.gov.au) for assistance.**

**Wednesdays**

3 May to 28 June 2023

4.00pm – 5.00pm

Burwood Park

Cnr Burwood Rd & Comer St, Burwood

**Cost**

\$45.00 term pass





# RED DAY



Dress up on your best red clothes & accessories



Make and sell red cakes and treats



Bring a donation to school to support the Salvos



Jump online and join the Digital Doorknock



**Red Shield  
Appeal**







# 4 and 5 year olds... play Mighty u5 tag rugby

**St Lukes Oval, Concord**

**Saturdays - 8:30am to 9:30am | Commences 6 May 2023**



EST. 1874

**REGISTER WITH:**

**DRUMMOYNE JUNIOR RUGBY**

**COORDINATOR: JUSTINE PERKINS**

president@drummoynejuniorrugby.com.au  
ddjru.rugby

*Children* **PLAY** *Families* **LEARN** *Clubs* **GROW**

**[mightyu5.com.au](https://mightyu5.com.au)**

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# Creative Writing

## at Russell Lea Public School

Thursdays in Term 1, 2023

*Improve literacy, build confidence, develop creativity,  
increase braininess and have a lot of fun.*

- Highly engaging workshops which **build skills and techniques**, and **make writing enjoyable. Lively and fun atmosphere.**
- **Learn from real writers.** Imaginative approach led by published writers.
- Ten-week program **starts Thursday 2nd February.**
- Save \$100: we accept **Service NSW Creative Kids vouchers.**
- **Free trial** for new participants.
- **Any questions?** [bookings@writingworkshop.com.au](mailto:bookings@writingworkshop.com.au) / 0468 543 933
- **ENROL NOW** <https://www.writingworkshop.com.au/russell-lea>



### What parents say

*It is rare in our kids' overly full and ordered lives to get real opportunity to be lateral and creative in their writing. It suits our daughter down to the ground, and makes her feel special and validated. (parent of 7-year-old)*

*The sessions were always focused, well planned and very stimulating. The children were privileged to have access to such a professional writer who was able to encourage and extend them. (parent of 10-year-old)*

### What participants say

*I love the writing workshop soooooooooo much... (8-year-old)*

*I liked the way that it made me more creative and dramatic... I became less shy about presenting (11-year-old)*

The **Writing** Workshop



[www.writingworkshop.com.au](http://www.writingworkshop.com.au)