



*Russell Lea*  
PUBLIC SCHOOL



Newsletter

Term 1 Week 2 Friday 9 February 2024

## 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>

February 13  
P&C Meeting

February 21  
Meet The Teacher

February 22  
Swimming Carnival

March 2  
P&C Welcome Event

March 4  
School Photo Day

March 13  
NAPLAN Starts

March 15  
Pulse Alive Concert



### The Journey Begins

This week we welcomed our 2024 Kindergarten cohort. It is always a huge privilege to share this time with our newest students and their families. Kindergarten have started a journey which will see them grow into independent young people, ready for high school. We know our teachers and the school community will support them every step of the way. In the few days they have attended they have already demonstrated great courage, enthusiasm, and maturity. With quiet confidence they have integrated themselves into school life, made new friends and absorbed new routines. Although it is hard on parents it is pleasing to see so many students eager to wave goodbye to mum and dad at the earliest possible time during morning drop off.

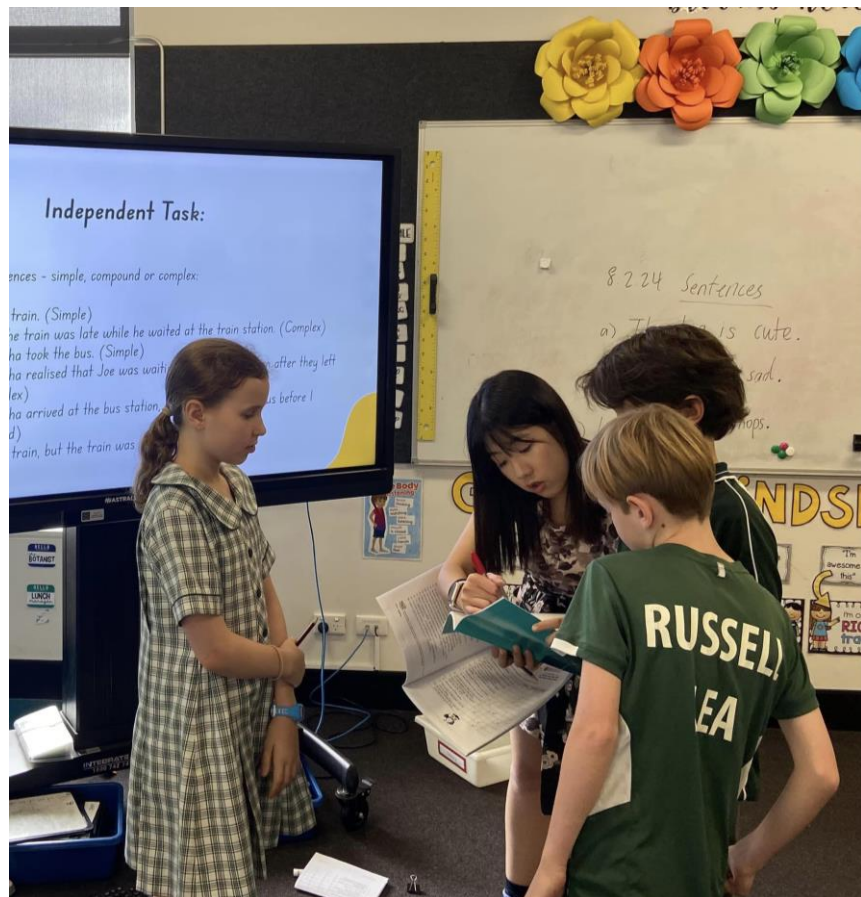
We wish all our new students every success in the years ahead.

Dan Sprange  
Principal

## Welcome Back

School staff have worked especially hard this year to ensure students are able to transition back to school smoothly and engage in meaningful learning from day one. Teachers have spent many hours preparing learning spaces and programs. In the first few weeks expectations are set and students develop routines which will set them up for the year ahead. Every day of learning counts, given this our leadership team and teachers commenced planning for 2024, including the formation of classes, in early Term 4 2023. This work enabled students to start in their 2024 classes from the first day of school. 2024 learning programs and assessments have been prepared and students are already making progress.

The school calendar is filling up fast and as always we direct you to our online calendar accessible via the link on the left of the first page of the Newsletter. We have Meet The Teacher, the Swimming Carnival, NAPLAN, Parent Teacher Interviews, the Pulse Alive Concert and excursions already scheduled this term. The first P&C meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday 13 February at 7:30 in the school hall. If you are interested in working with the school to improve opportunities for all students, please consider attending.



## PSSA Sport





Each year students in years 3-6 have the opportunity to try out for interschool sport competition. There are winter and a summer competitions. The summer competition runs in Terms 1 and 4 and students have the opportunity to play Softball or Basketball. Students have to demonstrate appropriate skill and teamwork to qualify for each team. Students who don't qualify for a team participate in school based sport which is orientated to fun and skill building. The game draw has not been published yet so we are not sure when the first round will start. This will be shared along with permission notes when teams are picked and the draw is published.



### Quality Texts We Are Studying This Term

At Russell Lea Public School we teach English using a conceptual approach, utilising quality texts to demonstrate what good writing looks like. As stated by Dr Beveridge (2023), quality texts engage students on different levels, and merit multiple readings; every time you read the text you get something new out of it. These texts will often trigger a lot of ‘why’ and ‘I wonder’ questions from students, which can lead to deep discussion and dissection of texts. They are aesthetic, but they are also rich in their use of imagery and symbolism. These books may be full of beautiful figurative language that we’d like to see students learning from their reading and then using in their writing. These texts are exciting, engaging, and multi-layered – they should be open to a range of interpretations and evoke a range of different communities. Children are interested and fascinated in how language works when an integrated approach makes use of their own language and experience to help make the links between oral language, writing and reading.

Below is an overview of the texts that we will be studying this term, along with the focus concepts.

Early Stage 1	Stage 1
Character, Narrative, and Codes and Conventions	Narrative and Character
	
Stage 2	Stage 3
Narrative and Genre	Narrative and Genre
	

### Further Learning

If you would like to learn more about our approach to teaching English, check out the following links.

Conceptual English: <https://teachingsprints.com/>

Quality Texts: [https://petaa.edu.au/w/w/Blog/Latest\\_blog/Quality\\_Texts.aspx](https://petaa.edu.au/w/w/Blog/Latest_blog/Quality_Texts.aspx) (Beveridge, 2023)

NSW English Syllabus: <https://curriculum.nsw.edu.au/learning-areas/english>

## K-2 and 3-6 Assembly Timetable

The Stage 1 and 3-6 assembly timetable for Term 1 is provided below. Kindergarten will not participate this term however will be added to the timetable in Term 2. Each class and each student will have an opportunity to host an assembly during the year. The host class is listed in the timetable and parents of students in that class are invited to attend on those dates. RLPS uses 24 character strengths to help students recognise these strengths in themselves and others. Every two weeks new character strengths are shared and discussed in classes. Students are acknowledged for demonstrating these strengths at the fortnightly assembly. The focus strengths for each assembly are also listed in the timetable below.

### 3-6 Assembly Timetable Term 1 (Thursday 1:00pm to 1:40pm)

Weeks	Y6 Leaders/Class	Character Strength	Captains Reports
2			
3			
4		3-6 Carnival	
5	School Leaders		Captains
6		Kindness & Creativity	
7	5/6A		Banksia
8		Gratitude & Love of Learning	
9	5/6M		Blue Gum
10		Curiosity	
11	5/6S		Wattle

### Stage 1 Assembly Term 1 (Wednesday 2:00pm to 3:00pm)

Weeks	Y6 Leaders/Class	Character Strength
2		
3		
4		
5		
6	1/2B	Kindness & Creativity
7		
8	1/2S	Gratitude & Love of Learning
9		
10	1/2O	Curiosity
11		



### Water Polo National Champions

In the holidays Oscar competed in the Australian Junior Water Polo Championship in Brisbane. He played for the Sydney University Representative team against teams from every state. Oscar trains very hard and it is exciting to hear his hard work has resulted in his team winning gold at this level. Well done Oscar.



### Welcome Mr Diaz

This year Mr Diaz has joined us to run sport programs. Students are enjoying the fun and engaging ways in which he builds movement skills and game sense. Welcome Mr Diaz.

## Classroom Volunteers Needed

We would once again like to invite all K-2 parents to volunteer in our classrooms.

Before volunteering, we require parents to take part in mandatory training. We have created an online training module that you can complete in a time that most suits you. If you have already completed this training or you attended one of the zoom sessions in 2022, you are not required to do the online training again.

At the end of this week's newsletter, there is a guide to support you in accessing and completing the training. Please remember to bring evidence of completion to the school office on your first day of volunteering to be added to our list.

You will find the link for signing up for volunteering sessions at the end of the guide. If you have any questions or problems accessing the training, please feel free to contact the school.

Please note: Kindergarten won't be having any parent volunteers in the classroom this term as it is the beginning of Kindergarten and students are still learning school routines. Parents will be able to assist in the classroom from Term 2 onwards.

Kind regards,

Natalie Rotar

## Open Night 2024 Tuesday 5 March

5:30 - 6:pm Principal's address

6:00 - 7pm

- High Potential and Gifted Education presentation
- Discovery tours led by student leaders
- Interactive displays with student leaders
- View displays of student work
- Students will engage in interactive activities

**Parents and prospective Year 7 2025 and 2026 students and their parents are warmly invited to attend our Open Night.**

**This is a unique opportunity to view the excellent academic, sporting and cultural programs we offer to our students.**

**Concord High School has been recognised at State level for many of its initiatives including:**

- an innovative, connected curriculum designed to enhance pastoral care, reduce the number of Year 7 teachers and support a smooth transition to high school
- A High Potential and Gifted Education program taught by highly skilled teachers with additional training in gifted education
- A range of programs in Years 9/10/11 to further engage students

**A whole school philosophy of "every student will be known, valued and cared for to achieve their potential within a context of high expectations".**



**Concord High School**

3 Stanley Street  
Concord NSW 2137  
P: 029745 3777

W: [www.concord-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.concord-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

# COME TRY RUGBY

at Drummoyne Dirty Reds

TAPLIN PARK

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> at 5pm

Incl sessions by the coaching crew at TryTime, BBQ, drinks and a Dirty Reds Water Bottle.

PLUS FIRST

50

Regos receive a limited-edition rugby ball

REGISTRATION AT



[events.humanitix.com/dirty-reds-tryrugby-2024](https://events.humanitix.com/dirty-reds-tryrugby-2024)

SYDNEY ROWING CLUB



DRUMMOYNE SAILING CLUB

*Better move fast to get your free footy!! One gone already!!!*







## FIVE DOCK RSL SUB BRANCH SCHOOLS PROGRAM 2024

**Mission** To assist local schools in providing an Australian Military perspective.

**Five Dock RSL Sub Branch ANZAC Day Ceremony - March to Five Dock Park - Sunday 21 April 2023 10am**  
Depart Club, Students, their families and Teachers are welcome.

**2024 Schools Activity** Use any presentation method for:

- An Australian Army, Navy or Air Force account, story or drawing.
- A description of peaceful ways to overcome conflict.

**Entry Submission:** Entries to the Club Five Dock Reception, 66 Great North Rd Five Dock.

**Entries Close - Friday 12 April 2024** Entries can be delivered individually as long as the students whole name, year and school appear on the back of the entry.

**Judging - Saturday 21 April 2024 1030.** Winning entries will be advised to Schools by email that day.

**Winning Entries displayed - Saturday 20 - 27 Apr 2023** on show in the Club.

**Awards** 1st, 2nd, and 3rd receive a JB HIFI card.

JB HIFI Card	1st	2nd	3rd
Kinder	70	60	50
Yrs 1 & 2	90	80	70
Yrs 3 & 4	110	100	90
Yrs 5 & 6	130	120	110

**The School Library** will receive \$500.00 for entering a full class (30 or more) submissions.

**Thank You Morning Tea - Wednesday 8 May 2024 10–11am** Presentation **Upstairs** at Club Five Dock RSL in **the Auditorium** for the Winners, (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>) their families and teachers. The winning certificates and card envelopes will be given at the Thank You Morning tea. And all entries will be returned.

**Further details:** 97122055 ask for Schools Liaison, Five Dock RSL Sub Branch Schools Program.

# Free coding trial with a live Code Camp host



Wondering if your child will enjoy coding?

Code Camp invites your child to attend a **free coding lesson** hosted by an experienced Code Camp Facilitator via Zoom. In this one-hour lesson, students will experience the fun and creativity of coding an arcade-style game within our bespoke learning platform, Code Camp World.



Available sessions:

Monday 12 Feb  
5:30 - 6:30 pm AEDT

Wednesday 14 Feb  
5:30 - 6:30 pm AEDT

Friday 16 Feb  
5:30 - 6:30 pm AEDT

Saturday 17 Feb  
3:00 - 4:00 pm AEDT

**BOOK NOW HERE!** [codeca.mp/coding-trial](https://codeca.mp/coding-trial)

# Creative Writing

## at Russell Lea Public School

Every Thursday after school

*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 working writers.
- **Full-term programs every term.**
- We accept **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... (11-year-old)*

The **Writing** Workshop



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

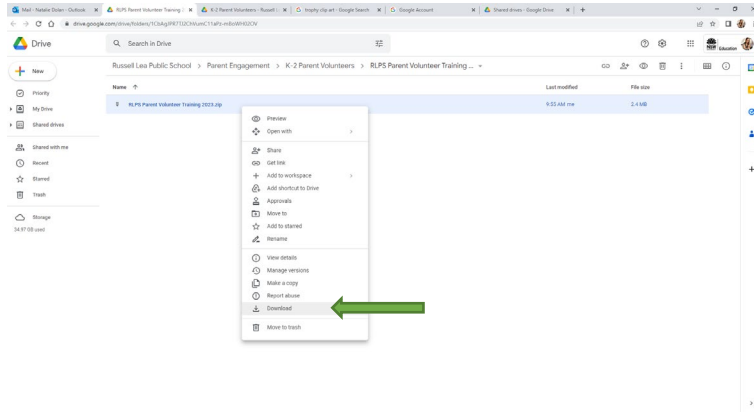
# Parent Volunteer Training 2024

## How to access the training

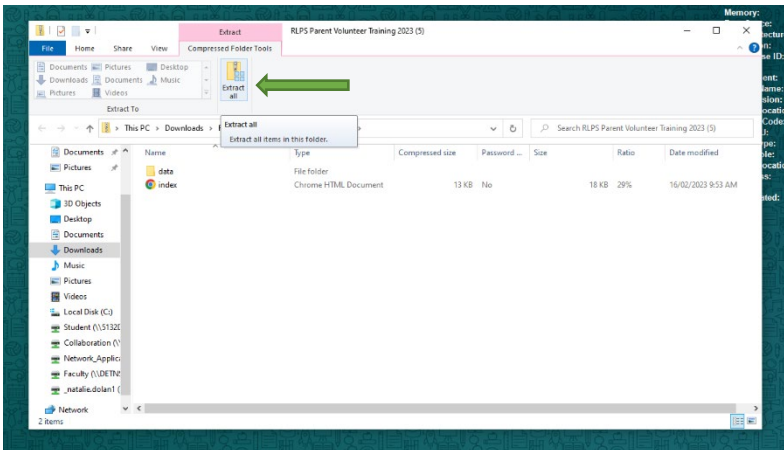
1. Click on the below link using a desktop or laptop.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CbAgJPR7TJ2ChVumC11aPz-mBoWH02OV?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CbAgJPR7TJ2ChVumC11aPz-mBoWH02OV?usp=share_link)

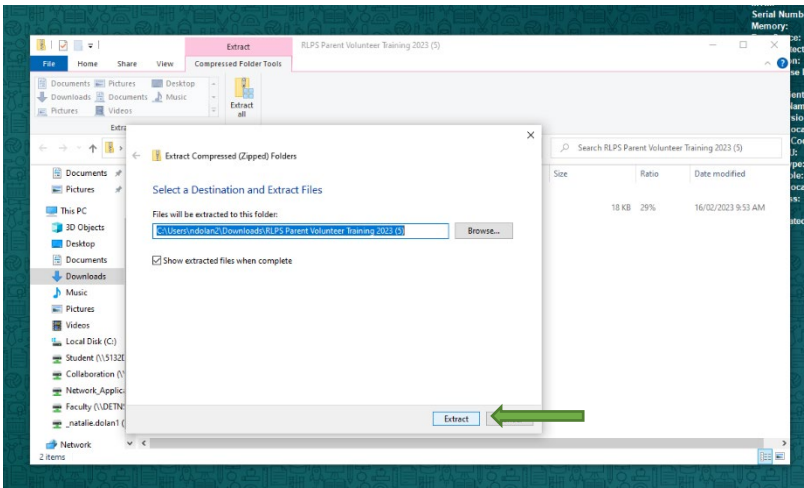
2. Right click to download the zip file.



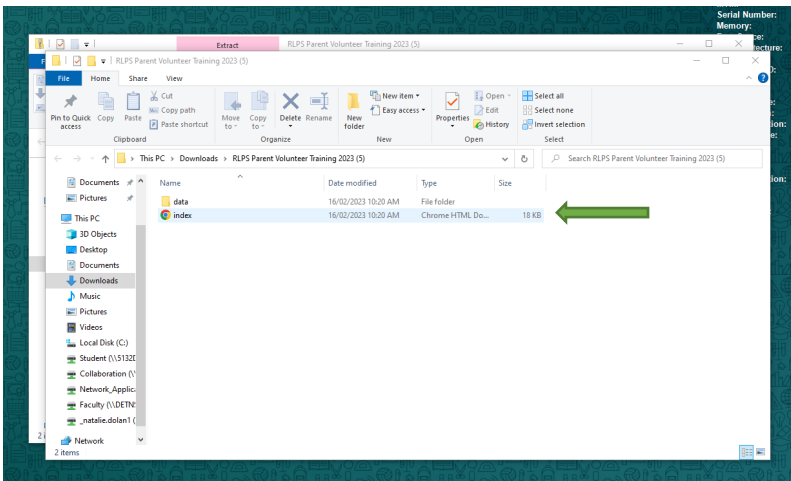
3. Open the ZIP folder and press extract all.



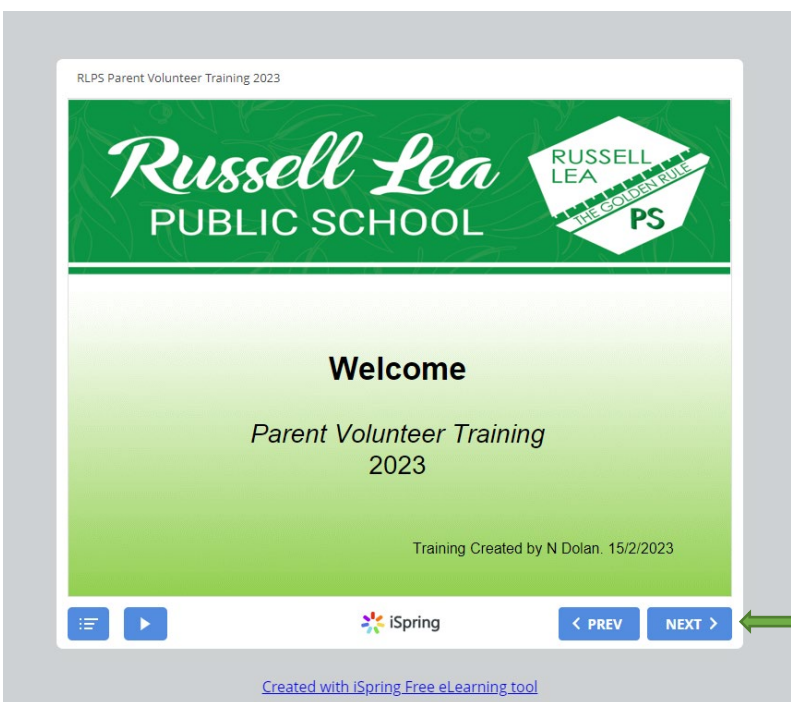
4. Press Extract on the pop up.



5. Open the file titled index.



6. The training should now load. Press the next button to navigate through the slides and complete.



7. Once you have successfully completed the training, you can use the below link to sign up for your first classroom volunteering session.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KagCuf3q8T8XIOAKTVoICHhiULXR16WZuVLzf8Tc0ro/edit#gid=0>

Thank you for your support of our school.

