



On The Grapevine

A quality education in a caring, innovative environment

July 2013 (Issue 1)



It is with great sadness, that I inform our school community of the passing of Lorraine Ralla.

Lorraine was School Administrative Officer (SAO) at Rydalmere East PS for 17 years. She will always be remembered not only for her loyal service to our school community but also for her generous heart, sense of humour and her friendship.

I worked with Lorraine for all her years at Rydalmere East PS and will remember her fondly as both a friend and colleague. We will be planting a tree in her memory on the site of the old demountable Administration Block with its magnificent views over the river to Homebush Bay and through to the city.

Our thoughts are with Lorraine's family at this sad time.

Education Week Activities

Next week is Education Week in NSW Public Schools.

Parents and community members are warmly invited to our school events during this week.

Tuesday 30 July: Athletics Carnival for Years 3-6

- From 9.30am at Barton Park, Barton Street, North Parramatta
- Year 2 students turning 8 this year may compete

Wednesday 31 July: School Open Morning

- 9.30am assembly in the hall showcasing student work and performances by school groups
- Treasure hunt activities for students and parents
- Book fair in the library
- Morning tea available from 11am at canteen: tea/coffee \$1, cake 50c-\$1
- Anticipate finish by 11.30am -12noon

Friday 2 August: The NED Show

- Promoting the positive message of **N**ever give up, **E**ncourage others, **D**o your best
- Visit www.theNEDshow.com for ideas to use at home and a video about the show
- Free for our students, because funds raised by sale of messaged items after the show are used to fund a show for another school- pay it forward initiative.

Honour Roll

Thank you to all the families on our honour roll for their ongoing support for our school. The time you so willingly give at the working bees or to work at the BBQ stalls is very much appreciated.

The following families were at the Working Bee on Sunday 23 June. Despite the rain, they weeded gardens, built a third vege garden bed & replaced some retaining wall logs.

Williams family, Hewkins family, Barber family, Aylward family, Snell/Mills family, Thomas/Smith family and to Margaret Kelly.

On Saturday 22 June a DHA Information Stand & free BBQ was offered for the community at the new development. Despite the rain the BBQ was well attended by the community. Members of Parliament Geoff Lee & John Alexander both attended. Displays & Information stands for DHA, Watpac (builder for next stage of houses) & Payce (builder for units), and Parramatta Council rangers had a table with information on pet microchipping, waste disposal and environment.

The free sausage sizzle was manned by REPS P&C families and again I want to acknowledge how much effort and time these families give to support the school. Thank you to the *Williams family, Hewkins family, Barber family, Aylward family and Ken and Judy Newman.*

A massive thank you to the following community members who helped the school raise \$1165.20 (a new record) by working at the Bunnings BBQ: *Troy Williams, Jaheda and Ralph Garcia, Sue and Pete Barber, Pete Mills, Su and Ian Garrett, Carol Piper and Family, Marlene Thomas, Leanne Clark, George Asic, Don Silence, Rene Smith, Irene and Pete Aylward.*

The next Bunnings BBQ is on 25 August. Please consider giving just one hour of your time to help out – we may set another record!

Parent teacher interviews

It was wonderful to have so many parents attend the parent teacher interview night.

Thank you to those many parents who acknowledged and appreciated the dedication and commitment of staff to provide not only quality teaching of the KLAs but also in developing the rounded student with strong values and important social qualities.

Zone Website

For your convenience there is now zone website where parents can find information regarding important carnival dates and trials for students in our zone. The web site can be found at www.mlandsparrapssa.schools.nsw.edu.au

Student medical forms

During Terms 3 and 4 we will be updating our medical records systems to ensure we have the most up-to-date information on your child's health.

If you have a child with a medical condition you will receive a copy of the new forms in the mail and will need to fill them out and return them to us as soon as you can.

The good news is we have already started collecting some of this information, which means less for you to do. The new forms will help us collect your child's important medical information and the introduction of new systems will mean we'll be able to better manage the daily and emergency health needs of your child.

We appreciate your support as we start collecting the information, and if you have any questions please call.

Staff Development Day Term 3

On the staff development day on Monday 15 July we attended a community of school professional learning day, with a focus on English, at Carlingford West PS. The evaluation surveys indicated that this day of professional development was both relevant and interesting as well as providing a valuable opportunity to link with other local schools.

I want to acknowledge the role of both Mrs Lesley Coker for leading the session for stage 3 teachers to unpack the new English syllabus and Ms Daria Ivanek for presenting workshops on using Edmodo and Animoto to enhance student learning and develop 21Century learning skills in the classroom. These teachers did not hesitate to contribute to the success of the day by offering to take on presenter roles and spent much time during the holidays preparing their sessions.

Parent workshop

After the positive feedback from the last parent sessions Sharlene, from Parramatta Mission, is now offering a parent program to give parents effective discipline strategies.

The location is very convenient for all our families – right here at school and each session is only 2 hours. This is great opportunity to receive expert advice, with no cost and close to home!

Student Wellbeing

Congratulations to the following students on receiving a Principal's Bronze Award.

Level 3: Lucas M

Level 1: Farhad

I look forward to seeing you at our education week activities.

Keryn Hinchcliffe

Principal

26 July 2013

Dates For Your Diary

30 July	Athletics carnival (Education week)
31 July	School Open Day (Education Week) 9.30-11.30am
1 August	Parent course 10am-12noon
2 August	The NED Show 2-2.45pm. Free for all students
5 August	P&C meeting 6.30pm in school library
7 August	Mini Kindy 1.55pm Kindergarten room
8 August	Parent course 10am – 12 noon
14 August	Mini Kindy 1.55pm Kindergarten room
14 August	Touch Rugby Gala Day at Doyle Park
15 August	Rugby Australia workshops for K-5 students
15 August	Parent program 10am – 12 noon
15-16 August	Year 6 Camp at Brewongle
19 August	Zone Athletics (track) Carnival Sydney Olympic Park
21 August	Mini Kindy 1.55pm Kindergarten room
22 August	Zone Athletics (field) Carnival , Barton Park, North Parramatta



Congratulations to Our Ozzie Mozzie Award Winners:



Adam C

Yvonne

Daniel

Will



Trip to Dubbo Zoo

On Wednesday, 12th June most Year 5 and Year 6 students went to Dubbo's Western Plains Zoo to learn about endangered animals. We met at Parramatta Station ready for a six hour train ride. Mrs Brown, Mrs Coker, Ms Ivanek, Miss O and teacher's aide Mr Rob accompanied us on the excursion. We had to meet and be there before 7:00am as we had to move to the platform by 7:05am.

We waited 10 minutes at the platform for our train: Country Link. When we got on Country Link we had to respect the general public around us. We had to keep quiet and stay seated unless we needed to use the washroom. During the train ride students and teachers were allowed to go to the

buffet cart only if they had money to buy drinks and refreshments.

When we arrived at Dubbo Station we caught a bus with a driver called Spence. He took us to Taronga Western Plains Zoo. We drove around the zoo and saw many animals such as mountain goats, giraffes and blackbucks.

When we arrived at our campsite, we went into a room full of reptiles. We placed our bags down and sat down. After that we met our supervisor Kristy. She explained our first activity. We had to make a documentary on an animal and bring it back to the class. Once we had finished we had to go back and meet at the playground. When playtime was over we met our new supervisors, Stuart and Nicki. Then we went back to the campsite to make our group flag and bracelets. After a talk from Nicki we had dinner. For dinner we had a hot dog with a funny tasting drink. There were heaps of salads and we had a chocolate coated ice cream for dessert. Once dinner was finished we got sorted into our tents. Each tent was named after a river. Putting away our white light torches and using the red light torches, we went on a night walk. The first thing we saw was a shy, stubborn, black rhino named Quanzar. Secondly, we saw lots and lots of barbary sheep. Next it was time to feed the giraffes at night! The lucky teachers were allowed to feed the tall giraffes. Finally, we saw Happy, the hippopotamus. We learnt about the family rivalry between him and his brother. Then we went back to the campsite to catch some well-deserved sleep.

Very early in the morning at 6 o'clock, we had to get up and eat breakfast. For breakfast we had toast with various toppings and cereal. After breakfast, Nicki and Stuart showed us some animals. These animals included lizards, a python, an echidna and a very fluffy koala. After our morning walk, we made our way to the bike shed. When we reached the bike shed our supervisors said their goodbyes and left us to have some fun with the bikes. A few students who could not ride went on a safari cart driven by Mrs Coker. At 11:30am our bikes had to be returned and our lunch had to be eaten. After lunch children went to the gift shop, group by group.

All too soon it was time to go home. Everybody collected their bags and hopped back on the bus. We arrived at the train station only to discover that we were an hour early. Fortunately, we were allowed to play at the park nearby. We played for about forty minutes before it rained. Then we sought shelter back at the station. Finally, the train arrived to pick us up. During the train ride students were seated and playing with their friends, whilst teachers were talking to each other. At dinner time, students and teachers either had pre-ordered meals or meals that they had to order themselves. Ms Ivanek had told everyone to stay quiet in the darkness for an hour after dinner. When the hour of silence was over we started to pack our bags and collect our belongings. Ten minutes later, we had arrived at Parramatta Station. Happy parents were waiting for their kids to get off the train and Mrs Hinchcliffe was there too! All the children were tired, but excited and ready to go home safely with their parents.

It was a cold, but truly awesome camp!

By Emma Z & Jennifer K (Year 5)



Dubbo Zoo

On Wednesday, 12th of June, Years 5 and 6 enjoyed an overnight experience at Dubbo Zoo.

We left early in the morning, said our goodbyes and hopped on board the train. The train trip took 6 hours, and finally we arrived at Dubbo. Countrylink certainly delivered a smooth ride in comfortable surroundings.

Dubbo zoo was extraordinary. It had SO many animals!!

If you haven't seen funny meditating lemurs and singing monkeys, you HAVE TO visit Dubbo Zoo.

We had fun using iPads to record documentaries about particular species at the zoo. At night, we went on a night tour by torchlight. Feeding the giraffes and gazing into the big bulging eyes of the hippo, were definitely the highlights. We finally organised sleeping arrangements, however, **WE** became the wild animals and nobody got much sleep.

The next morning, tired but excited, we set off on hired bicycles to tour the zoo. It was a fun way to cover such a large area and to visit each enclosure.

The camp was a once in a life time experience that we would recommend to everyone.

By Destyni and 6C



6C Prospects for Gold

Year 6 have been learning about 'The Gold Rush'. Last term, Seb's Grandfather, Mr Haydon, visited our class and taught us some interesting history about life on the goldfields.

He brought some equipment so that we could all have a turn at panning for real gold. We used a pan and a sluice and Mr Haydon tipped some real gold nuggets and gold dust into the muddy water. It was really exciting to find the gold. He also showed us several different sized metal detectors.

Thankyou Mr Haydon. Year 6 learnt a lot of interesting history from you and we had great time learning.

By Heba and 6C



Parent tips

Building resilience in your child (from parentingideas.com.au)

1. Give kids the opportunity to develop their own resourcefulness. *Make going in to bat for your child the last resort not the first option*
2. Make their problem, their problem. *Sometimes parents can take too much responsibility for issues that are really up to children to work out or decide*

These are only 2 of several strategies suggested by Michael Grose, parenting educator. Visit www.parentingideas.com.au for a range of relevant and informative articles and parenting tip sheet.

Talented kids - how hard should you push them?

Rachel Friend asks experts and parents of talented children how much of their success is due to natural ability and how hard we should push our kids to succeed. Find out more:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/talented-kids-how-hard-to-push>

Homemade muesli bars

Here's a recipe for muesli bars that will prove popular with children of all ages, yet it contains only half the sugar and fat of their shop-bought equivalents. Find out more:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/food/recipes/cakes-biscuits-and-treats/nutfree-muesli-bars>