



On The Grapevine

A quality education in a caring, innovative environment

February 2015 (Issue1)

Welcome back for another exciting year at REPS and an especially warm welcome to the new families to our school.

OOSH

Our very own onsite OOSH service is up and running. Registration is free and means that should you need to use the service at short notice all the paperwork would have been completed.

A teacher is on duty in the playground from 8.30am each morning. Parents should use the before school care service if they need to drop their child at school before this time.



Meet the teacher

Our meet the teacher mornings were well attended and gave teachers the opportunity to present an overview of the exciting year ahead. We have an outstanding team of dedicated class and support teachers working with your children this year.

This year we have 10 classes in total, which includes preschool, two support classes and 7 mainstream classes.

Preschool: Mrs Tracey Arbolino (Mon- Wed) and Mrs Alda Barny (Thurs- Fri)

KS: Miss Tara Splarn

K/1: Mrs Daina Abbott (Mon-Wed) and Mrs Nancy Kenchington (Thurs-Fri)

1B: Mrs Angelique Brown – relieving Assistant Principal for K-2

2H: Mrs Judy Hungerford (Mon – Thurs) and Mrs Nerida O'Callaghan

K/2L: Miss Emma Lodewijks

3/4R: Miss Jay Razon

4/5/6O: Miss Jessica O'Flaherty

4/5/6C: Mrs Lesley Coker – Assistant Principal 3-6 (Mon- Thurs) and Mrs Kerrie Moloney

3/5D: Mrs Deborah Smith (Mon-Wed) and Mrs Danielle Muldoon (Thurs- Fri)

In the classroom

I had the most delightful morning on Tuesday helping with reading groups across the K-2 classes. Working in each classroom with the students rotating to each teacher gave me the opportunity to spend time talking with and listening to every one of our Kindy, Year 1 and Year 2 students read. It is also lovely to see our Years 5 and 6 students helping their kindy buddies settle into school life.



Safety First

Sadly, our huge tree overhanging the pathway from the lower gate on Spurway Street has died. This poses a safety issue for students using that path so unfortunately the lower gate access is not available at this time. We are in the process of organizing contractors to remove necessary branches and make the tree safe whilst preserving the hollow in the trunk for wildlife. We hope to be able to reopen this access in the near future. We apologise for any inconvenience

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 27 February. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

Grant Success!

Congratulations to our hard working P&C members for their successful grant application for \$48000 to be spent on redeveloping areas of the playground into dynamic, natural play zones. This will add to the great range of activities already available in the playground. Make sure you read the P&C updates in the newsletter to hear about the plans.

Please label everything!

When clothing, hats and lunchboxes are clearly labelled there is a much higher chance they will be returned to their rightful owner. Please take the time to check that the labels are actually legible as they often fade over time and through regular washing.

Absences

Please send a note to the class teacher or ring the school office on 9638 2250 when your child is absent. All absences are recorded by a certain code depending on the reason for not attending school. All student absences are monitored and a high number of unjustified absences requires Home School Liaison Officer intervention.

Emergency cards

It is important that we have up to date information, particularly in case of emergency. Please ensure that the blue emergency cards, due to be sent home next week, are completed front and back and returned to the school promptly.

Are you on- line?

If you have registered your email address you would have received this newsletter via email. The advantages of this are:

- Receiving it in glorious colour
- Saving paper and printing costs – and by doing so supporting our sustainability goals

To receive future copies of our newsletter on line please complete the following slip or email us.

Child's name: _____

Email address: _____

Emails are sent as a blind copy to ensure confidentiality.

Playground hero - Andrew B for including a younger student new to our school in a lunchtime soccer match.

Student Wellbeing

Congratulations to the following student on achieving a Principal's Award:

Silver Level 1: *Flynn*



Congratulations to Our Ozzie Mozzie Award Winners:



Sen	Yvonne	Sebastian	Serena	Madeline	Hussnia
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Keryn Hinchcliffe

Principal

13 February 2015

Our Term 1 calendar will be published as soon as some dates have been finalised.

Canteen opening times

The canteen will not be open at recess on
Mondays

The **Canteen will open**

Monday – lunch only

Wednesday – recess and lunch

Friday – recess and lunch

Dates For Your Diary

13 February	Swimming carnival for proficient swimmers
17 February	Visit from Police Youth Liaison Officer

In the School Garden with Class 1B

Today our class helped Margaret in the vegetable garden. We cleared the garden for new plants and seedlings. We harvested an old carrot, a round watermelon, an orange capsicum and hundreds of cherry tomatoes. Did you know that all carrots were once purple? Carrots are root vegetables.

We learnt how to roll up a hose so that it doesn't get into knots. We composted our garden scraps, but not the weeds. The weeds went into the green bin!

After gardening you should always wash your hands. So we did!

Then we watched Mrs Brown cut the watermelon into two halves. Did you know two halves make one whole? Mrs Brown told us that watermelon flowers turn into watermelons and that the seeds are inside the fruit. Watermelons are shaped like balls. Did you know that a ball is also called a sphere? After an hour in the garden we all sat down and enjoyed eating the delicious, sweet watermelon. Some people swallowed the seeds while others spat them out.

Yum!

Collectively composed and written by Class 1B and Mrs Brown

P&C Fundraising BBQ @ Bunnings Rydalmere, Sunday 22 Feb

Volunteers are needed to help at the next Sausage Sizzle.

You only need to spare an hour or 2 + it is an easy & fun way to meet other families.

To add your name to the roster please see Melissa Welsh or email REPSCommunity@gmail.com

Cumberland High School
183 Pennant Hills Road
Carlingford
Open Evening
Monday 2 March
5-8pm

Helping Hands @ REPS

Outside School Hours Care

Enrol your children today!

Phone: 0475 823 785

Email:

rydalmereeast@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au