



On The Grapevine

A quality education in a caring, innovative environment

August 2016 (Issue 1)

Year 6 Camp

Our campers returned on Friday afternoon tired but very excited about sharing their wonderful experiences at camp. A huge thank you to Rachael Morrison and Barbara Chapman for their organisation and care for the students during their 3 day camp. Our drivers and camp cooks, Mrs Matthews, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Pan and Mrs Walker also deserve special thanks.

I received a letter from the Principal of the centre, Peter Nicoll, requesting that I share it with the school community.



Dear Keryn

I write to you following the recent Rydalmere East Public School visit to Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre. The group was lead by their teacher Miss Rachael Morrison and school administrative manager Barbara Chapman.

I would firstly like to commend Rachael and Barbara for their organisation of the camp and their professional approach to working with the staff of Wooglemai EEC. Camping programs require precise planning and organization as well as excellent student management. The staff were supremely organised for the camp and made sure that all student needs were not just met but exceeded. The Rydalmere East staff offered collegial support and cooperation that made our job much less difficult than it might have otherwise been. It was obvious that both the quality of the program we ran together and the welfare of the students under their care were of paramount importance to the staff. I was extremely impressed with the teacher/ student interaction and how well the students responded to Rachael and Barbara. I rarely see such a comfortable, professional relationship and personalised attention to each student's needs.

During their stay, the students made a lasting impression on all members of the EEC staff that they met. The students communicated well, were friendly, enthusiastic and very pleasant to deal with. They engaged fully in all educational and recreational activities and followed all instructions and requests respectfully. They were the best possible ambassadors your school might possibly hope to present to the community.

I consider it to have been a privilege to spend time with such professional staff members and excellent students and thought it appropriate to relate to you my feelings in this regard. I look forward to continued contact with the staff and students of Rydalmere East School in 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Nicoll

Peter Nicoll

Principal

Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre

In the classroom

Savannah and Logan (KS) shared their writing of questions and answers. They used capital letters at the beginning of each question and sentence and question marks and full stops at the end. They had used words from the board and charts and attempted to spell unknown words by listening and recording the sounds in words.

Absence Notes

A reminder to all parents that when your child is absent it is very important to let the school know the reason for the absence so it can be recorded. School rolls are legal documents and records must be kept accurately.

Please:

- call the school when your child is absent – we will record the reason and length of absence.
- Write and sign a note stating dates and reason for absence and dates

If the school is not notified, your child's absence is marked as unjustified. The Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) visits the school every two weeks and checks the absences of every child in the school. A high number of unjustified absences may result in further investigation by the HSLO.

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN



Please do not

- ❖ *drive into the car park to drop off or pick up your children from 8 am – 3.30pm.*
- ❖ *walk through the car park with your child*

There have been a number of near misses recently caused by parents entering and leaving the car park and parents walking through behind reversing cars with their children despite repeated requests to use the designated pathway.

Let's work together to keep our children safe!

No Pokemon Cards please

At REPS, we understand the excitement of collecting Pokeman cards for playing and swapping with friends. We have spoken with all students about keeping swap and play sessions outside of school as there has been confusion about game rules and card ownership. Any cards brought to school will be kept safely for collection at the end of the day.



Premier's Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Lilli, Kobi S, Adem and Elisha. Their hard work has paid off and they will now compete in the regional finals of the Premier's Spelling Bee at Meadowbank PS on September 13.

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education 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.

You may remember that our students also participated in a *Tell Them From Me* student survey in Term 1 this year. Asking students to complete the survey twice in one year allows us to identify trends in student responses as well as track engagement and motivation across the school year.

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 us 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. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 22 August and 21 October. 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 30 August. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

The Partners in Learning parent feedback survey

This Term, our school will be participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement.

The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 22 August and 21 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary; however, your responses are very much appreciated.

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

Student Wellbeing

Congratulations to the following students on achieving Principal's Awards.

Silver Level 1: Georgia,

Silver Level 3: Reuban

Bronze Level 1: Olivia S, Joshua M, Lizzy, Caelan

Bronze Level 2: Oliver W, Alaa, Mohammed H

Bronze Level 3: Mahdi, Antwione, Will O'H

Congratulations to Our Ozzie Mozzie Award Winners:



Keisha	Owen	Yoo Ju	Dilara	Aston	Yasmin
Riley K	Madison	Japreet	Eric	Logan H	

Keryn Hinchcliffe

Principal

12 August 2016

Year 6 fundraiser

To raise funds for the much anticipated Year 6 farewell, a 'Big Brekkie' was held yesterday morning and featured fresh fruits, assorted cereals, toasted sandwiches, cornflake cookies and muffins. What a feast! Over \$250 was raised.

15 August	Premiers Debate
16 August	K-2 Sports carnival
17 August	KS walking excursion
18 August	Zone Athletics – Field
19 August	Peer support 12:20 – 1pm
22 August	Zone Athletics - Track
24 August	Year 4 planting day
25 August	Book character day
25 August	Assembly 1:55 – 2:25pm
26 August	Peer support 12:20 – 1pm



P&C News

Fundraising results Sausage Sizzle, Sunday 7 August

Thank you to the families who supported the P&C fundraising BBQ at Bunnings Rydalmere on Sunday 7 August.

We made a profit of **\$1038** which is a great result !

The Star volunteer families were: Garcia, Matthews, Thomas/Smith, Marg Kelly, Barber, Jagirdar, Welsh, Kay, Kamboj & Oakley/Nicholson ★ ★ ★

These bbqs are a major fundraiser for the REPS community and the money raised directly benefits the students at REPS.

Best of all it doesn't cost the parents anything, just an hour or 2 of your time to volunteer to flip the sausages.

Thank you to Rene Thomas & Suzanne Barber for organising these events.

Celebrate Family Fun day with the Parliament of NSW

Children from 5 to 12 years

Friday 7th October 2016 from 10 am -3 pm

Fun activities at this year's Family Fun Day. Photo and dress up opportunities, tours of the Legislative Chambers, mystery object guessing competition, roving historical characters, art and other displays.

Sausage sizzle on the day- (minimum charge)

Free Event: Enquiries (02) 9230 2047 & dps.education@parliament.nsw.gov.au

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