



# *On The Grapevine*

## **A quality education in a caring, innovative environment**

*February 2017 (Issue 2)*

### ***Introduction ☺***

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is John Carters and I am very excited and proud to be appointed as Relieving Principal of Rydalmere East Public School, whilst Mrs Hinchcliffe takes long service leave as she transitions to retirement. I have already been fortunate enough to meet most children, some parents and some members of the wider community at various events over the last week. I am looking forward to getting to know your children and also to meeting as many parents as possible in person. I do have an 'open door policy' so feel free to call in for a chat and to introduce yourself.

### ***Pancake and berry breakfast***

Thank you to our Community Liaison Officer Becky Blamires, Genaya Milkovic, Louise Wills, Suzanne Barber, Margaret Kelly and Melissa Fletcher from OOSH for organising the 'Welcome to our School' pancake and berry breakfast last Friday morning. It was certainly pleasing to see parents, staff and children enjoying breakfast together.



### ***Meet the teacher mornings***

Next week, we will be holding our Meet the Teacher Mornings. The purpose of the morning is to provide parents with information about routines and programs taking place in the school and their child's classroom, but also a great opportunity to get to know their child's teachers, as well as other parents.

Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 Meet the Teacher Morning will take place next Wednesday 22 February in Mrs Brown's classroom at 8:15am.

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Meet the Teacher Morning will take place next Thursday 23 February in Miss O'Flaherty's classroom at 8:15am.

Miss Monardo from Class 2/3M will be attending both meetings.

If you are unable to make this event, I am sure if you contacted your child's teacher, they would be more than happy to fill you in on what you missed. We are looking forward to seeing many faces at these events.

### ***Classes Settled***

As you would be aware, students begun the week in their classes that they will be in for the remainder of 2017.

KB	Miss Amanda Butler
K/1B	Mrs Angelique Brown
1/2HK	Mrs Judy Hungerford and Mrs Nancy Kenchington
2/3M	Miss Cathryn Monardo
3/4S	Miss Tara Splarn
4/5M	Miss Rachael Morrison
6O	Miss Jessica O'Flaherty
and our support classes for children with autism	
K-2L	Miss Emma Lodewijks
3-6D	Mrs Debbie Smith

Some parents have questioned why we have composite classes. Did you know that there are actually significant benefits related to composite classes? Some of which are listed below:

- 1) More balanced class sizes, meaning students in all classes have greater opportunities for personalised interactions with their teacher and support staff
- 2) It encourages teachers to further cater for individual learning needs, as they break out of the habit of stereotypically teaching to the whole year group, and rather focus on where each student needs to move forward individually
- 3) It allows teachers more flexibility with groupings, both academically and socially
- 4) The syllabus is written in stages, not year groups, meaning that there is no impact upon mandatory guidelines for teaching and learning.

There are many other benefits, however; hopefully the ones listed above can help you feel more settled about the classing structures at Rydalmere East in 2017.

### ***Mornings and Afternoons***

Thank you to all who have been using the front gate to walk your children in and out of the school of a morning and afternoon, instead of using the car park. This really does help keep our children safe, and we will be relying on you not using the car park to continue with this. I would also like to remind all that the school does finish at 2:55pm, and we request that all children are collected as close to this time as possible. From time to time we understand people get held up, so please call the front office if this is the case. Otherwise, our staff members are forced to stay back and look after students when they often have meetings and/or family commitments after school. Thanks for your support of our wonderful staff at Rydalmere East PS in this matter.

### **Meet the Teacher Mornings**

Infants - Wednesday 22 Feb in Mrs Brown's classroom in Block D

Primary – Thursday 23 Feb in Miss O'Flaherty's classroom in Block B

Meetings start at 8:15am

## Swimming Carnival



Our school joined Yates Ave and Rydalmere Schools in a combined swimming carnival at Granville pool today. Thank you to Miss O'Flaherty and Ms Krautloher for supervising our students and to kind parents Mary Flinn, Ruth Nahlous and Anne Sykes for providing transport to our swimmers. Congratulations to our team who represented REPS so well.

## Stranger Danger

This is just a friendly reminder to all parents and children about stranger danger on the way to and from school. Some great strategies to talk to children about who do not come to school by vehicle are:

- Walking / riding home with someone (either parent, adult or friend)
- Walking / riding straight home without taking any detours.
- Stick to roads that people use rather than shortcuts through laneways. (Stay in sight)
- Reporting any concerns as soon as possible

## P&C Meeting

On Monday night, we held a very well supported P&C Meeting, which saw over 20 parents and community members in attendance. We discussed current and upcoming initiatives, and highlighted the AGM which is coming up on Monday 20 March. At this next meeting, all positions will be declared vacant, and in particular, our brilliant president Suzanne, will not be seeking re-election as all her children are off to high school. It would be great to see even more people at this meeting and maybe even putting their hand up to help the children in our school.

## Student Wellbeing

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

Gold Level 2: *Ethan*

Bronze Level 1: *Lincoln K*

Bronze Level 2: *James P, Dakota*

Bronze Level 3: *Hareem, Olivia, Madeline*

**Congratulations to Our Ozzie Mozzie Award Winners:**



Sisca

Josef

Declan

Resha

Jessica P

Antonio

Wishing you all a wonderful fortnight, and don't forget to say hello!

*Mr Carters*

Principal



### *Dates for your diary*

22 Feb	Infants Meet the Teacher 8:15am
23 Feb	Primary Meet the Teacher 8:15am
23 Feb	Scripture starts
1 March	Zone swimming Parramatta pool
2 March	Assembly 1:55 – 2:25pm in the hall
20 March	P&C AGM

### *A note from the Office*

With the implementation of a new administration system, student absences need to be recorded within 5 days. Please ensure we are notified either by a note, email, phone call or by using the Skoolbag app. Thank you.

### *In the classroom*

Our class, 6O, is using a new website called BANQER. It is a website that helps us learn about online banking. Each week we are paid an allowance by Miss O'Flaherty and some of us have jobs and are paid additional wages.

On Thursday 16 February, Kendall the creator of this website visited our class to answer our questions about how she came up with the idea. Kendall was very generous and brought many items for us to participate in an auction using the BANQER money we had earned.

*Clare, Hareem, Ruby, Sienna, Jasmin, Ann, Amira, Taylor and Ja'Leah from 6O*

### *Stewart House*

Stewart house bags were sent home this week. Please fill with good, clean wearable clothes, accessories and manchester and return to the school office by Monday 13 March. Stewart House is a children's charity that provides care for public school students at their Department of Education run facility at Curl Curl. Your generosity would be appreciated.

### *OOSH news*

During the fortnight our children have been exploring Aboriginal culture.

Together, we have been creating an aboriginal dot painting banner to be hung on the wall. This allows the children to feel included.

Last week we were lucky enough to have the RSPCA visit to talk about responsible pet ownership. Our students responded well to this visit, listening carefully and answering questions. Thank you to Melissa for organising this event as the children are interested in animals and having them as pets.

During our next vacation care at Oatlands PS, we will be learning about Anzac Day. Any Defence Force parents willing to help on Monday 24 April at Oatlands would be appreciated. At Helping Hands we like to include all families. Parents willing to volunteer to teach drama, fitness, gardening etc would be most welcome. Parental input is amazing and the children really benefit from it. Please contact Melissa if you are interested at all.



*Melissa Fletcher* - Helping Hands Rydalmere East Phone 0475 823785

### **Marsden High Open Day**

**7th March**

**4:30 – 6:30pm**



Exclusive opportunities: Pinnacle classes, Robotics, Talented Sports Program, Dance Ensembles, Bush Regeneration

Principal's address 4:30pm followed by school tours

### **Cumberland High Open Evening**

**Monday 27 February**

**6:00pm to 8:00pm**



Cumberland High School provides an extensive range of academic and vocational opportunities delivered by professional, experienced and highly committed teachers.