

# RUTHERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL

## Newsletter



Volume 2 Term 1

Friday 23rd February 2024

<https://rutherford-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

### Week 5 and Week 6 Dates for your Diary

M 26.02.24		M 04.03.24	
T 27.02.24	Zone Swimming Carnival - Maitland Aquatic Centre Volunteer Induction - Community Room - 3:20pm Instrumental Music Program Information Session in the Community Room at 6pm	T 05.03.24	OC (5/6L) Challenge Day - PCYC Cessnock
W 28.02.24	P&C Welcome Disco	W 06.03.24	Parent and Community Volunteer School Inductions - Staffroom - 3:30pm
Th 29.02.24	PSSA Basketball Individual Trials - Maitland Federation Centre Social Groups with Maitland Grange - Primary	Th 07.03.24	
F 01.03.24	PSSA Zone Rugby League Trials	F 08.03.24	

**KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL THE LATEST NEWS AND INFORMATION.**  
**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AT: <https://www.facebook.com/RutherfordPS>**

### P&C MEETING SUCCESS

Our first P&C Meeting was held on Tuesday 20th February 2024. The Annual General Meeting was held, and congratulations goes to the following officer bearers who were elected to executive positions:

President	Emily Baird
Vice Presidents	Mel Buscombe and Kim Shaw
Secretary	Natalie Vassallo
Treasurer	Emma Hickey

Membership of the P&C is open to ALL parents, carers and community members. It only costs \$2 to join the P&C, which gives you membership and voting rights.

The P&C is the peak consultative body between the school and the parents and carers. It is important that we have a strong and vibrant P&C membership to ensure our school is well supported and parents have an active partnership in the running of the school. The next P&C Meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 6:30pm in the Community Room. Please consider coming along and getting involved!

### P&C WELCOME DISCO

The first disco for 2024 will be held this Wednesday 28th March 2024. The disco is run by the P&C volunteers in the school hall with the support of staff and open for all students of Rutherford Public School.

Cost of entry is just \$2 (cash only please).

All students **MUST** be accompanied to and from the school hall by an adult.

Session times are:

K - 2                      5:00pm - 6:00pm

Years 3 - 6                6:15pm - 7:30pm

A small canteen selling drinks, chips and sweets will operate on the night.

Parents are welcome to stay for the disco or drop off and collect children from the hall.

### **WELCOME DISCO PRIMARY VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are required for the Primary Disco session from 6:15pm - 7:30pm. If you can help, please sign up here: <https://volunteersignup.org/CATDK>

### **MEET THE TEACHER**

Thank you to the parents and carers who were able to attend the Meet the Teacher events over the past two weeks. We had over 124 families attend. Feedback from our community has been overwhelmingly positive with class routines shared by our classroom teachers. If you were unable to attend the event, class newsletters have been distributed by each classroom teacher with the information delivered on the day.

A 'Meet the Teacher' display has also been created in the office front foyer, so please pop in to see our friendly staff.

### **PLAY TIMES FOR PRIMARY STUDENTS**

After a trial of our combined 3-6 lunch and play periods this term, we have decided that in Week 6 we will revert to our 2023 structure, where Years 3 and 4 will have their break times separate to the Years 5 and 6 students. This will reduce the pressure of school playing areas and students accessing areas for games and activities.

### **DROP OFFS AND PICK UPS**

Lately we have had a small number of motorists not following basic road rules and parking restrictions whilst dropping off and collecting students of a morning and afternoon. Rangers and police regularly patrol our school zone and heavy fines apply. All parents and community members are asked to keep the safety of our students as their highest priority.

### **TAP DANCING TASTER LESSON**

Students in Years 3 - 6 are invited to try a tap dancing taster lesson in our school hall on Monday 26th February 2024 from 2:00pm - 2:30pm. Ex-student and experienced tap dancer, Miss Tatjana Reid will be providing a tap dancing lesson for all interested primary students. No experience is necessary and tap shoes are not required.

Stay tuned for the opportunity to access free, after-school tap dancing lessons with Miss Tatjana in our school hall very soon!

### **MOBILE PHONES, SMART WATCHES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Parents and carers will receive an email copy of our mobile phone, smartwatches and electronic devices policy this week. Our school has adopted an '**Off and Away**' approach, which means that ALL devices need to be away and turned off in the school playground and classrooms. Please contact the office should you need any clarification of our policy.

### **SCHOOL BYTES PORTAL**

Our School Bytes parent app is the main way we communicate securely to all parents and carers. It is essential that at least one parent is linked to each student enrolment.

Parents and carers can download the app here:

**Apple** - <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/school-bytes/id6463097826>

**Google Play** - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=education.schoolbytes>

School Bytes is used to:

- Send and receive permission notes e.g. excursions, incursions and sporting events
- Collect payment of fees and school activities
- Record attendance and explain absences
- Issue and view student progress semester reports

From the School Bytes Dashboard you can access your child's statement of account, payment history, activities, newsletter, reports, view the calendar and attendance and respond to absences. We ask that you turn your push notifications to 'ON' so you can receive important information as it is sent out.

Please contact the office on 4932 5900 if you have any concerns or questions about the School Bytes system.

### **STUDENT BACKGROUND AND CONSENT FORM - DUE Friday 1st March 2024**

An email requesting student background information and permissions for publishing photos and using the internet has been sent home via School Bytes in Week 2. Teachers use this information throughout the year to manage student activities. Parents and carers are asked to complete these forms by Friday 1st March 2024. You will find the Student Background and Consent document in 'FORMS' on the School Bytes app.

### **STUDENT HEALTH**

Has your child's health needs changed over the school break? It is important that the school has up-to-date information about student health needs. Allergies and other medical conditions need to be managed by the school. Please contact the school immediately if you need to update our school records.

### **OUR KINNECTION**

The Our Kinnection program is up and running each Tuesday, facilitated by Joey and Vicki Griffiths. All students K-6 who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander are part of the program. If you do not wish for your child to attend the fortnightly program, please contact the office on 4932 5900.

The Rutherford Public School Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dance group, known as the 'Deadly Dance Group' is looking for committed students and families to share their knowledge and culture and represent our school at community and whole events. An expression of interest to be part of the 'Deadly Dance Group' will be coming home with students next Tuesday. Please return the slip at the bottom expressing your interest to the office. There will be a K-2 and 3-6 group with approximately 25 students in each group.

### **EXTERNAL PROVIDERS**

A friendly reminder that any external provider (e.g. NDIS support, Speech Therapist, Occupational Therapist etc) seeking to support students during school hours school must liaise with classroom teachers regarding the days and times.

An application for their service during school hours must also be completed and approved by the Infant or Primary Deputy Principals. In most cases, these applications are approved, but school timetabling and possible other school organisation may mean some negotiation of the requests. We are committed to providing the best education for all students following a rigorous curriculum.

## **VOLUNTEER INDUCTIONS**

Thank you to the parents who have come along and been inducted into our school site. The induction of all volunteers is mandatory at all public schools throughout NSW. The induction only takes around 15 minutes and gives our valued volunteers some basic information of policies and school operational procedures. This induction is only required for NEW parents, carers and visitors to our school. You will need to complete a working with children declaration and provide 100 points of identification.

Our next Volunteer Induction session will be held Tuesday 27th February 2024 at 3:20pm in the Community Room.

Volunteers who have completed the induction in the last five years do not need to attend the sessions, but MUST wear their volunteer lanyard at all times whilst volunteering in the school. Parents and carers do not need to register for the induction.

## **NAPLAN**

This term, students in Years 3 and 5 will undertake NAPLAN assessment. NAPLAN provides schools with valuable information about your child's learning progress in literacy and numeracy. NAPLAN is only one way we assess student learning. The NAPLAN window will take place from Wednesday 13th March 2024 to Monday 25th March 2024.

Important Dates for NAPLAN administration at RPS:

### **Week 7**

Wednesday 13th March 2024

Year 3 and 5 Writing Assessment

Thursday 14th March 2024

Year 3 and 5 Reading Assessment

Friday 15th March 2024

Year 3 and 5 Catch up Writing and Reading Assessment for students absent.

### **Week 8**

Monday 18th March 2024

Year 3 and 5 Language Conventions Assessment

Tuesday 19th March 2024

Year 3 and 5 Numeracy Assessment

Year 3 and 5 catch up assessments for absent students will occur from Wednesday 20th March 2024 to Friday 22nd March 2024 .

Your child's teacher is getting students ready for NAPLAN and will provide appropriate support and guidance. Students will become familiar with the types of questions in the tests and the online testing.

FREE Toast and Milo will be available to all students in Years 3 and 5 on NAPLAN testing days from the Community Room.

## **MUSIC NEWS**

The Instrumental Music Program returned in Week 4 with 140 students involved in Violin, Trumpet and Drum Corps lessons.

A reminder that there is an information session for new families joining the program, to be held on Tuesday 27th February 2024 in the Community Room at 6pm. The meeting will go for approximately 45 minutes.

Music fees will be due in Week 5 this term. The term fee is \$40 and is payable through School Bytes. Instrument Hire Agreements will go home early next week for violin and trumpet students.

## **LIBRARY NEWS**

Thank you to everyone who made orders through Book Club. They have started to go home this week and will continue into next week.

Borrowing has started, so please remember to send a library bag with your child in Kindergarten to Year 2 and encourage your children to borrow and read from Kindergarten through to Year 6.

Library lessons will occur once per fortnight, Infants in Even weeks and Primary in Odd weeks. If books are lost, broken or damaged on return, please help your child learn responsibility through paying for the book's replacement, or sending in a book of great quality to replace the damaged book.

## **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE & TRAVEL**

### Compulsory School Attendance

NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier, and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

### Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed and approved by the Principal. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year. In some circumstances students may be eligible to enroll in distance education for travel periods over fifty school days. This should be discussed with your child's school Principal.

## **LEARNING SUPPORT TEAM**

Our School Learning Support Team (LST) is designed and operates to support all students in their learning. The LST meets weekly and consists of several school staff (executives, counsellors, and teachers) who meet every week to discuss students' academic, behavioural, social and emotional needs.

From time-to-time, classroom teachers will refer individual students to the LST for additional assessment, support and advice. The LST may offer additional advice to the class teacher on how best to support a student, refer a student to the school counselling team or even seek advice from specialist services and advisors from the Department of Education.

Parents and carer consultation is an important part of the Learning and Support team process and planning. Parent review meetings are sometimes arranged to ensure all planning is inclusive and consultative. Our two main Learning Support Teams are chaired by Mrs Zoe Dyall (Deputy Principal - Head of Infants) and Mrs Belinda Lantry (Deputy Principal - Head of Primary).

## **ONLINE "SUGGESTION BOX"**

*Got a suggestion or comment you would like to make about our school?*

Rutherford Public School is committed to ensuring parent, carer and community voices are heard and valued. We have an "Online Suggestion Box" and is designed to give parents and carers an opportunity to share their suggestions or comments. Comments can be made anonymously, or you can leave your contact details and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Please click on the link below. We would like to hear from you!

[Microsoft Forms](#)

## **WELLBEING WRAP UP**

### **Above and Beyond Award Winner**

Congratulations to Daniel Marshall in Year 6 for receiving our very first Above and Beyond Award for 2024. Daniel received this award for his tireless effort and tenacious perseverance during the RPS Swimming Carnival. On top of this, Daniel goes above and beyond for his peers in the classroom and on the playground, every day. Well done Daniel!

## **SPORTS REPORT**

### **Swimming Carnival**

Last Thursday we held our annual school swimming carnival at Maitland Aquatic Centre for our competitive swimmers. We had 65 students compete on the day. Thank you to the staff, Mrs Jessica McClenahan and Mrs Amanda Morris for assisting on the day.

Congratulations to the following students on receiving 2024 Swimming Age Champion:

Junior Boy	Theo Bruderlin
Junior Girl	Harper Gillon
11 Years Boy	Cruze Bass
11 Years Girl	Savannah MacPherson
Senior Boy	Cooper Morris
Senior Girl	Ellsie Kuhn.

### **Zone Swimming Carnival**

Congratulations to the following students who will represent Rutherford Public School at Zone Swimming Carnival next Tuesday 27th February 2024 at Maitland Aquatic Centre:

Cooper Morris  
Cody Caplick  
Owen MacPherson  
Theo Bruderlin  
Ethan Pasfield  
Cruze Bass

## **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

Hello everyone,

2024 has been an excellent start. I am enjoying meeting and chatting with so many students, families and staff throughout my days. Mondays I am focusing on Infants and Wednesdays is Primary.

I must say that the absolute highlight of my day is being on the front gate greeting everyone as they arrive at school in the morning! I think I say "Good morning" at least 642 times, but majority are met with smiles, high fives, little stories and greetings back.

RPS, you are all amazing. Please keep smiling and checking in with one another. Remember, a smile can make a big difference in someone's day. It sure does for me.

See you at the front gate next week!

Chaplain Jess

Jasmine Miosge  
Savannah MacPherson  
Willow Strong  
Harper Gillon  
Ellise Kuhn  
Delilah Fletcher

### **School Cross Country**

Week 9 - date to be advised.

### **PSSA Rugby League**

Good luck to the following students who are trialing for the 'Coalfields' Rugby League Zone team on Friday 1st March 2024 at Cessnock.

#### U11s:

Chase Andrews  
Isaac Wiseman  
Jeremy Rolfe  
Logan Baird  
Harley Rolls  
Cruze Bass

#### Opens:

Xander Priestley  
Lachlan Thomas  
Rohan Wynands  
Kadyn Richards  
Jacob Parkes

### **PSSA Basketball**

Good luck to Rohan Wynands and Cranston Munro who are trialing for the Zone Basketball team.

### **Zone Cross Country**

Save the date: Friday 10th May 2024 at Tocal

#### **CONTACT US:**

**School Phone:** 4932 5900

**School Website:** <https://rutherford-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

**School Email:** [rutherford-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:rutherford-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

**School Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/RutherfordPS>

**Suggestions and Feedback:** <https://forms.office.com/r/kSpAKaDZdN>

**School Bytes Parent Portal:** [Portal Link](#)

**Rutherford/Telarah Rotary Canteen:** [griffin.jodie072@gmail.com](mailto:griffin.jodie072@gmail.com)