

This is how we Learn and Live!

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER • 19 December 2018 • TERM 4 WEEK 10



Calendar Dates

Term 1, 2019	
Week 1	Bell Times 8:45am – 2:45pm
30 January	Year 1-6 Students Return Kindergarten Best Start Assessments
31 January	Kindergarten Best Start Assessments
1 February	Kindergarten Best Start Assessments
Week 2	
4 February	Kindergarten Students Return at 9:15am
Week 3	
11 February	Meet the Teacher Kindergarten 6pm – 7pm, Stage 1 7pm – 8pm
12 February	Meet the Teacher Stage 3 6pm – 8:30pm
13 February	Meet the Teacher Stage 2 6pm – 7pm
17 February	Sunday Welcome Morning Tea Picnic 9am
Week 4	
18 February	Swimming Carnival
20 February	P&C 9am
22 February	Leaders Induction Assesmbly

The Administration Office will be closed from 3:00pm on Wednesday 19 December and will reopen on Wednesday 23 January at 8.30am for new enrolments and then from Tuesday 29 January.

The office will be CLOSED during the school holidays.

**Students in Years 1-6 return on Wednesday 30 January at 8:45am and
Kindergarten students return on Monday 4 February at 9:15am.**

Students will return to their 2018 classes on the first day of school and 2019 classes will be formed from 11:00am.



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

New School Times from 2019 8:45am to 2:45pm

Consultation meetings have been held at P&C meetings regarding the proposal of new school times for 2019. We can all agree that due to significant growth across Riverbank Public School and The Ponds High School the combined school collection time of 3:00pm is becoming extremely hectic. On Wednesday 14 November, the P&C voted in favour of changing our school hours in 2019 to 8:45am until 2:45pm. The new school times will commence from Wednesday 30 January.

Construction of new Building

I am pleased to announce the construction of our new building has commenced. The upgrade of Riverbank Public School will accommodate the growing student population in the area. The project will deliver 15 new flexible teaching spaces, a covered outdoor learning area, additional student amenities, shade structures and an extension of administration and staff facilities. During construction, students, staff and visitors to the school will use the new access to the school grounds on Wentworth Street, located near the school's basketball court.

Patterson Building Group have established a site office on the school grounds. Work hours will be:

- Monday to Friday, 7:00am to 6:00pm
- Saturday, 7:00am to 1:00pm

I will continue to keep you informed as the project progresses. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any concerns or questions.

Relocation of School Office

For 2019 our school office will be relocated to the first demountable upon entering Wentworth Street.

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2019 School Leaders

It gives me great pleasure to announce our 2019 school leadership team:

Captains

Emily Quan
Lachlan Smith

Vice Captains

Deeya Bhatt
Aidan Perera

Prefects

Mia Stevens
Cameron Mitchell
Orika Raab
Kaushal Naidu
Amelia White
Manav Nair
Zayna Omer
Shibat Raj Uprety

House and Vice Captains

Boyce

Captains Jake Timbs and Zainab Zohaib **Vice Captains** James Bodini and Baljot Bains

Piddington

Captains Tiroj Aieveri and Dhvani Bhatia **Vice Captains** Samuel Jones and Baanipreet Kaur

Tomah

Captains Aneeq Aleem and Hadia Mirza **Vice Captains** Harjan Sing and Anushka Samy

York

Captains Michael Boyd and Mikaela Shead **Vice Captains** Krrish Chauhan and Jorja-Lili Wright

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Year in Review

What an incredible journey we have experienced together this year!

To our amazing Year 6 Students, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your successful completion of your primary years. You have been instrumental in building Riverbank's vision and have been outstanding mentors to all. The staff and I will look forward to hearing about your continued successes and we hope that we have provided you with the knowledge of respect and responsibility, and the skills to build relationships to take you onto the next important step on your educational journey.

Our thanks to all of our School leaders; I have marvelled at their energy, resilience and compassion in their roles this year.

Every week there are dozens of volunteers who wander in and out of Riverbank assisting within the classrooms, Library, excursions, scripture, school banking and P&C events. The tireless volunteers who make our school that bit extra special – we thank you.

Thank you to the mums and dads and grandparents, aunties and uncles ... the ones who find the lost notes in the bottom of our bags, cook our cupcakes, buy our books, wash our uniforms, replace yet another lost hat and appreciate our teachers. I thank you for your support of all things Riverbank and for giving us the opportunity to work in partnership with you.

Our staff at Riverbank are deeply invested in finding and nurturing the immense potential inside all students so that they are equipped to explore the boundless possibilities that lie ahead of them. To do this takes determination, hard work and a commitment to the pursuit of excellence. I thank my Deputy Principals, Assistant Principals, teaching, support and administration staff who have invested so much of themselves and their tremendous expertise in the pursuit of this vision for the benefit of our students and our school.

To our students for their have a go attitude in everything they try, who find the courage to raise their hand even if they're not sure they have the right answer, who participate in all our wonderful opportunities despite knowing they may not be the best, who can all be proud of what they achieve, by expecting the best and still enjoy the achievement of others.

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To our families and students who are leaving Riverbank at the end of the year, the staff and I would like to extend our thanks for your enormous contribution and we wish you well.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank our extremely dedicated P&C team, so very competently led by Mrs Brodie, Mrs McGuiness, Mrs Mitchell, Mr Nand, Beta and other parents who have helped in so many ways – too numerous to mention.

Our thanks to Mrs Brodie for completing the NSW Community Building Partnership program awards grant on behalf of the P&C and school. We have been successful in receiving a grant for \$16 500 to go towards the cost of the projector and screen for the school hall. Thanks to the P&C for contributing a further \$5 000 to fund the balance.

I would also like to thank The Ponds Indian Community, Mrs Barnett, and the team from Northwest OOSH, Mrs Weal and the staff of The Ponds High School for their ongoing support.

2019 brings great events, adventures and challenges. We are looking forward to seeing our enrolments increase to 1380 students, welcoming 210 Kindergarten students and a further 95 students in Years 1-6, 19 new staff and the completion of our new building of innovative learning spaces for students in Years 5 and 6. We will also see our classrooms becoming a little cooler next year, as the school was successful Cooler Classrooms initiative with air conditioning being installed in our existing 21 classrooms.

Thank you to all in our special school community for making it such an enjoyable and rewarding year. Thank you to all our parents, carers and families for your support throughout the year, and for raising such wonderful children and trusting us each day with their care.

This year we farewell Mr Trovato, Mrs Mahoney, Ms Brunetta, Mrs Marin, Mrs Jeske, Mr Dewhurst, Ms Murphy and Mr Van Ryn. Thank you for your enormous contributions to Riverbank.

To all the families of our great school – I wish you a peaceful festive season and a healthy and happy 2019.

Jeanie Brown
Principal

Term 1

Riverbank Public School

2019

Term One	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT SUN
1	28 Jan Australia Day Holiday	29 Jan Staff Development Day	30 Jan 1-6 Students Return Best Start Testing	31 Jan Best Start Testing	1 Feb Best Start Testing	2 3 Feb
2	4 Feb Kindergarten commence	5 Feb	6 Feb	7 Feb	8 Feb	9 10 Feb
3	11 Feb Meet The Teacher Kindy 6 – 7pm Stage 1 7 – 8pm	12 Feb Meet The Teacher Stage 3 6 - 8:30pm	13 Feb Meet The Teacher Stage 2 6 – 7pm Kindergarten Photos	14 Feb	15 Feb	16 17 Feb WECOME PICNIC 9AM SUNDAY
4	18 Feb Swimming Carnival	19 Feb	20 Feb P&C 9am	21 Feb	22 Feb Leaders Induction Assembly	23 24 Feb
5	25 Feb	26 Feb	27 Feb Parliament	28 Feb	1 March Assembly Kindy & Stage 1	2 3 Mar
6	4 March	5 March	6 March	7 March	8 March Assembly Stage 2 & 3	9 10 Mar
7	11 March National Young Leaders Conference	12 March	13 March	14 March Selective HS Test	15 March Assembly Kindy & Stage 1	16 17 Mar
8	18 March	19 March	20 March P&C 7pm	21 March Harmony Day	22 March Assembly Stage 2 & 3	23 24 Mar
9	25 March	26 March	27 March	28 March	29 March Assembly Kindy & Stage 1	30 31 Mar
10	1 April	2 April	3 April Parliament Cross Country 3-6	4 April Cross Country K-2	5 April Assembly Stage 2 & 3	6 7 Apr
11	8 April Parent Teacher Interviews	9 April Parent Teacher Interviews Yr 1 'Room on a Broom' Excursion	10 April Parent Teacher Interviews	11 April ANZAC Service	12 April Easter Hat Parade	13 14 Apr
	15 April	16 April	17 April	18 April	19 April Good Friday	20 21 Apr
	22 April Easter Monday	23 April	24 April	25 April ANZAC Day 	26 April	27 28 April

SPECIAL Premier's Reading Challenge EDITION

Congratulations to all of the students who completed the **Premier's Reading Challenge** for 2018. Each student will receive a certificate as a record of their achievement. For *seven* years of participation, students receive a **platinum award** and for *four* years they receive a **gold award**. These students are presented with their awards at an assembly. All other students will have their certificates enclosed with their school reports.

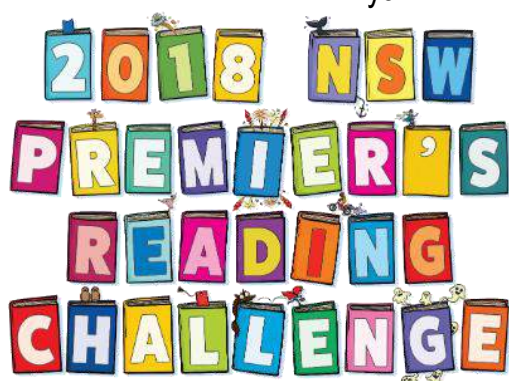
Huge congratulations to these students on receiving a **platinum award**:

(L to R) Sravya Chanduri, Anika Rahman & Karan Rasquina



Congratulations to the students below for achieving their **gold award**:

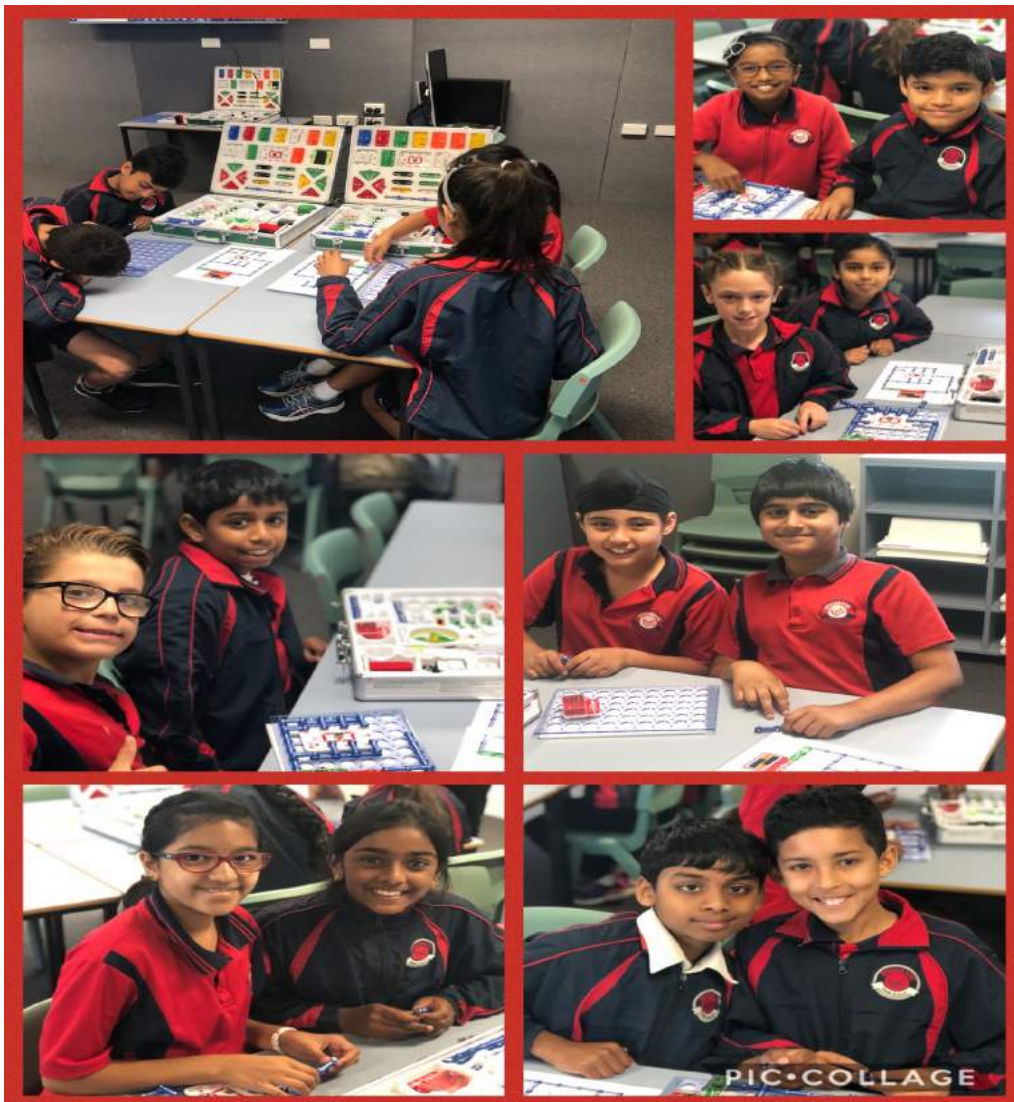
YEAR 3			YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Dhanushma (Y2)	Agam	Sanchith	Ridhwan	Bailey	Tamara
Brody (Y2)	Zayn	Aayanpreet	Lachlan	Jasmine	Piya
Aaron	Aaina	Sartaj	Shua	Ayman	Manavjot
Ziya	Jack	Carrington	Anshul	Chaahat	Zeynep
Sujay	Advikaa	Diya	Nishmitha		
Dylan	Hanya	Guillermo	Maher		
Angel	Dhanya	Risha	Jaden		
Indiana	Shubh	Nishil	Arya		
Tahlia	Kian	Kaushila	Kavya		
Lian	Yashika	Akshara	Ezekiel		
Ganya	Aum	Anna	Rutuj		
	Aryan		Rachel		
			Paarth		
			Maania		
			Natalie		



We look forward to seeing even more students completing the Challenge in 2019! Keep reading over the Summer holidays....and remember, those books can be added to your 2019 PRC reading record.

STEM

In Week 7, primary classes had an amazing opportunity to participate in a STEM incursion at Riverbank P.S. Before our session, we learned that STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. We were ready to learn more, so, we put on our creative thinking hats and let the fun begin. Stage 2 learned all about 7 segment light displays. Did you know this is how the numbers on a digital clock are illuminated? We worked with a buddy to create an electrical circuit that needed a generator, connector, output and switch to allow electricity to flow through the 7-segment light display. When this happened, it illuminated. We experimented and tried to create numbers 0 - 9 on the display (we even got really clever and started making letters, too!). We had a fabulous time and can't wait to learn more.



Whooping cough affects people of all ages. It can be especially serious for babies. Vaccination reduces the risk of infection and severe disease.

Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

Last updated: 28 June 2018

What is whooping cough?

Whooping cough can be a life threatening infection in babies. Whooping cough in babies can lead to apnoea (pauses in normal breathing), pneumonia, feeding problems and weight loss, seizures, brain damage and, in some cases, death. Older children and adults can get whooping cough too and pass it on to babies.

What are the symptoms?

- Whooping cough usually begins like a cold with a blocked or runny nose, tiredness, mild fever and a cough.
- The cough gets worse and severe bouts of uncontrollable coughing can develop. Coughing bouts can be followed by vomiting, choking or taking a big gasping breath which causes a "whooping" sound. The cough can last for many weeks and can be worse at night.
- Some newborns may not cough at all but they can stop breathing and turn blue. Some babies have difficulties feeding and can choke or gag.
- Older children and adults may just have a cough that lasts for many weeks. They may not have the whoop.

How is it spread?

- Whooping cough is spread when an infectious person coughs bacteria into the air which can be inhaled by people nearby. If they are not treated early, people with whooping cough are infectious in the first three weeks of their illness.
- Whooping cough spreads easily through families, childcare centres and at school.

Who is at risk?

- Anyone can get whooping cough. People living in the same household as someone with whooping cough are especially at risk.
- Immunisation reduces the risk of infection but immunity fades over time. You can still get whooping cough even if you've been immunised.

How is it prevented?

Whooping cough vaccines provide good protection from infection but immunity fades which means that boosters are needed.

Immunisation for babies

- Babies need to be immunised at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months and 18 months. The first dose can be given as early as 6 weeks of age.

- Getting your baby vaccinated on time gives them some protection when they are most at risk of severe illness.
- If your baby's vaccines are overdue, see your GP now to catch up.

Immunisation for older children

- A whooping cough booster is needed at 4 years of age.
- Check if your child has been vaccinated. Look at their Blue Book, speak to your GP or ring the Australian Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809.
- A second whooping cough booster is given in high school through the NSW School –based Vaccination Program.

Immunisation for adults

A booster for adults is recommended for:

- women who are in the third trimester of pregnancy, preferably at 28 weeks. Free vaccine is provided through GPs and hospital antenatal clinics.
- other adult household members, grandparents and carers of infants under 12 months of age.
- adults working with young children, especially health care and child care workers.

If you are a close contact of someone with whooping cough:

- If you have been exposed to someone with whooping cough early in their illness while they are infectious, watch out for symptoms and see your doctor if you get a new cough.
- Some babies and some pregnant women need antibiotics to prevent whooping cough infection if they have had significant contact with an infectious person.

How is it diagnosed?

Your doctor may ask about your symptoms and whether you've had any contact with whooping cough. If your doctor thinks you have whooping cough, a swab from the back of the nose or throat can confirm the diagnosis.

How is it treated?

- Some babies may need treatment in hospital or in intensive care.
- Antibiotics are used to treat whooping cough in the early stages and can help prevent spreading whooping cough to others. People who are not treated early with the right antibiotics can spread the infection in the first 3 weeks of their illness. After 5 days of antibiotics, you are normally no longer infectious.
- The cough often continues for many weeks, despite antibiotics.

What is the public health response?

Doctors and laboratories must confidentially notify cases of pertussis to the local public health unit. Public health unit staff can advise on the best way to stop further spread.

Infectious children are restricted from going to pre-school and school. Unimmunised contacts may be excluded from child care unless they take the special antibiotics.

Identify - Protect – Prevent

[NSW Health whooping cough campaign:](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/whoopingcough/Pages/default.aspx)

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/whoopingcough/Pages/default.aspx>

For further information please call your local public health unit on 1300 066 055 or visit the New South Wales Health website www.health.nsw.gov.au

Cough etiquette and respiratory hygiene

Cover your cough



- When coughing or sneezing, use a tissue to cover your nose and mouth
- Dispose of the tissue afterwards
- Wear a surgical mask, if possible

Wash your hands



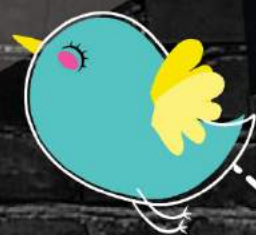
- After coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose, wash your hands with soap and water
- Use alcohol-based liquids, gels or wipes if you do not have access to soap and water

Remember hand washing is the single most effective way to reduce the spread of germs that cause respiratory disease.

Anyone with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection, regardless of the cause, should be instructed to cover their nose/mouth when coughing or sneezing; use tissues to contain respiratory secretions; dispose of tissues in the nearest waste receptacle after use; and wash their hands afterwards.



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing



Early Bird Offer

School Holiday Workshops



2-DAY WORKSHOPS

Ages 8 -14 years @ The Ponds High School

MAKERSPACE INVENTOR Workshop

Craft and invent anything with electronic building blocks and iPad control!

Guaranteed FUN!

DIGITAL ART + DESIGN Workshop

Learn to design, create and edit digital art for the web on iPads!

BOOK NOW at

PIXELKIDS.com.au



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Vacation Care

****limited spots available call now**

Offering craft and fun activities during the holidays

*Located in The Ponds.

*I have worked in childcare for over 15 years

*A very clean, tidy, fun and caring environment for children to interact, learn and play

*Operating hours 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday

*Registered with Kids' Early Learning Blacktown Council Family Day Care

If interested please contact

Karissa 0431 345 405