

## Schools unite for sports day

By Jade Wittmann

GIVEN an equipment list and the task to create an activities program for the inaugural gala day at Cumberland High School, its 330 primary school visitors had a ball.

The year 5 pupils from six of Cumberland's feeder primary schools are part of the new community of schools known as Cumberland Community Connections – which includes Oatlands, Carlingford and Rydalmere public schools.

They submitted their plans to year 9 pupils who created a marking criteria and chose the most time-efficient and well-planned proposal for the day.

Rydalmere Public School pupils came up with the winning plan which included soccer, tennis, newcombe ball, a water pistol challenge they created and other games played on rotation.

"We decided no team would play each other twice," said Wil, 11. "It felt good when everyone took out the equipment to set up – I thought we'd won."

His peer Nigeen said players were split into 24 teams named after nutritious foods. These included the Cosmic Cap-sicums, Apple iPhones and



**Game on:** Carlingford Public School pupil Josh Pledge played captain ball with his peers at the Cumberland Community Connections gala day.

**Picture:** Natalie Roberts

Western Sydney Watermelons.

Teacher Melissa Gallace said pupils' maths skills were tested by the task as they measured the oval and worked out how many activities they could fit into the area.

"They've definitely got to build on their organisation and team-work skills, working with other students to put together an effective project," she said.

"They had to think in an abstract way to picture how the day would run. It was a challenge and I'm so proud they came together and worked effectively to produce this.

"Communication to organise the day was a big thing."

Cumberland High School principal Mechel Pikoulas said this took the form of two video conferences with the year 9 students and use of education social media site Edmodo for pupils to continue planning and ask questions of the older students.

"We created an ongoing dialogue through the technology," she said. "It's the first time we've designed a rich task as a community of schools."