

# The Link

A fortnightly publication of Rydalmere Public School



Term 4: Issue 17

14 November 2011

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>Every Tuesday</b>	Tuesday morning Coffee Morning with the teachers and parents 9.10am-10.00am
<b>17,24.11 &amp; 1.12</b>	Thursday afternoon 3.30-4.30 AFL AusKick clinics for K-6 students on the oval(bookings required- <b>still accepting late enrolments this week</b> )
<b>16 &amp; 23.11.11</b>	Kindergarten 2012 Transition Program
<b>17.11.11</b>	P&C Day Meeting 1.30pm in Community Room-All Welcome
<b>19.11.11</b>	Year 5 students Video conference "Environmental Education at Rydalmere"
<b>6.12.11</b>	Presentation Day ceremony 10.00am-12.00 noon Ermington Community Hall
<b>6.12.11</b>	"Thank You" to parents and volunteers luncheon - 1.00pm School Hall
<b>8.12.11</b>	Year 6 Farewell-School Hall
<b>14.12.11</b>	Christmas Fun Day/class parties
<b>16.12.11</b>	Last day of Term 4, Students break-up for Christmas holidays
<b>30.1.12</b>	Students 1-6 return to school for 2012
<b>31.1.12</b>	Kindergarten students BestStart Assessments- All Kinder students begin school on Tuesday 31 January 2012.

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to our third edition of The Link for Term 4, giving you an update on what has been happening around the school and what events are planned for the rest of the term.

Student's from years 4-6 and teachers (Mrs McGlashan, Mrs Ryan & Mr Daly) returned last Wednesday from two nights and three days at camp at the Sport & Recreation facility located just south of Newcastle, on Lake Macquarie, Myuna Bay. The focus, on Sport (kayaking, canoeing, rock climbing, swimming, bushwalking and the giant swing) was very demanding, but all students and teachers responded with great enthusiasm. Children have written a report to give you an insight into their time away from home at camp. Congratulations to all the children for excellent behaviour and great co-operative attitudes at camp. The children are a credit to their families.

### Spring Fair Fete

Many thanks to all those parents, community members, teachers and children who recently participated in our recent Spring Fair fete. It was an excellent event with lots of fun activities and great energy from all concerned. The P&C raised a total of \$2,200 from the fete, to be spent on resources for the children, including providing a sun shelter over the sandpit in the preschool.

There is a HUGE amount of items left from the white Elephant store!! We will be having a HUGE garage sale of the items, nothing over \$2.00 on a date to be set!

Watch this space for details

**The next Day P & C Meeting will be on Thursday 17 November at 1.30pm in the Community Room. All Welcome!**



### Student Artworks

The recent artwork fundraiser for children in Preschool to Year 6 was a great success. These artworks have been created as part of our school's 120 year celebrations and Spring Fair.

Parents have a final opportunity to be able to purchase their child's artwork for \$5.00. Please complete the note sent home last week and return to the class teacher by Friday 18 November.

### Preschool Orientation for 2012

Preschool orientation for students starting preschool in 2012 continues over the next fortnight. Most 2012 preschool parents already offered a position have responded. If you have not yet done so, please contact Mr Daly as a matter of urgency to secure your position for 2012. If you have not yet done this, please do so by Friday 18 November.

### Kindergarten 2012 Enrolment and Transition Program

Final enrolments continue to be accepted for our Kindergarten class for 2012. At Rydalmere Public School a small Kindergarten class size along with our excellent literacy and numeracy, environmental and technology programs ensures children receive an excellent introduction at the beginning of their school life.

The transition program, coordinated by Mrs Aldred, continues with a series of four **Mini Kindy** sessions- (2<sup>nd</sup>/ 9<sup>th</sup>/ 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November). This is a wonderfully supportive way to introduce your child to "Big School". The sessions have been going very well, with the Kinder students meeting their year 5 buddies and both parents and students becoming more comfortable and familiar with our school.

**We have had some new enrolments in recent weeks, and positions continue to fill. If you know of parents of children who wish to enrol in our school, please advise them to contact us as soon as possible.**

Please register at the front office, or by telephoning the school to ensure enrolment at our excellent school.

### Getting organised

On the School A to Z website, listen to Shannon Lush's advice about how to organise your household in a way that will leave you with more time to enjoy your family.

Go to: [www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/web/dec-schools-a-z/homework-and-study/homework-tips/organising-the-home-for-a-smooth-school-run](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/web/dec-schools-a-z/homework-and-study/homework-tips/organising-the-home-for-a-smooth-school-run)



### Parent Coffee Mornings

Come along to the complimentary tea and coffee mornings every Tuesday (9.00-9.30am) in the Parents and Community Room. This is a great opportunity to chat to other parents as well as having a teacher hosting to answer any questions about up-coming school events.

Everyone welcome.....See you there next Tuesday!



### Smith Family Christmas Hamper collection

Every year we collect **non-perishable** food items for a Christmas hamper to donate to charity. Your small gift will assist in helping those people who may need some support this Christmas. If you are able to assist please send your donation with your child to place in the basket at the front office.

### Crunch & Sip Parents

Yes, we are still looking for parents who can join our parent helpers!!

If you have 20 minutes on a Tuesday-Thursday morning after dropping your children at school and are able to help prepare fresh fruit for the children to eat as part of the Crunch and Sip program, please see the mums at the canteen from 8.50am. Thanks to all the volunteers, especially those who have recently joined the team! The children really enjoy their healthy snacks in their morning session!

### Student School Banking

We would like to remind students and parents that School Banking is every Tuesday! School banking is run by the Commonwealth Bank.

If you have been collecting your tokens make sure you claim your prizes before the end of this term! If you have at least 10 tokens then you are able to claim one of the great prizes! Rewards are also coming soon for those who have been our most consistent savers this year! If you are interested in joining School Banking then please leave a note at the front office for the banking co-ordinator - Kylie Ewings- and an account-opening kit will be given to your child.

### Westmead C4E

Congratulations to prefects and children from years 4, 5 and 6 who last week attended the excursion to Westmead Public School for the Bell Shakespeare theatrical performance of William Shakespeare's play A Midsummer Night's Dream. This was funded from our National Literacy Partnership grant from the Federal Government. The children found it highly entertaining and enjoyed the practical activities.

## Christmas Fun Day

On Wednesday 14 December from 9.30am-11.00am students will participate in a Christmas fun day of Christmas carols and songs. If you are able to attend you are very welcome. Following the concert, students will return to their classrooms to have a class Christmas party. The school will provide complimentary pizza, and your child's class teacher will advise of how your child may contribute a small item of party food for the party.

## PSSA Sport

PSSA Cricket and Newcomeball competitions continue on the last few hot Friday's and continue to make good progress. The junior and senior cricket team played Carlingford Public School last week, the results being Juniors 102, lost to Carlingford 182. Seniors 1/39, Carlingford 2/40. The newcomeball team has been doing very well, playing Ermington West Public School last week, gaining a win in the seniors and a narrow loss in the juniors. Thanks to captains Claudine and Ulita. Congratulations on your team work and co-operation skills to all competitors!

## AusKick AFL Skill Development program

The Auskick AFL skill development program, operating on a Thursday afternoon from 3.30pm - 4.30pm got off to a good start last week. The \$35 cost covers an action packed six week program of fun games and skills. Children also get an AFL AusKick Pack which includes a football, hat, backpack, CD-Rom and much more! A permission note was sent home last week. To register and pay online please visit [www.aflauskick.com.au](http://www.aflauskick.com.au) and enter your postcode then click on "Rydalmere PS AFL Auskick Centre-After School". Alternatively, if you still wish your child could join, you can turn up at the school oval this Thursday from 3.15pm to register and pay.

## Toy recycling

With Christmas fast approaching, have you considered donating your youngest child's unwanted toys to charity? Many families feel the pinch over this time and donations to all charities are much appreciated. A new resource for quality used goods is Second Chance Toys ([www.secondchancetoys.com.au](http://www.secondchancetoys.com.au)), an Australia-wide community initiative to rescue and recycle gently used plastic toys by donating them to children in need. Check out the website for more information, or donate at your local op shop, charity or drop off bin.

## Remembrance Day Ceremony

Congratulations to our school leaders, Nick L, Tamika M, Nicholas N and Megan A who with Mr Daly, attended the Parramatta City Remembrance Day ceremony in Prince Albert Park, at the Cenotaph last Friday. The school leaders laid a wreath and listened respectfully to the speakers, saw representatives of our Army, Navy and Air Force take part in the ritual to remember those of our countrymen who have died in conflict, protecting our freedom and way of life. Well done!

## Complimentary Bread every Friday

Don't forget about the complimentary bread available every Friday afternoon from the silver seats outside the kindergarten room. Many thanks to Baker's Delight in Carlingford, and the St Vincent de Paul Society, that assists.

## School Website

Why not take the opportunity to have a look at our website, which now also has a dedicated page for each class in the school. There are some great new photos, which teachers update regularly, of what has been happening recently at school.

**If you have misplaced any permission notes, you can download them from our website, which can be found at:**

**[www.rydalmere-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.rydalmere-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)**

## Free app for homework and study

Do you struggle to understand your child's homework? Does your child need to practice their spelling and times tables? Are you looking for inspiration for projects and assignments? The free School A to Z app is an essential tool for every parent of school-aged children.

Containing a range of fun applications including English, Maths, a spelling bee, times-tables, technology A-Z and assignment starters, it's great for parents *and* students. Download it for free at: **[www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications)**

If you wish to discuss any matters regarding your child's education, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Until next time,  
Regards,

*Rick Daly*  
**Principal**

## New Technology Tools For Your Child

All students will see that their student portal change with a new look, enhanced features and a new URL. Four new student portals have been developed to support the different needs of students: K-Year 2, Years 3-6, Years 7-12 and TAFE.

It is anticipated the new portal for K-2 and Years 3-6 will be available early in Term 3. From that time,

students will access their student portal, from home and at school, from a new URL:

<http://student.det.nsw.edu.au> whether or not they have access to the new student portal.

Students will be able to search, access and organise information for school tasks via their student portal on computers used at home or at school, at any time. The new student portal will have timetable and calendar portlets for students to add their own details. Students will also be able to make their portal look the way they want by changing the colour scheme and rearranging, opening or closing portlets.



**Attention Parents: Come and join the party!**  
Fitness for adults. Great cardio workout if you're looking to shed a few extra kilos, while toning up. No experience required, suits all levels of skill and fitness!  
**RYDALMERE PUBLIC SCHOOL HALL**  
**6.30PM WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**  
CALL, TEXT OR EMAIL TO REGISTER  
**KAREN 0423 688 088 [jk.bates@hotmail.com](mailto:jk.bates@hotmail.com)**  
Cost \$10 per class  
Classes start 6<sup>th</sup> April.

## cyber{smart:}

**What your children do online could tag them for life – help them to make smart choices**

Helping young people have positive online experiences requires sound support and education. The Australian Communications and Media Authority's Cybersmart program offers a diverse suite of age-specific information, tools and resources designed to educate and empower teachers, students and parents to have same online experiences.

All resources are freely available through the Cybersmart website, which is a one-stop shop for general cybersafety education. Visit [www.cybersmart.gov.au](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au). The website also has a portal for booking the recently updated Internet Safety Awareness Presentation for parents, teens and children – sessions that address the risks confronting children online and offer appropriate tools and strategies to help make their experiences safe and positive.

Small Steps is a **free program** that aims to increase awareness amongst teachers and parents of anxiety disorders that may occur in primary school children.

Small Steps is run by Facing Anxiety, a program of the Mental Health Association NSW, funded by NSW Health.



### DID YOU KNOW?

- An anxiety disorder affects one in ten children
- Anxiety impacts on a child's social, family and school life
- Early intervention may assist in preventing the onset of more serious problems, including depression and substance abuse in adolescence
- Children with anxiety are generally not disruptive in class or at home
- Anxiety disorders can be resolved with timely information, care, treatment and support

### WHAT TO DO

- Book a Small Steps presentation
- Attend a parent group
- Contact your GP, community mental health centre, or other health professional
- Learn more about anxiety disorders

## Do you want to know more?

### Small Steps Program

t: 02 9339 6088

e: [smallsteps@mentalhealth.asn.au](mailto:smallsteps@mentalhealth.asn.au)

### Anxiety Information Line

t: 1300 794 992

e: [supportgroups@mentalhealth.asn.au](mailto:supportgroups@mentalhealth.asn.au)

## Assembly Awards 11 November, 2011

<b>Merit Certificates:</b>	Firdaus A, Bilal S, Matthew D, Nicolette T, Sergio K, Merjan O-E, Levi M, Alia A, Jacob A, William O
<b>Homework Awards:</b>	Aiden B, Maddison S, Tahlita S, Madeena A, Michael G, Alisa A,
<b>Sports Awards:</b>	William M, Olivia P, Matthew D, Jared P, David E, Camron R, Nadia E, Hawraa S, Stephanie E, Kevin G, Justin D
<b>PBL:</b>	Maya W, Ana L, Cassidy S, Stephanie E,
<b>PRC:</b>	Connor S, Michelle S, Jessica B, Shaiq A,

## *Spring Fair News*

Just a quick note of thanks to everyone who came along and made the afternoon a success. Our profit was just over \$2200 after all expenses.

Thank you to everyone who helped with donations, setting up, running a stall, packing up and cleaning up the week after.

The winners of the 5 main prizes in the raffle were:

\$100 Ryde Eastwood Leagues - Milford family  
\$50 Parramatta Leagues - Thomas Bolliger  
\$50 Parramatta Leagues - Thomas Mitchell  
Ryde Aquatic Centre membership – T Reinhardt  
RAC pass and Outback Steakhouse – Becker family

There were also two SOP Aquatic Centre Passes and 10 Ryde Aquatic Centre Family passes as well as a Strato Communications voucher, Outback steakhouse vouchers, a Sandstone voucher and a Top Brands Warehouse (Rydalmere) voucher

The Winners of the 100 number squares were:

\$50 voucher (Klassik Hair Salon) – Stephen Butcher  
\$30 voucher (Outback Steakhouse) – Maria Georgiades

Diane Cole

### **WOOLIES DOCKETS AND COLES VOUCHERS**

Thank you to everyone who collected and sent in their Woolworths Dockets and Coles Voucher during their recent promotions. The school has obtained some useful sports equipment from the Coles Vouchers and is waiting for finalization of the Woolies promotion.

Marianne Thompson

### **DEVELOPMENT AT 399 VICTORIA ROAD**

This goes before Parramatta Council tonight, Mon 14 Nov at 6.45pm. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting in the public gallery, if you would like to show your opposition to the development.

### **P&C MEETING**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 1.30pm in the P&C Community Room.



### “Art Lessons”



The three-day preschool class has been learning about the sea over the last few weeks and one of the books we have read, “Sharing a Shell” had some interesting illustrations.

The children had noticed the artwork and we had discussed the features in the pictures



When we were invited to participate in an art lesson with Mrs Ryan we decided to paint the picture from the book.

This was also a great transition to school activity where the children visited a classroom and had a structured art lesson involving listening and following instructions.



*Outcome 2: Children develop a sense of belongings to groups and communities and an understanding of reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation by participating in school activities.*

*Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators*

# 2011 School Camp to Myuna Bay for Years 4, 5 and 6

## Monday 7 November to Wednesday 9 November

### ROCK CLIMBING



After lunch on the first day of camp, we did rock climbing. First Matt and Jake, our recreation officers, demonstrated how we had to put on our harnesses and showed us what to do in the belay team. The belay team had four people to help each climber get to the top of the rock climbing wall. When each climber got to the top of the wall they had to ring a bell and tap the wall three times to be let back down. The belay team had to hold the rope and to make sure the climber was in the correct position before they could help lower the climber to the ground. Lots of people had more than one turn at climbing. As it was a very hot day it made it very challenging but great fun.

Rebecca Cole and Nadia Elsoussi

### CANOEING AND KAYAKING

On the second day of camp we went canoeing and kayaking. We all helped take the canoes and kayaks out of the the boat shed and into the lagoon. We could choose whether we wanted to canoe or kayak. The canoes had three seats each and some of the kayaks had two seats. It was very tiring paddling the canoes and kayaks and some people fell out! We paddled for about 20 minutes to a nearby park where we got out to have a break with some fruit. We all swapped canoes and kayaks for the return paddle back to the boat shed. We learnt how to raft-up all the canoes and kayaks and played a game where we had to run across the boats and swap seats. We thanked Jake and Matt for a great mornings activities.

Maria Nikolic and Natalie Elsoussi



### BUSHWALKING



On the second day of camp after a lunch of ham and salad bread rolls, we all went on a bushwalk led by Jake and Matt, our camp supervisors. After walking for a few metres along a narrow dirt road, we spotted a large, sleeping goanna. We had to cross an unstable log, using a rope as a handrail. Later, we came across a small forest of paperbark trees, then, we came to a hydroelectric water plant and we also encountered a different school who was fishing! Standing gracefully on a steel fence nearby was a crane. As we followed the water inlet we saw a huge pelican and the teachers spotted a turtle popping its head out of the water. We returned to the camp to cook and eat some damper.

Teresa Lin and Annie Carroll

### GIANT SWING

On the last day of our wonderful camp at Myuna Bay, we were getting ready for the giant swing. We met Jake and Matt at the assembly area and headed straight to the giant swing. When we finished finding a seat to watch, Nevin was Matt's first model for the harness. After we had a detailed demonstration, Nevin went into "the pit".

Jake attached Nevin to the rope and rest of us pulled him up 11 metres off the ground!! As soon as he was at the top we gave him the countdown. He jolted the purple rope and flew through the air at 55km/h! After everyone had had a go it was Mr Daly's turn. We pulled him up all the way to the very top and gave him the countdown and off he went! Everyone had a great time. We packed up and walked to the kitchen for lunch.

Tamika Milford and Claudine Fatile





## FREE TIME AND THE NIGHT SHOWS AT CAMP



Free time at camp was when we had time between eating and activities. We were sometimes rostered on in the pool or the tennis courts, otherwise we had a bag of tennis rackets, soccer balls, volleyballs, basketballs and tennis balls. We could play beach volley ball and basketball or soccer right in front of our cabin.

The night show activities after dinner were tabloid games on the first night and a County Fair on the second night. All in all it was GREAT!!!

Alex Vorstermans and Tomoka Tanaka





PROGRAM	OUTLINE	DATE & TIME
<b>Guidance Approach to discipline</b>  <b>Bookings are essential as there are limited spaces.</b>  <b>No child minding available</b>  To register, please contact: <b>Rita Chemouni 0448 825 219</b>	<b>Parramatta Mission, Women &amp; Children's Services</b>  The guidance approach will aim to teach participants on how to empower their children to be more skilful without using rewards and punishments. The program will give parents various strategies on how to better engage with children which in turn will create a warm parent-child relationship.  Location: <b>9 Albert Street, North Parramatta</b>	<b>Monday's</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am to 12pm</li> <li>Commences 24<sup>th</sup> October</li> <li>Finishes 28<sup>th</sup> December</li> </ul>
<b>Shine Program</b>  <b>Booking are essential as there are limited spaces.</b>  To register, please contact: <b>Allison Cremin 9630 9187</b>	<b>Parramatta Mission, Women &amp; Children's Service's</b>  An 8 week program to promote self esteem and self worth for women. Open to all women from the community.  Location: <b>9 Albert Street, North Parramatta</b>	<b>Thursday's</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10.30am to 12.30pm</li> <li>Commences 13<sup>th</sup> October</li> <li>Finishes 1<sup>st</sup> December</li> </ul>
<b>Playgroup</b>  <b>Bookings are essential.</b>  To register, please contact: <b>Rita Chemouni 0448 825 219</b>	<b>Parramatta Mission, Women &amp; Children's Service's</b>  This playgroup allows parents and their children the opportunity to play and develop age appropriate skills in a supported environment. This playgroup also allows parents and children to meet and greet other parents and children in the local area.  Location: <b>Rydalmere Public School</b> <b>Access to parking: John Street, Rydalmere</b>	<b>Thursday's</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am to 12pm</li> <li>Commences 13<sup>th</sup> October</li> <li>Finishes 15<sup>th</sup> September</li> </ul>
<b>Wiggly Giggly Playgroup</b>  <b>Bookings are essential.</b>  To register, please contact: <b>Rita Chemouni 0448 825 219</b>	<b>Parramatta Mission, Women &amp; Children's Service's</b>  This playgroup allows parents and their children the opportunity to play and develop age appropriate skills in a supported environment. This playgroup also allows parents and children to meet and greet other parents and children in the local area.  Location: <b>9 Albert Street, Parramatta</b>	<b>Friday's</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10.30am to 12.30pm</li> <li>Commences 14<sup>th</sup> October</li> <li>Finishes 16<sup>th</sup> December</li> </ul>
<b>There are limited child minding places for all programs and therefore priority will be given to early registrations. Please contact Rita Chemouni: 0448-825-219</b>		

## NOTICE TO PARENTS re: Whooping Cough

A major outbreak of whooping cough continues to affect the Sydney area in 2011. There have been over 1500 reported cases of whooping cough in the western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains regions so far this year compared to around 500 cases for the same period last year.

In order to prevent further cases of whooping cough Sydney West Public Health Unit advises the following:

### IDENTIFY THE DISEASE

Whooping cough starts with a runny nose and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. The cough is often dry. If your child has any of these symptoms, please **see your doctor** and take this notice with you. Your doctor can then perform a swab test. For coughs of longer than 4 weeks a blood test is needed. Please consider keeping your child at home until the swab results are available.



### PROTECT YOUR CHILD

Vaccination is the best protection. The whooping cough vaccine should be given at 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months and 4 years of age. For students attending high school, a free booster vaccine is offered in Year 7. 2012 will be the final year that this vaccine is also offered to Year 10 students – please take advantage of this opportunity.

### PREVENT THE SPREAD

If your child has whooping cough, your doctor will arrange a course of antibiotic treatment. Antibiotics are given early in the illness to help prevent spread to other people and shorten the number of weeks of coughing. If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough please advise the school and keep your child at home until they have taken at least 5 days of antibiotics.

Whooping cough is very dangerous for small infants – please ensure that you and your family do not visit babies if you have a cough.

Information on whooping cough is available at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/pertussis.html> or from the Public Health Unit

on 9840 3603 (Parramatta) or 4734 2022 (Penrith).

Health Reform Transitional Office Western  
ABN 79 148 287 231

Centre for Population Health  
Gungahra, Building 68  
Cumberland Hospital  
LMB 7118, Parramatta BC NSW 2124  
Tel 9840 3603 Fax 9840 3608

Penrith Office  
Barber Avenue  
Locked Bag 63, Penrith NSW 2751  
Tel 4734 2022 Fax 4734 3300



**HAPPY Program**

Healthy Active Positive Parramatta Youth

A FREE multi-skill sports program  
partnered between Parramatta City Council  
and Kids Adventure to promote healthy  
and active lifestyles.

When: Every Wednesday during November

Where: Jubilee Park, Jubilee Lane, Parramatta

Time: 3:30pm (registration) – 5:00pm

Ages: 5 – 12 years

Afternoon tea provided



# Education Tax Refund

- The Education Tax Refund (ETR) helps eligible families and independent students meet the cost of primary and secondary education by allowing them to claim up to 50 per cent of their eligible education expenses.
- The ETR came into effect on 1 July 2009 and it is indexed by CPI each year.
- Individuals can claim up to the following prescribed limits:

Primary School Student	2010-11	\$397 (Eligible expenses up to \$794)
	2009-10	\$390 (eligible expenses up to \$780)
High School Student	2010-11	\$794 (Eligible expenses up to \$1,588)
	2009-10	\$779 (Eligible expenses up to \$1,558)

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- To be eligible for the ETR the person must:
  - be entitled to receive FTB Part A for a child in primary or secondary school; or
  - have a child in primary or secondary school who receives a payment for the child that stops them from receiving FTB Part A for the child; or
  - be an independent student in primary or secondary school.

## SCHOOLING REQUIREMENT

- The schooling requirement is satisfied if there is at least one day in every six-month period in which the child attends school.

## ELIGIBLE EDUCATION EXPENSE

- Eligible education expenses include:
  - laptop computers, home computers and associated costs, including the repair and running costs of computer equipment ;
  - computer-related equipment such as printers, USB flash drives, and disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs;
  - home internet connections, including the costs of establishing and maintaining them;
  - computer software for educational use;
  - word processing, spreadsheet, database and presentation software, and internet filters and antivirus software;
  - school textbooks and other paper-based school learning material, including prescribed textbooks, associated learning materials, study guides and stationery;
  - prescribed trade tools.
- The Prime Minister has also announced school uniforms will become an eligible expense from 1 July 2011. Legislation will be introduced in Parliament soon to put this into effect.

## CLAIMING THE ETR

- The quickest and easiest way for a person to claim the ETR is to claim the refund in their tax return. For those individuals who are not required to lodge an income tax return they can claim the ETR through a stand-alone claim form available from [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au).

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be obtained by visiting [www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au) [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au) or by calling 13 28 61.