

# The Link

A fortnightly publication of Rydalmere Public School



Term 4: Issue 20

19 December 2011

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>12.12.11</b>	4.15pm Parent BBQ at school to farewell Mrs Aitkin, Mrs McGlashan & Mr Daly
<b>14.12.11</b>	Christmas fun day - concert and class parties
<b>Every Tuesday</b>	Tuesday morning - Coffee Morning with the teachers and parents 9.10am-10.00am
<b>15.12.11</b>	Thursday afternoon 3.30-5.15 AFL AusKick clinics for K-6 students on the oval ( <b>time will be made up in term1 2012-Gift packs given out this Thursday rain or shine!</b> )
<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 the last edition of "The Link", for the year and what a very busy last couple of weeks it has been!

All children should have delivered to you their individual student reports, which were sent home on Friday 2 December in a sealed envelope for you to open. If you would like to discuss the reports with your child's teacher or myself before the end of the school term, please contact the school to make an appointment.

We still have a few copies of the Creativity Night DVD left, which you can purchase at the front office for \$10.00. This would make a great Christmas gift for those "hard to buy for" family members or friends!

### Preschool Uniform Day

The preschool children will be wearing their new 2012 school uniforms one day this week, and I know many of them are very excited to be moving onto "big school" next year. Graduation and party days for the preschoolers happens this week. The 3 day group will be on Tuesday from 10.30am in the school hall, and the 2 day group graduation on Thursday from 10.30am in the hall. Thanks to Mrs Finlayson, Mrs Green, Mrs McKay and Mrs Hose for the excellent job you have done with the children this year. It truly is a "first class" preschool!

### Kindergarten 2012 Enrolments still open

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.



### Christmas Fun Day

The excitement is building from the children in Preschool to Year 6 who will participate in a Christmas Fun Day on Wednesday 14 December between 9:00am and 11:00am. All students will rotate through a series of exciting Christmas activities in mixed peer groups. Students will have the opportunity to wear mufti clothes to school for the day.

After recess, at 11.30am everyone will move to the hall (or if weather permits, under the COLA) for a Christmas Concert. Every class has been learning a Christmas song with instruments and all classes will perform these songs for the rest of the school. If you are able to drop in for the Mini Concert, you are very welcome! After the concert, each class Kindergarten to Year 6 will have their class party.

Students will be asked to bring in a small item to contribute to the class party. This will be a great day to help celebrate a busy and productive year at Rydalmere!

### 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

Why not come along to the final complimentary tea and coffee morning we have every Tuesday (9.00am-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!

### 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.



### 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. For the last week we will have the box near the silver tables in the playground. Thank you to all families who have donated.

### Gold card Morning Tea

The following students were successful Gold Card morning tea recipients for semester 2 and they attended the morning tea with Mr Daly last Friday. Of course they had beautiful manners, and enjoyed all the yummy food!

Congratulations to the following students for their excellent behaviour and participation over the last two terms. Well deserved!

**KA** Adam F, Olivia P, Maya W, Madison F, Connor S, Dominic M-L, Elijah S, Souhayb N, Bilal S, William M, Firdaus A.

**1/2M** Joshua S, Barin S, Diana K, Elizabeth T, Nour D, Tai S, Haidyn B, Matthew D, Sam R, Ella B,

Georgia R, Ana L, Ryley M, Michelle S, Emily P, Jayden C, Suzanne F, Madeena A, Tahlita S, Hyein L, Nicolette T, Jordan S

**2/3A** Jasmine S, Nigeen A, David E, Alison M, Sergio K, Michael G, Oscar P, Alisa Ahmadi, Joanne R, Summar R, Patrick R, Merjan O-E, Jessica B, Sam R.

**4/5R** Zohal Q, Zohal H, Marjan S, Lucy M, Shakiya S, Tomoka T.

**5/6M** Alina A, Omid D, Nicky G, Jamie K, Teresa L, Megan A, Annie C, Stephanie E, Claudine F, Jasmine M-L, William O, Tamika M, Nevin Z, Kevin G.

**Congratulations to our 2011 Dux**, Nevin Z, who has been offered and accepted position in the selective high school strand at Sydney Secondary College, Balmain campus. As well as winning the Dux prize, Nevin also speaks 3 languages and plays the piano. Well done Nevin, we wish you all the best in your future.

### Principals Medallion Winners for Semester 2

The following students should be congratulated for being awarded the Principals medallion for semester 2. These students have progressed through our merit system, and are the select few who have reached the pinnacle to receive this award. Well done!

**1/2M** Elizabeth T, Ella B, Michelle S, Haidyn B

**2/3A** Sergio K, Michael G, Joanne R, Sam R, Nigeen A, Jasmine S, Barin S

**4/5R** Lucy M

**5/6M** Jamie K

### Greenhouse

Mr Clarke, Pat and Georgia's grandfather will be erecting the greenhouse this week. Many thanks for your help. It is very much appreciated.

### Staffing News

At this time of year many people make decisions for the coming year, and two of our longest serving staff members, Mrs Ruth McGlashan and Mrs Susan Aitkin, have decided to take some leave next year. We thank Mrs McGlashan in her role as classroom teacher, Assistant Principal, and Relieving Principal and sporting coach, for over 22 years service to the Rydalmere school community. Our gratitude also to Mrs Aitkin for her dedicated service as a classroom teacher, her good humour and her skills as a newcombe ball championship coach.

Many of the present and past students and their families hold these two teachers with fond memories of their kindness and patience and I'm sure you join with me and the rest of the staff in wishing them all the best in this next chapter of their lives.

Unfortunately, we also say goodbye to Mrs Noelene Steele, our dedicated and energetic Librarian, for the last two years. Mrs Steele has provided leadership in the library in terms of increased collaboration and planning with teachers, not to mention the restocking of resources and new organisation strategies, to make the library more student friendly and accessible. We wish Mrs Steele all the best in her role as Teacher Librarian at Meadowbank PS. Mr Naylor will be looking after the library in 2012.

### **AusKick AFL Skill Development program**

The Auskick AFL skill development program operating on a Thursday afternoon from 3.30pm-4.30pm has had to be postponed in recent weeks due to the rain and wet field. Whether it is wet or dry next Thursday, the trainers Ben, Jason & Brent will be here to give the children their backpacks, caps and other merchandise. If dry they will train, if wet, we will run the remaining sessions in the first couple of weeks of Term 1, 2012. Watch this space in the Link next term for details.

### **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.

### **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)**

Finally, as the busy term draws to a close, I'd like to thank all the parents, carers, children, community members, teachers and administrative staff I have had the privilege to work with over my three years as principal at Rydalmere Public School, especially for your warm wishes in recent weeks. You are a magnificent community to work with, and I will cherish the memories I have of all the fun, difficult, challenging and uplifting experiences I have had. Those connections may change, but there will always be that connection. I'm sure you will welcome the new Principal for 2012, Mr Martin Naylor into the school community, and work with him to continue the process of educating your children. I wish Mr Naylor all the best in his role as the next Principal of this wonderful learning community at Rydalmere Public School.

In conclusion, I wish you peace and happiness and contentment over the Christmas period and into 2012 & the future.

Goodbye and good luck.

Fond Regards,

**Rick Daly**  
**Principal**



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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.



## Assembly Awards 2 December, 2011

<b>Merit Certificates:</b>	Adam F, Maddison F, Elsbeth J, Haidyn B, Nigeen A, Cassidy S, Rebecca C, Tomoka T, Jennifer W, Jasmine M-L
<b>Homework Awards:</b>	Maya W, Connor S, Nour D, Tai S, Oscar P,
<b>Sports Awards:</b>	Bulut B, Czar P, Joshua S, Emily P, Jessica B, Barin S, Zohal Q, Tamara L, Nicholas N, Annie C
<b>PBL:</b>	Souhayb N, Diana K, Michael G, Mack A-T, William O
<b>PRC:</b>	Madison F, Hyein L, Michael G, Alex V

### Newcombe Ball Update

Seniors defeated Carlingford PS to become the Parramatta District PSSA champions for 2011 and juniors defeated Dundas PS to secure third place. It has been a pleasure to coach the teams. Congratulations to all Rydalmere Newcombe ball players!

Mrs Susan Aitkin



# Library News



## Overdue Library Books

As the end of the school year is near, would you please help your child to make sure that all library books are returned to the library over the next couple of days. If you are positive the books have been returned, please let me know – as they could have gone back on the shelf without going through the computer system. If you are not sure or know that the books are still at home, would you please help your child to find them.

## New Online Resources

We have a 12 months subscription to World Books Online and Skwirk primary school level for Rydalmere teachers and students.

**The World Books Website is a suite of online research tools that includes encyclopaedia articles, primary source collections, educator tools, student activities, pictures, audio, and video, complemented by current periodicals and related Web sites. World Books is available to teachers and students by using the undermentioned login.**

**Username: rydal**

**Password: school**

Skwirk covers the core subjects studied in Australian primary and secondary schools including Maths, Science, Technology, English, History and Geography. Student logins will be available next year. The username and password will be advised in the school newsletter.

## Holiday Reading

Parents are encouraged to help students continue reading during the December/January school holidays. A visit to your local library, where new and exciting reading material and many other activities can be found, is a great school holiday activity.

It has been wonderful working with such an enthusiastic school community and getting to know the parents and students. I again wish to thank my terrific team of library monitors for their on going help and the tireless efforts of parent helpers lead by Dianne Cole, and my library assistant Maree Chambers. Without this help the library would not have been the success we have all enjoyed this year. As you are aware I will be commencing at Meadowbank Public School next year, and I know I will miss everyone.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year. I hope there is plenty of opportunity to enjoy your leisure reading during this festive season.

Noelene Steele  
Teacher Librarian



### 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.

#### DUNDAS CHINESE SCHOOL Enrolment for 2012

Classes: Kindergarten to Junior High

Medium of Instruction : Cantonese , Mandarin, English ( For English-speaking background Students )

Location: Dundas Public School Time : Thu 3:30-5:30 pm School Fee : \$170/ Half Year

School Resume: 2-2-2012

Enquiry : Principal– Mr. Ng-9876 2900 / Ms Cheng-0414 878 603

### 登打士中文學校 2012招生

招收班級：幼稚園至小學及中學班

教學語言：粵語班– 粵語/繁體字 國語班– 國語/簡體字 英語班– /簡體字

上課地點：登打士公立學校 上課時間：逢星期四 學費：\$170/半年

開課日期：2-2-2012

查詢電話：伍校長-9876 2900 鄭老師-0414 878 603 曾老師-0412 282 896 (國語)



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## Boys and girls aged 7 – 14 to participate in Rugby in the Park in Granville

The Rugby Youth Foundation are inviting boys and girls aged 7– 14 to participate in 'Rugby in the Park' program at Granville Park every Wednesday after school. The modified (non-tackle) activities and coaching sessions are FREE and open to ALL children of ALL abilities and will be run by local youths who have received training and qualifications from The Australian Rugby Union and the Australian Sports Commission's Active After School Communities Program.

The coaches will be representing a number of organisations in the area including Granville Boys High School, Granville South High School, Maryland's Junior Rugby Union, Parramatta Two Blues, and Hills Holroyd, Parramatta Migrant Resource Centre.

For more information: [www.rugbyyouthfoundation.org.au](http://www.rugbyyouthfoundation.org.au)

### Granville Rugby in the Park:

**Dates:** Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011 onwards

**Time:** 3.45pm – 5.15pm

**Where:** Granville Park (Claremont Fields), Granville

**RSVP:** Brad McCarroll; 0405121241;

[brad@mutualsport.com.au](mailto:brad@mutualsport.com.au) or

Moala Polota Nau; 0406919265;

[moala.polotanau@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:moala.polotanau@det.nsw.edu.au)

**Requirements:** Sport clothing and enthusiasm



Parramatta Two Blues Rugby



## Taronga Zoomobile Comes to Ermington Library



The Taronga Zoomobile will be visiting Ermington Library in the January school holidays with a small selection of native animals; which may include an echidna, possum, lizard, snake, cockatoo and Tawny Frogmouth.

During the visit each child who attends will be able to meet, learn about and interact with the native animals.

**Date:** Wednesday 11th January, 2012.

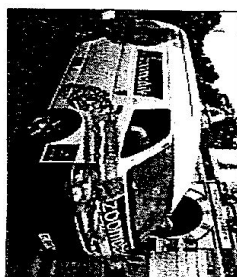
**Time:** 10.30am-11.30am

**Cost:** \$5.00 per person

**Enquiries:** 9638 2270

**Bookings:** Can only be made in person at Ermington Library.

Payment must be made at the time of the booking. This activity is suitable for 6-12 year old children and their parents.



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>		





## Free help with reading, writing, spelling, maths and computer skills for adults at Meadowbank College of TAFE

Our free classes are for adults who want to start with the basics

- To return to work
- To get a job
- To start a new course
- To become more confident
- To help children with their schoolwork

Our teachers are friendly and the teaching is relaxed and informal.  
We have day and evening classes.

**Come to enrolment day for 2012  
on  
24 and 25 January from 12 noon to 7:00pm  
in room R1.7  
at Meadowbank TAFE**

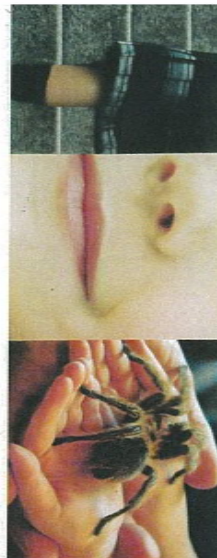
For more information call Lee on 9942-3801 or  
The Literacy/Numeracy Centre 9942-3567



## Small Steps Anxiety Awareness for Primary Schools

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)

# How to help your child Read and Write

Presented by Priya Matsen & Olivia Holland from Literacy Circle

## How to prepare your child for learning how to read

Tuesday 17 January 2012

5:30pm – 7.00pm

Suitable for parents of Pre-school and Lower Primary school students

This seminar covers developing pre-reading skills like fine motor skills, introducing short vowels, letter-sound recognition not letter name recognition, blending and decoding, teaching “first, last and middle sounds” and the importance of quiet reading time. The presenters will also cover reading levels, parent expectations and resources for parents.

## Writing Skills and Text-Types

Wednesday 18 January 2012

5:30pm – 7.00pm

Suitable for parents of older Primary school students

This seminar will cover the structure of various text-type exposition, narrative writing, recount, procedural writing, persuasive writing (information reports.)

In addition, this seminar will explore writing and spelling rules..

## Supporting a struggling reader

Tuesday 24 January 2012

5:30pm – 7.00pm

Suitable for Parents of Primary school students

This seminar would explore how each child learns differently and will provide information on learning disorders, dyslexia, ADHD and ADD, as well as where to get further information and assessment. The presenters will also cover reading rules and discuss how to build confidence in young readers, as well as resourcing parents with reading games and strategies.



Literacy seminars for parents

**Free - Bookings are essential as places are limited**

Parramatta City Library, Civic Place, Parramatta 9806 5159 [www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/library)

PARRAMATTA  
CITY COUNCIL

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Fax: 02 9806 5917

