

The Link

A fortnightly publication of Rydalmere Public School



Term 2 : Issue 7

24 May 2011

DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 1

24.05.11	ICAS Computer skills assessments
2.06.11	'Fun Food' day
8.06.11	ICAS Science skills Competition
9.06.11	Celebrating the Arts rehearsals
17.06.11	Semester 1 student reports sent home
21.06.11	ICAS Spelling Competition
24.06.11	Cumberland High School Band family concert 9.15a.m.
29.06.11	Grandparents Day & RPS Music Showcase Talent Quest
30.06.11	Questacon (Science) truck visits our school
1.07.11	Students' last day for Term 2

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to this edition of "*The Link*".

Last week on Thursday and Friday Mrs Mandy Ryan and I attended the State National Literacy and Numeracy Partnership conference at the Novatel Hotel at Brighton Le Sands, where we were able to showcase in a presentation the fine work teachers have been undertaking in improving their skills and teaching in our Focus on Reading program. We expect to see in coming years a vast improvement on the literacy and numeracy skills and results from your children. The funding from the federal government grant of \$180,000 over two years has resulted in:

- improved teacher training and skills
- purchase and use of 40 notebook laptop computers for use in the classroom
- purchase of e learning software for interactive whiteboards
- purchase of literacy books for classroom and library
- purchase of books for home reading scheme.

Relationships Australia Parenting Workshops - "Magic 123"

Unfortunately we had to cancel the recent Magic 123 program, as we only had 1 expression of interest. There was a suggestion the time was not suitable for parents. So, if you would like to undertake the program in the afternoon from 2-3pm for 3 days over 3e weeks (date and time to be arranged) please let the front office know by Friday 3 June.

Staffing News

Mrs Aitkin has been absent for a couple of weeks due to a family bereavement .She will be returning on 6 June. We offer our condolences to Mrs Aitkin at the sad passing of her sister.

Mothers Day Stall

Thanks to those mums who were able to support your children by staffing and organising the Mothers day stall. This is yet another example of ways in which you can contribute to your school community. Your support in assisting our school community is much appreciated.

Quick Reminders

Canteen

Operating: Monday & Tuesday (9.00 - 9.45 am) and Wednesday (11.00 am - 1.30 pm).

Helpers are needed for all three days.

All enquiries to Michelle Bolliger on 9638 4552.

Crunch & Sip

We need parents to cut up fruit on a Wednesday morning from 8.45-9.10 am. If you can spare some time to assist, please see Sonia (Tai and Brin's mum).

School Band

Thanks to those parents who have responded to the school band enquiries. Expressions of interest will close this Friday, 27 May.

Family Photos

Only \$15 for a family portrait!

To date we only have 13 expressions of interest when **we need 20**. If you have any family or friends who would be interested, please register for this at the front office by Friday 27 May. Unfortunately if we don't get the numbers we will not be able to proceed.

Carbon Kids Climate Change Workshop

On Monday 23 May Mrs Moloney, Omid, DJ, Stephanie, Teresa, Milly, Zohal, Tamara and Marjan all went to the Field of Mars Education Centre to participate in a climate change workshop. They listened to scientists talk about what is causing climate change and what we need to do to help reduce carbon emissions. Another scientist talked about different forms of electricity generation and how we use green power. There was a representative from Bayer, who was the coordinator of the Bayer Green Team and he spoke about the different initiatives they put in place throughout the workplace to help reduce carbon emissions. The students then did some hands on power experiments, which involved charging a Lego car from different green energy supplies, eg, solar power, wind power. They then measured the time and distance the car travelled after each different charge.

Some of the student's comments about the day:

"The best thing about today was playing with the Lego cars."

"These show bags have some great things in them."

"We made the Lego cars move with the Solar Panel."

"We walked around the grounds and saw the gardens that don't need water."

"I learnt how much carbon dioxide we use."

"I learnt different things that can be done to make a house save energy."

"The Lego car moved best with the energy from the sun."

Cumberland High School Band Family Concert

The Cumberland High School Band are holding a family concert for us on Friday 24 June at 9.15am under the COLA. If you have some time, why not come along and join your children in a wonderful musical experience which will be a great opportunity for the students to see how much fun and a great experience it is to play in a band and to learn and play a musical instrument.

Vegetable Garden / Chicken Coop Up-date

The students and staff are doing a wonderful job on the vegetable gardens, with plants growing steadily and looking healthy. The chickens have settled in well, but only one has a name so far – "Drumstick", named by Mrs Duckmanton. Suggestions for names for the other 7 chickens gratefully received! We are now regularly getting 8 eggs per day, which have been used in some of the class cooking.

Thanks to the students in year 6 and other classes who have been putting the chickens away in their coop each afternoon. Thank you also to our Crunch and Sip mums who recycle our scraps from Crunch and Sip each day to feed to the chooks.

Rainwater Tank and Solar Panels

The solar panels have been generating electricity to power our computer lab and connected classroom. Students are able to see on an electronic graph how much power we are generating from the solar panels and how much we are using. The rainwater tank, which harvests water from our computer lab roof (block D), is used to water our vegetables.

Visit by Life Education Van

All students reported having a great experience when 'Healthy Harold' and the Life Education van visited last fortnight. The students will continue to make good use of the book they were given at their visit to reflect on and learn more about their chosen topics. Please talk to your child about this book and the subjects discussed.

NAPLAN

Congratulations to all year 3 and 5 students who recently undertook their NAPLAN assessments; we know you all did your best. The results that come out with individual student reports will give some valuable assessment data to teachers about areas of strength and further areas that need to be worked on and strengthened in literacy and numeracy.

P&C Meeting

Thanks to the 4 parents who were able to attend the daytime meeting held last Thursday. If you'd like to see what was discussed have a look at the minutes on the noticeboard.

The next meeting, a night meeting in the library at 7.00pm, will be held on Thursday 16 June. Why not come along and meet other parents and see how you can make a contribution to your child's school?

Grandparents' Day and RPS Music Showcase Talent Quest

Don't forget to put this **NEW DATE**, Thursday 29 June, in your diary – a great opportunity for grandparents to visit the school and see the wonderful work their grandchildren are achieving at school. More information will be sent home closer to the day.

Preschool Therapies Project

We are currently undertaking a “*Therapies in Preschools*” project, one of two schools in the region to be involved. A fourth year University of Sydney speech pathology student and an occupational therapy student will be working with our teachers and children over the next 12 weeks to assist them and their parents. Watch this space for parent workshop notifications. We welcome our speech pathology student, Olivia and occupational therapy student, Shannon to our school community.

Aboriginal Dance Excursion to Sydney Opera House

“Primary Proms : I See”

On Wednesday 18 May all students K-6 attended the performance of Primary Proms : I See at the opera house. Students saw professional indigenous dancers perform Dreamtime stories from all different parts of Australia and Torres Strait Islands. At the end of the performance students asked questions of the performers. They explained about the different dances and the instruments they used.

For lunch we all walked through the Botanical Gardens with the students enjoying the sights of the harbour, boats plants and animals.

It was a fantastic day with beautiful weather and a variety of experiences our students will remember for a long time.

ICAS Competition

Entries from Rydalmere PS students for this year's ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools) competitions have been submitted. The dates for the tests are as follows:

Tuesday 24 May – Computer Skills

Wednesday 8 June – Science

Tuesday 21 June – Spelling and Writing

Tuesday 2 August – English

Tuesday 16 August – Maths

Students from Years 3 to 6 in Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Region and South East Asia are eligible to sit the tests. Good luck to all Rydalmere competitors.

Dance2bFit

Students appear to be enjoying their Dance 2bFit classes each Thursday afternoon under the COLA. Their enthusiasm and energy is contagious! Well done everyone.

Peer Support

Classes are held for 30 minutes each Friday, where students discuss a different topic each week on “Values”. Over the past few weeks students have been discussing friendships, similarities and differences in friends and the characteristics of a good friend. In coming weeks we will be discussing what it means to have ‘respect’ and looking at ways we can respond positively in different situations. Please discuss these concepts with your children as a follow-up.

School Website

Why not take the opportunity to have a look at our new website, which now also has a dedicated page for each class in the 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

Until next time,

Regards,

Rick Daly
Principal

Attention Parents!

TAFE ASN
SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY INSTITUTE

Do you want to learn new skills and increase your confidence?

Outreach at Lidcombe College is offering fee exempt TAFE courses for parents and adults!

Courses include:

- Computing (Keyboarding, Word Processing, Internet, Email)
- Office Skills including Resume Writing
- Soft Furnishing (Curtain Making)
- Upholstery

Day and evening classes | Women only classes

For Information Session dates contact the Outreach Coordinator on 9643 4703

www.swsi.tafensw.edu.au

Assembly Awards: 20 May 2011

Merit Certificates:	Shannon M, Souhayb N, Madeena A, Jayden C, Joshua S, Cassidy S, Alison M, Lucy M, Ulita W, Alina A, Jamie K.
Homework Awards:	Firdaus Ah, Elijah S, Elizabeth T, Tai S, Michael G, Sergio K, Daniel J, Jennifer W.
Sports Awards:	Czar P, Aiden B, Emily P, Kieren M, Summa R, Jessica B, Tomoka T, Nalin M, Justin D, Annie C.
PBL:	Connor S, Hyein L, Alisa A, Rebecca C, Megan A.
PRC:	Maya W, Georgia R, William R, Tamika M.

Preschool News

Since the arrival of chickens at school the Preschool children have been very interested in chickens. We have had several visits to the chicken coop, we have read an information book about chickens, and we have drawn chickens, labelled their body parts, collected eggs and made a graph of how many eggs have been laid. Each day we collect our food scraps to feed to the chickens.



EXCITING NEWS

TAFE

ADULT LITERACY CLASSES

are now being held at Rydalmere Public School




Free help with reading, writing, spelling, maths and computer skills are now available to adults in a relaxed and supportive environment.

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

Why not join our small classes on **Wednesdays and Fridays, 10.00 am – 12 noon**, during the school terms, in the **Administration Centre of Rydalmere Public School**.

Phone or SMS Helen (teacher) on 0412771244

<div>  Family Relationship Early Intervention Service Education and skills Training May – June - July 2011 </div>			Course	Outline	Date & Time
			Parenting after Separation Child minding available Gold coin donation Prior booking essential Cost: \$10 per person per session	This is a four week course that will provide information and support for parents who are separated. There will be a time for group discussion & sharing Topics include: • Keeping the emotions under control when communicating with your ex partner • Keeping the children in mind	Mondays 9, 16, 23 & 30 May 10.30am till 12.30pm OR Thursday Evenings 2, 9, 16 & 23 June Time: 5.30 – 7.30pm
			Three Choices - Incorporating 1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching Child minding available Gold coin donation Prior booking essential Cost: \$10 per person per session	This three week program is designed to assist parents and caregivers of 2-12yr old children: • Increase their knowledge about what works in managing difficult behaviour • Lessen their feelings of frustration • Get better results with less effort and stress	Fridays 13, 20 & 27 May Time: 11am – 1pm
			Dads And Kids – Childcare skills for Dads No childminding available Cost: \$10 per person per session	This two week course will equip Dads to better manage the care of their babies, toddlers and preschoolers. Topics that will be covered include feeding, sleeping, bathing, eating & having fun with your youngster & how to play with them so you both enjoy it!	Thursday Evenings 19 & 26 May Time: 5.30pm - 7.30pm
			Using Anger Constructively Child minding available Gold coin donation Prior booking essential Cost: \$10 per person per session	This four week course examines the nature of anger as a response to pain or frustration. Participants will learn techniques for managing stressful situations and put in place strategies to use anger as a constructive emotion in their lives.	Thursday Evenings 2, 9, 16 & 23 June Time: 5.30 – 7.30pm
			Beyond Abuse Child minding available Gold coin donation Prior booking essential Cost: \$10 per person per session	This is a support group that meets together for five sessions. The aim of the group is to provide a safe place where women can share their experiences: ➢ get support, ➢ gain an understanding of the cycle of violence, ➢ learn how to challenge the effects of abuse, ➢ build self-esteem, and ➢ begin to learn new strategies before taking on new relationships.	Mondays 23 & 30 May, 6, 20 & 27 June Time: 10.30am – 1.00pm
			Cyberspace Bullying No child minding available Cost: \$10 per person per session	This workshop is designed to help parents look at how they can help their child weigh up the potential consequences of their behavioural choices. It's important to provide parents with the support they need to address these challenges, risks and potentials. The cyber-smart guide for families will be given out to take home for future reference	Thursday Evening 30 June Time: 5.30pm - 7pm
			Triple P Seminar Series Child minding available \$5.00 per child No Cost	This three week seminar series covers: • Understanding general parenting issues, why children behave in certain ways under certain influences • Dealing decisively and effectively with behaviours such as aggression, non-cooperation and disobedience • Recognising and managing situations that might be less obvious such as sadness, anxiety, difficulty with separation and problems mixing with other children	Thursday Evenings 7, 14 & 21 July Time: 5.30pm – 7pm
			Bookings Essential: 9895 8054	Venue: ANGLICARE Early Intervention Service	18 Parkes Street Parramatta 2150
To gain a certificate of attendance you must attend all set course days					