



Rouse Hill Public School Newsletter

Respectful
Responsible
Resilient

Wednesday 1st November 2023

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Download the Rouse Hill PS School Enews app



Week 4, Term 4

Calendar Dates

Week 4	
Thursday 2 nd November	P&C Colour Explosion Fun Run
Friday 3 rd November	Summer PSSA Round 9
Week 5	
Wednesday 8 th November	Year 6 Camp
Thursday 9 th November	Year 6 Camp
Friday 10 th November	Year 6 Camp Summer PSSA Round 10 Remembrance Day Service
Week 6	
Monday 13 th November	Year 3 Bobbin Head excursion
Thursday 16 November	Yellow Day - gold coin fundraiser for the Clown Doctors
Friday 17 th November	Summer PSSA Round 11
Week 7	
Monday 20 th November	Stage 2 Planetarium incursion
Tuesday 21 st November	Stage 2 Planetarium incursion
Thursday 23 rd November	Kindergarten Orientation Session 2 (Orange, Red, Green Black and Purple Groups)
Friday 24 th November	Kindergarten Orientation Session 1 (Grey, Blue, Pink, Yellow and White Groups) Schools Spectacular

From the Principal and Deputy Principals

P&C Colour Explosion Fun Run

Our **P&C Colour Explosion Fun Run** is taking place tomorrow! Please support our P&C's major 2023 fundraiser by helping your child/children to collect some sponsors. There are some great prizes on offer for each fundraising category and the money raised will be used to support the school to purchase new technology resources for your children. At this stage, only a very small percentage of our students have registered, but it's not too late as sponsors can be collected until **Sunday**!

Thank You

A big thank you to our P&C for running the Halloween Disco with DJ Andy last Friday night, as well as to the many parent volunteers who helped with running the canteen and the second-hand uniform stall. We had many boys and girls embrace the Halloween theme and dress up in all manner of costumes, and a great time was had by all. A big thank also you to the teachers who attended to help out.

World Teacher Appreciation Day Thank You

Thank you to our wonderful P&C Committee for making our teachers feel special on World Teacher Appreciation Day last Friday by providing Subway lunch.

'Partners in Learning' Parent Feedback Survey

The Partners in Learning parent survey closes this Friday 3rd November. The survey can be accessed at: <http://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/rhps2023>

Promoting Safe Walking Practices for Our Children's Safety

Please see below an email received from a parent that I would like to share regarding road and pedestrian safety:

There have been instances where parents and guardians are not utilising the designated footpath and school crossing when picking up or dropping off their children. Instead, they have been opting to walk along the car parking entrance, which poses a significant risk due to the high volume of passing vehicles. Our primary concern should always be the safety of our children.

I kindly request the school to spread awareness about the importance of using the designated footpath and school crossing to the parents and guardians. Remind them of the potential risks involved in taking shortcuts or walking along the car parking entrance. Let us come together as a community to ensure the safety and well-being of our children.

Additionally, I encourage the parents to discuss safe walking practices with their children. Remind them to always use the footpath and school crossing, look both ways before crossing the road, and never attempt to cross without adult supervision when traffic is heavy.

Using the designated footpath and school crossing provides the following benefits:

- 1. Safety: The footpath and school crossing were specifically designed to ensure the safety of pedestrians, especially our children. By following these designated paths, we can reduce the risk of accidents and potential harm.*
- 2. Visibility: Utilising the footpath and school crossing ensures maximum visibility for both pedestrians and drivers. This contributes to a better traffic flow around the school vicinity, making it safer for everyone.*
- 3. Leading by Example: As parents and guardians, we play a vital role in shaping our children's behaviour. By consistently using the footpath and school crossing, we set a positive example for our children to prioritise safety and obey traffic rules.*
- 4. Community Spirit: By adhering to safe practices, such as using the footpath and school crossing, we foster a sense of community and collective responsibility. Together, we can create an environment where everyone feels safe and cared for.*

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter, and for contributing to the safety of our children.

Warm regards,
A Concerned Parent

Salvos Generosity Challenge – Christmas 2023

The Salvation Army are once again running their Christmas donation drive. The donations are due by **Friday 1st December**. Please consider donating an item or two to help those in need at Christmas time. Please refer to the adjacent list for suggested items to donate. All donations will be gratefully received and can be brought to the front office. In the words of the Salvation Army:

The backdrop against which we approach this holiday season is one marked by the challenge of rising inflation and interest rates, a situation that has cast a shadow over the financial stability of numerous Australians. The escalating cost of living has manifested in a noticeable surge in the demand for food assistance within our community over the past year, with the number of families seeking weekly food support having doubled. This initiative entails the collection of fundamental pantry staples, which will be of immense value to families grappling with financial hardship.



Application for Year 7 Selective High School Placement in 2024

Selective high schools cater for high potential and intellectually gifted students. Applications are currently open for entry to Year 7 in 2024 close on 16 November 2022. The Selective High School Placement Test will be held on 4 May 2023. The test will be paper-based. Apply online at: shsoc.education.nsw.gov.au

Additional School Development Day - 2024

Please note that the NSW Department of Education has recently announced an additional School Development Day for NSW public schools in 2024, taking place on Thursday 19th December. The last day of Term 4 for students will be now be Wednesday 18th December 2024. School development days allow our staff to participate in professional learning and plan for the year ahead.

2024 Planning

Please email the school if your child/children in Kindergarten-Year 5 will not be returning to Rouse Hill Public School next year, or if you will be on holidays for the beginning of the 2024 school year, which commences for students in Years 1-6 on Thursday 1st February. Thank you.

Travel During the School Term

Wherever possible, we encourage travel to be undertaken during school holidays. When it comes to attendance and learning, every day matters. Where this is not possible, please inform the school as follows:

- 10 days or less: please notify your child's teacher through the usual channels, e.g. a handwritten note, via the 'Absentee Form' on our school Enews app or via email.
- 11 days and over: please request an 'Application for Extended Leave' form from the office. A certificate of extended leave will be issued for absences of between 11 and 15 days. Absences beyond 15 days will be noted in our attendance system as 'Explained', 'Unjustified'.



2024 Classes and Planning

Planning for 2024 classes is underway and will continue throughout Term 4. The number of classes in our school is determined according to the Department of Education's staffing formula, which is linked to the number of students enrolled. ***If you have a child in Kindergarten to Year 5 who will not be returning to Rouse Hill PS next year, or if you will be on holidays for the beginning of the 2024 school year, please let us know via email (rousehill-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au), as this will greatly assist us with our planning both now and at the beginning of next year.***

Teachers will be collaboratively providing information to support class placements, taking many factors into consideration such as academic ability, attitude and commitment towards learning, as well as emotional and social needs. Student friendship groups are also one of many considerations.

Speaking of friendships, each year we ask the children to nominate 5 peers on a 'friendship list'. We enter this data into our class building software to ensure that each child is placed with at least one of their selected friends in all but a very few instances. Please speak to your child about their friendship choices, thinking about nominating friends who may good to share a class with and those who they may prefer to socialise with at recess and lunchtime.

Forming classes involves considerable time and care. It is not a process about one child; all of our more than 1000 children at Rouse Hill PS are important. Every child is placed in reference to a bigger plan of how students, classes and teachers come together, all bound by the Department's staffing allocation and the number of classes in our school. I know that many of you value the hard work and time that goes into this process.

Please be aware that requesting a particular teacher that you would like your child to have, or not have, will not be necessary. We are yet to finalise the classes/grades that teachers will be taking next year, and teachers will not necessarily be teaching the same grade/s as they are currently teaching. However, please let us know via the school email about any factors regarding your child's class for 2024 that you would like us to be mindful of.

Please be aware that whilst we will endeavour to cater for growth by funding additional teachers when possible, we are unable to predict the arrival or number of new enrolments over coming months and may find ourselves in the position of needing to undertake a class restructure during 2024. Our advanced and careful planning and budgeting for three additional classroom teachers meant that a restructure was not required this year.

Please also note that our best laid plans may need to be amended, as numbers often change at the beginning of the year. Therefore, we will not be moving straight into classes on day one of 2024; we will need a number of days to process new enrolments and modify our class structure and formation accordingly.

Rob Jarvis, Rebecca Wallace and Jess Pintado

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) & Restorative Practice



Each week we focus on a different aspect of PBL with our students. Our focus areas for Weeks 3 and 4 are:





Week 3

PBL focus: COLA/Table Tennis

PBL award for the week: Being an active participant in school activities

Being an activity participant in school activities is when students are involved in all classroom activities as well and joining various groups and teams that are offered throughout the year. Students are encouraged give everything a go and try out new things, they might find a new skill or something you really like to do.

**COLA / Table Tennis Expectations**
'The Rouse Hill Way'
When playing under the COLA, I will:

Respectful		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walk
Responsible		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sit down when I am eating• Put all my rubbish in the bin
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign out the table tennis bats and balls from the teacher on duty, then sign them in when finished
Resilient		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the table tennis equipment responsibly and fairly

Week 4

PBL focus: Canteen/Toys

PBL award for the week: Outstanding effort in classroom learning

Student show outstanding effort in classroom learning by participating in all activities to the best of their ability. They show resilience by challenging themselves and using problem solving to find a solution.

**Canteen / Toys Expectations**
'The Rouse Hill Way'
When visiting the canteen and playing with the toys, I will:

Respectful		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wait patiently behind the yellow canteen lines
Responsible		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Say 'Please' and 'Thank you'• Purchase food only for myself
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wait for the teacher on duty before beginning to play with the toys
Resilient		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take turns and share• Disassemble the toys before the bell

Restorative Practice

At Rouse Hill Public School a restorative practice, a pro-social approach to resolving conflict, underpins our behaviour management. It is a whole school teaching and learning approach that encourages behaviour that is supportive and respectful. It puts the onus on individuals to be truly accountable for their behaviour and to repair any harm caused to others as a result of their actions. In this fortnight's newsletter, we are sharing the 'Affective questioning' (see below).

RHPS Wellbeing Committee

Affective questioning

Restorative conversations focus on the behaviour of concern or incident, promote a positive approach to resolving conflict and stabilize the identity of all students involved in the matter of concern. Effective questions elicit empathy, remorse and learning. It is important to:

- Ask questions that encourage self-reflection and problem-solving.
- Be empathetic. Students are often distressed during conflict. Put things into perspective by asking distressed students “is this the worst thing in the world?”
- Listen to understand. Allow students involved in the conflict to tell their side of the story. Validate their feelings with statements like, “I can see you are feeling frustrated” or “I can see this has really upset you”.
- Avoid interrogation and personal judgments. This can cause defensive responses.
- Recognise that in some situations there are no ‘quick fixes’ and it may require further intervention or support to see positive behaviour change.

Restorative questions

These questions can be used in one-to-one conversations, small groups or more formal restorative mediation conferences.

- What happened? Value the student’s voices and perspectives. Focus on the timeline of events without blame. Understand and identify the triggers.
- What did you want? Establish the need. We all behave to meet specific needs.
- Is it okay to want _____? Validate the need.
- Did what you do work for you? Identify behaviour of concern
- What could you try next time that would work for you? Identify replacement behaviours
- Do you think that might work? Validate replacement behaviour
- Who has been affected by what happened? The key question to trigger empathy and remorse. Think beyond those directly involved to see the ‘ripple effect’ of actions and consider the personal impact.
- In what way have they been affected? Name or describe the impact and acknowledge the consequences.
- What do you think you need to do to make things right? Devise agreed, realistic and meaningful resolutions to heal the harm.
- If the same thing happened again, what would you do differently? An opportunity for learning and verbalising alternative strategies.

PBL Awards – Respectful Responsible Resilient

Stage 1 Award Winners



Stage 2 Award Winners



Class News

Every few days we're sharing some class news with you via our Facebook page, as well as in our fortnightly newsletter. This fortnight it's 2O, 4H and 5-6D's turn.

2O

The end of the year is approaching and here are some fun memories we have had in 2O this year. Students made playdough at the end of Term 3 as part of their English writing lesson. It was a little messy, but they all had a great time making the playdough. As part of our science unit in Term 4, we are learning about coding. Students had the opportunity to use Bee-Bots. In 2O, we also always look forward to creative arts lessons, learning how to draw and paint.



Miss Ou

4H

In 4H this term, we have been learning about many wonderful things. In English we have been conducting research about a variety of topics, such as Italian food and writing informative texts. The students enjoyed using laptops and Google Classroom to gather information about their chosen food. In mathematics, we have been learning how to measure temperature. Here are some photos of 4H outside measuring the temperature of areas of the COLA and basketball court. They had fun using a thermometer and placing it on different surfaces and recording the temperature. At the conclusion of the lesson, we all went back to class to discuss our findings.



Mr Hyland

5-6D

Students in 5-6D have been busy doing a lot of new learning. During science lessons, they learnt about making and tasting ice-cream. In history, they have been learning about Australia's system of government, which involved a lot of interactive learning, discussions and research. Maths involved some group work, hands-on activities and interactive learning. Students are working well and following classroom routines.



Mr Deo

ROUSE HILL SCHOOL BAND

JOIN THE BAND!

Is your child interested in joining the school band?

The school band is now taking enrolments for 2024 and is open to all students currently in years 2-5.

No prior experience needed!

What do you need to do?

Complete an online [Expression of Interest](https://www.teachingservices.com.au/XEOI) form. Your child will then meet with a music teacher at school to determine to which instrument they may be best suited.

www.teachingservices.com.au/XEOI



More detailed information will then be sent home, prior to online enrolment for 2024. If your child is an existing band student with TSA, no need to re-enrol.

Learning an instrument in an ensemble is a great way to experience the social, educational and personal benefits that music and the arts have to offer! TSA provides a variety of tuition options as well as instrument hire and sales to help parents give the gift of music to their children.

TSA is a registered Creative Kids provider and delivers instrumental programs with a focus on inclusion, student engagement and well-being.



(02) 9651 7333
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www.teachingservices.com.au

FREE YOU-th Technology Skills Workshops



REGISTRATIONS
ARE ESSENTIAL

All sessions will be held between 1:30pm and 3:30pm
at 3 Packard Avenue, Castle Hill

3D Printing

Ages 8-14

Saturday 11 November

**Coding & Game
Development**

Ages 6-16

Saturday 18 November

Python Coding

Ages 15-18

Saturday 25 November



Communities
& Justice



THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire