Dear Parents and Carers,

During term 3, we will be reviewing and reporting on some of the achievements we’ve made against the targets set out in our school plan.

Our three Strategic Directions in our school plan are:

**Strategic Direction 1 - Student Learning, Engagement and Wellbeing**

**Strategic Direction 2 - Teacher Quality**

**Strategic Direction 3 - Leadership**

Under each of these Strategic Directions, we have established mini-action plans, called milestone plans, that we work towards achieving over the course of the year.

For the remainder of the term through our newsletters, we would like to give the parent and community body some insight into each Strategic Direction and Milestones.

A brief overview of some of the things we are trying to achieve under Strategic Direction 1 are outlined below:
**Strategic Direction 1 - Student Learning, Engagement and Wellbeing**

### Literacy and Numeracy

We are continuing with our Spirals of Inquiry into the Mathematics Syllabus. This inquiry framework allows teachers to have greater control and ownership over their own professional learning and development, by putting their student’s learning needs at the centre of the inquiry process.

We are also continuing to link up with Kentlyn Public School. We are collaboratively working on Consistent Teacher Judgement across our two schools. Teachers collaboratively developed a pre-assessment task and analysed the results to develop a series of lessons, targeting those areas where the data showed the greatest area of need. After the lessons have been delivered and the post assessment given, Kentlyn and Ruse will moderate the assessment to see whether our judgement is consistent across the schools.

### Peer Observation

We have also linked our Spirals of Inquiry with our peer observations. At Ruse PS we view Peer Observation as a form of collaborative professional development, as it can yield its greatest benefits when used as a means of sharing instructional techniques, pedagogical practices and innovative ideas among teachers. The Peer Observations will occur until the end of the year.

### Extra Curricular

Students thoroughly enjoy participating in extra curricular activities. Our jump rope groups, drama groups, public speakers, musicians, and artists are being provided with opportunities to share their skills, connect and engage with our school. We have been fortunate this year with a large number of students making it into regional dance, band and art competitions. We are extremely proud of all students who have a go at these extra curricula activities.

### Student Welfare

For the remainder of the year we are investigating our implementation of the Positive Behaviour for Learning student welfare practices at Ruse Public School. We are primarily concerned with the learning, wellbeing and safety of all students. We are committed to providing a quality learning environment that fosters the physical, emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing of all students. We endeavour to actively connect students to their learning and encourage positive and respectful relationships, all while developing a sense of belonging to their school and community. Ruse Public School aims to set clear behavioural expectations that allow students to connect, succeed and thrive in a valued and supported learning environment.

Throughout the remainder of this year we will be reviewing our student welfare practices, policies and procedures and we be asking parents and carers for their feedback.
Leadership at Ruse Public School provides opportunities for students to positively influence others in a responsible and mature manner. Students actively participate in activities that enhance and develop skills related to decision making, collaboration, organisation and confidence building. All students at Ruse Public School are encouraged to foster the attributes of a successful leader through daily interactions in the classroom, the playground and when addressing the wider school community. We have a number of leadership opportunities for students to participate in at Ruse Public School, which include the School Leadership Team, The SRC, The XO Mechanics, The Library Monitors, The Chess Club, and The Computer Programmers.
Parent and Carer Workshops in Literacy

We will be holding Parent Workshops on Wednesday 2nd of September, 2015 in the area of Literacy.

There will be K-2 and 3-6 workshop running at the same time. These workshops are being provided to support parents with reading and writing at home. You will be surprised at how many opportunities there are available to teach kids these skills in an incidental fashion that is also fun and engaging.

To accommodate all parents and carers we will be holding two sessions - one during school time and another at around 6:00pm. During the evening workshops a movie will be running in the library with supervision for students.

A note will be coming home in the near future. We really look forward to seeing you there.

SRC Report

The SRC will be meeting this Friday to discuss some ideas about how to spend some of the allocated Fun Run money on the playground.
There will be a full report next newsletter from our SRC after these discussions take place.

PSSA Classic Shield Knockout

Round 6 of the Classic Shield Knockout was played last Tuesday 11th August against Gerringong Public School. The boys travelled down together and were pumped for the game. What started out as a slow first half with Gerringong taking the lead 8-6, Ruse came back in the second half with excellent defence and improved team work. Unfortunately though, Gerringong took out this round with a 20-16 victory.

The boys are to be commended for their excellent team work and skills and be proud that they are the winners of the Sydney South West Division (SSW) and are placed top eight in the state. I would also like to extend a huge thank you to Mr Ahovele for being my Assistant Coach/runner throughout all the knockout, together with all the parents, carers extended family, friends, staff and students for coming and supporting us.

Congratulations boys!
Rugby Union
Next week Toutai L will represent the Sydney South West (SSW) Rugby Union Team at Manly for 3 days. We wish him all the best and hope to hear great things when he comes back.

Good luck Toutai.

Gala Day
The next Gala Day will be on Friday week 8. The venues and sports remain unchanged.

Last Gala day in week 4 was a great day had by all teams. The senior Netball girls won all their games with the juniors displaying excellent team work.

The soccer was also reported to be a success, with all teams demonstrating their excellent balls skills.

In the Rugby Union, the senior boys were undefeated while the junior boys won 3 and draw 2, still keeping them in the top spot.

Good luck to everyone in week 8.

Ms Clark
Sports Coordinator

Library News
Thank you to all the parents and carers who supported the Book Fair. With the proceeds made from books sales we were able to purchase a lot of new resources for our new look Library. New books will be covered and ready for borrowing in the coming weeks.

Stage 2 Showcase
Stage 2 students have been undertaking Inquiry-based learning during Science to develop a deeper understanding of erosion. Inquiry-based learning starts by students posing questions, problems or scenarios—rather than simply presenting established facts. Students then conducted research to answer these questions. They also conducted a range of experiments to understand how erosion happens and how water and wind affect the rate of erosion on a landscape. The students enjoyed the hands-on experiments.

Stage 2 students are learning to effectively collaborate with each other. 3/4R completed a challenge in education week. They were asked to build the tallest tower possible using only spaghetti and marshmallows. This task was designed to encourage problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration and creativity.

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school. I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 17th August and 16th October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

**The Partners in Learning parent feedback survey**

Our school will also be participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement. Running this survey will help our school understand parents’ and carers’ perspectives on their child’s experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school’s support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically takes 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated.

**From next week, we will be inviting Parents and Carers in to complete this 15 minute survey in our new Community Conference Room.** We will be providing the computers, login details and some support to get you started on the survey. We highly value your feedback and this data will be used to drive school improvement at Ruse Public School.


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**Oliver & Patch**

By Claire Freedman and Kate Hindley

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**Synopsis**

When Oliver finds a little lost dog called Patch, he makes his first friend in the big new city. The trouble is, he knows that someone, somewhere, will be looking for him...

A beautifully told story that will tug at your heart.

**Review by Ruse Public School**
Who was your favourite character and why?

Matilda: My favourite character was a Patch because he was friendly dog
Ashton: Ruby was my favourite because she was sad and nice
Elizabeth: Ruby because she lost her dog and she was nice to Oliver
Noah: Patch was my favourite because he had fun with Oliver and Ruby

What was the best or your favourite part of the book and why?

Matilda: When they were sitting at the window together looking out at the night
Ashton: I liked when Oliver found Patch because Patch is a nice dog
Elizabeth: I liked when Ruby and Oliver met each other
Noah: When Oliver and Patch were sharing an ice cream

What was the funniest or scariest part of the story?

Noah & Matilda: The funniest part was the end when Oliver, Ruby and Patch were eating an ice cream together with bones in it
Ashton: It was funny when Patch and Oliver were sitting in the train
Elizabeth: I thought it was funny when Patch took Oliver's sock when they were playing

Which character would you like to meet in real life?

Elizabeth, Ashton & Matilda: Ruby
Noah: Patch

Which character would you want as your best friend?

Matilda: Patch, he is a nice dog
Ashton: Ruby because she is beautiful
Elizabeth: Ruby because she has a pet dog
Noah: Patch, he looks like fun

Did you learn any new words or anything new about this book?

Elizabeth, Ashton and Noah - Friendship
Matilda - Don't take a dog that you find lost, you can't keep it. You need to make signs and ask people if the dog belongs to them

If you could change one thing about this book what would you change?

Matilda: I would make Oliver and Patch go out and have more ice cream together
Ashton: I would change Ruby's name to Zalia because my best friends name is Zalia
Elizabeth: I would turn the ice cream into ice blocks so it's yummier
Noah: I would make Patch even funnier and make more games for him and Oliver to play

Why do you think the author wrote this book?

Matilda: They wrote the book because they had a friend that they loved so much
Ashton: Because it's about friendship and because people make friends in it
Elizabeth: Because they are friends and wanted to tell a story about different kinds of friends
Noah: They wrote the book to show everyone about friendship

Overall

The children really enjoyed the book. They enjoyed watching Patch on an adventure and meeting new friends and especially liked the ending when they all became friends. Before starting a new page the children were looking at the pictures and started discussing what they thought would happen next, some were right others answers entertained them all. They all enjoyed Oliver and Patch playing together, laughing out loud at some of the things they were doing. At the end of the story the children were discussing friendship and how you make new friends.

Special thanks to Simon and Schuster Australia.

Sale of this book can be found in store or online at:
iBooks: Oliver and Patch by Kate Hindley & Claire Freedman https://itun.es/au/Ll8bZ.I

Kindergarten Enrolments 2016
We are now accepting enrolments for 2016. Please call at the office to collect an enrolment pack and return as soon as possible as interviews are being held in Week 9 and letters have been despatched.

Voluntary Contributions
Voluntary contribution payments are now due. Payments can also be made via the Parent Online Payment method on the school website.

Woolworths Earn & Learn
We are excited to be taking part in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. You can help our school by collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Points. Just collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Points when you shop at Woolworths between Monday 15th July and Tuesday 8th September 2015. We will redeem these for awesome educational resources for our school.

Simply pop them onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheet and once it's completed, just bring it back to school or drop it into the Collection Box at your local Woolies. The more we collect, the more we can redeem. There are thousands of products available through the Woolworths Earn & Learn program, and we'd like to get lots of new gear! Products in the range include resources for Mathematics, English, Science, art & crafts, through to sports gear, library supplies and more.

We are grateful for your support and look forward to a successful program. If you have any questions, please ask at school.

P&C News
At the last P&C meeting it was discussed and voted on to change the meeting from a Tuesday night to a Monday night. Therefore the next P&C meeting will be in Term 4 on Monday 2nd November in Week 5 at 7pm sharp in the staffroom. As this is our AGM as well as a general meeting, all positions will become vacant. We encourage you to look at positions and consider taking on a role or just simply attending and showing support.

President
- Chairs meetings and liaises with Principal. Oversees the general organisation of P&C.

Vice President Fundraising
- Assists the president and organises fundraising.

Vice President Publicity
- Assists president and publicises P&C organisation and events in Ruse News.

Secretary
- Takes minutes at the meeting and types up at home, responsible for all correspondence.

Treasurer
- Responsible for all monies. Pays all bills, keeps records and prepares monthly statement and report for meeting.

Assistant Treasurer
- Assists treasurer with the above.

Canteen Coordinator
- Responsible for daily organisation of the canteen. Organises rosters, orders all food, reports at monthly meetings and liaises with the principal and president.

Assistant Canteen Coordinator

Canteen News
The next special meal deal notes have been sent home. Please ensure you pre order so as not to miss out. It is a cheeseburger, small chocolate and either a small bottle of water or small soft drink for $5.00. All orders must be back by 4th September. No late orders will be accepted as we need to pre order stock.

Thank you.

Fundraising
Delivery date for the slice drive is now 25th August.
The Father’s Day letter and list has been sent out to all children. In the $10.00 gifts there was an error regarding the Gold Set. It should read Golf Desk set. There is also no clock available.

Uniform Updates
Just a reminder for any preloved clothing items, parents or carers can also contact Maria to arrange alternative times to try on clothing if required. Maria 0416 639383.

Community News