Dear Parents / Caregivers

What an outstanding Education Week. I would like to thank the Education Week committee, led by Mrs Shirley Smith, for their tireless work and brilliant organisation. Below are some photos and commentary of the week’s celebrations.

Monday, 27th July
The battle of the Arts and the Academic challenge were both held at Sarah Redfern High School. Our students represented our school with pride and learnt a lot from the day. Below are a couple of photos of these very talented students: Ava, Dale, Kevin, Jayde, Akaisha, Cooper, Braydie, and Phoebe.

At school, Stage 3 were treated with a presentation by a famous author and illustrator, David Hardy. The students were very well behaved for this guest presenter and they completed some remarkable work.
Tuesday 28th July
Tuesday was our 'Maths Off' and all competing students tried their absolute best. We would like to congratulate students for having a go. It can be very nerve racking in front of everyone, but all the students demonstrated great sportsmanship and resilience.
Congratulations to all the students who competed, as well as our winners and runners up in the Maths Off:
Year 1: Jackson A and Lucas Van De N
Year 2: Jordan S and Sophie C
Stage 2: Bailey W and Charlie McB
Stage 3: Robert M and Sanshray N

Wednesday 29th July
A non-denominational scripture service was held in the morning for all students. This was a lovely service, where the importance of education was discussed and promoted.

During the middle session our Annual Spelling Bee was held. Some of our amazing spellers were challenged by a couple of tricky words, but they gave it their all and should be proud of their efforts.

Congratulations to all the students who competed, as well as our winners and runners up in the Spelling Bee:
Year 1: Ethan L and Lana T
Year 2: Connor H and Jordan S
Friday, 31st July
Our Open Day Assembly was nothing short of brilliant: an amazing educational showcase of performances, plus an emotional farewell for Mrs Annette O’Neill.

From our elite dance group, to our elite jump rope performers - so much talent on the one stage! We were also graced with video highlights of one of the Inquiry Based Learning Projects happening in classrooms, plus snippets from our Regional Band, Dance and Arts students. Students at Ruse PS still step up when these opportunities are provided to them.

The educational speeches opened up with Mrs Janine Cahill and Mrs Pam Stanton. What wonderful, reflective speeches were given by these very generous, funny and amazing women. Although as stated in both these ladies’ speeches, the schooling system has changed over the years, teachers at Ruse PS still try to promote and instill the qualities of honesty, hard work, empathy, resilience and kindness in our students. Thanks so much, Janine and Pam, for your wonderful speeches.

Our Stage 1 speaker, Bailey C, shared why he loves Ruse PS, and what an outstanding speech he made. So confident and clear for a Year 2 student. Our Stage 2 speaker, Chloe H, also shared her memories of our school and delivered a beautifully presented speech. Our Stage 3 speaker, Jayde P, invited everyone to reflect on the importance of school and pay attention to the life lessons happening right in front of us. Jayde’s fantastic speech is below.

Education does not take a pause. It is lifelong and is one part of our journey. We start our life as a baby learning to open our eyes. We walk around the house as toddlers copying what our parents say. We skip in to preschool eager to make new buddies. Then, before we know it we are anxiously coming through the gates of primary school. We spend the next seven years of our lives getting an education, but what does that mean?

When I look back at my time here at Ruse, I realise how education goes past the classroom. Through all the experiences and opportunities we have here at Ruse Public School, we learn skills that shape us as people. A few weeks ago we cheered on our incredible footy team without knowing that it was a lesson in disguise. We were taught school spirit, team work and sportsmanship without even realising. When Mrs. Smith tells us one of her hilarious stories, we learn it’s okay to laugh at yourself and you don’t have to be serious all the time. When Mrs O’Neill says to us we are the best school in Campbelltown she teaches us to take pride in our school and to strive to be our best.

As I wrote this speech, I realised how special our school and staff are. The education that they gave me was not just reading and maths, it was about getting me ready for high school and my future. At Ruse I have learnt to tackle everything head on and to give everything a go. To me a good education isn’t just academics, it’s also learning how to be a good person overall.

Cue the tears... We were all travelling along really well, and then the end of the assembly drew upon us and we had to say a very emotional farewell to Mrs Annette O’Neill. I think there were many tears in audience, from the teachers, the students, and in the entire community. One grandparent mentioned to me that he struggled to hold back the tears during the presentation. One parent also reported that one of her children said ‘Why did Mount Annan PS have to steal her?’ and her other little one said he had water in his eyes during assembly, but didn't know if he was 'sad or sweating'. This is just
indicative of the impact Mrs O’Neill has had on Ruse PS.

Here is a snippet of the speech given by Mrs Selena McPhee’s and Mr Mac from the day we farewelled Mrs O’Neill.

Mrs O’Neill has been a Hero at Ruse PS for the past 9 years. Over this time, Ruse has been really fortunate to be led by such an amazing person. Her leadership is visionary, strategic, visible, future-focussed, and collaborative. She has always been concerned about building the capacity within her school to achieve quality learning outcomes for her students and staff. To many she has been a coach, a mentor, an advisor and a friend.

Two of her trademark quotes, that she always uses and we will continue to use include:
“Ruse Public School runs in my blood,” and
“Ruse Public School is the best school in Campbelltown.”

Thank you so much for being our Hero, Annette. We know the impact you’ve had on Ruse Public School will be felt for many more years to come.

Mrs O’Neill wrote to the teachers, staff, parents and students of Ruse Public School, expressing her gratitude:
Yesterday and last night I had the most amazing farewell from the best school in Campbelltown, Ruse Public School. (Fortunately, I have moved to Macarthur so I will always be able to refer to RPS as the best school in Campbelltown). I was privileged to be the principal of this fantastic school for the last 9 years - wonderful kids, sensational staff and a supportive community. I value the professional relationships but most importantly the friendships that been forged during my journey. It has been wonderful to be part of the personal achievements of our students and to see and hear about about the life successes of our young people after they have left RPS. The Education Week assembly was an outstanding showcase of talent and achievement as well as a beautiful and thoughtful farewell. And Stage 3.....how to reduce your previous principal to tears. It was an emotion filled day but one that I will always remember. Ruse will always be very special and I will treasure my memories forever. RPS is in great hands with amazing leaders, Paul McGillicuddy, Selena McPhee, all the executive team and staff and I look forward to hearing about the journey ahead. “Walk Wisely.”
Debating
On Monday, 3rd August, the Ruse Allstars Debating Team travelled to Mount Annan Public School for Round 4 of the Premiers Debating Challenge. The topic debated was “Schools should replace sport and exercise classes with more class time”. Ruse Public School were the negative team and even though we received excellent feedback from the adjudicator we lost on a technicality. Well done, Akaisha, Blair, Jayde and Jaylan.

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.

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

Thankyou IGA
A massive thankyou goes to IGA for their ongoing support of Ruse Public School. Just recently they have donated $2,130.35 which will be used to purchase valuable technology resources so that we can provide excellent education for all students at Ruse Public School.

Sport
PSSA gala days for this term are on Friday in Weeks 4 and 8. The sports for this term are as follows:
Netball - Coronation Park, Minto
Soccer - Eschol Park Playing Fields
Rugby Union - Campbelltown Showground (Harlequins home ground).

Please ensure students are in full school sports uniform - including a school hat, with plenty to eat and drink, as we cannot guarantee that canteens will be available on the day.

Students playing Rugby Union need to make sure they have headgear and mouth-guard to play.

Parents are carers are welcome to come along and support our students at all events.

Ms Clark
Sports Coordinator
Athletics Carnival
What a great day was had by all with another successful carnival completed for 2015. Students from years 2-6 competed in all athletics events including track, shot put, discuss, high-jump and long-jump. All the students were enthusiastic, especially the 8 and 9 year students who came out in huge numbers to compete. We saw some excellent times recorded, of which students will be selected to compete at the PSSA Zone Athletics Carnival on Wednesday 2nd September for Field events between 9am and 3pm and Thursday 3rd September for track event heats between 9am and 3pm with finals the same day between 4-5pm. All students who are selected, must attain or beat the qualifying times and distances. Students will notified and given the details within the next week. A huge thank you goes out to all the students, teachers and parent helpers. Without you all this day would not be as successful.

Ms Clark and Ms Wheatley
Athletics Coordinators

PSSA Classic Shield Knockout
Round 5 of the Classic Shield Knockout was played today at Worrell Park oval against Samuel Terry PS. The boys won convincingly with a 40 nil victory. The boys are the Sydney South West division winners and in the top eight of the state. Pre qualifying rounds will be played on 14th August. Player of the match as voted by the NRL went to Toutai L. Congratulations boys!

PSSA Girls Basketball Knockout
Well done to the Girls Basketball team on their win over Thornleigh West Public School. It was a nail-biting game, with the opposition coming back towards the end. with our girls holding them off for a 19-18 win. The girls played an outstanding game showing support to each other and demonstrating excellent team work. They are now advance to Round 6, playing the winner from Sydney West Region, with a date yet to be confirmed.

Thank you also to the parents and carers who helped with transport and scoring. It was great to see so many parents and carers supporting our girls.

Congratulations Senior Girls!

Stage 1 Showcase
During Term 3, some Stage 1 classes are looking at informative texts through Products and Services.

1/2BZ have been reading and viewing information texts and recording the key facts. We have been looking at key facts and adding it to our own knowledge. Here are some examples of our work about cows, milk and rubbish.
1/2A have been investigating services through a range of informative texts and the use of the Internet. This allows for students to gain new knowledge and increase their ability to research.

1V have been working in groups for Inquiry based learning using our XOs. This has allowed students to research the aspects of products and services.

We are planning an excursion to the Wollongong Science Centre and Planetarium in week 9 of this term. You will be receiving information about the excursion later this week.

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.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Tuesday, 11th August. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

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.
Reading Initiative
This semester, we will be trialling a reading initiative with a number of students during structured classroom time and some recess breaks. Mrs Davidson has kindly volunteered to give up her time for a couple of hours per day to share her passion for literature by reading a collection of books with our students.

The students participating in the program will then review these books and their opinions will be published in our newsletter or on the schoolparents website. After the reviews have been completed, the books will be donated to our school library for all our students to enjoy. Some of our Stage 2 and 3 students will be nominated to participate in the program independently, completing their readings and the writing of their reviews at home. I would like to thank Mrs Davidson for generously donating her time to this reading initiative.

Below is a review by some of our students from 1V, on a book called Super Tato. I hope you enjoy their review as much as they enjoyed reading it. More book reviews will be put up on our School Parents website over the next couple of days.

Supertato
By Sue Hendra

Synopsis
Meet Supertato! The supermarket superhero with eyes everywhere!
Whenever the chips are down in the vegetable section he’s there to save the day. But now there’s a pea on the loose.
A very very naughty pea. Has Supertato finally met his match?

A crazy comedy caper for all Fans of Barry the Fish with Fingers, Norman the Slug with the Silly Shell and Doug the Bug That Went Boing!

Review by Ruse Public School
Class 1V
Noah, Elias, Tyler M & Cayley

What are three words to best describe the book?

Noah - Strong, Fast, Flying
Elias - Brave, Strong, Superfast
Tyler M - Fast, Strong, Helpful
Cayley - Villain, Evil, Toilet Paper

Who was your favourite character and why?

Cayley - Supertato was my favourite because he was an angel and he was big.
Elias - Supertato was my favourite because he was a funny potato and potatoes don’t have legs and he saves other vegetables.
Tyler M - Supertato was my favourite because he is a big potato and because he has a cool Cape.
Noah - The Pea's at the end were my favorite because they are sneaky and like to hide. I thought it was funny when one pea was hiding in the cupcake.

What was the best or your favourite part of the book and why?
Noah - I liked the end because all the different peas came out of the freezer to hide. I liked the blue pea hiding in the washing machine, he was funny.
Cayley - My favourite part of the book was when all the vegetables are eating jelly, jelly is my favourite.
Elias - I really liked the ending when all the peas came out and were hiding. My favourite pea was the one hiding in the bottom of the fridge.
Tyler M - I really liked when the pea fell in the jelly after he bounced off the cake. (Tyler started laughing when he thought back to this part of the story)

What was the funniest or scariest part of the story?
Tyler M - I thought the funniest part was when the pea was being silly and put a bandaid on the carrot.
Elias - I thought it was funny when the naughty pea drew a face on the broccoli.
Noah - I thought the funniest part was when the pea covered the cucumber in toilet paper.
Cayley - I thought the scariest part was when the evil pea was attacking the vegetables in the supermarket.

Which character would you like to meet in real life?
Noah - Supertato because he can run fast and fly, he is strong and he saves the other vegetables.
Elias - The peas at the end of the book because they were funny and I liked where they were hiding.
Tyler M - Supertato because he is fast and strong.

Which character would you want as your best friend?
Tyler M - The peas at the end.
Elias - The sneaky peas at the end.
Noah - Supertato because he is strong.
Cayley - The peas at the end.

Did you learn any new words or anything new about this book?
Elias - Supertato. That peas are sneaky.
Cayley - Evil. If you are evil someone could attack you.
Tyler M - Supertato. Supertato's save other vegetables.
Noah - Conveyor belt. Vegetables can be fresh and frozen.

If you could change one thing about this book what would you change?
Noah - I would turn Supertato evil and the pea into a superhero
Tyler M - I would turn the peas into carrots so they can be orange and stuck to the conveyor belt.
Cayley - I would change the peas into a unicorn so then they could take me to New York.
Elias - I would change the peas to spinach because they would be bigger and tastier to eat.

Why do you think the author wrote this book?
Cayley and Tyler M - Because she thought it would be fun.
Elias - Because she wanted to be funny.
Noah - Because she wanted to tell us about superheroes and evil peas.

Overall
The children were excited to read this book as soon as they saw the cover. By the second page all four children were laughing and were discussing how funny the story was and wondered what was going to happen, each coming up with interesting theories. Each child was entertained that a potato could be a superhero. Enter the Evil Pea and the children again
started discussing together asking each other questions about what they thought the evil pea was going to do. With the Evil Peas sneaky tricks all of the children were laughing and couldn't wait to find out what was going to happen next. The one part they all had belly laughs was when the Evil Pea jumped off the cake and landed in the jelly, which then lead them to talking about what favourite jelly they liked. All four children highly enjoyed this book and loved trying to find all the sneaky peas at the end.

*Special thanks to Simon and Schuster Australia.*  
Sale of this book can be found in store or online at:


iBooks: https://itun.es/au/OZe3T.l

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

Reminder:  The slice drive forms are due back this Friday 7th August. No late orders will be accepted.

The next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday, 11th August at 7pm sharp. All welcome to attend.

Thank you

Community News

Storm Softball Club is looking for people like you!

If you and your children want to have fun, learn new skills, and be part of a fun, family community, then Storm is the club for you!

Registrations are now being taken for everyone, from 4 years old to Seniors.

All games are played at the same place and time each week!

For more information:

Call: 0450709663

Or email: stormsoftball@hotmail.com.au

Or come along to one of our Registration Days:

Sunday 2nd August, 2015-Milton Park, Ingleburn 10.30am-1.00pm
Saturday 8th August, 2015-Minto Mall-10am-2.00pm
Saturday 29th August, 2015-McDonald's Woodbine-10am-1pm.
Thursday 3rd September, 2015-Minto Mall 6pm-8.30pm
CAMPBELLTOWN JUNIOR OZTAG
2015 SUMMER REGISTRATIONS

*** NEW COMPETITION ***
LYNNWOOD PARK, ST HELEN'S PARK played MONDAYS
Registrations being held:
Monday 10th & Monday 17th August 15 4.30 – 6.00
at Lynnwood Park

VICTORIA PARK, MINTO played THURSDAYS
Registrations being held:
Thursday 13th & Thursday 20th August 15 4.30 – 6.30
at Victoria Park, Minto

Comp kicks off first week in September 2015
Registration $70 per player
For further details contact
Pnce: 0410 649 393
pnce@oztag.com.au
www.greaterwestjunioroztag.com

CUDGEGONG RD PRESCHOOL & CHILD CARE
(0-5) Age Group

- Hours are from 7.00am – 6.00pm
- All meals provided
- An educational program in line with the Early Years Learning Framework
- A comprehensive school readiness program
- No BOND is required.
- Our children are confident and involved learners in a friendly environment
- Qualified staff
- Your child's home away from home.

Call us on 4626 2140, OR drop in for a visit.

Our address is: 145 Cudgegong Rd, RUSE