



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 2 Week 10 2025

Thursday 3rd July

Rosary Park Catholic School

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We acknowledge the Wonnarua people-the first custodians of this land

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults - particularly those who participate in the life of the Diocese. All employees are required to undergo a National Police Check and, where legislated, hold a Working with Children Check. Diocesan workers are expected to personally adopt and enact the Diocese's Safeguarding Commitment Statement.

IMPORTANT DATES

Weekly Mass Times: 6pm Saturday Branxton; 8am Sunday Greta

JULY		JULY	
Thu 3 rd	Polding Touch Trials	Mon 28 th	GRANDPARENTS DAY – liturgy followed by Open Classrooms and shared afternoon tea
Thu 3 rd	PJ & Beanie Day – GOLD COIN DONATION to the Winter Appeal	Wed 30 th	Assembly and 100 Days of Kinder Celebration
Fri 4 th	CRAZY HAIR DAY – Donation to Wigs for Kids Foundation (Online Only see Newsletter for QR Code)	AUGUST	
Fri 4 th	LAST DAY OF TERM 2	Fri 1 st	Aspire – Year 6
Mon 21 st	FIRST DAY OF TERM 3	Tue 12 th	ICAS English
Wed 23 rd - Fri 25 th	Canberra Excursion – Year 6	Fri 15 th	Taronga Zoo Excursion – Year 3

Principal's Message

"Loving God, we thank you for the opportunity for rest and refreshment during the holidays. We pray for opportunities to relax, enjoy time with loved ones, and experience new things. May our bodies, minds, and spirits be renewed, so that we may return to school with energy and enthusiasm. We ask for your blessing on our time away. Amen."

THANKYOU

A Massive thank you to all of our families, students, staff and friends for the wonderful support they have given the school this term. It has been wonderful to see the students progressing so beautifully in the learning journeys. This was exemplified by the Student Led Conferences held on Monday. I have had many parents positively speak about the process and what their child could articulate. Mrs Dixon has a more detailed process as well as the rationale behind them, in her article.

ENROLMENTS

Due to the unbelievable demand for enrolments at Rosary Park at the moment, we are now FULL in:

- Kindergarten
- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3

We are almost at capacity in Year 4.

This does not happen without the hard-working staff of RPB. They are an amazing bunch!

It also doesn't happen without wonderful word of mouth from families at Rosary Park. Please let us know where we can improve at any time.

STAFFING NEWS

Year Six will have a combination of Mrs Burgess and Mrs Pringle for Terms 3 and 4. We thank Mrs Burgess for her flexibility and for being there for Year 6.

Miss Nikola Groves has been the successful applicant for the Primary Coordinator and Pedagogical Mentor positions at RPB. She will be off class in Year Two on Thursdays and Fridays, for the remainder of the year. We are interviewing for her release position and will update you via Compass when this occurs.

For those who haven't read the Compass post recently, we will be farewelling Ms Mackenzie Gageler at the conclusion of the 2025 school year. You can read more about Mackenzie's achievements in the Compass post.

FAREWELL MS van DUUREN!

Friday signifies the last day for Ms van Duuren for now, as she flies to the USA to take up a year's contract in a primary school. We are indebted to Ms van Duuren for her extremely hard work over her time at the school. She commenced at Rosary Park in 2017 and has taught Years 4,5 and 6, as well as her outstanding work in her Primary Coordinator and Pedagogical Mentor roles, in which she has been part of the executive team responsible for the improvement in the school's results across the board, in particular, mathematics.

Amber is a wonderful team member and friend of the staff, is cherished and loved by the students she has worked with and will be greatly missed. We hope to see you in 2026 upon your return, Ms van Duuren!

VINNIES APPEAL THANKS

Well done to all of the children and staff for dressing up in PJ's and Beanies today for our Vinnies Winter Appeal. All of the gold coin donations will ensure that people who do it tough on our streets, might do things slightly easier, so we thank all of our families for their generosity.

BAYLEE'S BIG CHOP

Please remember to dress in PINK for Ms van Duuren and get CRAZY with hair on Friday! There will be ONE person per class, with the craziest hair, to receive a \$10 voucher from Maverick's Cafe in Huntlee Village. We thank Maverick's Cafe for looking after us with vouchers.

Congratulations in advance, Baylee, for raising over \$3265 for Wigs for Kids with Cancer. Her original goal was \$3000, so that is magnificent achievement.

BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Wishing everyone all the best over the holiday break. Please stay safe if you are travelling and enjoying this great country of ours. We cannot wait to see you all on MONDAY JULY 21, for the first day of Term Three.

God Bless,

Mr Ashley Borg
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal's Message

Student led conferences

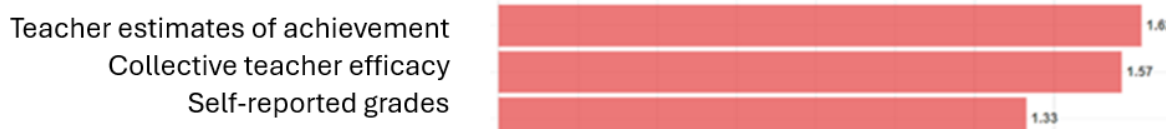
I hope the student led conferences were a positive experience and gave parents an insight into their child's learning journey.

Why do we have student led conferences?

The Research

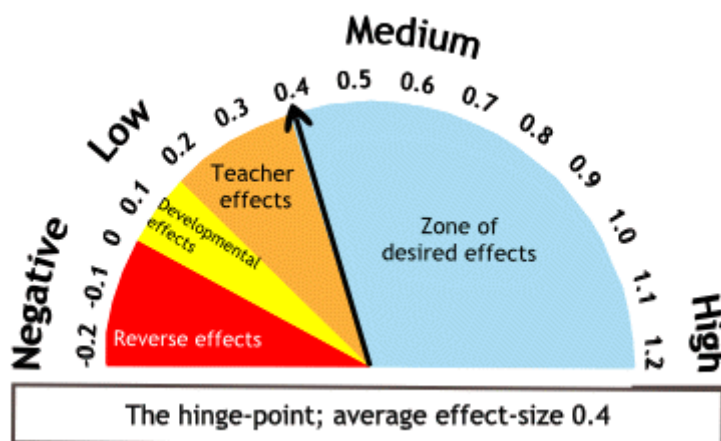
Professor John Hattie, educational researcher, professor and director of the Education Research Institute at the University of Melbourne, is internationally renowned for his research into student achievement. In his book "Visible Learning" and subsequent related titles, Hattie unpacks his meta-analysis on the influences that most greatly relate to student achievement. Over the past 15 years, Hattie has completed more than 130 000 studies involving more than 400 million students worldwide. He is continually adding to his data and updating his recommendations.

Shown below is a snip of the top rated influences on student achievement according to Professor Hattie's data. One important aspect to note is the fact that self-reported grades has remained among the top 3 influences since 2009!



It is evident here that teachers having a shared view of high expectations and collective efficacy top the list. This means teachers need a common language and shared high expectations of students. The top student centred influence is self-reported grades, or student expectations as stated by Professor Hattie. Students being able to verbalise their learning, set goals and speak to what they are learning and how they are going has a proven substantial positive influence on their achievement.

How much effect?



Hattie's list of influences of student achievement have effect sizes ranging from -0.4 to 1.62. Hattie says that the "hinge point" is 0.4, meaning anything below this has a negligible effect on achievement. It is also stated that an effect size of 1 will improve student learning by approximately 50% or advance student achievement by approximately one year.

Hattie ranked 252 different influences on his list with effect sizes ranging from negative effects, including television and corporal punishment, to negligible effects, including parental employment, diet, gender and class sizes. Some of those with effect size greater than 0.7 include feedback, classroom discussion and teacher clarity. The influences discussed above, including teachers having high expectations of students and a shared vision, along with student self-reported grades, all have an effect size of greater than 1.3!

The student led conference is an opportunity for every child to share their learning with their parents or carers. It enables the child to lead these learning conversations, celebrating their successes, unpacking their learning journey, and identifying the goals they have for next steps with the support of the teacher. These conferences ensure that at Rosary Park we are providing the opportunity for children to gain the most benefit from this strategy which has been proven to have a high impact on student achievement.

If you would like more information on Professor John Hattie and his research, you can search his name or the name of his book "Visible Learning" on the internet or contact the school for further links to information about the benefits of student led conferences.

How can I support my child's education at home?

There are many ways as parents you can support the learning your child is doing at school.

Reading

Every minute spent reading with your child is valuable learning time. This does not always mean you need to sit down for long periods of time every day to read a chapter book. If your child is a reluctant reader, there are many other activities you can encourage as well as reading books.

Read the rules to a game and then play it

Read online news articles about a favourite sport/sportsperson

Read the school newsletter

Does your child like music? Play songs on iTunes or on karaoke and have your child follow the words

Do some cooking and read the recipe

For younger children, Identify words/letters in the environment.

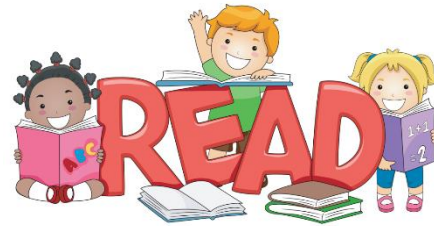
Encourage comprehension when reading by asking questions such as

What did the character do in this chapter?

Do you like this character? Why/why not?

Describe what the character saw/heard/how they may have felt when this happened.

What might happen next in the story? Why do you think that?



celebrity or

Spotify, turn

Vocabulary

Play eye spy. Use words to describe objects to help others guess what you are thinking. Try to describe more than just the colour. Think of words to describe size, shape, texture etc.

Ask questions - what does that word mean? Can you think of another word that means the same thing? (a synonym) What about a word that is the opposite? (an antonym)

Mathematics

Have younger students 'spot' numbers in the environment. At the shops, price tags, street numbers, on road signs, clocks, keyboards, calendars etc. Can you identify patterns in the environment? A brick wall? Petals on a flower? Veins on a leaf?

Build mathematical vocabulary by using words to describe the pattern or what you can see.



Knowing our "Friends of 10," (or pairs of numbers that add to 10) is the basis of success in future mental calculations. Playing "Friends of 10" snap! (instead of snapping number pairs, snap friends of 10 pairs)

Play a board game and instead of using one dice, use two. For younger students use 2 dot dice and count the total number of dots each turn. When confident, substitute one for a number dice. Count on from that number using the dots on the other dice. For a quicker game, use one dice but double the number you roll each time. Being able to quickly double numbers can help us increase the speed of mental calculations.



MARCH 2023						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 St Patrick's Day	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Calendars

Do you have a calendar in the house? Do you have conversations about days, weeks, months? Mark important events on the calendar and count down the weeks/days until the event arrives.

Discussions could include:

How many days/weeks until your birthday? Count them on the calendar.

How many weeks in a school term? How long is it until the holidays?

If the last day of March is a Wednesday, on what day of the week will April start? (There are questions like this in NAPLAN)

Clocks



Is there an analogue clock in the house that your child can see? Are there set times for meals, bedtime, time for the bus, time for bath/shower? Can your child read these times on the clock? Can they work out how long it is until these times?

Discussions could include:

The big hand is on the 4, how long until half past eight bedtime?

It will be bedtime when the big hand is on the 12, at 8 o'clock.

Cooking Time

Use the time you are cooking dinner to create educational moments. Help develop skills in measurement and a knowledge of litres, kilograms, cups etc. Look at the weights of items in the pantry/fridge.

Discussions could include:

This weighs 250g, how many will I need to get to a kilogram?

I need to use half of this litre of milk. How many millilitres will that be?

How many 500 mL bottles can I fill with this 2L water bottle? What fraction of the total is each 500mL bottle?

If you have any questions about supporting your child in their learning at home, please contact the school.

Child Protection and Safety lessons

During the last week of term at Rosary Park teachers take the time to revisit safety and child protection messages for our children. There are a number of ways a teacher might do this in a classroom, depending on the age and specific needs of the cohort of children. Children are encouraged to identify their "Hand of Support" which gets children to name 5 (one for each finger) safe people they can speak to at home if there is anything making them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Children regularly identify parents, extended family members, family friends or even neighbours. It is a good idea to regularly discuss these "safe people" with your child. Some classes may read the book titled "My Underpants Rule" giving children the strong message that they are the boss of their underwear.

Kids Helpline is an amazing resource for children who may be experiencing strong emotions, anxiousness or difficulties in relationships. Kids helpline online is a safe space for children to get factual information or answers to questions they may have. There are videos and articles that children and families may find helpful in navigating challenging situations or behaviours. They have designated pages for kids, teens, young adults, parents and schools.

Check out Kids Helpline here- <https://kidshelpline.com.au/>

Holidays are a time for many children to be out and about in the community, walking or riding with family and friends. We also revisit road, pedestrian and bike safety in the last week of school. Revising these messages is essential to ensuring our children are best equipped for holiday time.

If you would like to revisit some road safety messages with your child/children you can find good resources here- <https://www.safetytown.com.au/>

If you have any questions about our child protection or road safety lessons, please contact me at school.

Wishing everyone a restful, safe and enjoyable holiday time and I look forward to continuing to work with you all in the second half of the year.

Warm Regards,

Janelle Dixon
Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Rosary Park is founded on the Mercy tradition. We draw inspiration from Catherine McAuley, who founded the sisters of Mercy in Ireland in 1831. Catherine recognised the needs of those who were marginalised and oppressed by unjust social attitudes and practices of the day. She responded by establishing a House of Mercy in Dublin which provided educational, religious and social services for women and children who were at risk of homelessness through exploitation and entrenched poverty.

We look to Catherine McAuley as a role model, a sign of hope and of courage.

How can we show Mercy towards others in our everyday lives?



We should be shining lamps,
giving light to all around us.

Catherine McAuley

Parish Mass Term 3

We are excited to announce that next term, we will recommence attending Mass at our local church on Thursdays. Each grade will have the opportunity to attend once during the term. Mass will begin at 9:15 AM, and we warmly welcome all parents and guardians to join us for these special occasions. The following grades will attend on the following dates:

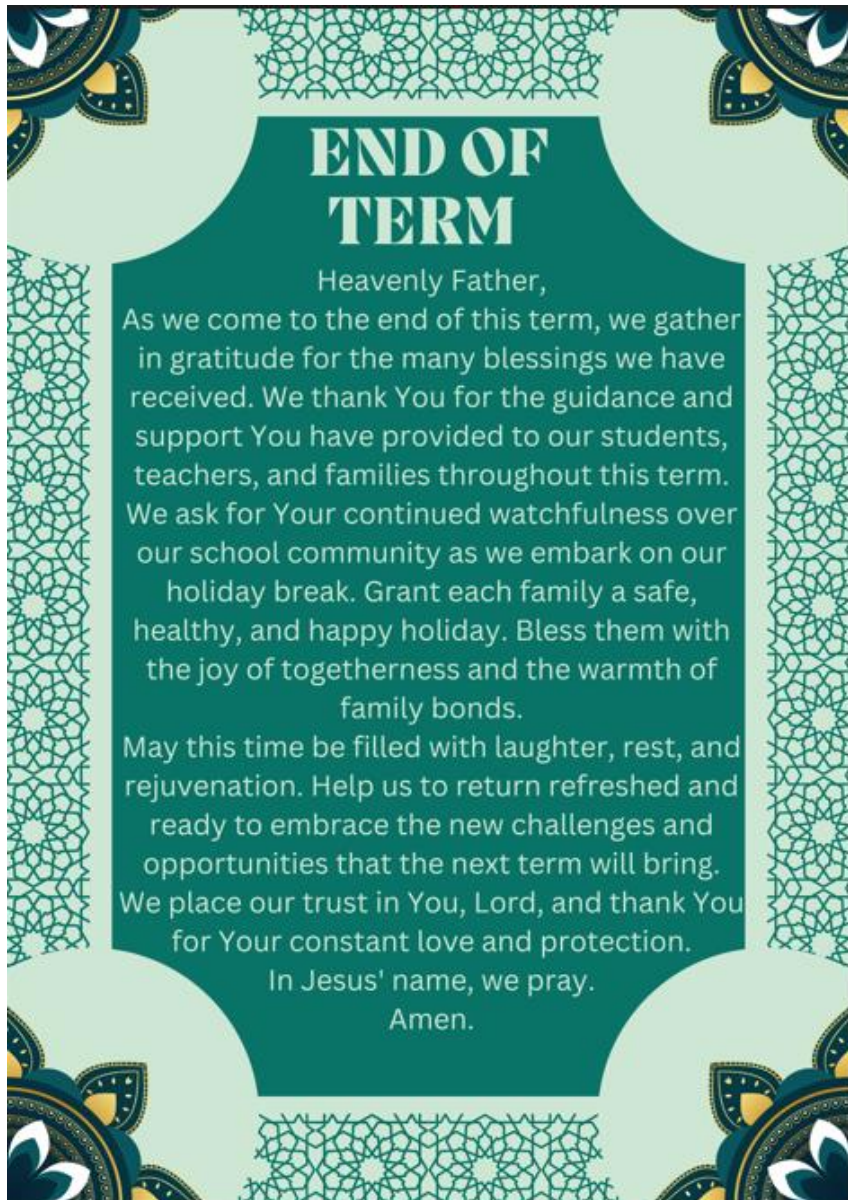
Thursday 7th August Week 3: Year 2 and Year 5

Thursday 21st August Week 5: Kinder, Year 3 and Year 6

Thursday 4th September Week 7: Year 1 and Year 4

Grandparent's Day

Monday 28th July will mark our celebration of the Feast Day of Saint's Anne and Joachim, and all our grandparents and elderly friends. Year 2 will host a liturgy from 12:00pm. This will be followed by open classrooms and shared afternoon tea for students and their visitors. We look forward to seeing you there.



May God Bless you,
Mackenzie Gageler
REC

Pastoral News

"Seasons for Growth" is a researched based program to support and enhance skills and management around grief, loss and change. The program focuses on resilience, managing feelings and problem solving.

The program will consist of one session per week over a period of 8 weeks in total.

If you feel that your child/young person would benefit from this beautiful program, please contact myself or the school.

Kylie Johns
Pastoral Care Worker

Seasons for Growth



Children & Young People's Program



Learning to live with change and loss

Everyone is affected by change and loss at some time in our lives. At [name of school/agency] we recognise that when changes occur such as separation, divorce, death, school transitions and natural disasters children may benefit from learning the skills to manage these changes effectively. We are therefore, offering an education program called Seasons for Growth which will commence on [date].

This program is facilitated in small groups of up to 7 participants and is based on research which highlights the importance of social support and the need to practise new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. The program focuses on building skills such as how to manage feelings, problem-solving, decision-making, effective communication and develops peer support networks. Participation in the program can promote improved self-esteem and self-confidence as well as giving children the opportunity to find their own voice amid change.

If you think your child/young person would benefit joining the Seasons for Growth program, we encourage you to talk to them about it. We are pleased to be able to offer this successful program and we are confident that it will be a valuable learning experience for those involved.

To find out more, please contact

Name:

Kylie Johns - Pastoral Care Worker

Email:

kylie.johns@mn.catholic.edu.au



mackillopseasons.org.au

Weekly Awards

Congratulations to those children who have received awards this past fortnight.

Week ending 27th June 2025 (Week 9)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Owen E	Eleanor S	Lukas E
Kinder White	Levi W	Hunter W	Sage L
Year 1 Blue	Tate K	Isla H	Tyler T
Year 1 White			
Year 2 Blue	Amari J-B	Connor T	Miya W
Year 2 White	Mia D	Jesse J	Jack C
Year 3 Blue	Stella G	Piper R	Callum F
Year 3 White	Hendrix M	Matilda C	Thomas E
Year 4 Blue			
Year 4 White	Louella T	Hudson L	Addison R
Year 5 Blue	Jaiden X	Elke B	Tuan N
Year 5 White	Tao D	Noah R	Paige L
Year 6 Blue			
Year 6 White			

Week ending 4th July 2025 (Week 10)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Jaxon D	Hazel S	Harlyn H
Kinder White			
Year 1 Blue	Carter L	George A	Georgie-Lee K
Year 1 White	Luca C	Ayla D	Savannah R
Year 2 Blue	Armaan S	Tanner H	Addison M
Year 2 White			
Year 3 Blue	Grace S	Leo B	Hallie D
Year 3 White	Aiden L	Lauren M	Kenny A
Year 4 Blue	Noha M	Liam H	Mason C
Year 4 White	Hendrix B	Sofia P	Landyn W
Year 5 Blue	Leah W		Emmett C
Year 5 White	Susan P	Matthias K	Jye D
Year 6 Blue	Hudson O	Halle G	Johnny N
Year 6 White	Jacob L	Owen C	Lily S

Principal's Awards: Jaxon C, Owen E, Charlie L, Polly L, Ava S, Hudson W, Cleo P, Annabelle L, Savannah H, George H



Veggie & Cheese Muffins

Serves: Approx. 12 muffins

Ingredients:

- 1 cup wholemeal self-raising flour
- 1 cup white self-raising flour
- 1 cup grated zucchini (squeeze out excess water)
- ½ cup grated carrot
- ½ cup corn kernels (fresh or frozen)
- ¾ cup reduced-fat grated cheese
- 2 eggs
- ¾ cup milk (or plant-based milk)
- ¼ cup olive oil
- Optional: finely chopped spinach, capsicum, or ham



Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180°C (350°F) and line or grease a muffin tray.
2. In a large bowl, mix the flours and grated veggies.
3. Add cheese and any extras you like (ham, spinach, etc.).
4. In a separate bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, and oil.
5. Pour the wet mix into the dry and stir until just combined.
6. Spoon into muffin tray and bake for 20–25 minutes or until golden and firm.
7. Cool before packing into a lunchbox.



Hunter New England
Local Health District

@HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au
<https://goodforkids.nsw.gov.au>

Good for Kids acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land that we live and work on as the first people of this country, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.



St Catherine's Catholic College
Production of

Disney
Aladdin
JR.

Schools Matinee Performance

Friday 22 August

11:00am

Singleton Civic Centre

Tickets available by contacting
finance@singleton.catholic.edu.au

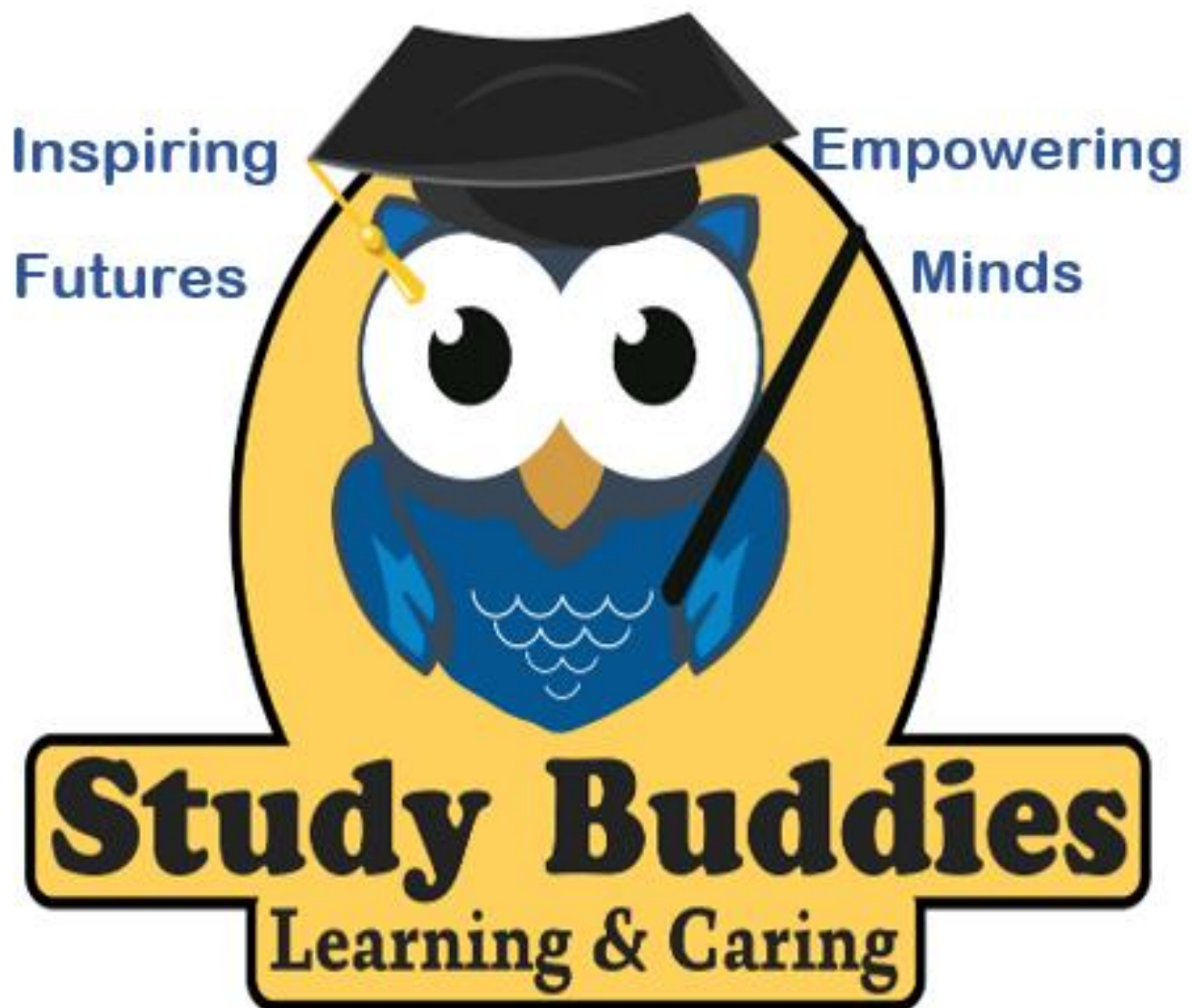
MUSIC BY
ALAN MENKEN

BOOK BY
CHAD BEGUELIN

LYRICS BY
HOWARD ASHMAN, TIM RICE AND CHAD BEGUELIN

Based on the Disney film written by Ron Clements, John Musker, Ted Elliott & Terry Rossio and directed & produced by Ron Clements & John Musker
Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).

Unlock Your Child's Potential!



**Experienced and Caring
Professional Teachers**

*Limited
Availability!*

0435998505



Tues 15/7
Wed 16/7
Thurs 17/7
8:30am till 11:30am



Holiday Tennis

for kids 4-16 years



\$39/day
\$100/3 days
Book online



www.singletontenniscoaching.com



Email
Hello@singletontenniscoaching.com
Phone 02 6572 3889
Boundary St, Singleton



@Singleton Tennis Coaching

Hunter Wetlands Centre SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN

Duck Discovery Walk

Everyday of School Holidays

Learn all about DUCKS as you waddle around our interactive trail!

Cost: **FREE** with Entry



After Dark Guided Tour

Mon 7th, Mon 14th and Wed 16th at 6.00pm

When the sun goes down the wetlands animals come out! Join our EXPERT GUIDE on this very special after-dark tour of the wetlands spotting all our nighttime wildlife!

Cost: \$5 kids \$10 adults (suitable for 5years+)

Book
Online

Reptile Encounters

EVERY Wed, Sat & Sun at 11am

We've added EXTRA Reptile Encounter shows for the school holidays! Meet & learn about our reptile residents!

Cost: \$5pp plus Entry

Lego Day



Fri 11th July at 10am & 11am

Unleash your creativity at this special animal-themed Bricks 4 Kidz LEGO® session.

1 hour session

\$12 per child includes entry (5years+)

Book
Online

PLUS

BBQ PICNICS
PLAYGROUNDS
DIP NETTING
GUIDED WALKS
BIKE TRAILS



1 Wetlands Pl, Shortland NSW | wetlands.org.au/upcoming-events



Rutherford Public School

SHARE OUR SPACE



FREE PROGRAM

- ✓ Perfect for boys and girls aged 5-12
- ✓ Develop fundamental cricket skills in a fun and inclusive environment



Ages 5 - 12



Tuesday 8 July 2025



9.30am - 1.30pm



Rutherford Public School, Weblands St, Rutherford

REGISTER NOW!



Sydney Sixers are proud to be a Share Our Space activity provider.
Share Our Space is an initiative of the NSW Department of Education.

Enquiries: Email Emmie.McLachlan@cricketnsw.com.au

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