Our junior school camp was another great success. We would sincerely like to thank all the parents who accompanied us on camp for their help with the children. The children were excited by all the venues we visited and learned a lot from the first hand experiences they had on camp.

Please find some of the photos we took of the students on camp attached to this newsletter.
School Walkathon, 24 June

Our students from Prep to Year 6 will be involved in a walk to Bigriggen this Friday. The money raised from sponsorships will be donated to the Queensland Cancer Fund, our school’s designated charity, in the first instance.

The walk will start at 9:30am from the school. Students are asked to wear school uniform and a school hat on the day. The students are also required to wear school hats on the day.

The walkathon is a great way for us to end the term. Parents and friends of the school are also welcome to walk along with the school or drive along as support vehicles for the event. The walk is a little over 10 kilometres. All students from Prep to Year 6 do the whole walk with a couple of checkpoints for rest and refreshments on the way. The weather is usually glorious for walking and there is a yummy sausage sizzle, fruit, drink and ice blocks waiting at Bigriggen when all the tired and thirsty walkers arrive at lunchtime. After a bit of time for the students to play in the lovely grounds at Bigriggen, and the parents to chat, we all pack up and head home for the school holidays.

The walkathon is a lovely social event for our school, so if there are any parents who haven’t yet done this with us, we encourage you, if you have the time, to join us for the day. We often have Mums or Dads along pushing baby strollers and Grandmas and Grandads joining in as well.

Parent-Teacher Interviews – Tuesday, 14 June

Almost 100% of our parents were able to attend parent-teacher interviews at school in the past couple of weeks. Thank you all so much for taking the time out of your busy days to come and see your
children at school. The children are always excited when you can come on parent-teacher interview day and can spend some time with you talking about their school work and showing you their reports. It makes a big difference to them and their learning.

**Christmas Creek Sports – 16,17 June**

Last week we had our annual Christmas Creek sports carnival. Almost all of our students participated on Thursday and Friday. They all gave of their best and the sportsmanship they displayed on the day was great. Our school won the trophy for the best war cry. A big ‘thank you’ goes to all parents who were able to come along to support their children on the 2 sports days.

**Award Outing in the Holidays**

Next week, on a day that is yet to be advised, a number of students will be invited to spend a day with the teachers as a reward for earning 5 citizenship certificates or earning the first round of 5 attendance certificates celebrating excellent school attendance for the past 18 months. The school will reward the students with lunch at Sizzler and a trip to the movies, all at no expense to the students. The parents of the students concerned will be contacted and advised about arrangements for the day.

**Senior Camp to Sydney, Canberra, the Snow and the Blue Mountains**

Our senior students will be traveling to New South Wales again for their triennial school camp this year. Please find below an itinerary for the camp. It’s great that almost all of our students will be

![Dates To Remember! –June/July 2016](image)

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<td>Dance Fever – Parent Presentation</td>
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**June/July School Holidays – 27 June -8 July**

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attending this camp. The students experience so many things and learn so much from this camp. There is no other school in the Beaudesert area that offers the students such a camp. We are chuffed that, with the local community’s help, we can provide this opportunity to our students every three years!! Mr Kroll and Ms v B will be going on camp this year along with several parents.

The cost for students to attend the camp is just $500 and the cost for parents is $720. The school’s P&C are very busy preparing for the Theatre Restaurant performances to be held on the last weekend in July and the first weekend in August. Parents can make arrangements to make part payments for the camp any time after the school holidays.

In the next newsletter, we hope to include the clothing and other requirements needed for this camp.

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**Rathdowney State School Sydney Canberra Excursion 2016 – Itinerary**

**Friday 26th August**
5:30pm Travel through the night with a dinner stop en route

**Saturday 27th August**
6:00am Breakfast McDonalds
7:00am Arrive Gosford Olympic Pool for swim and showers
9:30am Taronga Zoo Cable car ride
4:30pm Arrive Elanora
6:30pm Dinner
7:30pm Evening activities at Conference Centre

**Sunday 28th August**
7:00am Breakfast
8:15am Walk across Harbour Bridge from north to south
9:30am Captain Cook Harbour Cruise
11:15am Sydney Opera House Tour
12:30pm Packed lunch Botanic Gardens
2:30pm Sydney Tower Eye
4:00pm Walk to Queen Victoria Building
Monday 29th August
7:00am Breakfast
7:30am Depart Elanora
8:30am Walk around The Rocks
10:00am Hyde Park Barracks
11:30am Walk to Darling Harbour
12:30pm Chinese Gardens
2:00pm Depart for Canberra
5:30pm Arrive Greenleigh
6:30pm Dinner at accommodation

Tuesday 30th August
7:00pm Breakfast
9:00am Canberra National Exhibition Centre
12noon Packed lunch
1:00pm Parliament House PEO
2:00pm Parliament House Tour
3:00pm Hospitality
4:00pm AIS
6:00pm Greenleigh Central Motel Canberra
6:30pm Dinner
7:30pm Black Mountain Tower

Wednesday 31st August
7:00am Breakfast
7:30am Snow day Perisher Blue
7:00pm Dinner

Thursday 1st September
7:15am Breakfast
8:00am Electoral Education
10:00am Questacon
11:45am Packed lunch
12:45pm AWM
3:15pm Snack and depart Canberra
7:30pm Arrive Katoomba
7:00pm Dinner

Friday 2nd September
7:00am Breakfast
8:00am Depart for Jenolan Caves
9:30am Lucas Cave Tour
11:30am Depart for Katoomba
1:00pm Packed lunch at Three Sisters Lookout
2:30pm Depart Three Sisters
4:30pm Sydney Olympic Aquatic Centre Swim&Showers
6:30pm Depart Aquatic Centre
Dinner at McDonald along the way
Library News

As term 2 draws to a close, we are collecting all books to do a stocktake over the school holidays. Please return all outstanding ‘borrowings’ to the library by tomorrow. Thanks to all those parents who help find those ‘missing’ books! We have had a busy time in the library this semester. Many of our students have been regular borrowers and it is pleasing to see so many children being responsible and remembering their books to return each week. These are important life skill-remembering your responsibilities and organising your time. We are lucky at Rathdowney School and each month we have lots of new books coming into our library. These are covered and catalogued by Mrs Baker and then are ready for us to borrow.

Looking forward to next term.

Maryann Goggins

Thank You
On behalf of all staff here at Rathdowney State School.
We thank all our parents for their continued support and wish everyone a very happy, relaxing and safe winter break.

Saturday 3rd September
5:30am Breakfast McDonalds Casino
8:00am Arrive Rathdowney

Theatre Restaurant –
29, 30, 31 July and 5, 6 August

Theatre Restaurant performances to be held on the last weekend in July and the first weekend in August. Please keep your eyes out for advertising locally about these shows. Bookings for some nights are filling fast. If you have not yet attended a Rathdowney Theatre Restaurant, make sure you bring some friends along and come and see this year’s show, “The Pirate Prince”.

The show is a mix of ‘Pirates of the Carribbean’ and “Pirates of Penzance” set in on a desert island with calypso music and an Abba song thrown in for good measure. You might see a few aging rock stars strut their stuff on stage, too! A Rathdowney Theatre Restaurant night is always a fun night and people always seem to look forward to seeing their friends and neighbours perform on stage in hilarious roles. Because of the adult humour in the show it is only recommended for adults.

To top it all off, the P&C’s catering is legendary for its deliciousness!!

You can even get to see the show for free if you volunteer to help the P&C serve meals, sell raffle tickets, work on the door, or work on the bar for the night!

Please phone Kaylene Wright on PH 5544 1319 or 0407 631 850 for bookings or offers to volunteer. Please remember that the money raised directly benefits your children.
This week the Preps-2s have been finishing off the C2C English, Maths and Geography units.

In Maths the Preps have been experimenting with simple addition, the Year 1s have been learning about positional language and direction and the Year 2s have been learning about 3D shapes and their properties.

In Geography this week we have been looking at natural, managed and constructed features of different places. The students are really enjoying learning about geography.

Thank you to all the parents who came along to watch the students showcase their dance routines for Dance Fever! The students were so excited to see you there!

I hope you all have a safe and happy holiday and we will see everyone bright and refreshed after the holidays!

Congratulations to Laxon, who won age champion at the Christmas Creek Sports last week. He broke the record by 2 seconds. Well done, Laxon!

Staff Professional Development

Earlier this month, we were visited by Vickie Diefenbach from District Office who has been working in all the small schools and helping classroom teachers with curriculum and teaching matters. Our Assistant Regional Director, Terry Cornish has also visited recently to discuss Tina’s developing performance plan and to suggest ways in which he could support the school and the principal in reviewing and updating the schools’ pedagogical framework and in helping to develop the school’s signature pedagogy.

In weekly staff meetings, we are discussing the school’s present pedagogical framework and looking at various options based on current research into best practice in teaching. By the end of the year we will have a new framework and a ‘signature’ Rath
participation segments that always go down a treat. Richard Zoomers has kindly agreed to paint our backdrop and set for us again this year. We are so fortunate that he gives of his artistic talents to help our school even though his own children are now adults and have long ago finished their education at this school.

In the first week of the school holidays, we hope to be able to take out our first lot of students who have saved up their first 5 attendance certificates over the past 18 months. We started the reward scheme at the beginning of last year to encourage students to improve their overall school attendance. Student attendance has improved in that time and it is with great pleasure that we can take a good number of students to lunch and the movies as their reward. There are also a further few students who have earned 5 citizenship certificates who are also eligible to accompany us on this outing. Depending on numbers, it may be necessary for us to hire a minibus to transport everyone to the movies that day.

QBuild has been busy doing some repairs around our school. Our sports shed window has been repaired. A new WiFi aerial has been mounted on the school roof so that we will have better internet access for our devices and computers. The annual camp for the junior school was held earlier this month. It was great that the majority of our Prep, Year 1, 2 and 3 students were able to attend. Our sincere thanks go to the parents who gave of their time to come on camp. Your help on camp was very much appreciated. Students (and parents) from Years Prep to 3 attended several venues over the 3 days we spent in Brisbane. Highlights were our visits to the Railway Workshop Museum in Ipswich, Newstead House, Reverse Garbage where the students let their imaginations fly, Underwater World on the Sunshine Coast, watching the movie “The Jungle Book” at the cinema, and visiting the Queensland Museum and the Mt Cootha Botanic Gardens.

Parent-teacher interviews were held last week with almost all parents making it to interviews on the day that was set aside for this, or at some time since then as agreed with the teachers concerned. The enthusiasm of the

Dance Fever Presentation.
Presently and for the rest of this term, Mrs Wieland is on sick leave and has been replaced by Mrs Todd. Mrs Todd’s job has been filled by Mrs Colleen Benstead, who used to be a teacher at our school. Our school is really fortunate to have a teacher agreeing to fill in as a teacher aide for two days each week while Cathy is away. Our kids are benefiting from having Colleen working with them.

Student Council
Healthy Friday lunches will continue to be served at school on Fridays each week next term. All lunches are prepared by the Student Council with help from Chappy Rob and Mrs Baker. The cost is $4. The ingredients so far have been donated, so each of the lunches is providing a profit for the Student Council. The Student Council is continuing to sell show bags, lucky dips and chocolates to any students who would like to purchase them from our left over Easter stock. We have very few chocolates left to sell. The Council would sincerely like to thank all those who have supported them in selling chocolates this year. While most boxes have now been distributed there are still a number of people who have been given boxes of chocolates for sale who are yet to return the money raised to the school. The Student Council would like this money to be sent to school as a matter of urgency as the funds are needed to help pay for the students’ entries into all their venues for both the junior and senior camps this year. The student Council is also undertaking its usual fundraising efforts for the Queensland cancer fund. Both moneys raised from the Easter lunch and the walkathon help to provide a donation to the Cancer fund from the Student Council each year.

School Band
In Mrs Wieland’s absence, the band has continued with weekly practices under Mrs Benstead’s leadership. The band has been practising for the past few weeks to lead the marchpast at the Christmas creek Athletics carnival which was held at Hillview last week. We sincerely thank Mrs Benstead for helping to train the band while Mrs Wieland has been away on sick leave. The band did a magnificent job leading the marchpast at the sports and will now enjoy a well-earned break for the rest of this year.

School Events
The Christmas Creek sports were held earlier this year because national trials have been brought forward. The Christmas Creek Athletics carnival was held last week on 16 and 17 June. It was pleasing to see that all those children who attended the sports participated in as many events as they could and all tried hard to give of their best!! Our students showed good sportsmanship and helpfulness on the 2 days of competition. One of our prep students, Laxon won age champion and broke a record in his 40 metre sprint. This term we have been highlighting the second of our 3 school rules, “Be Responsible” with the students on weekly parades. We will also continue with the HI-5 response to teasing and bullying as part of our school’s behaviour management plan for the year. The students have really taken these strategies on board and they have been used very effectively in the school playground. We also have our annual focus on showing kindness to each other both in words and in deeds.

Our regular Wednesday playgroup sessions are continuing with a number of families using our facilities each week. Playgroup operates on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30am in the old preschool building. Rehearsals are proceeding in earnest in for our triennial theatre restaurants. Currently rehearsals are held once a week on Sunday evenings in the Rathdowney Hall. In July we will be practising twice a week in order to be ready for our performance dates on 29, 30, 31 July and 5, 6 August. (5 performances over two consecutive weekends). Bookings for the performances are now open and our last night is already nearly booked out. The show promises to be another hilarious production showing off the talents of members of the local community (and local theatre groups) with risqué jokes, toe-tapping songs the audience can sing along with, and a couple of the usual audience