

# RICHMOND NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 2017/18



Respect Inclusion Excellence



Education

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# BUILT ON A SOUND FOUNDATION

Richmond North Public School seeks to provide a caring, supportive and stimulating environment in which every student can achieve their maximum potential.

Our school has a proud history of achievement across a broad spectrum of areas including public speaking, performing arts, sport and academics. We believe in preparing our students not only for today's world, but also to meet the challenges of tomorrow. We are passionate about teaching and learning and ensuring that our programs are relevant, rigorous and engaging. At Richmond North, we seek to create points of difference from other schools by offering opportunities and experiences above and beyond the standard fare.

SCHOOL EST:  
1871

STUDENTS:  
205 AND GROWING



Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions parents face. We believe Richmond North is an amazing school - a school that offers experiences, opportunities and possibilities that will build great citizens of the future.

Thank you for considering Richmond North as a possible school for your child. We trust that you will find the information in this prospectus helpful in making this important decision for your child.

# PROFESSIONAL CARING STAFF

The key to our success, is our highly experienced, dedicated and professional staff. From the office to the classroom to the school grounds - everyone is working diligently to continually improve and strengthen our school. Our teachers regularly undertake professional learning to ensure that they are well versed in the latest educational developments. Teachers participate in peer evaluation of lessons to ensure that the quality of teaching remains high. Our school is inclusive and welcoming. We value the individual differences of each student and seek to nurture their skills and interests. While developing skills in Literacy and Numeracy is very important, at Richmond North we believe in educating the 'whole child'.



HIGHLY TRAINED  
&  
EXPERIENCED

PARTICIPATE IN  
REGULAR  
PROFESSIONAL  
LEARNING

KNOW THEIR  
STUDENTS

CARING  
AND  
SUCCESS  
FOCUSSED

# A FUTURE- FOCUSSED VISION

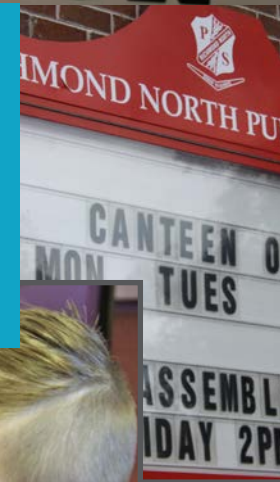
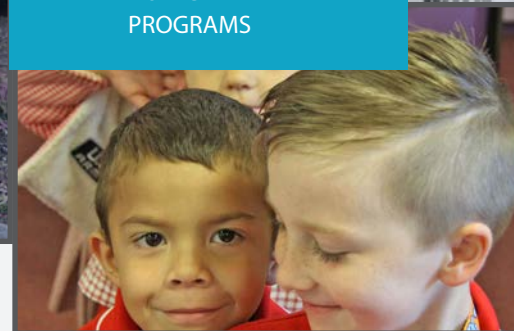
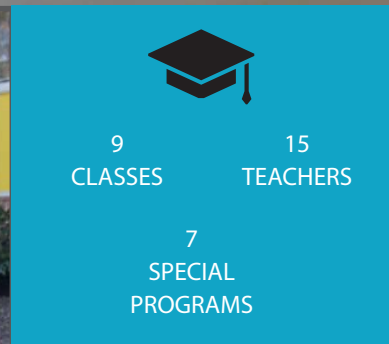
Richmond North Public School engages students, staff, parents and community in a shared learning journey, We empower students to acquire, demonstrate and value knowledge and skills that will support them, as life-long learners, to participate in and contribute to the global world and practise the core values of respect, inclusion and excellence.



## Our Mission

Is to enable all students access to learning through the provision of

- \* differentiated, in-depth and cohesive learning programs, informed by the NSW DEC syllabus documents and encompassing 21st century learning principles.
- \* highly effective teachers, focused on improving student outcomes, through their commitment to ongoing professional learning, quality teaching, evidence - based practices, coaching and mentoring and collaboration.
- \* a quality, inclusive learning environment that is responsive to student voice.
- \* opportunities for parents and community to participate in the learning and decision making process.



# CLASSROOM PROGRAMS

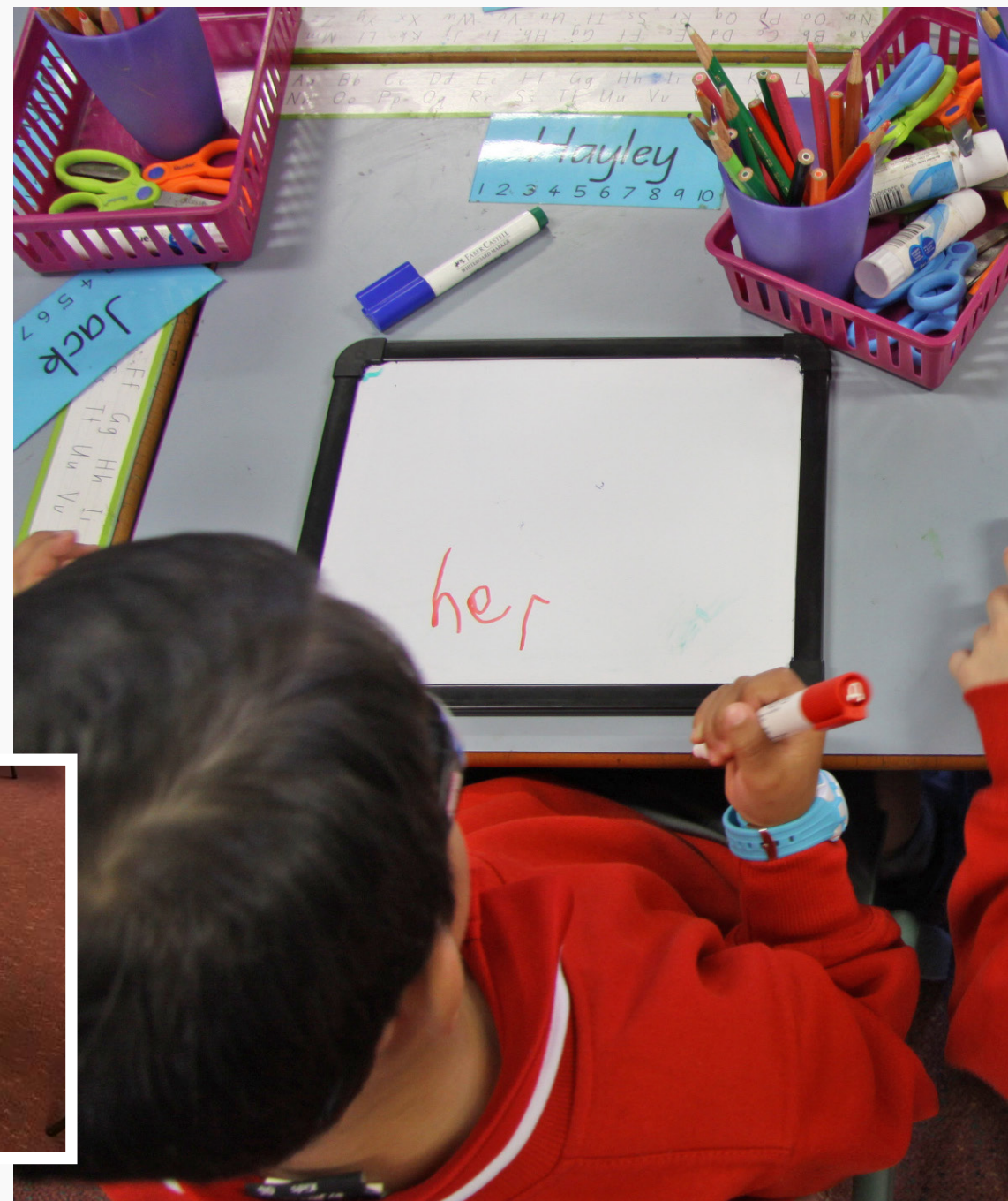
In 2018, we will continue the implementation of classroom programs that we believe will better meet the diverse needs of our students.

Our teachers use ability-based and flexible student grouping to suit the learning situation and to ensure all students are achieving to their potential.

Our teachers develop and deliver engaging, relevant and broad educational activities to ensure our students fully engaged in their education.

In 2018, we will continue to implement the Soundwaves spelling and phonics program. Soundwaves is a spelling program which uses consistent strategies and methods in all grades across the school, making it easier for students to learn. Sound-Waves is based

on the phonemic approach which is recognised as one of the most effective ways to teach spelling. The program is adaptable and can easily cater for the individual levels of all students. Updates to the Australian English curriculum have seen a focus put on phonics teaching at the primary school level. Due to





our implementation and use of Soundwaves, we are already compliant with the new syllabus, well ahead of time. iMaths, our core mathematics program, is implemented in all classes. iMaths is a unique program that fosters enquiry by immersing students in relevant, Real-Life maths investigations. It incorporates tools to ensure that all areas of maths are covered each year including Working Mathematically and Problem Solving. Our students find this program highly engaging.

iMaths is complemented nicely by our ongoing commitment to Mathletics which is ideal for consolidating student skills, remediating areas of weakness and strengthening mental arithmetic performance, both in the classroom and at home.

The 'Seven Steps to Writing Success' is our highly engaging, K-6 writing program. Seven Steps to Writing Success empowers teachers to inspire their students to rapidly improve their writing skills, and most importantly, learn to love writing!

"Do not train children to learning by force and harshness, but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each."

*Plato*

#### 6 Key Learning Areas

English	Mathematics
Science	HSIE
CAPA	PD/H/PE

Seven Steps focusses on writing as a creative process, providing students with the skills to engage their audience and communicate their ideas effectively. For more information on these classroom programs, follow the links below -

[www.fireflyeducation.com.au](http://www.fireflyeducation.com.au)

[www.sevenstepswriting.com](http://www.sevenstepswriting.com)



iMaths

seven steps  
TO WRITING SUCCESS

# STUDENT WELLBEING

The wellbeing of our students is of the highest priority at Richmond North. This is why we have started the process of implementing Restorative Practices (RP) at our school. Restorative Practices is a process whereby students can address problems, issues and conflicts they may have at school. RP facilitates students learning to address the impact of their actions through an approach that allows for true accountability, skill building, cooperation, and mutual understanding. It is restorative rather than punitive in its nature and works to build strong relationships and a sense of community across the school.



## Restorative Questions I

To respond to challenging behavior

What happened?

What were you thinking of at the time?

What have you thought about since?

Who has been affected by what you have done? In what way?

What do you think you need to do to make things right?



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

We believe that developing the leadership skills of our students will not only provide them with valuable tools for life, but also greatly enhances their self-esteem - which is vital in creating great citizens. There are many

opportunities available for students to 'take a lead', including - School Captains, Sports House Captains, Kindy buddies, student tutors, radio broadcasting, gardening/cooking crew.

## SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM



Our well established School Chaplaincy program offers a number of support programs to support and nurture our students. Three mornings a week, students can take advantage of our Breakfast Club which provides a range of healthy food options. On Monday afternoons, we have our very popular Homework Club where teachers and volunteers are on hand to assist with homework and study tasks. While our School Chaplain is always on hand to lend a hand or provide a listening ear, he is also able to offer more specialised support to students. Our Chaplain is fully trained to deliver the well respected Rock and Water program to students which is designed to teach them skills for managing their emotions and dealing with conflict. For more information on the Rock and Water program follow the link below -



Rock and Water Program  
Gadaku Institute

[www.rockandwaterprogram.com](http://www.rockandwaterprogram.com)

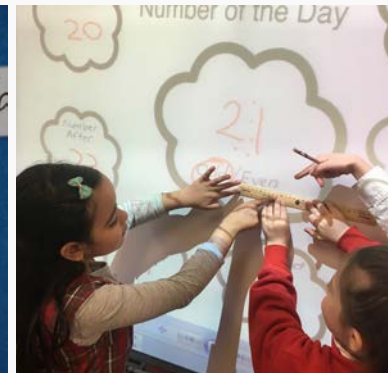
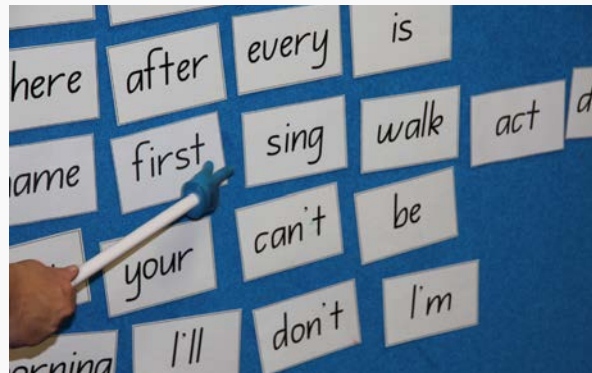


# LEARNING SUPPORT

In some instances, students may experience difficulty in keeping up with the normal class work and may require extra support from our Learning Support Team. This support may come in the form of working with the class teacher to develop and implement strategies that will better meet the individual needs of the student. In some cases, a student may require some more direct support. These students may be considered for our MultiLit, MiniLit (Reading), Rip It Up Reading, Reading Recovery or Quicksmart (Maths) programs. These programs are research based and have been successful with many students in increasing their competency in these areas. Teachers and Tutors work one-on-one or in small groups with these students. For those students who have other special needs, the Learning Support team may make referrals to the School Counselor - who attends RNPS one day per fortnight. Students can also access the School Chaplaincy services. It is always our aim to inform parents as early as possible of any concerns regarding student learning.



Our dedicated Learning Support Team is led by Mrs Wilkins. Ms Kane, Mrs Donaldson, Mrs Moffet, Mr Clarke, Mrs Hyam and our amazing parent reading tutors, support our students in a variety of ways across all learning areas.



In every classroom, teachers take the time to learn about every child in their class. Armed with this knowledge, they are able to adapt lessons to meet the needs of their students. Every teacher will offer extra support or extension to students when required. If parents have questions or concerns about their child's learning, it is always best to raise these with the classroom teacher as early as possible. Likewise, teachers will make contact with parents to discuss any issues that may arise.



#### A PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Research shows that students achieve their best results when there is a genuine partnership between school and home. Open communication is a key part of this partnership. We want every child to achieve their best results and when parents are engaged and

are working hand-in-hand with the school, students will always benefit.



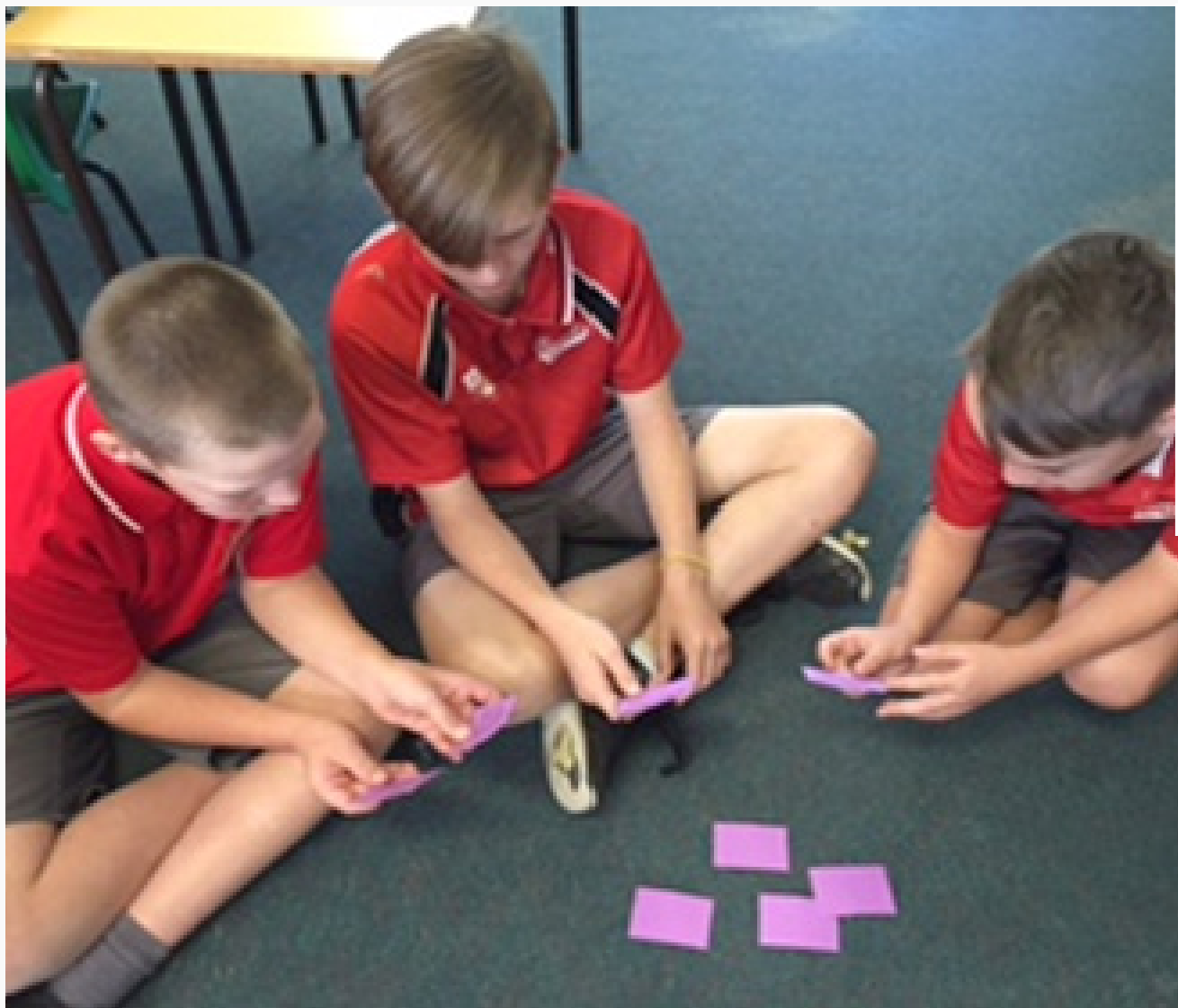
# EXTENSION AND ENRICHMENT

At Richmond North, we want **every** student to achieve the best results that they are capable of. With this in mind, each teacher will differentiate their instruction in order to meet the varying levels of all their students.

Additionally, for the stage 2 and 3 students who need extra extension and enrichment, they will be offered the opportunity to participate in a full day per week of specialized instruction with a highly qualified and experienced teacher in the field of gifted and talented education.

The purpose of this program, entitled E Squared, is to focus on critical thinking in an atmosphere that is intellectually and academically rigorous, while also fostering creativity and offering emotional support:

- by providing activities which are differentiated in nature and require higher-level, logical, and creative thinking.
- by encouraging students to pursue projects and activities at a more sophisticated level.
- by empowering students to use technology and advanced research tools to enhance their learning.
- by giving students opportunities to work with their intellectual peers for a portion of their school week.
- by developing students' independent study habits and social skills to enable them to work productively alone or with others.



*These students are using their collaboration and critical thinking skills to solve this very complicated maths problem. This is the introduction to each weekly STEM lesson.*





*The students are building their own Creative Tool Kit by focusing on a different 'creative skill' each week during Literacy E2 class. These Stage 3 students, are using their creative thinking skills to write down all the details they could think of about a Jolly Rancher Candy. They were then asked to eliminate all but three of their details. Finally, they elaborated on those three details to create the beginning of an advertisement for Jolly Rancher Candy.*



The E2 program is Richmond North's very own Extension and Enrichment initiative for students in Stg2 and Stg3. The aim of this initiative is to identify capable students and to provide extension and enrichment activities to challenge and stimulate their thinking. The E2 program will develop our students' higher order skills such as analysing, evaluating and creating. The program of learning will be challenging, engaging and stimulating.



We want EVERY student in EVERY class to succeed. That's why we offer a range of extension activities that are available to all students. These include -

- \* Hawkesbury Schools Enrichment Days
- \* Maths Olympiad
- \* Multicultural Public Speaking Competition
- \* UNSW Academic Competitions

As well as opportunities to participate in international programs including -



# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## Jelly Beans Music

Jellybeans Music is one of Australia's leading Primary classroom music programs. All our students in Kindergarten, Yr 1 and Yr 2 participate in this program for 1 term each year. Jellybeans Music provides us with a Specialist Music teacher, as well as sequenced NSW Curriculum based materials for each program.

Our students develop skills in singing, performing, rhythmic development, movement, listening and composing.



## Kids Cooking Kapers

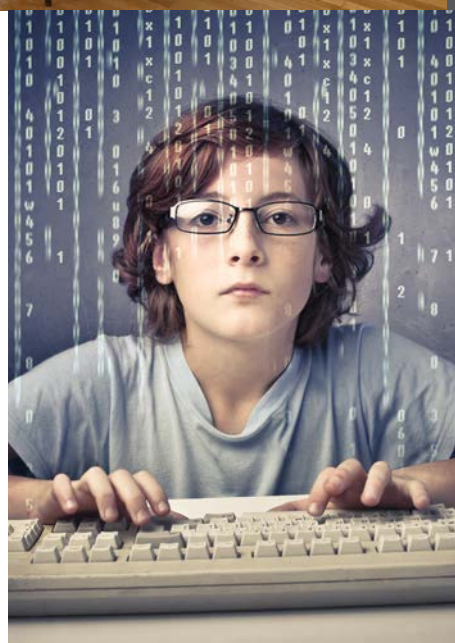
The Kids Cooking Kapers program is conducted for students in Stage 2 (Yrs 3 and 4) over 1 term each year. This highly engaging program provides children with basic cookery skills enabling them to make healthy food choices for life. The activities undertaken by students cover a range of educational outcomes from the English, Mathematics, Science and PD/H/PE syllabuses.





### Computer programing and coding

We know that the students can use technology to play games and 'generally consume' the apps and websites available to them, but ScopelT Education can offer our students a computer coding program that takes our students education one step further. ScopelT can extend our students learning in technology to include: how to build basic apps, websites and other computer programs; logical thinking, problem solving techniques and creative design using technology; as well as 3D printing and robotics.



### Cool Kids Music

Cool Kids Music provides weekly instrumental lessons to students at school (for a fee). Students can learn keyboards, drums, guitar or vocals. A number of our students take advantage of this program.

### Yellow Lantern/Film Making

Our Stage 3 students participate in 2 special programs on an alternating basis. In odd years, Yellow Lantern becomes our focus. Yellow Lantern is a personal development/Public Speaking program that teaches techniques to harness your inner voice and develop self confidence. The program culminates in a Graduation Night where all students present a short piece to their parents. In even years, students participate in a Film Making program where they build essential skills in writing, planning, collaboration and designing.



# MAJOR INITIATIVES

The studio K Media Project is comprised of 2 main components; the first being our school Internet Radio Station and the second being school Film Making component. The media project enhances learning and develops student skills in - reading and writing; oral communication; critical thinking; teamwork and delegation; creativity and self esteem. Students will conduct research, prepare scripts, learn how to use technology, make creative decisions and develop communication skills in a highly engaging and contextual environment.

Through the studioK radio station, students work to prepare regular programs that include news reports, interviews, personal commentaries, radio plays and competitions. Students learn about sound production, broadcasting rules and audience engagement.

Through the studioK Film Making project, students work to prepare short films for real audiences. These films are shown at our K-Flix film festival held in term 4 each year. In film making, students learn about scripting, story-boarding, camera techniques, sound and special effects. In 2017, we are inviting other local schools to participate in our film festival



## KITCHEN GARDEN

Our School Kitchen Garden will provide a focus for learning across a range of subjects, particularly Science, English and HSIE. Activities within the garden will be embedded in regular units of work to ensure maximum use of the garden as a centre of learning. Students will learn about planting, growing and harvesting fruit and vegetables; inter-dependent ecosystems, biodiversity, and design.

Students will have opportunities to sell produce (learning about business practices), learn about sustainability, develop teamwork and use the produce in cooking sessions.

Our Kitchen Garden comprises of over 15 vegetable garden beds as well as numerous fruit trees, a herb garden and greenhouse where we propagate our own seedlings for planting and sale. Students are responsible for assisting with all aspects of gardening - from planting to harvesting.

In late 2017, we will be adding new garden beds and an Indigenous Bush Tucker Garden to our School Kitchen Garden. With the addition of our new Community Kitchen in 2017, produce from the Kitchen Garden will feature prominently in our Kids Cooking Kapers program.



As part of our Kitchen Garden project, students learn how to care for and maintain our school chickens. Students are also responsible for selling the eggs to our local community. Caring for the chickens teaches students important lessons in responsibility.



# OUR FACILITIES

Our school offers a range of purpose built learning spaces which include our Computer Lab, School Hall, Library, Community Kitchen, MakerSpace workshop, Music/Drama room, Green Screen Video studio, All purpose sports court, sports oval and playground and outdoor classroom area. Our expansive school grounds are well maintained and offer a number of undercover areas.

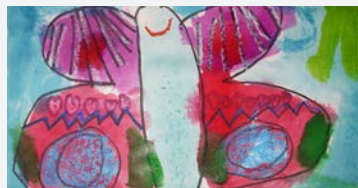


# TRANSITION PROGRAMS



Getting a great start to school is so important to a student's future success.

## KICKSTART TO KINDERGARTEN



Through our ongoing partnership with Connect Child and Family Services, we are able to offer a Kickstart to Kindergarten program for local preschool aged children to assist them with the transition to Kindergarten. The program runs once a week and is conducted over Terms 3 and 4.

The Starting School Group

works closely with our Kindergarten teachers to ensure that the children develop confidence, independence and social competence.

This fantastic program is offered free of charge to local families.

**connect** | COMMUNITY BASED  
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES | FAMILY SUPPORT



## HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITION

Richmond North works closely with our feeder high school - Colo High to ensure students are well equipped to meet the challenges of moving on to high school. Our senior students participate in several transition days where they participate in specialist lessons including English, Food Technology, Science, History, Music, Art and Agriculture - which introduce them to the different routines, structures and expectations of high school. Colo High also conducts information sessions for parents as well as orientation sessions for students. Extra support for students is available when required and we communicate openly with Colo High to ensure relevant student information is communicated so that they are fully prepared to meet the needs of new students.



# SPORT AND THE ARTS

While developing skills in Literacy and Numeracy is very important, at Richmond North we believe in educating the 'whole child'. To achieve this, our school will continue to offer a range of opportunities to students to participate in— particularly in the areas of sport and performing arts.



**In 2017 our students participated in -**

AFL  
Athletics  
Badminton  
Basketball  
Cross Country  
Cricket  
DodgeBall  
Football  
Netball  
Rugby League  
Squash  
Swimming

*We participate in the Sporting Schools and Premiers Sporting Challenge programs*



Choir

Wakakirri

Dance Group

NAIDOC Celebrations

Garden and Cooking Crew

Public Speaking and Debating

**WAKAKIRRI**  
AUSTRALIA'S ULTIMATE PERFORMING  
& CREATIVE ARTS CHALLENGE FOR SCHOOLS



# PARENTS AND COMMUNITY

At Richmond North we value the strong relationship we have with our parents and community. We encourage attendance and participation in a range of school events including -

\*Special Assemblies for ANZAC Day, Presentation Day, Open Day and Bookweek where parents are always welcome

- Community events
- Parent assisting in classrooms, in the canteen and as tutors

Our school has strong ties to local preschools through the Kickstart to Kindergarten program, School Readiness presentations and Kindergarten Orientation.

We also have established partnerships within the local community with local businesses and community organisations such as Redbank, Ray White, Bendigo Bank, North Richmond Community Centre, Panthers Nth Richmond and North Richmond Rotary.

RNPS has an active Parents and Citizens group. Our P&C meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month during school terms. The P&C contribute to our school plan and are participants in school decision making processes. They also assist the school by staging fundraising and community building events. All parents are invited to join our P&C.



## COMMUNICATION

The school website at—  
[www.richmondn-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.richmondn-p.schools.nsw.edu.au) is a key component of our communication strategy. From here, parents are able to access newsletters, the school calendar, P&C news, photo galleries and reports on school events, work samples and general information about schools. Parents will also be able to access the SENTRAL Parent portal (coming soon), from which they can find information about their child's learning, make appointments and communicate with class teachers as well as return absence notes. The parent online payment facility enables parents to make payments for school items and events from their computer, tablet or smartphone. Our school also has an active Facebook page and uses the School eNews App to share school and student information with parents including newsletters and permission notes.

How you  
can  
be  
involved

There are a number of ways that parents can become involved and assist in school activities. One of the key ways to contribute is by being an active member of the school Parents and Citizens committee. In addition to this, parents can assist by -

- Becoming a reading tutor*
- Helping in the canteen*
- Assisting with transporting students*
- Contribute to fund raising activities*
- Assisting with Special programs such as Kids Cooking Kapers*
- Lending a hand in the Library*
- Working in the school Kitchen Garden*

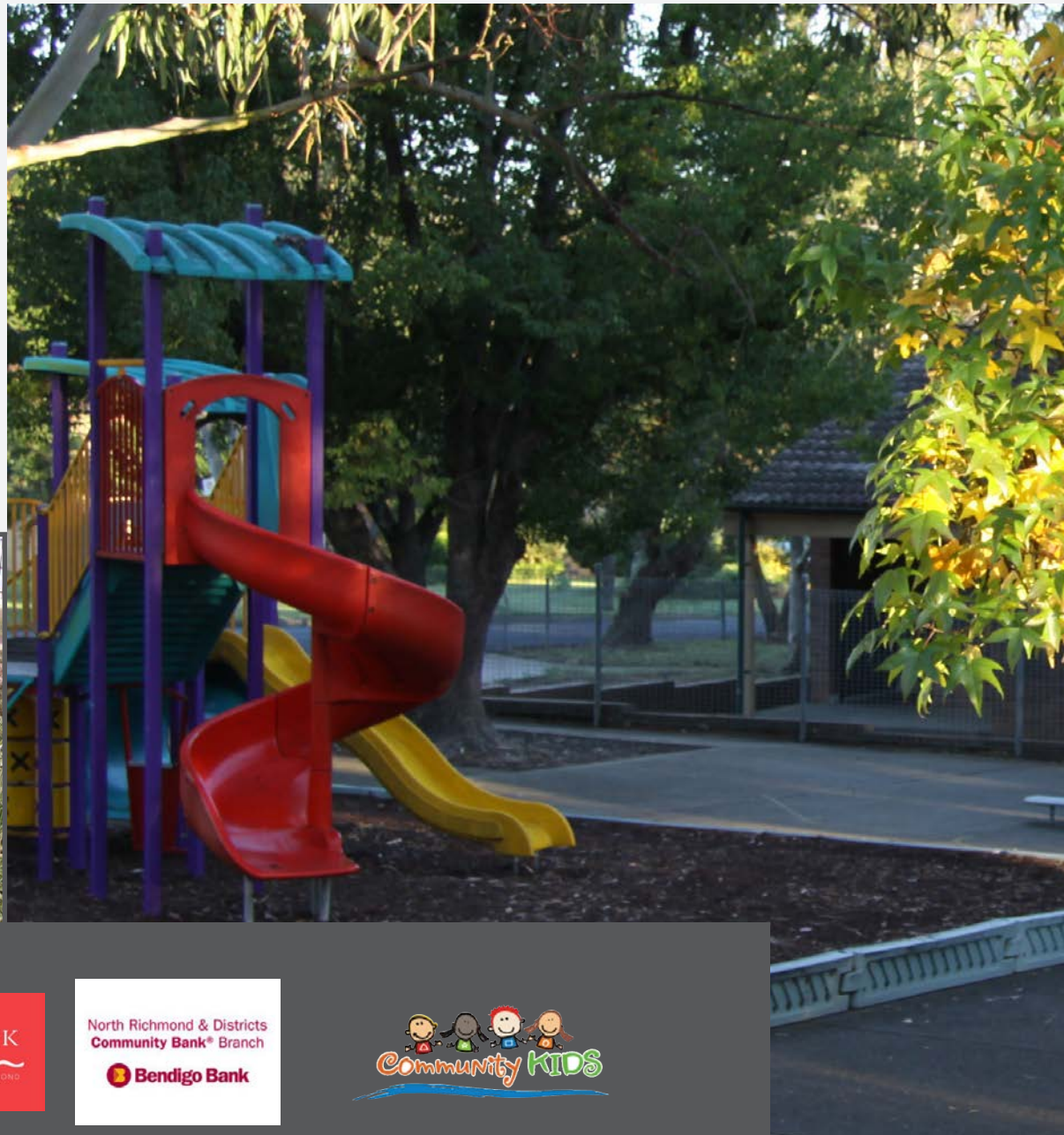
# SPACE CAMP

Students in Yrs 5 and 6 have the opportunity to attend Space Camp in Huntsville USA during the October school holidays every even year. At Space Camp, students have an unparalleled environment to ignite their imagination. Historic space, aviation and defence hardware, along with exhibits that highlight current and future programs help Space Camp attendees transcend from, “What if?” to “Can do!” thinking and actions. Space Camp alumni include NASA and ESA astronauts, engineers, scientists and technologists. Static displays and unique settings provide excellent areas for classroom instruction while hands-on training, high fidelity simulations and enthusiastic counselors ignite the singular sizzle of Space Camp. Teamwork, leadership, decision-making: from mission control to space transport to space station, students gain personal and professional insights that profoundly impact futures. In addition to the 8 days at the US Space and Rocket Centre, students will also have the opportunity to visit The Getty Museum, the California Science Centre, Universal Studios and Disneyland.



# OUR PARTNERS

Richmond North is very fortunate to have strong partnerships with a number of educational and local community organisations. These partnerships assist us in providing quality educational experiences for all our students.



## COMMUNITY SPONSORS



real  
schools

educator**impact**

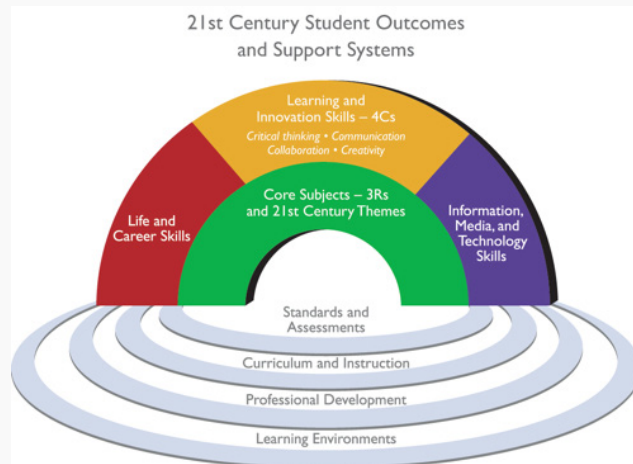
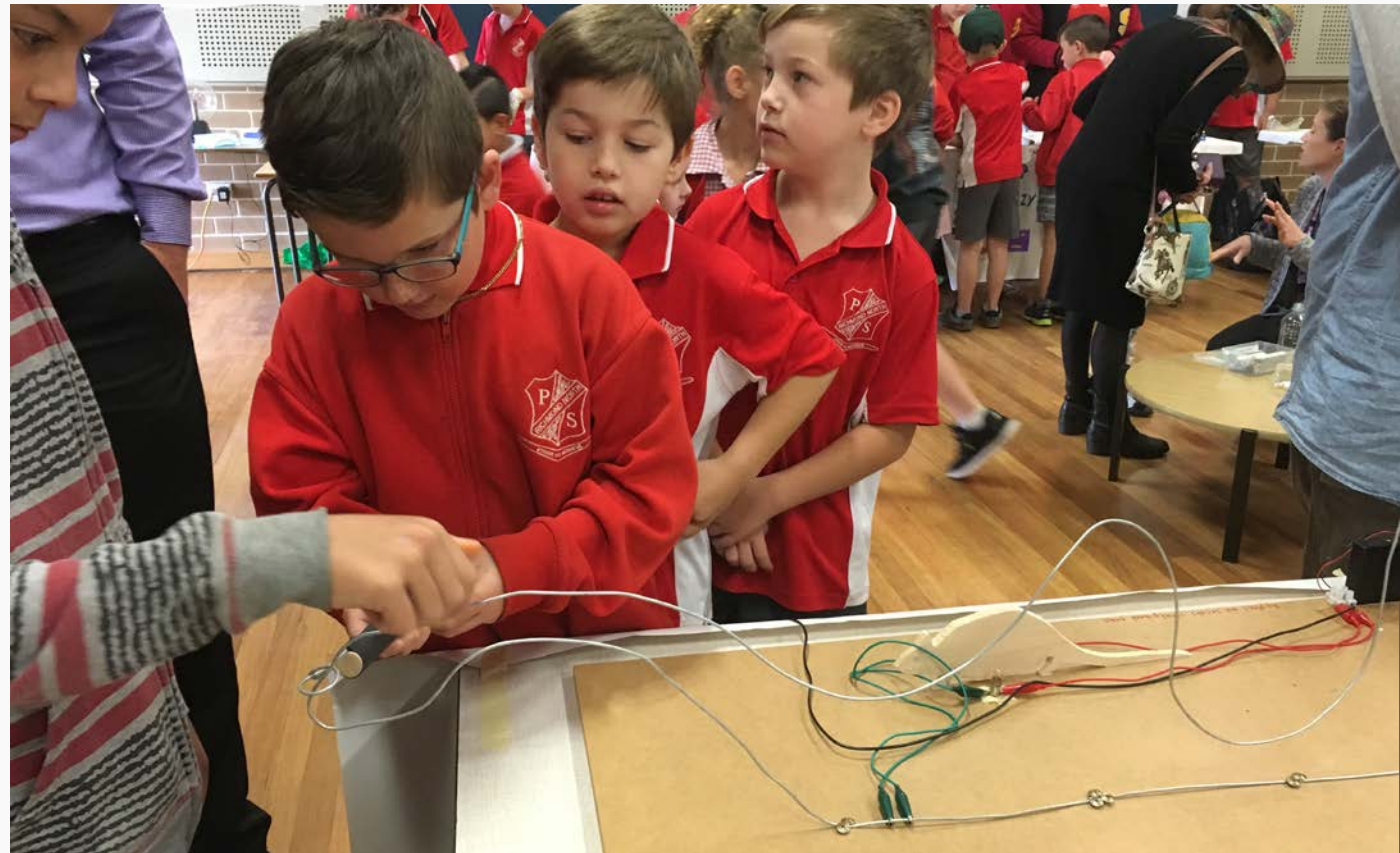


ONE GIANT LEAP  
AUSTRALIA



# A 21st CENTURY SCHOOL

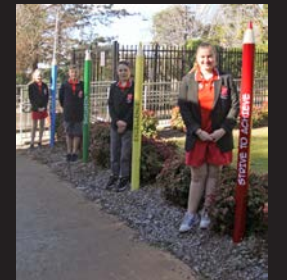
Finding ways to put learning into context, so that it is relevant and valuable to students is a challenge we are meeting at Richmond North PS. Aside from our quality class programs, our two major initiatives (studioK and the School Kitchen Garden) support our students in becoming 21st century learners by promoting the key skills of critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity. These major initiatives will build student engagement and will also offer opportunities to develop links with parents and community.



'To cope with the demands of the 21st century, people need to know more than core subjects. They need to know how to use their knowledge and skills by thinking critically, applying knowledge to new situations, analysing information, comprehending new ideas, communicating, collaborating, solving problems, making decisions.'

- Partnership for 21st Century Skills

# AN INCLUSIVE SCHOOL



# ENROLMENT

Enrolling your child at Richmond North is an easy process. You simply need to complete a NSW Department of Education enrolment form and return it to the school office along with your child's birth certificate, proof of address and immunisation record. If you live inside our drawing area, this is all the information you will need. If you live outside our drawing area, you will need to complete an Out of Area enrolment application. On this form you will need to outline your reasons for applying to enrol at a 'non-local' school. Acceptance of enrolment for out of area students is not automatic. In these cases, it is best to organise a meeting with the Principal to discuss your individual circumstances.

We appreciate that choosing the best school for your child is an extremely important decision. Rest assured that we are here to assist you in making this decision.



## Contact Information

Address:

14 Grose Vale Rd, NORTH RICHMOND

Phone: 02 4571 1542

Email: [richmondn-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:richmondn-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

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