

# ROUSE HILL HIGH NEWSLETTER



December 2018 / ISSUE 49

## Duke of Edinburgh Stepping out of the comfort zone

Mr D Williams



Duke of Edinburgh students (L-R): Nikhil K, Glenn M, Perrion S, Maanya P, Lily A, Linda C, Oliva S, Cade D, Dominic R, Ali E, Anthony R, Tian YWS, Logan B - photo by K. Camrass

What would compel fourteen students from Rouse Hill to venture forth into the depths of the Blue Mountains and traverse more than 24 kilometres of rough, steep terrain? In leaving behind the comforts of everyday life these students faced many challenges in pursuit of an adventure and recognition.

These students, drawn from years 9 and 10, have elected to attempt the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze award. To receive this prestigious award, each student must complete several months of physical recreation, community service, skill development, and multiple challenging adventurous journeys.

On this journey, students are faced with physical and mental hardship. In an age of ubiquitous technology, that often meets our needs instantaneously, the task of journeying into the wild with only what you can carry provides students an opportunity to develop perseverance, resilience, perspective and teamwork.

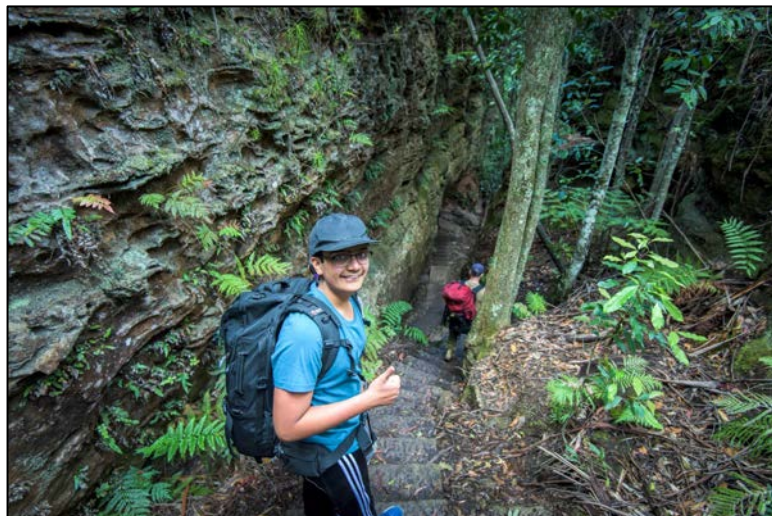
# Duke of Edinburgh cont.

Mr D Williams

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an international program aimed at developing well-rounded and highly capable young people across the globe. The adventurous journeys are integral in that students are forced to overcome challenges and find new reservoirs of courage and confidence.

To qualify for this journey, these students were required to complete numerous training sessions covering everything from campcraft and pitching a tent, through to using a topographic map to navigate through national parkland, to leadership skills and teamwork.

To receive the bronze award, students must complete at least two journeys. Students attempting their 2nd or 3rd expedition serve as leaders to their journey team. On this hike, our students were ably led by Maanya P, Tian Yi WS and Glenn M.



Day 1 - Perrion S descending the staircase - photo by K. Camrass



Olivia S, Dylan B., Cade D, Linda C, Ali E, Anthony R - photo by K. Camrass



Day 1 - Rest stop at Evan's Lookout - photo by K. Camrass

The journey began at Blacktown train station, where the eager group assembled before catching a train to Blackheath, from where our adventure began in earnest. We travelled by foot to Evan's Lookout, to take in the picturesque scenery of the Blue Mountains before making a rapid descent into the Grand Canyon. Our explorations of the valley revealed many sightings of native flora and fauna, and many, many stairs. Once we reached our campsite, and the tents ably pitched, dinner was followed by a jovial game of charades. The next morning saw fatigued but determined faces overcome the hurdles of physical and mental weariness to ascend the ridgeline in a taxing testament to the grit of our students.

# Duke of Edinburgh - cont.



Day 1 - the train trip to Blackheath - photo by D. Williams



Day 2 - the journey home - photo by D. Williams

In the years to come, these students can draw upon their memories of this trip. Of struggles overcome and triumphs won. Of laughter had and friendships made. In whatever adversity comes their way, this is proof that they can conquer any obstacle.



One of student leaders, Glenn, finding the way - Photo by K. Camrass



Refilling our water & refreshing our spirit - photo by K. Camrass



Govett's Leap - Goal achieved! Photo by K. Camrass



Proud and tired - photo by K. Camrass

Proud to deliver

**THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S  
INTERNATIONAL AWARD**



# Duke of Edinburgh - cont.

“A beautiful opportunity, filled with scenic views, camaraderie, and tiresome stairs. What more could you want?”



Taking a moment to survey - photo by K. Camrass

“I never knew stairs would make me cry that much.”

“We need more practice putting up our tent...”



“A good experience that taught us the importance of reading the map.”



Persistent enthusiasm! - photo by K. Camrass

“Even though the walk was SO tiresome, the views were still amazing and worthwhile.”

“I was really nervous, but I had so much more fun than I expected.”



Staying strong! - photo by K. Camrass

“Great fun! Even though we found it hard.”

“So. Many. Stairs.”

Proud to deliver



# Chinese Connections at Rouse Hill

Mrs Kate Wang

Our China Club students performed a Chinese Lion and Fan Dance at Ironbark Ridge Public School assembly on Wednesday 28 November.

Dom R, Aaron V, Paris G and Holly S delighted the primary school audience as the lion dancers.

Marissa C choreographed the fan dance and performed along with her talented troupe of dancers: Enaya P, Laura C, Fatema M, Damanjot K, Alex B, Dakota M, Samya B, Emelie C and Mahira K.

Tian YWS led the percussion band, comprising of himself, Linda C, Maanya P, Tavishi D on instruments and Charlotte C on the audio sound desk.

Behind the scenes, Anthony R and Anthony T stage managed the performance and Olivia S and Samuel L acted as stage crew.

It was a great opportunity to show the primary school audience what we do in China Club at the High School.



Photo by: Judy Tatom



**Senior Chinese students attend UTS debate on USA vs China: Who will dominate tech in the future?**

Last Monday evening our Year 10 Elective Chinese students, together with Sophie P (HSC Continuers Chinese) and Madie C (2017 graduate Beginners Chinese) went to UTS Business School in the city to attend a special lecture about China's relationship with the US. The lecture was a debate on who would dominate the tech field in the future and the possible outcomes for the AI industry in Australia by 2050. It was hosted by the Australia China Relations Institute and chaired by former NSW premier and Australian Foreign Minister, Prof. Bob Carr, who is director of ACRI.

Our students were treated to front row seats and invited to be part of the Q&A on the issue. Our students were a great credit to our school and asked perceptive questions on various matters, such as which country would dominate tech by 2050, which country was more likely to be fund tech development in Australia in the future etc.

In light of the outcome of the recent G20 Summit, this debate was a timely discussion on China, Australia, US relations and the role that people with Chinese-speaking skills may have to play in business and government diplomacy.

# Regioneering from UTS to Rouse Hill

Mr Peter Bawden

RHHS had the pleasure of hosting 8 grad students from UTS who ran a series of STEM themed workshops for some Year 9 and all of Year 1.0 on 23 November. They shared their experiences of university, passion for engineering, and helped the students build some prosthetic limbs, floating houses and aerofoils for a wind turbine.



The program is run by 'Engineers Without Borders' and allowed the Rouse Hill students to interact with university students and discuss topical issues related to Science, Technology and Engineering .

Students enjoyed the chance to apply their skills to novel situations and showed creativity in the three scenarios provided by the UTS students. We are looking forward to their next visit and all students enjoyed their day of STEM enrichment.



# 'Stuff the Bus'

Bella M - Year 1.2 Student

'Stuff the Bus' is a charitable initiative that aims to bring essentials and Christmas gifts to disadvantaged families and children. A team of 14 Year 1.2 students organised by School Captain Garrett V and accompanied by myself, Bella M went to Hillsong Hills campus to help out.

The 1.2 Leadership Team thought outside of the box and decided that as a year, we would really like to focus more on giving helping hands and being active participants in the community. With 'Stuff the Bus', we were able to create boxes with necessary food items, wrap up presents for children and pack the parcels up to be distributed out to families across NSW.

But it wasn't all just work! We had the chance to listen to iconic Christmas jams, eat free sausage sizzles and network with our local community and everyone else that came to help out.

'Stuff the Bus' was an amazing fundraising experience that felt unique and engaging! It was a great way to start off the new year turnover, bond as a group and we can't wait to get involved in more charity events as fun as this one.

Thank you especially to Garrett V for coming up with the idea to get involved and for everyone who helped out that day!

Students who participated:

Sarah O, Amerbel M, Kyle G, Ahmed S, Kavashy P, Vihar P, Mason C, Kilaya P, Nagina Z, Prabhleen K, Caitlin S and Megan H







# PDHPE- Yearly Wrap

Sheridan Southall

Our success in school sport this year saw four teams make it through to the CHS carnival. The Girls Netball, Soccer and Baseball teams along with the boys Baseball team. We had 52 students represent at Regional level or higher, with 11 of these students achieving a CHS medal in their chosen sport. In 2019, with such young students participating in our school teams this year, we will be looking forward to seeing the students' progress further in these competitions and more personal success for individual sporting students.



With the new PDHPE syllabus coming out in Term 2, the PDHPE staff have been working on the development of new programs in Years 7 & 9, as well as continuing to improve Stage 6 programs. We have now finalised and began implementing these into teaching since rollover. Future focus for this will be to finalise both Year 8 & 10 programs for implementation at rollover in 2019.

I would personally like to acknowledge and thank the PDHPE staff for all their hard work and dedication over the year.

As I move on, I would also like to thank the students and parents of RHHS for all their support over the past year. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time supporting you all. I will still see you in the Macquarie Zone. I wish you all well in sport in 2019.



# University & TAFE News

Ms Henson - Careers Adviser

University and TAFE Open days provide students with the opportunity to experience different campuses, speak with key staff, source information and research potential course information. The open days highlight student activities and events and provide options for accommodation and transport alternatives. Any student considering entry into university or TAFE are encouraged to attend the open days with family and friends.

University Open Days will occur from June through to early September next year, generally on the weekend. Dates are listed in the UAC Guide and can be found on the UAC website at [uac.edu.au](http://uac.edu.au). TAFE NSW Open Days are listed on TAFE NSW's website at [www.tafensw.edu.au](http://www.tafensw.edu.au)

Scholarship information can be found in the UAC Guide, individual university and TAFE websites, company and community websites with links online to particular careers.

Recently both UTS and Macquarie University have delivered successful presentations to our students. UTS linking in with Science and Macquarie University with a post school student readiness presentation.



## Hills Shire Awards

Ms Henson - Yr 1.2 2018 Coordinator

The Hills Shire Awards were held at Castle Hill RSL club recently with many different schools in attendance. The auditorium was filled to capacity with staff, family and friends of all the nominated students. Rouse Hill High School was well represented with our students nominated as finalists in each category.

Congratulations to Jack D (Sports), Daphne W, (Music & the Arts) Jemma S (Leadership and Community Service and Samuel S (Academic Achievement ) for becoming finalists in these categories and receiving awards during the Hills Shire Awards ceremony.

Special recognition goes to Jack D Year 1.2 2018 for winning the overall award in Sport due to his outstanding sporting achievements this year, particularly in Softball, Athletics and football which included State and National representation.



# HSC Celebration Results BBQ

Ms Henson  
Yr 1.2 2018 Coordinator

On Thursday 13 December students celebrated their HSC results with a BBQ before school, attended by staff and students. There were many smiling faces and all enjoyed the food cooked by the Senior Executives, Ms Chapman, Mr Medcalf and Mr Kelly which included sausages, eggs and bacon accompanied by drinks. Ms Harris and Mr Seymour assisted with the food preparation and set up of the BBQ.



Congratulations to all the students on their results and their participation this morning. Thank you to all the students who attended and supported the celebration.

We would like to wish all the Year 1.2 2018 students every success with their entry into tertiary education, TAFE employment or other endeavours next year.



# CAPA Report

Mr Wallace  
Head Teacher CAPA

As the year comes to a close, I would like to congratulate the Year 1.1 and 1.2 students who recently received their HSC results. I can proudly announce that 2018 saw some excellent results for both Visual Arts and Music in the HSC. Visual Arts students achieved the highest results that Rouse Hill High School has seen so far, with students achieving considerably above State average. Music students also achieved excellent results, with 3 students achieving Band 6, positioning the cohort also above State average.

Special mention needs to be made to Margo O, whose Visual Arts Body of Work was selected to be exhibited in Art Express 2019. Her artwork "Ode", will be exhibited at Hazelhurst Arts Centre and the Western Plains Cultural Centre - 1 of only 240 students across the State to be successful in gaining entry into Art Express.

Special mention also needs to be made to James T, whose Music performance was nominated for Encore 2019. To be nominated is an incredible achievement and is a testament to James' dedication and passion for Music.

Finally, I would like to thank all the CAPA staff for their hard work and commitment that they have shown in 2018. To Ms Kirby, Ms Devine, Mr Camrass, Mr Bilbija and Ms Wang - if it wasn't for your passion and dedication, our students would not be able to shine!

I hope the Rouse Hill High School community has a safe and enjoyable holiday season, and I look forward to seeing what 2019 brings for our students!



"Ode" - By Margo O

# TAS - Hospitality Food and Beverage

Ms K Wilson



The new 2018/19 cohort of VET Hospitality Food and Beverage students are in uniform and ready for their first experience in the kitchen, chocolate chip cookies and milkshakes. During the course students will be participating in a range of food and beverage practical experiences and will be running the Rouse Hill High School Café – the Steamy Bean, in 2019.



# Enhancing Secondary Research Skills in HSIE

Ms M Castle

Senior students in HSIE experienced a crash course in how to reference and use footnoting accurately this week. Our specialist Librarian, Mr Daniel Williams, explicitly taught students to use the Chicago Referencing System, required in the HSIE faculty for academic research tasks.

Learning to reference correctly is a valuable tool and sets students up for a successful transition to university.



Society and Culture students learn to develop the skills of primary research throughout the course. This week students practised developing their ability to conduct focus groups. There was vibrant debate around a range of topical social issues:

‘Are teenage mothers a burden on society?’

‘Is climate change real?’

‘Is Donald Trump a good President?’

Students at Rouse Hill High School are encouraged to discuss news and current affairs in HSIE throughout the year. We aim to encourage active citizenship and social awareness.

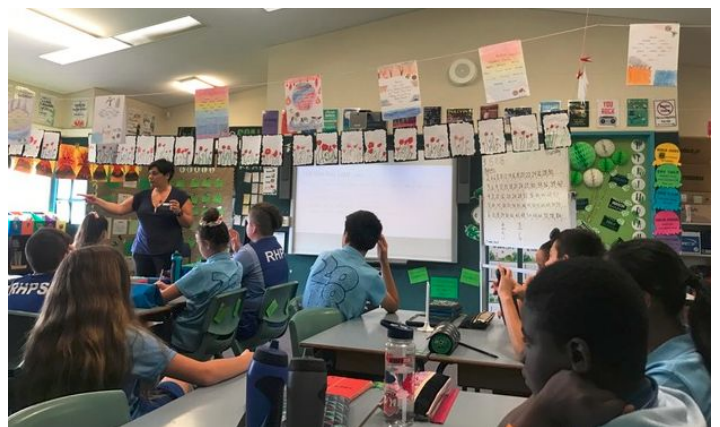


# 'Operation X' at RHPS

Ms Zacharia

Dare Week may be over but the connections that Rouse Hill High School made with Rouse Hill Public School will continue beyond 2018. As part of our Dare Week activities, 6 students and 3 mathematics teachers from RHHS led some learning activities with 3 Year 6 classes at RHPS. We focused on the importance of knowing your times tables in high school, using number skills when working with fractions, orders of operations and the dangers of trusting your calculator. Students were very enthusiastic and took risks in their learning. They participated in 'speed dating times tables', which tested their knowledge and speed skills. We're also sure many siblings and parents were tested on their numeracy skills later that evening.

Rouse Hill High School would like to thank Rouse Hill Public School for their participation and we look forward to having many more visits between schools in the future.



Photos by: Ms Torta (RHPS)

# Reading and Writing our way into 2019

Mrs Pip Healey

Dear parents and guardians,

Our '2019 year' has arrived and students have embraced their new courses and content, engaging with exciting concepts and producing creative compositions. Year 1.0 parents should have received an email with the details of our enrichment program for 2019 and students are aware of the requirements leading into their first assessments in Week 10.

Our *writing* focus continues and has been firmly embedded in all English classes. Students are also being asked to extend their *wide reading* and we are rolling out additional strategies to both engage and assist our students in the area of reading. Students have been, or will be, attending the Library to learn about the wealth of online resources available to them. This includes Mr Williams showing students how to access support for choosing and borrowing texts that interest them, as well as exploring how to write an online review as part of the process.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2019! Here are a few snapshots of Year 8 to Stage 6 students engaging in reading and writing processes.

Wishing you all a safe and restful break,

Pip Healey  
English Head Teacher



Year 8 to Stage 6 engaged in active reading and writing





# Library & Information Services

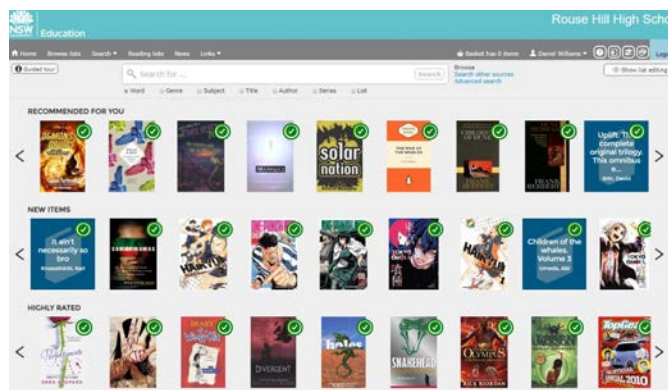
Mr D Williams

## Supporting Student Learning in 2019

Moving into the 2019 academic year, students will be able to access reading lists for each of their subjects in stages 4, 5 and 6.

These lists have been compiled by the Teacher-Librarian in consultation with teaching staff.

These lists will provide opportunity for students to consolidate and extend their learning in 2019.



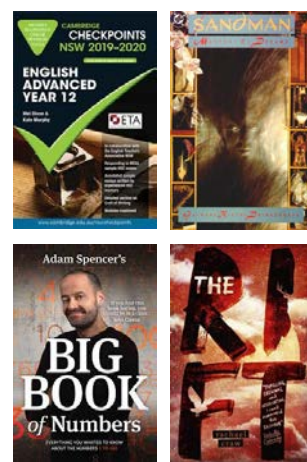
## Chess Competition Results



Some of our most dedicated chess players spent the remainder of this term battling it out in the 2018 Open Individual Tournament. Some great strategy was seen, with some dazzling twists & turns in an exciting round robin format. Congratulations to Farhan A for winning the competition with the highest overall points scored.

## New Reads

- Cambridge Checkpoints HSC
- Preludes & Nocturnes by Neil Gaiman
- Big Book of Numbers by Adam Spencer
- The Rift by Rachael Crow



A special commendation for a student

This year, one of our students entered into a competition in conjunction with the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge. Using the concept of favourite books, Tian Y W S created an engaging and humorous video on the merits and benefits of reading.

For his efforts, Tian received special recognition and was awarded a set of books by Adam Spencer. In a striking display of generosity, Tian then donated one of his prizes to the school library to benefit the wider community.



Mr Medcalf presenting Tian with his prize on behalf of the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge. Photograph by D. Williams



# Help Your P&C Support Your Children

## Rouse Hill High School Parents and Citizens Association

The Rouse Hill High School P&C Association was established in 2009 and has been actively involved with the development of Rouse Hill High School.

Our parents are proud of their school and we have devoted much time and energy to supporting its programs.

The P&C is an important part of school life - providing a valuable link between parents, citizens and school staff. One way this is achieved is through regular meetings which provide a forum to learn about and discuss issues affecting the education of school students.

This year the P&C was able to contribute towards the Air Conditioning of the upstairs classrooms in blocks D,E and F (17 classrooms in total).

Your current P&C Executive Committee Members for 2018/2019 are:

Greg Knight	President	0414 624 855
Carley Mills	Secretary	0407 396 319
Donna Flemming	Treasurer	0412 477 435
Randy Wood	Vice President	0402 280 337

### How Can I Get Involved with My P&C?

Whether you are a keen fundraiser or simply want to know more about what is going on in our school please join us at our regular meetings held on the fourth and eighth Monday of each term at 7:00pm in the school staff room. Dates are advertised on the school website.

All are welcome and suggestions to help us achieve our goals and vision are appreciated.

### How Can I Find Out P&C Information?

- Open the school website <https://rousehill-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>, select “supporting our students” and the “parents carers and the community” option.
- If you would like to be added to the P&C Email list, simply send an email to the Secretary at [carley134@me.com](mailto:carley134@me.com)
- Simply call one of the Executive Committee Members.

*Your contribution does make a difference*

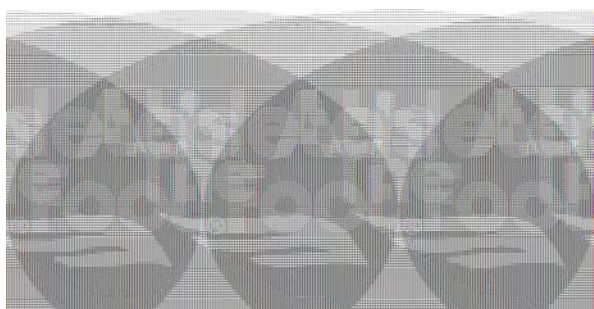
# How can I help the P&C support my child - *IT'S EASY*



While shopping at **IGA Rouse Hill**, simply use your IGA rewards card and nominate Rouse Hill High School as your preferred school.



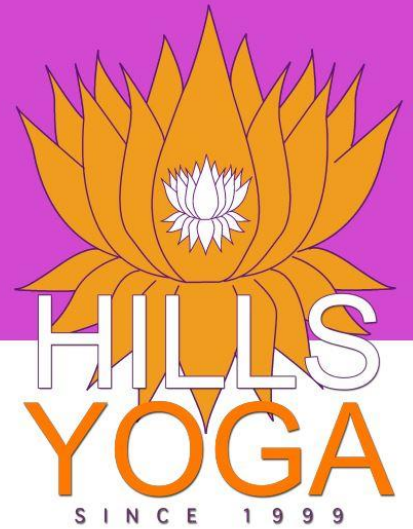
Simply log on to [www.rebelsport.com.au](http://www.rebelsport.com.au) and become a Season Pass Loyalty Member. Nominate Rouse Hill High School as your preferred Club/School and we will receive 5% of all member purchases. If you are already a Loyalty Member, log on, click on Your Account and add Rouse Hill High School.



Need new school shoes, sport shoes or work shoes? The Athlete's Foot at Rouse Hill is a supporter of Rouse Hill High School P&C. Next time you purchase a pair of shoes simply join their Club Fit Rewards program and nominate Rouse Hill High School as your chosen school. We will receive \$5 for every pair of shoes purchased and once you have spent \$500 in store, you will receive a \$50 voucher.

# TEENS Yoga

Thursdays 4.30 – 5.30pm: T1 starts 7<sup>th</sup> Feb



DYNAMIC YOGA, BREATHING, MEDITATION, RELAXATION



[www.hillsyoga.net.au](http://www.hillsyoga.net.au)

[info@hillsyoga.net.au](mailto:info@hillsyoga.net.au)

9654 9903

261 Old Northern Road  
Castle Hill

A non-competitive environment to encourage self-growth, positive self-image, physical & mental relaxation, emotional stability & focus.

DUKE OF ED: ✓



## ROUSE HILL RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Join your local Hills Football Family in 2019

Register online from 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 at [www.rhrfc.com.au](http://www.rhrfc.com.au)

Age groups: U5 – U12 FFA Small Sided Games  
U13 – U21 Mixed Teams  
Girls teams and Ladies teams  
All Age, O35 and O45 Men's teams  
Premier League Squad

All enquiries: [secretary@rhrfc.com.au](mailto:secretary@rhrfc.com.au)

### Try Football and Make Friends

Venue: Annangrove Park

Date: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Open to all kids ages 4 to 6

See our website for more details

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



Early Bird Offer

# School Holiday Workshops



## 2-DAY WORKSHOPS

Ages 8 -14 years @ The Ponds High School

### MAKERSPACE INVENTOR Workshop

Craft and invent anything with electronic building blocks and iPad control!

**Guaranteed FUN!**

### DIGITAL ART + DESIGN Workshop

Learn to design, create and edit digital art for the web on iPads!

BOOK NOW at **PIXELKIDS.com.au**



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You'll find us in Rouse Hill Town Centre, near Woolworths.

No appointments™. Just come in™.

[justcuts.com](http://justcuts.com)



Autism Community Network

## AUTISM SUPPORT IN THE HILLS

The Autism Community Network provides free support during school terms for families living with autism conditions. If you would like to meet other carers who understand you or find social opportunities for your ASD child and their siblings, please contact us or come along to

our free support group meetings

### CASTLE HILL SUPPORT GROUP

**When:** Third Friday of the month 10 am to noon  
**Venue:** Castle Hill RSL - Courtyard Cafe

For more information :

[www.autismcommunity.org.au](http://www.autismcommunity.org.au) | [info@autismcommunity.org.au](mailto:info@autismcommunity.org.au) | 9543 9036



# RHHS NOTICEBOARD

## P&C NEWS

The next P&C meeting will be held on Monday 18 February 2019. All parents and carers are welcome to attend. If you would like to be added to the P&C email list, simply email the Secretary at [carley134@me.com](mailto:carley134@me.com)

## ADVERTISING IN THE ROUSE HILL HIGH NEWSLETTER

Rouse Hill High School's newsletter contains paid Advertisements. The publication of such advertisements does not imply endorsement of any product or service by the NSW Department of Education or Rouse Hill High School.

If you are interested in advertising your business or community group in the next edition of this newsletter please visit <http://www.rousehill-h.schools.nsw.edu.au> *About our school / Rules and policies / Newsletter Advertisement* and download a newsletter policy for requirements and procedures.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

29 January 2019  
School Development Day

30 January 2019  
Year 7 & Year 1.0 Peer Support leaders commence

31 January 2019  
Years 1.0, 1.1 & 1.2 commence

1 February 2019  
Years 8 & 9 commence

7 February 2019  
Celebration Assembly

11 February 2019  
National Zoo Virtual Field trip (HSC Biology)  
Parent Teacher Night - 1.0, 1.1 & 1.2

13 February 2019  
Brainstorm Productions (Years 7 & 8)

14 February 2019  
Swimming Carnival

**Rouse Hill High School**

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