



Parramatters



Parramatta High School Newsletter
FAX MENTIS INCENDIUM GLORIAE

“The torch of the mind lights the path of glory”

Our vision is to provide a holistic 21st century education which develops resilient individuals who are active and informed citizens, empowered to think critically and creatively, within an environment that values diversity, equity and resilience.

CONGRATULATIONS PARRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL 2021 ACADEMIC HSC SUCCESS

The staff and students of Parramatta High School congratulate all students who achieved their Higher School Certificate in 2021.

Our HSC class of 2021 once again made us very proud of their outstanding HSC results. Congratulations to the students for their exceptional achievements and another well-deserved congratulations goes to their teachers for the high-quality teaching and learning experiences they have provided.

We wish all 2021 HSC graduates from Parramatta High School lifelong success, and the very best with their future endeavours and careers. We encourage them to take chances and look for opportunities to improve their future and that of others.

PARRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL'S 2021 HSC ACHIEVEMENTS:

93 BAND 6's

303 BAND 5's

49 Distinguished Achievers

DUX: HSC ALL ROUNDER

Shailaj PAUDEL

Highest ATAR: 99.4

Distinguished Achiever:

Business Studies

Chemistry

English Advanced

Mathematics Extension 1

Mathematics Extension 2

Physics



Mahima RAJENDRAN

Second Highest ATAR: 98.8

Distinguished Achiever:

Biology

Chemistry

English Advanced

Mathematics Extension 1



DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVERS OF 2021

Students who have achieved the Highest Band possible for one or more courses

Rohan Agarwal

Mathematics
Extension 1
Mathematics
Extension 2



Angelina Chen

Mathematics Advanced



Dhruv Anand

Mathematics
Extension 1
Mathematics
Extension 2



Bisfurj Dahal

Legal Studies
Personal Development,
Health and Physical
Education



**Ashton
Arudselvam**

Mathematics
Advanced



Devakrithik

Devanesan
Tamil Continuers



Saeed Bajukhaif

Business Studies
Personal
Development, Health
and Physical
Education



Joaquin Dungca

Mathematics Standard 2
Music 1



Wen Bao

French Beginners



Tayyabat Faisal

Biology
Mathematics Extension 1



**Priyanka
Bhattacharya**
Biology



Ria Goswami

Biology
Mathematics Advanced



DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVERS OF 2021

Students who have achieved the Highest Band possible for one or more courses

<p>Ansh Gulati Chemistry Mathematics Extension 1 Mathematics Extension 2 Physics</p>		<p>Yeongwoong Kim Mathematics Extension 1 Mathematics Extension 2</p>	
<p>Sarah Hossain English Standard Mathematics Advanced</p>		<p>Thanukshika Krishnakumar Tamil Continuers</p>	
<p>Riya Jain Legal Studies Mathematics Extension 1 Mathematics Extension 2 Hindi Continuers</p>		<p>Mohit Kumar Mathematics Standard 2</p>	
<p>Vivek Jain Mathematics Extension 1 Mathematics Extension 2 Physics</p>		<p>Sahas Maruthurkkara Music 1</p>	
<p>Ryan Janu Mathematics Advanced</p>		<p>Yazmeen Meedin Modern History Society and Culture</p>	
<p>Hamza Khalid English Advanced Mathematics Extension 1 Mathematics Advanced Physics</p>		<p>Pranav Nair Mathematics Advanced</p>	

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVERS OF 2021

Students who have achieved the Highest Band possible for one or more courses

Hargi Ashish Patel
Hindi Continuers



Dinusha Sathasivam
English Extension 2



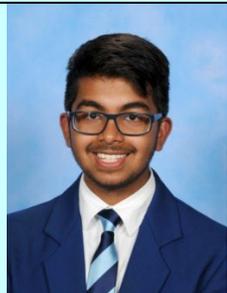
Sricharan Prassanna
Tamil Continuers



**Yathavan
Selvaruban**
Mathematics Extension 1



Irtiza Rafid
Mathematics Advanced



Aaryan Simkhada
Mathematics Standard 2



Mrinmayi Raut
Mathematics Extension 1



Tiffany Jia Xin Soo
English Extension 1
Mathematics Extension 1
Mathematics Advanced



Roy Rishabh
Business Studies



**Akalavan
Sriskantharajan**
Tamil Continuers

**Maniraaj
Sadatcharan
Meenatchi**
Mathematics Extension 1



Biren Thakali
Business Studies



DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVERS OF 2021

Students who have achieved the Highest Band possible for one or more courses

**Aharthy
Thavarajasingham**
Tamil Continuers



Brandon Watson
Mathematics Standard 2



**Thishanth
Thirumurugan**
Mathematics Extension 1



Dev Yadav
Mathematics Standard 2



Tholu Mohit
Mathematics Standard 2
Society and Culture



**Chao Yi Catherine
Zhang**
Business Studies
Design and Technology



Ibrahim Uppal
Mathematics Extension 1



Kathlene Zhao
Mathematics Extension 1
Mathematics Extension 2



**Sumithiran Ragulan
Venkatesan**
Mathematics Advanced



Zhexin Zheng
Mathematics Extension 1
Mathematics Extension 2
Chinese Literature



Distinguished Achievers

Students who have achieved an ATAR of 90 or greater. This is not an exhaustive list of our students who have achieved a 90+ ATAR. However, these students have allowed us to publish their names.

Rohan Agarwal

Ashton Arudselvam

Pryanka Bhattacharia

Angelina Chen

Ria Goswami

Vivek Jain

Ryan Janu

Hamza Khalid

Yeongwoong Kim

Sahas Maruthurkkara

Yazmeen Meedin

Mahima RAJENDRAN

Mrinmayi Raut

Dinusha Sathasivam

Saeed Bajukhaif

Yathavan Selvaruban

Tiffany Jia Xin Soo

Mohit Tholu

Thishanth Thirumuragan

Kathlene Zhao

University Courses entered

Many of our 2021 HSC students have reported to us the university course they have successfully entered. Some of these courses include:

Bachelor of Architecture and Environments

Bachelor of Medical Science/Medicine

Bachelor of Commerce and Arts

Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Science

Bachelor of Business Studies

Bachelor of Secondary Teaching

Bachelor of Commerce and Media

Bachelor of Fine Arts/Arts at UNSW

Bachelor of Law/Bachelor of Science

Bachelor of Physiotherapy

Bachelor of Pharmacy

Bachelor of Information Systems

Bachelor of Cyber Security

Bachelor of Occupational Therapy

Bachelor of Engineering and Computer Science

Bachelor of Actuarial Studies/Computer Science

Bachelor of Data Science and Decisions

Bachelor of Mechatronics Engineering

Bachelor of Law and Professional Accounting

Bachelor of Commerce and Advanced Studies

Bachelor of Entrepreneurship (Games Design and Simulation)

Bachelor of Medical Sciences with Bachelor of International Studies

Bachelor of Speech and Hearing Sciences and Bachelor of Psychology

Bachelor of Biomedical Engineering (Honours) Diploma of Professional Engineering

CALENDAR 2021

TERM 1

Week 7

Zone Swimming Carnival

Week 8

Regional Swimming Carnival

Week 10

Year 7 HPV talk

State Swimming Carnival



A NEW NEWSLETTER

Dear families,

Our school newsletter will be getting a facelift. We will be using Microsoft Sway for our next edition, and it will be uploaded to the school website. We will also email a link to families each time the newsletter is published.

Another change will be the number of newsletters we publish per term. We will now be publishing two per term only. We wish to bring you more information on our students and their achievements in all aspects of school life.

All important information will be placed on Google Classroom for students, emailed to parents and may be added to our Facebook page and school website.

FACEBOOK

Like us on Facebook! Our Facebook page offers updates about upcoming school events and provides the school community with information about what's happening at Parramatta High School.

You can follow us by searching up @parramattahighschool on Facebook!

Year 7 Meet the Teacher And Year 7 Interim Reports



Dear Year 7 Families and students,

As part of Parramatta High School's community partnerships, we hold an annual **Year 7 Meet the Teachers** event, in conjunction with issuing Year 7 students/parents with a **Term 1 Year 7 Interim Report**.

Both provide an opportunity for feedback on Year 7 students' progress and adjustments into high school learning and expectations, and an opportunity for parents to meet teachers and learn more about their child's high school life, learning and assessment progress and expectations.

This year the **Year 7 Meet the Teacher** event will again be virtual as part of our Covid safety protocol, and a short video will be prepared for parents to watch.

- The **Term 1 Year 7 Interim Reports** will be issued to students on **Monday 21st March (Week 8)**. Please check this document with your child so you can be informed about their progress thus far.
- The **virtual Year 7 Meet the Teacher event** is planned to be launched on **Monday 21st March (Week 8)**
Each faculty will have prepared a **short video** about themselves, and this will be included in a larger school video.

The faculty videos will contain the following:

- Head Teachers will introduce their faculty and what Year 7 students are learning in class and how they are being assessed
- Each Year 7 teacher will introduce themselves and the class they teach
- Any extra information about the faculty will be provided by the Head Teacher e.g. learning and homework expectations, competitions running, extra-curricular activities offered, etc.

The completed video will be uploaded to the **Orientation Day website** on **Monday 21st March (Week 8)** and then taken down after 48 hours.

Location of the **Year 7 Meet the Teachers** video:

<https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/virtual-orientation-day-2021/home/meet-the-teacher>

We will alert parents again closer to the date via email.

Ms Helen Kougelos-Stage 4 Deputy Principal (Years 7 & 8)

Ms Yemen Kassem-Year 7 Advisor

MEET YOUR YEAR ADVISOR

Year 7 Year Advisor

Hello all,

My name is Yemen Kassem and I am the Year 7 Year Advisor this year and will continue this position throughout Year 7's high school journey. My main role will be to support, guide and help all students with any wellbeing issues. I have been a teacher at Parramatta High School for 3 years and I teach in the HSIE department specifically Business Studies, Commerce and Geography. Some have been lucky enough to meet me in the classroom for Geography lessons.

A little bit about myself, when I'm not at work I enjoy spending quality time with my family, going on nature walks and a big foodie exploring different cafes and restaurants.

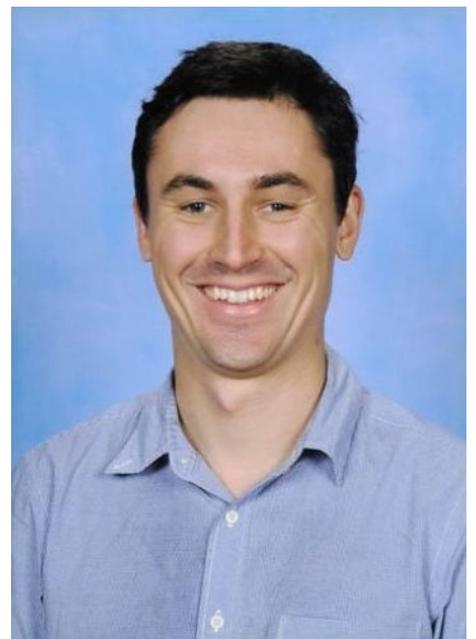
To all my wonderful Year 7 students, I am delighted to be your Year 7 Year Advisor and look forward to supporting and guiding you throughout your school journey at Parramatta High School. I encourage you to come and see me whenever you have any concerns or just want to have a chat.

Ms Y. Kassem Year 7 Year Advisor 2022



Year 7 Assistant Year Advisor

My name is Mr Secrett and as well as being a Music teacher at PHS, I am the Assistant Year Advisor for Year 7 2022. In this role, it is my job to help Year 7 students in any way that I can as they start their high school journey. I'm always available for a chat and can be found in the CAPA (Creative and Performing Arts) staffroom. It has been fantastic so far getting to know this year's Year 7s, who have been settling in very well. I am very excited to see all of the wonderful things they achieve over the coming years!



STAGE 4 DEPUTY PRINCIPAL REPORT: Ms Kougelos

WELCOME YEAR 7 STUDENTS AND PARENTS AND THOSE NEW TO THE SCHOOL

We would like to extend a special welcome to Year 7 and their families, and to those students and their families in other year groups who are new to Parramatta High School. We take this opportunity to encourage all new parents and caregivers to become active participants in our school community by engaging in communication with the school and relevant Stage Deputy Principals and Year Advisers, your child/ren's teachers and by reading our *Parramatters* School Newsletter which is available on our school's website. Your involvement will support your child's education and positive wellbeing.

We wish all Year 7 students a very happy and positive start to high school. Please do not hesitate however, to make early contact with us if you have any concerns regarding your child's start to the year.

All our students, upon their return to school, have been reminded of our expectation in relation to their studies, school procedures and rules, and student responsibilities. This has included a focus on our **CORE VALUES** our **Positive Education ASPIRE Motto**:

Our Core Values:

Respect Responsibility Honesty



Attendance:

Regular attendance at school is essential to assist students to maximise their potential. All students who are enrolled at school, regardless of their age, are expected to attend school every day on time. If your child is absent and/or late - a written note needs to be signed by parents and submitted to the Roll Call teacher or office the next day the student returns to school.

If parents are requesting their child leave early due to an appointment that cannot be scheduled outside of school hours, a parent written and signed note must be presented by the student to their Stage Deputy Principal before 8:25 am. The Deputy Principal will consider the request, and if required will contact the parent to discuss the matter further before approving the request.

Parents must provide an explanation for absences to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence. Where an explanation has not been received within the 7-day timeframe, the school will record the absence as unjustified on the student's record.

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during the school term is necessary, discuss this with our school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year. Please note that extended absences due to travel impact on your child's capacity to complete or sit for assessment tasks, to engage in the full suite of teaching and learning experiences required, as well as mandatory hours that are required to be met.

Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstances e.g. attending a funeral.

Please refer to the DOE Policy for further details:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/student-wellbeing/attendance-matters-resources-for-schools/compulsory-school-attendance>

Attendance - every day counts

A day away from school here or there doesn't seem like much but absences add up.

When your child misses one day per fortnight, they miss upwards of 4 weeks per year which equates to one year missed over their school life.

Absences have an impact on learning, engagement & success. Be ready, be on time = success!



EVERY MINUTE COUNTS...

When your child misses just...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is...
10 minutes a day	50 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 1½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ a year of school
20 minutes a day	1 hour and 40 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 2½ weeks per year	Nearly a year of school
½ hour a day	½ a day of learning a week	4 weeks a year	Nearly 1½ years of learning
1 hour each day	1 whole day of learning each week	8 weeks per year or nearly a term a year.	Over 2 ½ years of learning

Your child's best learning time is at the beginning of the day...

Check the time your school starts. DON'T BE LATE!



Please refer to this:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/going-to-school/preparing/starting-primary-school/health-and-wellbeing/attendance>

Mobile phone use during school hours:

We also request that Parents and Carers do not call or text students on their mobile phones during school time, instead call the front office on 9635 8644 from which messages can be passed on to the child.

We have also instructed all students to not call their parents if the student is feeling unwell or has an issue of concern. Students in these cases, must raise their concern or state that they are feeling unwell to their teacher. A teacher will send an unwell student to the Front Office to be attended to by a First Aid Officer. Deputy Principals will assess the situation/case and will arrange for the school to contact the parents.

School Diaries and School Planner (Wall Calendar)

Developing consistent routines is important in staying on top of homework, assessments and responsibilities. One key organisational tool to assist this is the effective use of the school diary. School Diaries are provided by the school to **all Year 7 and 8 students**. Students should bring their diaries to school every day and use them in each lesson to record homework, assessments, and other requirements. This simple routine will save a great deal of stress by helping students plan ahead and keep on top of their homework and assessment requirements. Please see the PHS School Website for excellent 2022 School Planner (Wall Calendars) that can also be downloaded and used by all Year 7-12 students. Posting this calendar on a child's bedroom wall and used to note due dates of tasks is an excellent visual aid to help students become well organised. This year, every Year 7 student was provided with one of these 2022 School Planners.

See: <https://parramatta-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/learning-at-our-school/assessment-and-reporting/assessment--homework.html>

Family Contact Details:

It is important for us to maintain the correct contact details for all students and their families/carers, including emergency contacts. Please ensure you update your contact details with the school administration office if there have been any recent changes. This must be done in writing and a form can be obtained from the Front Office staff.

Parents are also reminded to log on to their Parent Portal on Sentral. This will allow access to your child's reports, timetable, assessment schedule and booking interface for Parent Teacher nights.

If you are not successful logging on, please contact the school for assistance.

Student Health Issues:

We are strongly committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of our students at this school. The safety of all students is our ultimate responsibility. To ensure their wellbeing and educational needs are addressed by school staff appropriately, it is important for parents and caregivers to inform us of any health issues that may impact on their child's learning. It is extremely important that the school is given an update of any medical condition every year or when a change in this condition occurs.

All students who suffer from severe allergies or anaphylaxis should have already provided an ASCIA plan and prescribed medication to the school.

Students are regularly reminded to carry their own EpiPen or asthma reliever with them, to and from and at school each day. This is to ensure their safety at all times.

Anaphylaxis:

It is the parent/caregiver's responsibility to ensure their child carries with them, at all times, their auto injector and this needs to be safely stored in the child's bag. The parent/caregiver is also responsible for providing a second autoinjector to the school, in case the student requires more than one injection during an incident. The school will contact parents/carers if the auto injector has expired, so that arrangements can be made to provide the school with a new auto injector. The parent/caregiver must provide the school with the appropriate Anaphylaxis Health Plan. The family doctor must review this once a year or during the year if there is a change in the child's health condition. The school must be informed immediately on any updates made to the health plan. The parent/caregiver must provide the school with the new plan.

Asthma:

It is the parent's/caregiver's responsibility to ensure the student has the puffer with them at all times and this needs to be safely stored in the child's bag. If the student requires a Health Plan, then the parent/caregiver must inform the school and provide the Health Plan.

Diabetes:

The parent/caregiver must provide the school with their child's Health Plan. Should a sugar level test be required, during school time, there is provision of space for this to occur. The school must once again be informed immediately of the condition and must receive the student's Health Plan.

Administration of Medication during school hours

Prescribed medication

All prescribed medication is to be administered by the school's first aid officer or designated office personnel. In a case where your child needs to receive her medication during school hours you need to ensure the following:

- A note from a parent/ caregiver needs to be addressed to the Principal in relation to this request.
- The medicine dosage and approximate time must be clearly labelled.
- The medication is to be kept in the office during the day.
- The student leaves the medication with the office upon arrival in the morning and collects it at the end of the day.

Non-prescribed Medication

For safety reasons, NO student at school is to carry medication during school hours.

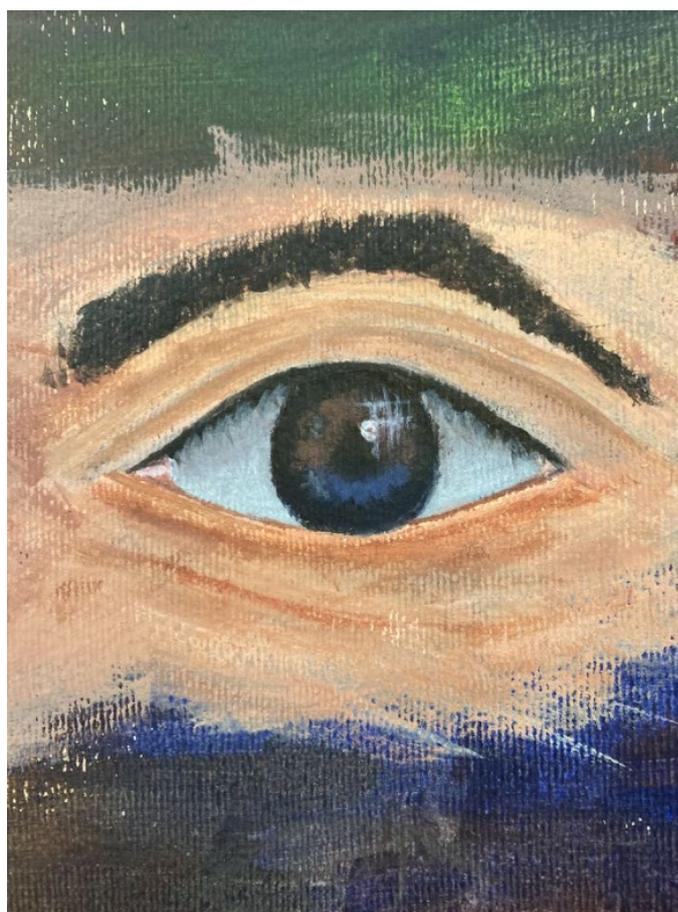
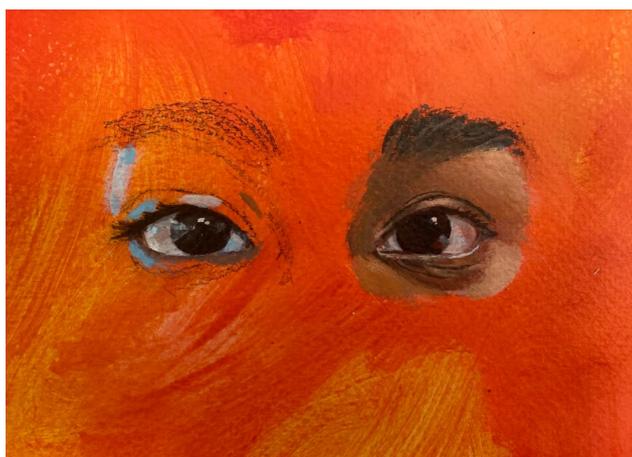
NUTS:

As many students have severe allergies to nuts, peanuts, tree nuts and nut products will be excluded from curriculum or extracurricular activities in accordance with NSW DoE policy. This does not include foods labelled "may contain traces of nuts".

Parents, we ask that you do not provide your child food with nuts, peanuts, tree nuts and nut products at school as we have a number of children with a life-threatening reaction to nuts.

CAPA NEWS

Year 10 Visual Arts students will be painting portraits this semester. They have started their unit working on eyes. They say the eyes are the windows to the soul – see how our talented students are learning to capture the personality of their sitter through these studies. Here are some amazing examples of their work so far!





In 2021, students from Year 7 to Year 10 participated in the ICAS Mathematics Competition. Overall, the 118 Parramatta High School student participants achieved excellent results.

- 1 student - High Distinction (The top 1% in Australia)
- 19 students - Distinction (The next 10% in Australia)
- 54 students - Credit (The next 25% in Australia)
- 13 students - Merit (The next 10% in Australia)
- 31 students - Participation (All remaining students in Australia)

All students will receive their certificates from their mathematics teachers in class.

Special congratulations to **ANTHONY THIEN GIA TRUONG** who achieved High Distinction in Year 9 (2021) ICAS Mathematics Competition and the following students who achieved Distinction:

Year 7 (2021)

- WINSTON DE ZILVA
- MINJAE JEON
- DUNIA KHADEM
- KRISHA RAJ
- GURKIRET SINGH
- AVNEET SINGH
- KANISHK VETCHA
- TIM YUTIAN WANG



UNSW Global

Year 8 (2021)

- MAYANK BADDAM
- ESHAN BINESH
- ARNAV SHRIVASTAVA
- LYDIA WANG

Year 9 (2021)

- AARON JOSH MACADANGDANG
- PRITHVIRAJ MUTHUKAMATCHI BALMURUGAN
- NAYCHYI OO
- OLIVER STANLEY

Year 10 (2021)

- ZHANGHAN CHEN
- XINQIAO LI
- VEDANT MAHESHWARI

Congratulations to all participants! Looking forward to seeing more participants in the 2022 ICAS Mathematics Competition.

Mr. Yuan

CAREERS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am hoping we can organise a few excursions next term to assist the students with their career planning. My aim is visit Sydney University (Year 12), UNSW (Year 11) and Macquarie University (Year 10) as a beginning. I have other ideas, but we will have to see how things are next term. Stay tuned! There is also a delayed surprise for Year 11 students regarding an event that was due to run last year - Think Survivor. However, there is more information to come when excursions are up and running again.

Year 10 students have been given work experience information now and should be ready to find a placement if they wish to. Please make sure all paperwork is completed if you are participating. Friendly reminder that work experience is NOT Mandatory - it is up to the individual student if they wish to participate.

All students have access to our job jump careers website. www.jobjump.com.au

- Go to: IM NEW
- Password: parra



The jobjump site has so much fantastic information. Year 10 students can browse Real Work Experience options as well as Virtual Options. There is course advice, resume construction, University and TAFE information - you name it, it has it! it really is worth looking at.

Mrs M Ibrahim (Careers Adviser)

LIBRARY NEWS



Our library subscribes to **Wheelers Audiobooks** with 24/7 access using your computer or mobile device.

To access the Wheelers Audiobooks titles, follow these simple steps:

1. Open Google Chrome (Not Internet Explorer)
2. Type, or copy and paste the web address <http://parramattahs.eplatform.co/>
3. Click Sign In
4. Login/password: Use your existing DET login/password
(The Wheelers Audiobook link is also available on our OLIVER Homepage, under the “News” tab).

Our library subscribes to **World Book eBook** with access to hundreds of World Book publications and classics.

Our World Book eBook subscription allows access to all the eBook titles at home 24/7, using your computer or mobile device.

To access the World Book eBook titles, follow these simple steps:

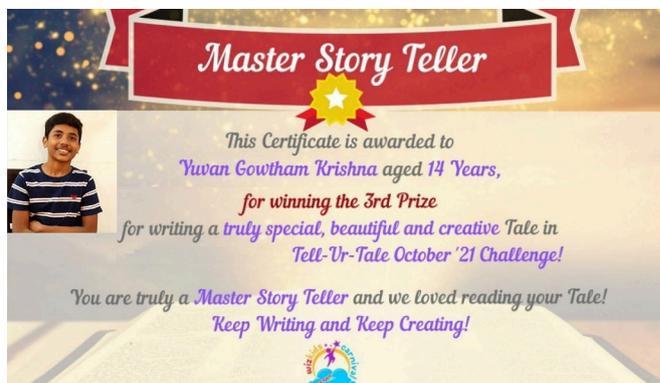
1. Open Google Chrome (Not Internet Explorer)
2. Type, or copy and paste the web address www.worldbookonline.com
3. Enter Username: **parrahs**
4. Enter Password: **parrahs**
5. Click on the eBook icon.

(The World Book eBook link is also available on our OLIVER Homepage, under the “News” tab).

Respect, Responsibility & Honesty

CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

One of Parramatta High School's newest students, Yuvan Gowtham Krishna is interested in script writing and directing short movies. He has entered his short movies in the Global Kids Achiever Awards and achieved 3rd place in the 'Tell Ur Tale Challenge' run by Wizz Kids Central. Well done, Yuvan! We look forward to seeing more of your creative work.



LITERACY & NUMERACY AT PHS

PHS Literacy and Numeracy Site

On this page you will find literacy and numeracy games, puzzles and riddles.

- Play Checkers
- Tangram
- FreeRice
- Wordle
- Nerdle
- Code Names
- Rebus Riddles

VISIT THE PHS LITERACY & NUMERACY SITE

<https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/phs-literacy-and-numeracy/home>

DROP EVERYTHING AND READ!

YEAR 7-10 ROLL CALL
 Bring a reading book



READING CORNER



During roll call, students in Years 7-10 have been participating in wide reading and comprehension activities to enhance their reading skills. They are also writing book recommendations so they can share the books they love with other students.

To write a review log onto the Library's Oliver page and search the name of the book you want to review. Then click "write a review." You can also see reviews of other books by typing in the name of the book and clicking on "reviews."



Reading tip

To improve focus during reading, put your devices away and read a book (not a book on a device) for 20 minutes a day in a quiet room. Before bed is ideal to relax the mind and achieve a good night's sleep. By reading without distractions, you will increase your ability to focus on what you are reading.





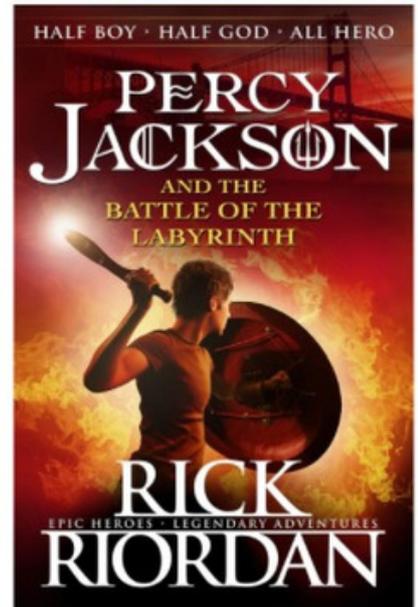
BOOK CORNER



Recommendation of the Month

Percy Jackson and the Battle of the Labyrinth
by Rick Riordan

This one is... just wow! I don't know how this could get any better. The Battle of the Labyrinth blows first three books out of the water. I think it'll be harder to beat this one out of my-favourite-of-the-series spot. What an adventure.



Time for having laughs all over the place is over (at least for the most part) and penultimate book means serious business. Percy, Annabeth and the team embarks on the most thrilling adventure yet, immersing us in an eventful journey. Everything is well written as always, it's difficult to stop until the end. Events are building up nicely towards the Battle of Half-blood camp, while keeping the reader oblivious to the way how seemingly unrelated plot lines will come to unravel at the end.

Oh! There are so many good things to tell about this one. Thank you Rick Riordan for this book.

"Don't judge someone until you've stood at his forge and worked with his hammer"

by Praneet Ramu of 7A



What works best: 2020 update

Overview for parents and carers of primary and secondary school students

NSW public schools are committed to ensuring that how we teach your child is based on what we know makes the biggest difference to their learning.

In March this year, the NSW Department of Education released an update of some of the most significant research into effective teaching. This report is called 'What works best: 2020 update' and outlines eight evidence-based practices that teachers can use in their classrooms to support improved student learning. It is likely that the 'What works best: 2020 update' will inform the teaching and learning in your child's school.

Below is a summary of the eight 'What works best' practices for effective teaching, including some conversation tips to help you support these practices at home. We suggest that you use just one set of questions at a time with your child.

You can find the 'What works best: 2020 update' publication, together with other evidence-based resources for schools, at www.cese.nsw.gov.au/publications-filter/what-works-best-2020-update

1. High expectations

Students learn best when teachers have high expectations. Having high expectations means that teachers work hard to gain students' interest, encourage them to learn new things, provide help when they need it, are clear and consistent about how they want students to behave and learn, and vary the way they teach to meet students' needs.

Check in with your child

- For primary school students: Did you try something new today? What was it? How did you go? How do you feel when you're learning something new?
- For secondary school students: When you are asked to do something in class, how do you know what standard of work the teacher expects?

2. Explicit teaching

Students learn best when teaching is explicit, especially when learning something new. Explicit teaching involves teachers clearly explaining to students why they are learning something, how it connects to what they already know, what they expect students to do, how to do it and what it looks like when they have succeeded.

Check in with your child

- For primary and secondary school students: Tell me about something you learnt today. Did you find it easy to learn, or did you need to ask a few questions? How could you tell when you 'got it'?

3. Effective feedback

Students learn best when teachers provide them with effective feedback. Feedback that is effective is constructive, detailed and specific. It focuses on how students performed on a particular task, and is clear about where mistakes were made and what needs to happen to improve in future.

Check in with your child

- For primary and secondary school students: When you're learning something new, how do you know if you're on the right track? How do you know what you can do to improve next time?



4. Use of data to inform practice

Students learn best when teachers use data to confirm where students are up to in their learning and to plan what to teach next. Data is any form of information that helps teachers to do this. Data can come from a range of places, including class quizzes, student answers to teacher questions, samples of students' work and formal exams.

5. Assessment

Students learn best when teachers use high quality assessment. Assessment refers to the range of activities that teachers use to evaluate where students are up to in their learning. It includes formal activities such as exams and surveys, as well as more informal activities such as asking students questions and evaluating samples of their work.

Check in with your child

- For primary school students: How do you show your teacher what you know and what you can do?
- For secondary school students: Your teacher needs to understand where you are up to in your learning, so that they know what to teach next. How do you show your teacher what you know and what you can do?

6. Classroom management

Students learn best when teachers manage their classrooms well. Classroom management includes the broad range of things that teachers do to encourage a safe, positive and stimulating learning environment for their students.

Check in with your child

- For primary school students: Are there rules or expectations you need to follow in your classroom? Can you tell me a few? What happens when you work hard to follow them? What happens if you don't follow them?
- For secondary school students: Does your school have school or classroom rules or expectations? Can you name a few? What happens when students follow them? What happens if students don't follow them?

7. Wellbeing

Students learn best when they have a high level of wellbeing. Student wellbeing is a broad term that includes good mental, physical and emotional health, feeling supported in learning, building healthy relationships and having a strong sense of meaning and purpose. Teachers can support students' wellbeing by:

- creating a safe environment
- helping students to feel that they belong
- valuing their opinions and perspectives
- encouraging them to be interested in learning
- helping them to manage their emotions
- helping them to develop positive relationships with teachers and other students.

Check in with your child

- For primary and secondary school students: How do you feel about school at the moment? Are there things that you find hard or challenging? Do you know what to do or who you can speak to if you're having a bad day or have a problem? Does someone look out for you at school?



8. Collaboration

Students learn best when teachers collaborate. Collaboration involves teachers working together with other teachers and experts from outside the school to improve their teaching. Effective collaboration is likely to include teachers planning lessons and teaching programs together, observing each other's lessons and giving feedback, and discussing and thinking about issues related to their work.

For example ...

High expectations at Aldavilla Public School

Aldavilla Public School attributes much of its success in improving outcomes for students to a focus on high expectations. The students are constantly reminded that they can be whatever they want to be. One way that high expectations are encouraged at Aldavilla Public School is through setting goals. Students are expected to be working towards learning goals that are achievable, and staff are constantly encouraging students to push themselves to reach their next goal.

The school also encourages high expectations by taking a whole-school approach. For example, every class follows exactly the same behaviour management system. Student-teacher relationships are also a priority. All teachers make an effort to get to know students and show that they care about them. This can be achieved by doing things as simple as asking what students did on the weekend, or knowing who a student's brothers and sisters are.

For example ...

Use of data to inform practice at Concord High School

The mathematics faculty at Concord High School studies their HSC data each year and uses the results to plan their teaching programs in Years 7-11. The head teacher of mathematics explains: "We have a really good look at the questions students got wrong and we try to re-program based on things that the kids have got wrong. For example, our students were struggling with 'significant figures' in the HSC so we've now brought significant figures into Year 7. That means they have six years where they can see that they can round to significant figures, and now it hasn't been an issue."

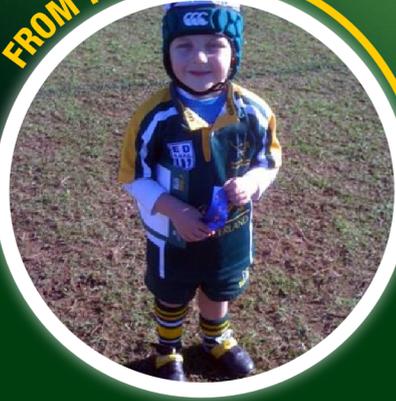
Sometimes the re-programming involves changing the order of topics during the year so that students have more opportunities to apply their knowledge and understanding of these concepts throughout the year. The head teacher of mathematics continues: "Our students were doing really badly with probability. We had a look at our programs and probability was something we were doing at the end of every year, so we've moved it around a little bit so they are seeing it earlier in some years."



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