

SHERWOOD RIDGE PS NEWSLETTER

LEARNING • RESPECT • COMMUNITY

Term 3 - Week 9

Friday 19 September 2025

A Message from the Principal

As Term 3 draws to a close, there is much to celebrate at Sherwood Ridge. It has been another vibrant and successful term, filled with learning, creativity and achievement across all year levels. Our students continue to thrive through a wide range of opportunities designed to support their growth and development. The school's High Potential and Gifted Education program plays a key role in our teaching approach, fostering student talent and providing challenging experiences across all curriculum areas.

This term, our students truly shone in the creative arts. Our dance groups and choir delivered standout performances at both the Synergy Dance Festival and the Hills Performing Arts Festival, showcasing their dedication and talent. Public speaking and debating were also highlights, with students demonstrating confidence, enthusiasm and strong communication skills in the Hills Public Speaking Competition and local school debates.

Adding to the excitement, students took part in tennis clinics and our annual Science Fair, where they shared their projects and confidently explained the theories behind their ideas. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to display their scientific thinking, creativity and communication skills.



Book Week was a highlight, with both staff and students dressing up as their favourite characters. Congratulations to Ruaan I in Class 1K, who won Best Dressed for his clever Bumblebee Transformer costume.



A special moment this term was celebrating the outstanding success of Tina T in Class 6N, who received the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement in Community Language Schools. I felt truly privileged to join Tina's family at the awards ceremony and witness her being honoured with this remarkable recognition for her talent and dedication to her community language of Farsi. We are incredibly proud of Tina and her impressive achievement!

In staffing news, we send warm congratulations to Mr McConnell on the birth of his son, Bastian. He is enjoying time with his family and will return to work part-time in Term 4, sharing Class 4M with Ms Gartside. Mr Dixon is stepping into the role of relieving Deputy Principal for Weeks 9 and 10 while Mrs Blacker is on a well-deserved family holiday. Miss Anderson and Mrs Velez will be sharing the relieving Assistant Principal role, leading Kindergarten during this time.

We're also thrilled to share that this year, more of our students than ever before have received offers for selective high school placements for Year 7 in 2026. Seven students have secured placements, and three more are on reserve lists. This is an excellent outcome and a reflection of the hard work and academic talent of our students. Congratulations to them all.

Our school's Indigenous artwork on the hall door has also been beautifully restored. With permission from the artist, Zachary Bennett-Brook of Saltwater Dreamtime, the mural has been refreshed using more resilient materials thanks to a generous donation from OshClub. The artwork, which features overlapping circular sections in our school colours of red, blue and white, represents the interconnectedness of students and staff, and the importance of working together as one supportive learning community.



We send our best wishes to our Year 5 and 6 students who are heading off to The Great Aussie Bush Camp next week. We thank the teachers and support staff for giving their time to accompany the students and provide them with such a memorable and enriching experience.

The last day of term is Friday 26 September. Wishing our students and staff a safe and relaxing school holiday break. Students return to school on Tuesday 14 October.

I remain committed to fostering student wellbeing and academic growth as we move into Term 4.

Warm regards

Mrs Jody Sullivan **Principal**

2026 Enrolments

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT FOR 2026

We are now accepting Kindergarten enrolments for 2026. Please contact our enrolment's officer Mrs Gardner on 8824 3333 to enquire or apply online via our School Website at the following link -

https://sherwood-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/enrolment.html

SCHOOL TOURS

Do you have a friend or relative who resides in our local area and has a child starting school in 2026? Please encourage them to contact the school for a tour, which is led by the Principal or Deputy Principal. The next SRPS tour date is Thursday 6 November at 2:15pm. Please call the school to book on 8824 3333.

School News

THE ROTARY CLUB OF HILLS-KELLYVILLE ANNUAL YEAR 6 WRITING COMPETITION

On the evening of Monday 25 August, Mrs Brodie and Mr Dixon proudly represented SRPS at The Rotary Club of Hills-Kellyville Annual Year 6 Writing competition award ceremony. In the competition's 20th year, The Rotary Club received 42 entries from 14 schools and 3 finalists were chosen from each.

Congratulations to our three prize-winning finalists; Miabelle D, Turner T and Miranda K whose 500 word writing pieces were chosen for their literary quality. Miabelle D was also awarded a Highly Commended prize. Miranda was unable to attend due to her commitments at the Hills Performing Arts festival.







MINISTER'S AWARDS CEREMONY

On Thursday 4 September 2025, Mrs Sullivan had the honour of attending the 2025 Minister's Awards Ceremony which was held at Sir John Clancy Auditorium, University of New South Wales, Kensington. These awards recognise outstanding students from community languages schools for their excellence in language learning, contributions to the development of intercultural understanding and engagement in their school and the wider community.

Congratulations to Tina T, a Year 6 student, who was one of ten outstanding students to receive the highest honour – the Minister's Award, for the study of Persian/Farsi, while other nominees were recognised with Highly Commended, Commended, or Merit awards. As a Minister's Award recipient, Tina was also invited to act as one of the Co-Master of Ceremonies during the evening.

We are immensely proud of Tina and her achievement of this highly prestigious award.





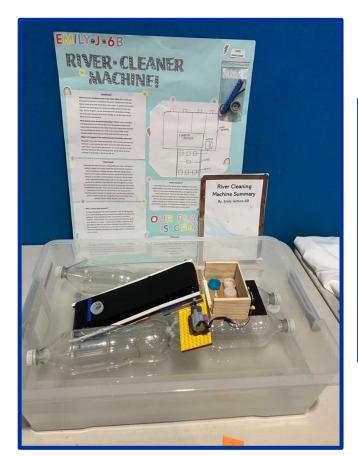


Mrs Newland, Relieving Assistant Principal

SCIENCE FAIR

In week 5 we held the Sherwood Ridge Science Fair. A whopping 56 entries this year with a HUGE showing from stage 1 and 2! The theme this year was *Decoding the Universe-Exploring the unknown with nature's hidden language*. We had projects that ranged from proving you can walk on eggs (with an amazing explanation of the structural reasons that make this possible), to hair raising experiments (quite literally with electrostatic charges), dioramas galore, engineering projects, dioramas and in-depth research projects (Did you know what all those flaps on airplanes did? Blake does!).

Our judge said the quality of entries was high and she was especially impressed by students who included their unsuccessful experiments (it's all part of science) and could explain why their results could be important to the wider world.





Winning project of the Best visual explanation of an experiment

The winner of the Engineering Prize

Winning Students

Early Stage 1 Hannah H (KD) with her Thirsty Flowers experiment.

Stage 1 Mieke B (2M) with her experiment into what makes the best bubble mixture.

Stage 2 Ayden K (4M) for his detailed display and explanation around "Can we bring back the

Thylacine?"

Stage 3 Eliana C (5L) with her Light Hunter experiment.

- Amelie B (6N) won the popular vote with her Ames Window optical illusion.
- Best visual explanation of an experiment Isla H (4/5R) with her "Hidden language of sound" model.
- Best Engineering project Emily J (6B) with her River Cleaner Machine.
- Best link to topic Jonah M (4S) with his Earthworm project showing the importance of small things to the larger universe.

• For the most unique idea - Marcelo S (2/3CR) for his demonstration of the ability for people to stand on eggs without breaking them.

Congratulations to all the students who entered the Science Fair this year- you all did an amazing job. We hope to see even more projects next year!

Mrs Rose, Mrs Shearman and Mrs Vasanth, Science Fair Coordinators

DEBATING NEWS

Tri-School Debating Results

On Wednesday, week 5, one of our talented teams of year 5 debaters headed off to Castle Hill Public School to argue that AI should NOT be used by students for school work. Nayolie, Aava, Willow and Charlotte were complimented on their well-written arguments and extensive rebuttals. They also won! On Wednesday, week 7, another of our talented year 5 debating teams headed off to debate. This time we were visiting Samuel Gilbert Public School to debate whether team sports should be compulsory on the weekend. Sai, Samhita, Elian and Varsha did an excellent job setting up a "bullet proof" definition, which helps us to win our debate.



Congratulations to both our year 5 debating teams for working hard, improving their rebuttal skills and winning both their most recent debates!

Premier's Debating Results

On Thursday in week 5 our two year 6 debating teams faced off against each other for their final debate in the Premier's Debating Challenge. It was a tight debate but the Sherwood Bears came out victorious-arguing that students should have compulsory sport and games at lunchtime. This wraps up a very successful year of debating for our year 6s!



Western Sydney Debating Team Tryouts

Emily, one of our debating team captains and the school captain, has been nominated as our school representative to try out for the Western Sydney debating team in the Primary Schools State Debating Championship. This means she could end up representing Western Sydney and versing teams from all around NSW. She could even end up in the state finals! All her year 6 debating team mates agreed she was the perfect representative of our school and we wish her the best in her tryouts in September.

Mrs Rose and Mr Lee, Debating Coordinators

HILLS PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

On Monday 25 August 2025, students from the Senior 3-6 Choir and Junior Dance Group participated in the Hills Performing Arts Festival at the Evan Theatre in Penrith.



The choir performed a breathtaking performance of The Chicks version of the timeless classic, 'Landslide'. The soaring melodies and harmonies of these talented students captivated the audience. The Stage 1 Dance Group dazzled audience members with an endearing and skilled performance to 'Set it all

Free' by Scarlett Johnsson, as popularised by the movie, Sing. The students displayed technique and precision beyond their youthful years, truly glittering on the stage.



All students involved demonstrated the core values of being a 'safe, respectful learner' both on and off the stage and their teachers Miss Swinton, Mrs Newland and Mrs Velez could not be more proud of their efforts. A special thanks would also like to be extended to Miss Anderson who attended on the night to assist with the supervision of our students. Thanks must also be extended to our parents and caregivers who transported and supported these students to attend school-based rehearsals weekly and the night performance at Penrith.

Miss Swinton, 3-6 Choir Coordinator

3-6 ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On Monday 11 August, students travelled to Blacktown Olympic Sports Park for our 2025 3-6 Athletics Carnival. Despite the looming clouds and one short downpour, it was a fantastic day that showcased the incredible athletic ability of our students. The day kicked off bright and early with interested students running 1500m before the remaining students arrived ready to begin their first rotation. Throughout the day students moved around in age groups to not only compete but also have fun.

From novelty games, to long jump and running races of various lengths, it was clear that students at Sherwood Ridge are fast, agile and coordinated!

The success of the day would not have been possible without the wonderful parent volunteers and Kellyville High School students who gave up their day to come and support the running of events at the carnival. We thank them all for their time and efforts.

Congratulations to all of our students who gave their best effort and displayed tremendous sportsmanship throughout the day.









Mrs Beatriz, Classroom Teacher

WINTER HOME SPORT WRAP-UP

Despite a few weeks without sport due to the rain, our Home Sport students had a wonderful season of winter sport. Students displayed exemplary sportsmanship, trying their best to learn new skills in soccer, hockey, netball, AFL, touch football and flying disc. It was most impressive to see everyone encouraging each other and participating with enthusiasm. Our Home Sport Superstars still enjoyed their Zooper Doopers despite the cold weather.





























Mrs Mason and Mrs Canning, Winter Home Sport Coordinators

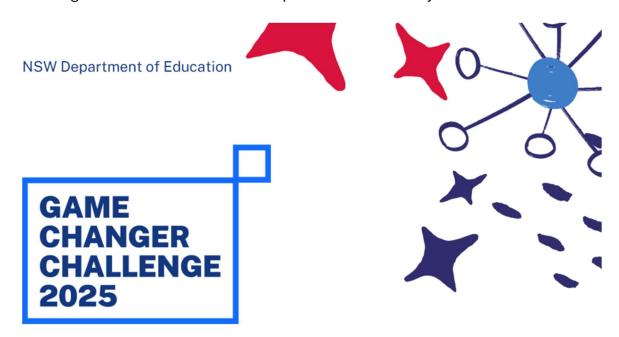
GAME CHANGER CHALLENGE 2025

The Game Changer Challenge is an annual competition for students in NSW Public Schools, empowering young innovators to tackle real-world challenges through design thinking, creativity and collaboration. Sherwood Ridge Public School entered 3 small teams of Stage 3 students who worked together to solve a wicked problem. First they had to conduct their research, then create a solution and finally advocate their design. This year's wicked problem was to create a more sustainable world and rethink how we use resources, reduce waste and build future-focused communities.

Congratulations to our 3 teams who worked hard to build their ideas and create their presentations.

- Sustainable Titans: Hannah C, Gabriella D, Miranda K, Turner T and Miabelle D
- Pollution Revolution: Elisa L, Isla H, Viaan S and Evan G
- Plastic Busters: Hridaan S, Amelie B, Anosh S and Gabrielle S

Although they did not proceed to the finals, we are immensely proud of their efforts. A huge thank you to Mr McConnell who guided these students in their quest for sustainability.



Mrs Newland, Relieving Assistant Principal

MINDQUEST 2025

Some of our students participated in the NSW Talent Centre Enrichment Weekend at Glenwood High School in June as part of the MindQuest program for High Potential and Gifted primary students.

In each session, one or two students are selected by the course leader to receive special recognition for their outstanding contributions to the program and for being wonderful ambassadors for their school.

We have 4 students at Sherwood Ridge who received an award.

- Ramanujan A Certificate of Achievement in A Space Odyssey. Ramanujan is an articulate student who displays high levels of cognitive ability.
- Allan D. Certificate of Achievement in Fun, Foam and Floaty Bits. Allan displays outstanding artistic knowledge and excellent art making.
- Ryan C. Certificate of Achievement in Lego Robotics Junior Blue. Ryan displays excellent effort and focus towards his learning.
- Hridaan M. Certificate of Achievement in Clear as Crystal. Hridaan displays excellent enthusiasm towards his learning.

Congratulations to these gifted students.

Mrs Sullivan, Principal

HILLS PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

During Week 5, all students from years 1- 6 presented a prepared speech and an impromptu speech to their classmates. Teachers were not only impressed with the level of preparation and speaking skills the students showed, but were proud of all students for demonstrating the confidence and willingness to participate. Well done to the following students who were selected as their class winner.

CLASS	NAME	NAME
1/2B	Yr 1 - Sophie T	Yr 2 - Zoe R
1M	Tamsin S	Aiden L
1S	Lilly B	Simran A
1K	Richa S	Ruaan I
2M	Roshan R	Zayn S
2G	Lyanna M	Aadit K
2/3CR	Yr 2 - Kayla K	Yr 3 - Kyla L
3B	Rachel C	Savreen K
3E	Alira S	Alice M
4M	Sidd R	Elias Z
4S	Arlo T	Mahi B
4V	Bella W	Lennox L
4/5R	Yr 4 - Poppy P	Yr 5 - Samhita K
5A	Darcy M	Alex B
5L	Nayolie J	Eliana C
5/6G	Yr 5 - Eshaal S	Yr 6 - Govind K
6B	Emily J	Olivia P
61	Rohan M	Jemima W
6N	Arshan M	Miranda K

Stage Finals

In Week 7, all class finalists presented their prepared speech and an impromptu speech in front of their stage peers and teachers. All finalists delivered articulate, confident, and well-structured speeches that showcased their exceptional communication skills and thorough preparation. Congratulations to the following students who were selected as stage winners and will now represent SRPS at the Hills Public Speaking Semi Final in Term 3 Week 9 at Caddies Creek Public School.

STAGE	NAME	NAME
Stage 1	Aadit K - 2G	Tamsin S - 1M
Stage 2	Kyla L - 2/3CR	Alira S - 3E
Stage 3	Nayolie - J 5L	Eshaal S - 5/6G

Literacy and Numeracy News



Last week, we celebrated Literacy and Numeracy Week. This is an annual event to encourage and celebrate literacy and numeracy.

Literacy and numeracy are life skills. Literacy helps us to communicate, to understand others, to share our stories, and to make sense of the world through language.

Numeracy gives us the confidence to problem solve, make informed decisions, and engage the world in logical and meaningful ways. These skills form the foundation of learning across all subjects, and they're essential for participation in work, further study, and everyday life.

If you haven't done so already, head to our school's Facebook page to hear what some of our students had to say about their preferences.

For ideas on how to help your child at home, take a look at these engaging activities suggested by NSW Department of Education.

Mrs Brodie, Assistant Principal, Curriculum & Instruction

Primary numeracy

Select the links or scan the QR code to learn more about these primary numeracy activities.

Creating schedules

<u>Creating schedules</u> are a fun way to learn about time and being organised.



Guess the colour

Play <u>quess the colour</u> to explore ideas of probability.



Handfuls

<u>Handfuls</u> create collections of objects to get your child estimating numbers.



Nature walk

Take a <u>nature walk</u> collecting different items that can be arranged in length.



Pig (dice game)

Improve your child's confidence with addition while playing pig.



Rubik's cube

Explore the algebraic formula to solve a Rubik's cube.



Scavenger hunt

Go on a <u>scavenger hunt</u> to learn the basics of positioning.



Sketching a portrait

Use shapes while <u>sketching a portrait</u> from plants to family members.



Snakes and ladders

<u>Snakes and ladders</u> is a great board game to build mathematically skills and understanding.



Story book spotting

<u>Story book spotting</u> builds language to identify and describe illustrations when reading.



Literacy and Numeracy Week

Activities for home

Primary literacy

Scavenger hunt sounds

Choose a sound or letter (for example, 's'). Search around the house for things that begin with that sound. Say the word, write it down, or draw it.

Who Am I? game

Think of an animal or character. Give 3 clues and have someone guess. Swap roles. Optional: write clues down first.

Sticky note story

Write one sentence on each sticky note to build a story. Move them around to change the sequence.

Letter to a toy

Write a short letter to a favourite toy or stuffed animal. Ask questions or describe your day.

Read and act

Choose a book. After reading a page or two, act out part of the story with props.

Syllable clap

Clap out the syllables of everyday items (for example, toothbrush = 2). Make a list of items with 1, 2, or 3+ syllables.

Name 5

Choose a category (for example, animals, food). Name 5 items and use them in a silly sentence.

Weather reporter

Look outside and write or say a weather report as if you were on the news. Add fun details (for example, toothbrush, "It's raining cats and dogs!").

Build-a-word

Use paper, pebbles, or magnetic letters to make simple words. Change one letter at a time (cat \rightarrow hat \rightarrow hot \rightarrow hop).

NAPLAN SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

From 2023, student achievement in NAPLAN is reported against 4 levels of proficiency (https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/results-and-reports/proficiency-level-descriptions). These measure student progress against challenging, yet reasonable, expectations based on the Australian curriculum. They replace the previous numerical NAPLAN bands and national minimum standards.

In addition to the shift to proficiency standards, the NAPLAN testing window moved up from May to March and the scale was reset. As such, NAPLAN scaled scores from 2023 and onwards cannot be compared to NAPLAN results prior to 2023.

Parents and carers of Year 3 and Year 5 students should have received their individual child's report earlier this term.

In 2025, our school's highlights include:

Students currently in Year 3 and Year 5 scored **well above** the statistically similar school group student average and **well above** the NSW state student average in **NUMERACY**, **READING** and **GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION**.

Our Year 3 and Year 5 students scored well above the NSW state student average in Writing.

In Year 3 Writing, 86% of students were assessed in the proficiency bands of either strong or exceeding. Scoring either strong or exceeding in Numeracy was 73% of our Year 3 cohort.

In Year 5 Numeracy, 86% of students were assessed in the proficiency bands of either strong or exceeding. Scoring either strong or exceeding in Reading were 88% of our Year 5 learners.

At Sherwood Ridge, our relentless focus on explicit teaching strategies combined with the implementation of the reformed English and mathematics curriculum has evidently made an impact on our outstanding results.

Mrs Brodie, Assistant Principal, Curriculum & Instruction

A Message from the Students

STAGE 3 DEFENDER PROGRAM





In Week 5, 15 students from Stage 3 were lucky enough to be chosen to participate in an exciting new initiative. Senior Constable Ethan West and Senior Constable Joel McMullan, Youth Liaison Officers from the Hills Police Area Command visited SRPS to launch the first session of their Defender Program. Students spent the morning discussing 'How to be a Defender' focussing on respect and influencing others. They also brainstormed school wide initiatives they can introduce to SRPS and champion to encourage respect, show kindness and to stop bullying. Stay tuned for further updates as this group brings their ideas to life.

"What we did at the Defenders program was leadership. We learnt how to be one and did various activities. We also planned a day for people to learn and be a defender." - Kristian T, year 6

"Yesterday, on Thursday 21st August, a 'Defender Program' was held and led by two very skilled and friendly police officers, Constable Joel and Constable Ethan. A range of students, who were considered as influential, came from classes in Year 5 and Year 6. We were educated about respect and other key qualities that take us on a safe and positive journey - along with jokes and games every now and then." - Varsha, Year 5





Mrs Mason, Classroom Teacher

Student Achievements

FROM YOUR CLASSROOMS TO OURS: CELEBRATING YOUR ALUMNI IN LEADERSHIP

We're thrilled to share some exciting news about former Sherwood Ridge Public School students who are now thriving as leaders within the Kellyville High School community.

This term, Kellyville HS inducted their new Student Representative Council (SRC) and Senior Student Leadership Team. Among them are several Sherwood Ridge alumni who have stepped up to represent their peers, lead with integrity, and contribute meaningfully to school life. Their success is a testament to the strong foundations built during their time at Sherwood Ridge.

These students have demonstrated initiative, responsibility, and a genuine passion for making a difference. To the teachers and families who supported them in their formative years—thank you. Your influence continues to shine through their achievements, and we're honoured to carry that legacy forward.

We hope this news brings pride to the Sherwood Ridge community. Your students are doing incredible things, and we're grateful to be part of their journey.

Sherwood Ridge alumni elected to leadership roles:

- Flynn M
- Vartika B
- Veeya H

- Karthik D
- Chloe H

- Kathleen H
- Mitchell M

KELLYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM 2025















🖊 Learning ~ Excellence ~ Integrity

Important Information



See something, Snap something



Snap a photo

Open the app, select 'Snap' and add your photo.



Confirm Snap location

Confirm your Snap's location either using the map pin or address bar.



Select incident type

Select the relevant incident type for your Snap.



Send your Snap

Select 'Send Snap' to send your Snap off to be solved.



Solve

The relevant Solver will receive your Snap, so that it can be solved.





School App







Apple Google

School App – School Bytes (the main source of communication)

- Informational notes across all year groups.
- Push notifications get instant notifications regarding school events and alerts. Make sure that Notifications are turned on.
- School Community Calendar upcoming dates relevant to your child's year level.

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is located inside the school hall and is open at the following hours during the school term.

Monday 2:00pm - 3:30pm 8:30am - 10:00am Wednesday

Alternatively, you can shop online at any time with orders being delivered twice a week to your child's classroom.

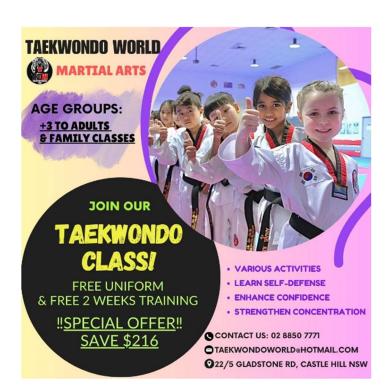
https://valourschools.com.au/collections/sherwood-ridge-public-school

You can contact the uniform shop on 02 9651 3711 or email srps@valourschools.com.au

Community Noticeboard









Book now at codecamp.com.au/flyer AVE \$25 Use coupon code FLYER25 at checkout







Need more support for your child in Term 3? We're here to help!

Learning Links' experienced and compassionate team provides personalised services to help children learn, develop and thrive in the classroom and beyond.



Assessments

Comprehensive psychology assessments to identify and support difficulties in areas like literacy, numeracy, ADHD, and behaviour.

Register at: https://events.humanitix.com/normanhurst-boys-

hs-open-day-ii-tuesday-14-october-2025

normanhurstboys.nsw.edu.au

office@normanhurstboys.nsw.edu.au



Online Group Tutoring

Our specialist teachers run supportive and engaging small group sessions to build confidence with literacy and numeracy.

Contact our Customer Support on 1300 003 900 or visit learninglinks.org.au/support-services for more information



Email:

On the day, there will be a Principal's Address and

+61 2 94891077 Fax:

54-72 Pennant Hills Road, Normanhurst, NSW 2076

+61 2 94895722

free school tours.

Address:

Phone: