The UPSIDE

ULTIMO PUBLIC SCHOOL



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PRINCIPAL REPORT

Written by Olivia Parry



This week we celebrated Public Education Week 2025, recognising the outstanding contribution of public schools across NSW under the theme **"Ignite your potential."**

Public schools educate two-thirds of all NSW students and are the heart of our communities—supporting academic excellence, inclusion, wellbeing, and creativity.

At Ultimo, we launched the week with the inaugural **Great Debate**, where students and teachers faced off in a spirited exchange on the topic: "Primary school students should do homework in the holidays." Our student speakers—Destiny, Ella, Leilani and Chloe S—formed the affirmative team and delivered a convincing argument that ultimately secured them the win, much to the playful displeasure of the audience! Staff team members Mr Lavender, Ms Cassell, Ms Karri and Ms Jankovic took the loss with their heads held high.





A special thank you to Ms Carkagis for introducing this wonderful new initiative and for supporting the development of debaters across the school.

I also extend my sincere thanks to the parents who attended the **whole school assembly** and visited our **open classrooms.** Our students are incredibly proud of their learning and revel in the opportunity to showcase their creativity and achievements to their loved ones.



Celebrating Success: External Validation Recognises Ultimo Public School's Transformational Journey

I am delighted to share the outstanding results of our 2025 External Validation (EV), which acknowledges the significant growth and impact of Ultimo Public School over the past five years. The EV process, which involves a rigorous peer review against the School Excellence Framework, highlighted our strategic improvement and whole-school commitment to student learning and wellbeing.

In 2020, our school was assessed as Delivering or Sustaining and Growing across all elements. Since then, we have made substantial progress, with the 2025 validation confirming that Ultimo Public School is now **Excelling** in 11 of the 14 elements, including:

- Learning Culture
- Wellbeing
- Curriculum

- Assessment
- Reporting
- Effective Classroom Practice
- · Data Skills and Use
- Learning and Development
- Educational Leadership
- School Resources
- Management Practices and Processes

This growth reflects our school's deep commitment to continuous improvement and the strength of our collaborative approach. It is especially pleasing to note the shift in Professional Standards, Student Growth and Performance, and School Planning from Delivering to Sustaining and Growing, demonstrating sustained, strategic work in these areas.

Our External Validation Panel shared generous and affirming feedback following the panel meeting:

"It was an absolute pleasure and privilege to work with your team. Your student leaders were outstanding tour guides and, like the staff, very proud of their school."

"The submission was very well presented and aligned to the elements and themes of the School Excellence Framework. It was great to hear of the significant difference your team is making to the school, its place within the community, and most importantly, to the students."

"The impact is a result of the strategic, visionary and collaborative leadership, and your team's ability to translate vision into meaningful, measurable change."

"It was impressive to hear every member of your team speak so confidently and honestly. Your collective commitment to both staff and students was evident in every aspect of the process."

This feedback is a powerful affirmation of the dedication, professionalism, and passion of our entire staff, students, and school community. The journey from our 2020 EV to now is one of transformation—driven by clear purpose, evidence-informed practice, and a shared belief in every child's potential.

I extend our deepest gratitude to the staff, students, and families who contribute daily to making Ultimo Public School an outstanding place to learn and grow. We look forward to building on this success as we continue our improvement journey together.

Congratulations, Ultimo!

Invitation to Meet with Your Child's Teacher

As we progress through the school year, I want to remind you of the importance of maintaining open lines of communication with your child's teacher. We believe that a strong partnership between families and educators is essential for achieving the best outcomes for our students.

I encourage you to organise a time to meet with your child's teacher, particularly if you haven't met this year, to discuss their progress, strengths, and areas for growth. Whether you prefer a remote meeting or an inperson conversation, we are always happy to accommodate your needs and schedules.

These meetings are a valuable opportunity to gain insights into your child's learning journey and to collaborate on strategies that can support their development. Your involvement plays a crucial role in their education, and we are here to work alongside you.

To schedule a meeting, please reach out to your child's teacher directly or contact the school office. We look forward to connecting with you and ensuring our students thrive together.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005, in line with the NCCD guidelines (2019).

Information provided about students to the Australian Government for the NCCD includes:

- · year of schooling
- category of disability: physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional
- level of adjustment provided: support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive.

This information assists schools to:

- · formally recognise the supports and adjustments provided to students with disability in schools
- consider how they can strengthen the support of students with disability in schools
- develop shared practices so that they can review their learning programs in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disabilities.

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disabilities.

The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process. The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified – the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. All information is protected by privacy laws that regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. To find out more about these matters, please refer to the <u>Australian Government's Privacy Policy</u> (https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy).

Further information about the NCCD can be found on the <u>NCCD Portal</u> (<u>https://www.nccd.edu.au</u>). If you have any questions about the NCCD, please contact the school.

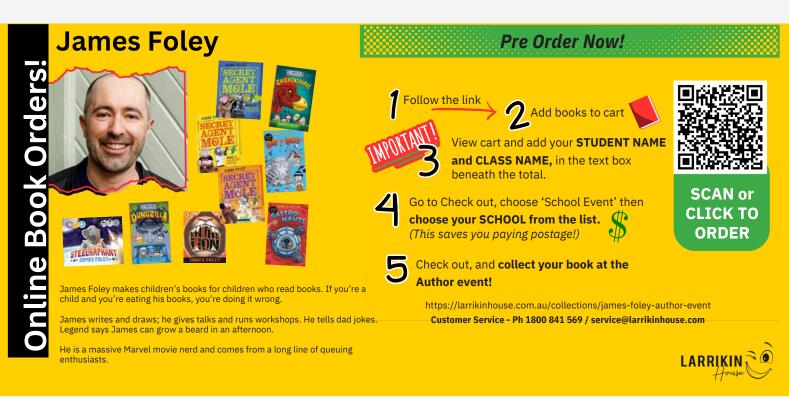
From The Library Ms Barbagallo

Reminder- Author visit James Foley: Friday 15th August

Just a friendly reminder that James Foley will be visiting UPS! Details regarding the permission note and payment for the event is via School Bytes. Please respond no later than Thursday 14th August.

If your child wishes to purchase a copy of James Foley's books, students can order via the flyer included below and James will personally sign all copies on the day.

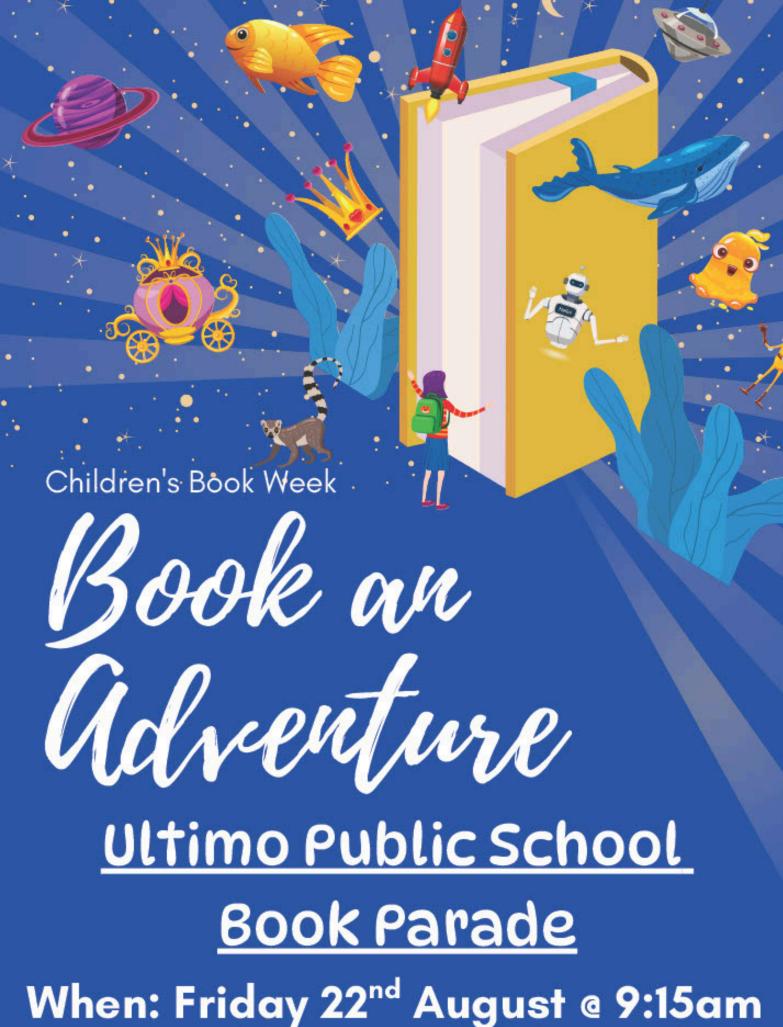
It's sure to be a brilliant start to our Book Week celebrations — full of laughter, creativity, and a love of reading!



Ultimo Public School Book Week celebrations- Week 5



In Week 5, our students will be participating in many events during school to encourage a love of reading and excitement around Australian literature. We hope you can join us on **Friday 22nd August at 9:15am** in the cola where we will be showing off our costumes in the Book Week parade! The theme is Book an Adventure. Students can dress up as any character that transports them to another world or inspires them to take adventures. There will be many competitions also for your child to enter to win books at the Scholastic Book Fair. We are very excited to celebrate Book Week at UPS!



When: Friday 22nd August @ 9:15am Where: In the COLA

ULTIMO P.S. BOOK WEEK 2025

BOOK AN ADVENTURE SCHEDULE

PICNIC READING WITH BUDDIES

12:55 - 1:40PM

MONDAY AUG 18

TUESDAY AUG 19 STORYTIME AND CRAFT IN LIBRARY AT LUNCH CLASSES VISIT SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

STORYTIME AND CRAFT IN LIBRARY AT LUNCH MULTICULTURAL READING SESSION AT LUNCH

WEDNESDAY AUG 20

THURSDAY AUG 21

- DROP EVERYTHING AND READ TIME
- CRAFT IN LIBRARY AT LUNCH
- STORYTIME WITH MRS PARRY IN THE LIBRARY AT RECESS

9:15AM INTHECOLA
BOOK FAIR OPEN TO PARENTS AFTER PARADE

FRIDAY AUG 22

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

OPEN TO FAMILIES FROM TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
8:30-9:00AM 3:00-3:30PM



When: Tuesday 19th August
to Friday 22nd August
Times: 8:30am-9:00am
3:00-3:30pm
and also straight after the
Book Parade
Where: Ground floor library

Please note no cash- only card payments available

Donate a book
to the UPS
Library on
behalf of your
child. Each
book donated
will have your
child's name
inside the
book!

Scholastic Book Club: Issue 5- Issue closes Monday 11th August

Families will also receive a \$5 promo code when they place any LOOP order this Issue, which they can use on Issue 6*. Families can purchase books at a discounted rate through scholastic book club. The best part is 15% of your order value is given back to our school. It is easy to order. Just go to scholastic.com.au/loop or by using the LOOP app which you can download from the App Store or Google Play. Once you select your books, use the drop-down menu to find your class and the books will be delivered to your child's classroom.

Please note the school does not take cash for Book Club orders. Please note Issue 6 will not be distributed to classes as we will be having the Scholastic Book Fair at our school, where you can purchase books in person during Book Week!



Appointment to the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge Panel



I'm honoured to have been appointed to the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) Review Panel. As part of this role, I'll be selecting, reviewing and recommending texts to be included on the PRC booklists. This opportunity means I'll have access to exciting new releases and will play a key role in ensuring that students across NSW – including every student at UPS – have access to high-quality, diverse, and engaging literature. I'm proud to contribute to a program that inspires a love of reading and supports literacy development.

Extension to Premier's Reading Challenge for students



Students have been given an additional 4 weeks to complete the reading challenge this year, with the new student deadline set for **Friday 19 September 2025 (Term 3, Week 9).**

The Term 3 2025 booklist is now live! 220 new books have been added to the booklists. Visit the PRC website and click on the booklists page to check out the new titles added to the PRC booklists this year! With over 15,000 books on the PRC book lists, there's bound to be a book on the list for every reader and students can add up to 10 books of their choice. Books read since the conclusion of the 2024 challenge in August last year can be included on students' reading logs for this year.

If you have any problems with entering your records, please contact Ms Barbagallo via the school office.



SCHOOL LEADER UPDATE

Written by Bener, Myka, Tom, Kiah

A lot of exciting things are happening this week and next week! On Thursday, we have the school athletics carnival. This year, it won't be hosted at E.S Marks, but at King George Oval. And only the day after that, our Senior Choir will go to the Opera House to perform at the 2025 Festival of Choral Music. Next week, in Week 4, we have the Port Jackson Performing Arts Festival on Tuesday, and Pajama Day on Wednesday.

So far, this term has been packed full of exciting events!





Environmental Guardians Celebrate National Tree Day with Pyrmont Ultimo Landcare

On Wednesday, July 30th, the Environmental Guardians took part in a tree planting workshop hosted by Pyrmont Ultimo Landcare in honor of National Tree Day. The students learned about the importance of native trees and plants, while planting over 15 seedlings, including banksia and lomandra.



Thank you Landcare!

DEBATING

During Week 2, Ultimo Public School hosted Round 3 of the Premier's Debating Challenge, welcoming Crown Street Public School to our school hall for some lively discussion.

Debating teams from Years 5 and 6 engaged in discussions centred around the theme of responsibilities. In this round, debaters were tasked with arguing whether the responsibilities discussed in their topics were worthy of students pursuing. The Year 5 team argued against the topic, "That schools should give every Year 6 student a turn in student leadership instead of appointing a few kids for the whole year," while the Year 6 team opposed the statement, "That all school canteen jobs should be done by students with a supervising teacher".

Congratulations to our Year 6 debaters who won their debate by effectively arguing that teachers could not safely supervise students in the canteen. The Year 5 team, despite facing defeat, spoke beautifully and clearly, especially considering it was their first time participating in a debate. Both teams bravely presented in front of an audience and demonstrated their ability to think on their feet, crafting arguments and rebuttals in just one hour of preparation.

As we continue our debating journey, we are excited to provide our students with ample opportunities to practice and refine their skills, with debates scheduled every week for the first half of Term 3. This regular practice will help them gain confidence and enhance their debating abilities. We are incredibly proud of all our debaters for their hard work and dedication!

Go Ultimo!



Balmain Representative Jumpers – When to Wear Them

We're proud to see our students representing Balmain with pride in their school representative jumpers! Please note that these jumpers are only to be worn on **Fridays** when participating in **PSSA sport** or when students are attending a representative carnival on behalf of the school. They are not part of our regular school uniform and should not be worn on other days. Thank you for helping us maintain our uniform standards while celebrating our students' achievements.

PBL Focus: Basketball Court

Respect

Responsible

Learner

This week for PBL, we are focusing on being respectful, responsible learners on the basketball court.

General Expectations

| Respect | Responsible | Learner |
|--|--|--|
| Care for yourself and others Treat others fairly | Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Take care of belongings and equipment Wear a hat outdoors | Listen and follow all staff instructions Right place, right time |

Basketball Court Expectations

| Respect | Responsible | Learner |
|--|---|-------------|
| Share the equipment Bubblers are for drinking Music plays, pack away | Walt for the teacher before playing Stay in a supervised area | Help others |







Grow Your Mind



This fortnight we will be focusing on growing teamwork.

Teamwork means you are loyal and dedicated to the group you are part of. It means you can work together as a class, not bicker and knock each other down. If you are growing teamwork you do your share and work hard for the success of the group.







What does it look like in our classroom?

- We can work side by side with others in a peaceful and constructive way.
- We know we need to work together not against each other to get things done.

What does it look like on our playground?

- We cheer on people when they are in our game
- We problem solve together, hearing everyone's points of view







Dental Health Week: Celebrating Children's Oral Health Milestones

From August 4 to 10, we join the Australian Dental Association in observing Dental Health Week (DHW), focusing on the importance of children's oral health milestones. This year's campaign encourages parents and caregivers to help their kids achieve every "S-milestone" in oral health.

Key practices to promote include:

- Brushing Twice a Day: Children should brush their teeth with fluoride toothpaste at least twice daily to prevent cavities.
- Cleaning Between Teeth: Daily flossing or using interdental brushes is essential to remove plaque and food particles that brushing might miss.
- Nutritious Diet: Encourage a balanced diet low in sugar to support strong teeth and overall health.
- Regular Dental Check-Ups: Routine visits to the dentist help monitor and maintain oral health.

Let's work together to instil these habits early on, ensuring our children enjoy healthy smiles for years to come. For more information about Dental Health Week, visit the Australian Dental Association's website.



NSW Department of Education

CHECK-IN ASSESSMENT

The Check-in Assessment is an annual assessment for students

in Years 3 to 6 in NSW Public Schools. All students in Year 3-6 will complete a reading and a numeracy test. Year 6 students will also complete a writing assessment. These assessments support the identification of students' performance in literacy and numeracy and inform next steps in teaching and learning. Please be aware that the Check-In Assessment will be completed in class during Week 6 - Week 9 of Term 3.

ULTIMO TEAMKIDS

NEWSLETTER



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

As we proceed through the week we have had some exciting ideas come through for our new clubs that have now been released. The Voted clubs for Term 3 were Chosen by our Teamkids Children, by popular vote the winning activities were EPIC GAMES, COOKING CLUB! Club programming has now begun for this term, and we can't wait for the kids to see the exciting things we've been planning.

A huge and heartfelt thank you to all the children who helped us celebrate Educators Day on the 30th of July, we're truly blessed to have such a wonderful cohort who showed appreciation and support to their amazing, hardworking educators through cards, an appreciation wall, and even a special performance!

We are still in search of parent/community suggestions for activity and experience ideas. We're always looking for new ideas to engage for our children here at TeamKids Ultimo.

If you have any questions, please reach out using the contact info below or ask the staff onsite. Our 2IC Philly (0401 482 094) is always available to help.











A V I PLANTING

TEAMKIDS CLUBS

ASC WEEK: 3 & 4, Term 3



EPIC GAMES

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

EPIC GAMES

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

COOKING CLUB

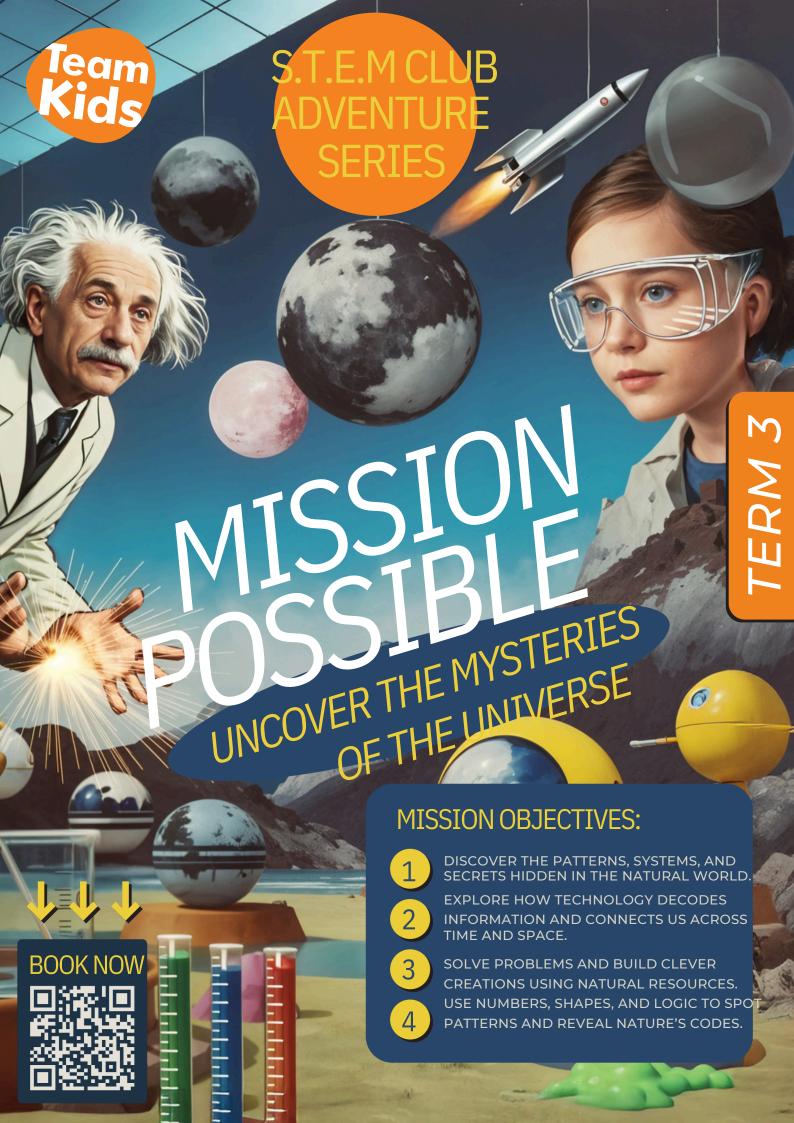




Service Mobile: 0401 482 094

Office Phone: 1300 035 000 Service Email: ultimops@teamkids.com.au

Office Email: info@teamkids.com.au





Sydney Secondary College

Balmain, Leichhardt, Blackwattle Bay

PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE PRIMARILY FUN WORKSHOPS 2025

This musical initiative is a great opportunity for young musicians to be mentored by our Year 7 and 8 Instrumental Music Program student leaders.

BAND WORKSHOP
WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER @ BALMAIN CAMPUS

STRING ORCHESTRA WORKSHOP FRIDAY 5 SEPTEMBER @ LEICHHARDT CAMPUS

Students who enroll in these workshops are invited to perform their rehearsed repertories at the SSC IMP 2025 Showcase!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM SHOWCASE SYDNEY 2025CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC VERBRUGGHEN HALL SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER



Step 1: Visit any centre

Visit any City of Sydney Aquatic and Leisure Centre including Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre, Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre, Cook + Phillip Park Pool, Victoria Park Pool and Prince Alfred Park Pool from Monday 21 July to Sunday 31 August 2025

Step 2: Swim + Gym for your school

Scan the QR code and award points to your nominated school. Every scan earns points!

Step 3: Win \$5K + Weekly Prizes

The school with the most points will take home the major prize of \$5,000 in program credit.

Plus by nominating you go into the draw to win 1 month FREE membership, there's one be given away each week!





Sydney Visual Arts Academy







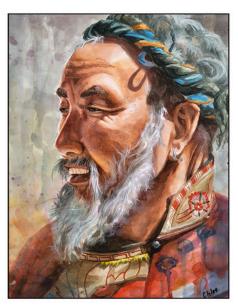












More details can be found at: www.sydneyvisualartsacademy.com









Limited vacancy.

LEARN MUSIC AT SCHOOL

MUSIC KEYBOARD CLASSES AT ULTIMO PS LESSON ON TUE OR FRI AFTER SCHOOL

- 45-minute weekly sessionsin smallgroups.
- Instrument not required initially.
- \$33 per session follows the school term. New students are welcome to join mid-term.
- Ideal for beginners!

Music Shapes Minds!

Learning music enhances cognitive skills, builds discipline and boosts confidence!



To enrol, call 9411 3122 or visit: www.learnmusicatschool.com.au







ULTIMO
 ANNANDALE
 ROZELLE

SG HS 2025

Celebrating Year 12 HSC Student Achievemen

FESTIVAL CREATIVAL OX

Tuesday 29 July

Campbell Hall

3.45 pm - Music

The Governors Centre

5.15 pm - Drama/Textiles/Visual Arts Display 6.15 pm - Drama Performances