

Villawood North Public School

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Together We Live

Term 3 Week 10 Newsletter

Principal's Report

Term 3 has been a wonderful time to share with our community the learning in our school through the Open Days during Education Week, and displaying student talent at the Gillawarna Festival with choir and dance, and the Zone Athletics Carnival with 48 students qualifying to represent our school.

Congratulations to Eliezer for qualifying to represent Lansdowne Zone at the Regional Athletics Carnival in Shot Put and Discus.

I am looking forward to our Multicultural Day celebrations on Wednesday.



Staffing for Term 4

Earlier this term I sent a note to our community informing Mr Nelson had relinquished his position as principal at Villawood North PS. This was a positive for our school as it allowed Mr Kennedy to advertise the position and have a permanent principal appointed. Through the merit selection process I am pleased and honoured to announce that I have been successful in selection for principal of Villawood North PS. I love working with the staff, students and community at VNPS and look forward to many great years ahead.

I would like to welcome Mrs Hanna to our Stage 1 Team. Mrs Hanna comes from Berala PS with great experience in working with students K-2. She is relieving as the Assistant Principal for Stage 1 for the remainder of the year.

It is with great sadness that we are farewelling Miss Do at the end of this week. Miss Do has been successful in attaining a permanent position at Bonnyrigg Heights PS as the Vietnamese Community Language Teacher. We wish her all the best for her future career.

After much consideration and deliberation, Miss Vannucci is relinquishing her position as the classroom teacher of V3/4. This has been a difficult decision for Miss Vannucci as her passion for teaching and her class is strong, however she has had to make this decision due to unforeseen personal commitments. We will still see Miss Vannucci around the school during Term 4 in different capacities, assisting us where she can.

The school currently has two advertisements seeking applicants for both the V3/4 classroom teacher and Vietnamese Community Language teacher.

Arrival to School

A reminder to all families that students should not be on school grounds before 8.30am. This is for your child's safety. Supervision of the playground commences at 8.30am. Gates are open prior to this time to allow staff to enter the site. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

Student Voice

This term I have met with students across K-6 to discuss what they have been learning at school, what has been the best thing they have learnt about, how they learn best and what they think we need to improve at school. The majority of our students are enjoying having individual learning goals and working in small groups. From Kindergarten to Year 6, our toilets were of main concern. At present, we are having many issues with our toilets, with some students placing foreign objects into the drains and pipes blocking the passage of water. To have this fixed has come at expense to the school. We do have plans for painting the toilets and improving the lighting, however we are unable to move forward until the plumbing issues have been resolved.

Parent Cafe

It was great working with parents and students at the Parent Café in Week 8. Miss McLaren took the parents through activities they can use at home to assist their child with reading, writing and mathematics.



School Security & Holidays

Over the holiday break, if you notice any suspicious movement in or around the school please contact School Safety & Security 1300 880 021 (24 hours).

I wish everyone a safe holiday and look forward to seeing you all the first day of Term 4, Monday 14th October.

Kristy Bentley
Acting Principal

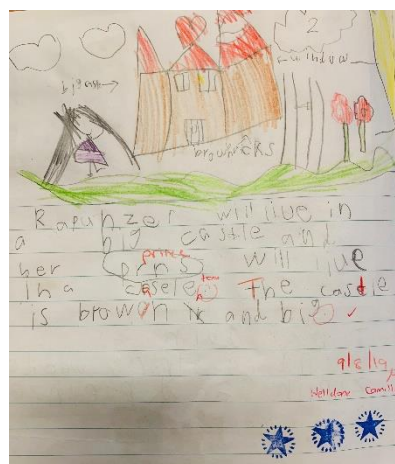
Term 3 Week 10	
Wednesday 25th September	
Multicultural Day	
Friday 27th September	
Last Day of Term 3	
Term 4 Week 1	
Monday 14th October	
Students return	
Week 2	
Tuesday 22nd October	
Swimming Scheme	
Crazy Hair/ Mix Match Day	
Wednesday 23rd October	
Parent Café	
Kindergarten Orientation	
Friday 25th October	
Dental van arriving	
Week 3	
Tuesday 29th October	
Swimming Scheme	
Wednesday 30th October	
Kindergarten Orientation	
Week 4	
Tuesday 5th November	
Swimming Scheme	
Wednesday 6th November	
Parent Café	
Kindergarten Orientation	

Early Stage One News

It has been an exciting and eventful Term 3. Kindergarten have been involved in many engaging activities and were part of many events. Students enjoyed dressing up for the Book Week Parade and had the opportunity to meet the incredible author Steve Matthews. We met Rocking Dan Teaching Man and had a good time dancing and singing to some of his songs. Students also participated in whole school Athletics Carnival at Makepeace Oval. They had a great time participating in many physical activities. Well done to all students who were safe and respectful while walking to and from the oval as well as during the carnival.



This term we are enjoying reading and writing about Fairy tales. During writing students are focussing on writing meaningful and imaginative sentences. They are also trying their best to sound out tricky words.



Miss Iskander

Stage One News

Stage One has had an incredibly busy Term 3. We have rocked a musical performance, learnt how to approach dogs, travelled the seven continents and compared the external features of living things.

We have been learning about dynamics, body percussion and experimenting with sounds. Rocking Dan Teaching Man, a YouTube sensation, performed a stellar concert, where the children experimented with clapping, singing and dancing to the beat.



In order to be safe, K-2 students participated in a pet safety talk. We met Yvonne and Fame (a very fluffy dog) and learnt how to approach a dog, how to recognise the signs of an angry dog and what to do if they see an angry dog.



As part of our Geography unit, we have been learning about the seven continents, five oceans and canals of the world. We learnt about famous places on each continent and visited each continent by using the green screen. Can you work out which continent each photo was taken on?



After travelling the high seas, we examined the external features of animals. We compared and contrasted various animals' features, such as fur, skin, scales and feathers.



We would like to say a gigantic thanks to Miss Mendis and Miss Al-Maharmeh, for dedicating their time and effort with EJ1/2 and H1/2. The children have loved working with you! We would like to wish you all the best in your teaching careers and hope to see you back at Villawood North Public School soon!



Stage Two News

Term Three has come to an end.

Students of Stage Two have been working very hard on several interesting topics across all Key Learning Areas. In Week 4, we celebrated National Science Week and in our unit the Living World, we focussed on life cycles and the interdependence and survival of living things.

Our students have been out in the playground looking at various Eucalyptus trees and their features. Through this exploration, students looked closely at leaves, flowers, buds and gumnuts and how they form part of its life cycle. These were recorded as detailed drawings in their science journals. Student were also encouraged to look for evidence of living things found in and around the tree which impact its survival.

Throughout the unit students have gained a deeper understanding of life cycles and how their actions impact the living world.

Miss Patricia Vannucci
Stage 2 Classroom Teacher



Stage 3 News

It's hard to believe that yet another term is coming to an end!

Term Three has been a very busy term and it is great to report that students have been working very hard across all Key Learning Areas.

The focus for all students this term in English has been informative texts. Our focus text, Little Brother by Allan Baillie, a story of a young boy lost in Cambodia during the reign of the Khmer Rouge has been the centre of student research and construction of information reports, online blogs and newspaper reports. The enthusiasm of students has been very rewarding to witness. All students have also set for themselves individual learning goal. In O5/6, goals centred around writing, and in particular writing informative texts and it is great to see students working towards achieving these goals.

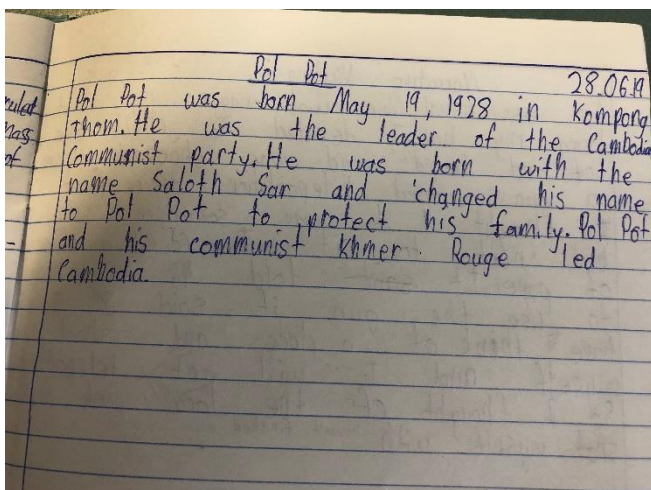
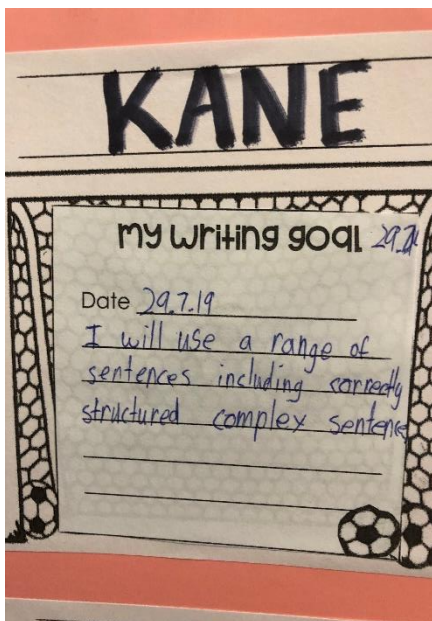
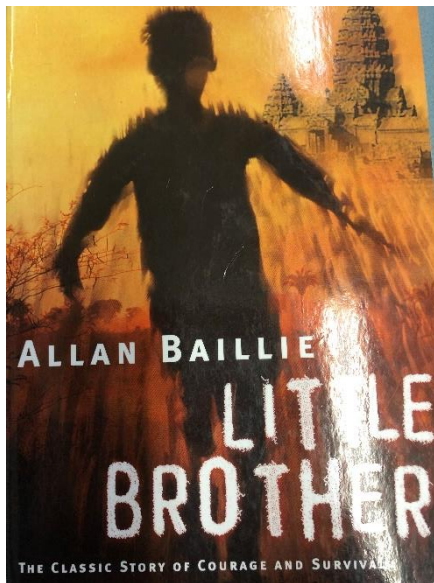
Our drama unit for this term has proven to be very popular among students. It looks like we might have some future Oscar winners! Students are focussing on the skill of improvisation and are developing their own scripts centred around a scenario. The scenario includes a character entering the scene not knowing what the scenario is all about. This character will have to use the skill of improvisation to get through the script. Teachers are really looking forward to the presentation of these scripts.

As the term draws to an end, it is to a good time to remind you all that Term Four will be even busier than this term. For our Year Six students, it will mean their final term as a student at Villawood North. Traditionally Year Six are involved in many special activities to mark the end of their primary education. I must remind you all that in order to be able to participate in these activities, behaviour must be exemplary.

Term Four also means that our exciting overnight trip to Canberra will soon be a reality! Please look out for the information notes and medical forms early in Term Four. Please remember that medical forms MUST be returned.

I would like to take this opportunity in wishing you all a very safe holiday and look forward to seeing you in Term Four.

Mrs Olivieri



In early September, our senior SRC representatives and school leaders attended a SRC conference at Chester Hill High School. This conference brought together SRC groups from our local area.

During the day students identified the qualities of an effective leader and gave students the opportunity to work together on a team building activity. Teams of students were challenged to build, the tallest free standing tower to support a marshmallow, using only spaghetti and one metre of tape. This activity was very well received and some great towers were constructed.

After a very delicious morning tea, students discussed a joint SRC initiative which looked at an issue important to them as a community. Ideas were voted on and decisions were made. Our senior SRC students will now share this joint initiative with the rest of our SRC so we can put plans into action and work as a community.

Mrs Olivieri



As we are approaching the end of Term 3, we would like to thank you all for another fabulous term with our Parent Café and wish everyone a safe and restful holiday. We look forward to seeing you in Term 4.

Upcoming Even:

Week	Wednesday 25th	Multicultural Day
10	September	Celebrations

Please note that there will be no Parent Café on the Multicultural Day Celebrations.

Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser:

It was a great day on Tuesday at the Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser. We not only had fantastic weather, but we also saw wonderful community spirit! A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and rolled up their sleeves to help out. And also to the students and families who supported this event by purchasing the sausage sizzle.



Parent First Aid Training:

What a wonderful workshop of our parent First Aid Training on our last Parent Café session. The Parents were very happy and found it valuable to learn some of the safety issues and emergency care procedures by Mr Brian Doyle from St John Ambulance who volunteered his time to train our parents. Thank you, Brian, for your time and support to our school community.

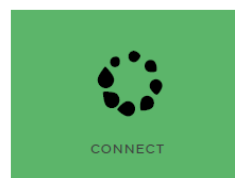


Le Ngo Community Liaison Officer

Encouraging Positive Wellbeing

Research shows that children learn best when they feel calm, safe and secure. Our goal is to ensure that every student connects, succeeds and thrives at school.

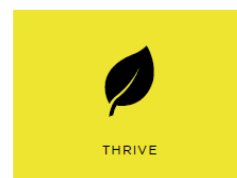
The Wellbeing Framework for schools



Our students will be actively connected to their learning, have positive and respectful relationships and experience a sense of belonging to their school and community.



Our students will be respected, valued, encouraged, supported and empowered to succeed.



Our students will grow and flourish, do well and prosper.

<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/about/16531-Wellbeing-Framework-for-schools-Accessible.pdf>

This term every student has been learning simple relaxation/mindfulness strategies using the *Smiling Mind* app.

Smiling Mind is a free app available for apple or android devices.

Smiling Mind

Website



Smiling mind is modern meditation for everyone. It is a unique web and app-based program developed by psychologists and educators to help bring balance to people's lives. Just as we eat well and stay fit to keep our

body healthy, meditation is about mental health and looking after the mind. Smiling Mind exists to help build mental health and wellbeing, using positive and innovative tools that are accessible to all. [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

The Smiling Mind app
can be easily
downloaded for free.

This is a great app which you may want to use with your child at home. It contains simple meditations for children and young people of all ages.

If you have any questions or need help with downloading and using *Smiling Mind*, please contact me via our school office.

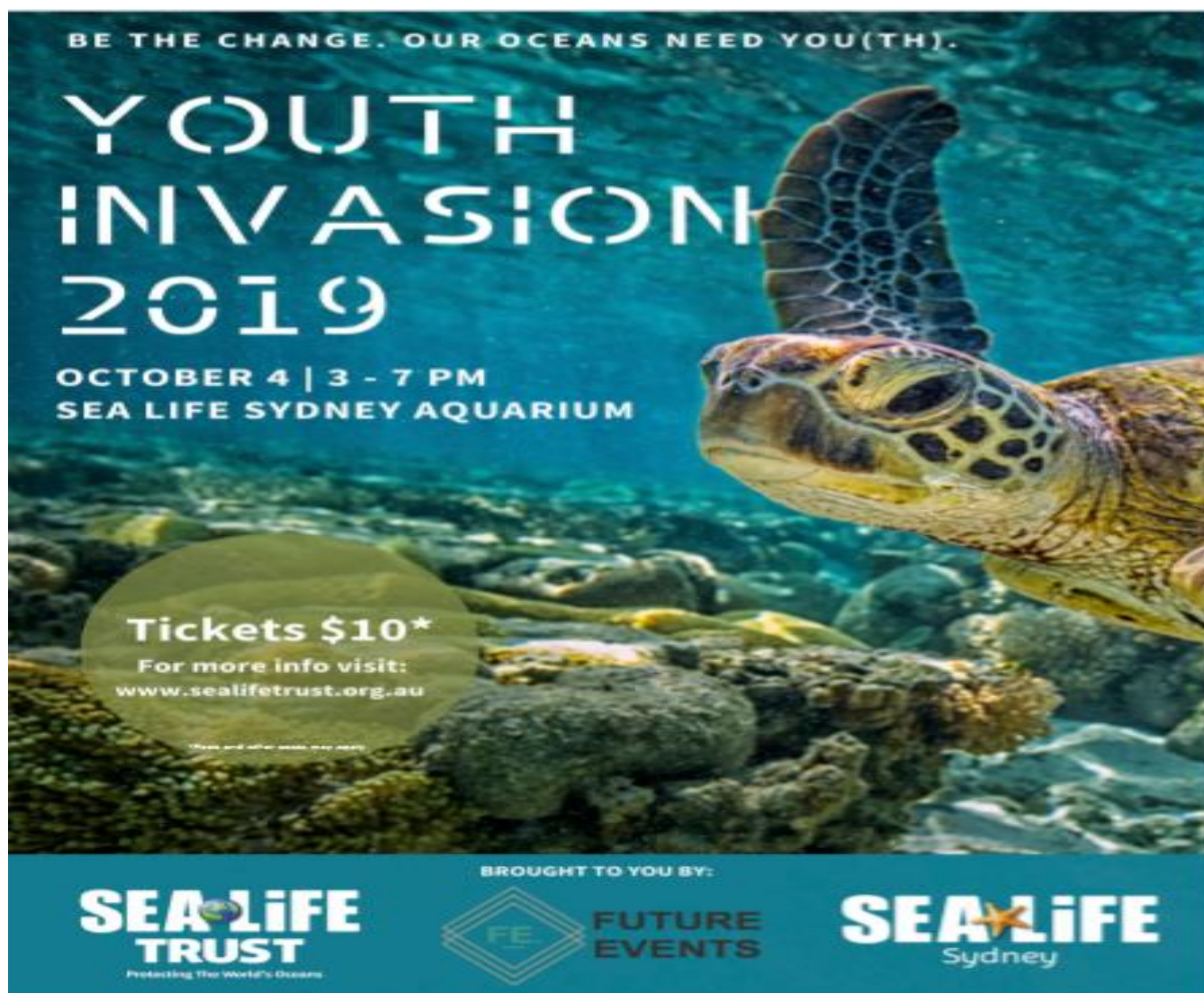
Ms Fayle

Have Your Say on Before and After School Care

The NSW Government is committed to providing before and after school care to all students of public primary schools in New South Wales. As part of the reform, [a parent web form](#) has been established by Service NSW that will enable parents to tell the department about their specific care needs and to stay up to date with any new developments.

The information provided by parents will help the Department of Education to understand your needs, give them insights into where there are gaps in service delivery and help to ensure the extra places are delivered where they are required.

Have your say today at
<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/basc>.



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Busy Bees SPS Top Tip: No such thing as a silly question!

Asking your child different types of questions is a great way to help build not only their language, but also their skills in comprehension (understanding of language), reasoning, problem solving and predicting. Blank's Levels of Questioning is a framework developed by psychologist Marion Blank which outlines 4 levels of questions, moving from simple questions about the here and now to more difficult questions about abstract concepts. It is important to choose questions that are suitable for the child's level of ability, then build your way up the levels.

Level 1: 'Look at it'

Talking about things that are present (here and now). Usually involves simple responses, such as naming things. Understanding of these questions develops around 3 years of age. Examples of Level 1 questions are:

- What/Who is that?
- What is ___ doing?
- Find one like this. (Matching)
- What did you see? (Remembering items in books, or something the child has seen before)
- What did you hear?

Level 2: 'Describe it'

Still talking about things that are present (here and now), but in more detail. Involves describing less obvious details. Understanding of these questions develops around 4 years of age. Examples of Level 2 questions are:

- What has happened?
- Who/What/Where is ___? (Remembering information)
- What size/shape/colour is it?
- How does it smell/sound/taste/feel?
- How are these different?

Level 3: 'Think about it'

Talking about things that may not be directly present. Usually involves using higher-level thinking, including making predictions or imagining another person's perspective. Understanding of these questions develops around 4 ½ years of age. Examples of Level 3 questions are:

- What will happen next?
- What is a ___? (Definition)
- How are these the same?
- What could he/she say?
- Make these (pictures) into a story. Which one is first/middle/last? (Rearranging pictures into sequence of events)

Level 4: 'Give reasoning for it'

Talking about things that are not present (abstract). Involves using reasoning, problem solving, and drawing on past experiences and knowledge. Understanding of these questions develops around 5-6 years of age. Examples of Level 4 questions are:

- What will happen? (Predicting)
- What could you do? (Providing a solution)
- Why did it happen? (Identifying the cause)
- Why can't we...? (Explaining obstacles to goal)

If you have any specific question, please send them through to: info@bbsps.com.au

Thank you,
Dania (Supervising SP) + Lillian (SP Student)



Wellbeing: What's it all about?

What are some of the factors that make up wellbeing?

- Being involved in supportive relationships
- Feeling that your life has meaning and purpose
- Feeling connected to others in your community
- Feeling a sense of control of your emotions
- Engaging in activities that are important to you

Wellbeing and your child

As a parent you want your child to be safe and happy throughout their time at school, and beyond. Here are some ways you can lay the foundations for your child's wellbeing and, at the same time, support the school to build on and enhance these vital skills.

- Build strong, healthy and trusting family relationships.
- Make time for open communication to build close family ties.
- Get involved in your child's education to show you value learning.

Research tells us that young people who feel safe, connected and secure, and have loving and trusting relationships, are more likely to be active participants in their learning and to achieve better physical, emotional, social and educational outcomes.

Wellbeing is linked to improved learning outcomes. When children experience learning success, their wellbeing is further enhanced – so wellbeing and learning go hand in hand!

Your role as a parent

As a parent your role is fundamental to the health, safety and wellbeing of your child. While there are different parenting styles, some features of parenting are associated with higher levels of children's wellbeing and success at school.

- Showing warmth to your child via expressions of affection, love and support
- Setting limits and boundaries to encourage your child's self-control
- Encouraging your children to share and talk about their worries
- Sharing your own concerns and worries with your children in a sensitive way

Find out more

Discover more about the [Australian Student Wellbeing Framework](#), and how you can help build your child's social and emotional skills. Work in partnership with the school to promote the wellbeing of everyone in a safe, supportive and positive learning community.

Websites

Parents and schools work together to promote the wellbeing of children and young people. Learn more from these websites.

- [Child protection, health and safety services](#) (Raising Children Network)
- [Sleep for children's health and wellbeing](#) (Murdoch Children's Research Institute)
- [The move to high school](#) (Murdoch Children's Research Institute)

Podcasts

These podcasts have some good tips for promoting family wellbeing. Find them by searching in your podcast app.

- Australian Institute of Family Studies
- Emerging Minds
- *Happy families* with Dr Justin Coulson

This Term, our school will be participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online on smartphones, iPads, tablets, laptops or computers. The survey will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 26 August and 25 October. Although participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, your responses are very much appreciated. The survey is available in 23 languages.

https://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/images/FAQs/TTFM_Parent_Survey_FAQs_Parent_and_Carers_T3_2019.pdf



Buddhist Council of NSW
Working for the Buddhist Community

**Share your Buddhist background with students
as a Special Religious Education volunteer teacher**

The Buddhist Council of NSW -- an approved provider of Special Religious Education (SRE) training -- is offering a 2-day Special Religious Education workshop in collaboration with Vien Giac Temple.

All modules required to be an authorised volunteer teacher of SRE in NSW public schools are covered in the weekend. These are Values and Life skills, Classroom Management, Child Protection, and Resources and Lesson Planning.

Our presenters are highly experienced SRE teachers John Barclay and Bhikkuni Thich An Thien, Abbess of Vien Giac Temple, as well as Buddhist Council operations manager, Ann MacArthur.

Please join us for this enriching learning experience.

Date: Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 October

Time: 10.30am - 3pm

Venue: Vien Giac Temple, 23 Broad Street, Cabramatta NSW
(shuttle available at Cabramatta Station)

Cost: \$150 Vegetarian lunch provided.

Bookings: <https://bookwhen.com/buddhistconnectiontu>

Further information:

Buddhist Council of NSW
Unit 25, 56-62 Chandos Street, St Leonards, NSW 2065
Email: education@buddhistcouncil.org
Ph: 02 9966 8893