



Macarthur Polish Saturday School Annual Report 2022

The year 2022 was another exciting year for Macarthur Polish Saturday School with many highlights both socially and academically for the organisation. The school continued to enjoy pleasing enrolment rates that positively reflect the high-quality teaching program being conducted by the school. Macarthur Polish Saturday School continues to grow both in student number and parental involvement.

Our school aims to teach students to become proficient in the Polish language - both written and verbal. The curriculum includes elements of Polish history, geography and literature. Through our teachings, our students are exposed to the rich Polish culture and its traditions. The students are exposed both to traditional classroom learning as well as concerts and performances. Several concerts were organised in 2022 for the following events:

- ✓ Easter performance.
- ✓ Fundraising Event - "Our hearts for Ukraine".
- ✓ Mother's Day.
- ✓ Children's Day - Mini Olympics organized by our sister Polish School in Randwick.
- ✓ Father's Day.
- ✓ School Excursion to Calmsley City Farm.
- ✓ Celebrating the 104th anniversary of Poland regaining Independence.
- ✓ End of School Year celebrations combined with blessing and handing over of a new school flag.

Involvement in concerts and extra curriculum activities has significant benefits for children. Not only does it showcase their talents as they sing, recite poetry and are involved in dramatic play, but it also promotes confidence and encourages students to learn, participate and be creative. Most importantly, such opportunities enhance a child's cultural identity, and build a sense of community based on a love of the Polish culture and its traditions.

- **Key achievements for our school during 2022 include:**

- ✓ **Scoutmaster's Szupryczyński Award for Emily Schlage (Year 5) and**

On Saturday, June 4th, a student of our school - Emily Schlage received the Scoutmaster's Witold Szupryczynski's award. The Academy, during which the awards were handed out, was prepared, and organised by the Polish Educational Society which has been organizing this event for over 60 years. For 31 years, the Scoutmaster's Witold Szupryczynski Award has been given to children and young people of the Polish community who proudly affirm their Polish roots by conscientiously learning the Polish language and participating in various celebrations and academies promoting

Poland and Polish culture on Australian soil.

Emily began studying at our school from the beginning of its existence, i.e. in 2017. Since then, both herself and her family have been active members of our school community. All of us – her teachers including me, Mrs. Malgosia Jagodzinska and Mrs. Basia Magolan had the pleasure and honour of teaching Emily during the past 5 years. Emily is a wonderful girl who has continually shown respect and love for everything that is Polish. These were gained from her family home. Emily is also a long-time member of the “Kujawy” Song and Dance Ensemble. In the middle of Term One, Emily’s family changed their place of residence to the beautiful region of the Blue Mountains. With great sadness in our hearts, we had to say goodbye to Emily, who started a new school. However, as a school community, we would like to express our gratitude to Emily and her family for their support over the past five years.

Congratulations to Emily, her proud mother, grandparents and the whole family!



✓ Award of the Consul General for Dominik Figiel

On Saturday, December 10, during the end of the 2022 school year celebrations, the top student from our school was awarded a prize for outstanding results in learning the Polish language. This year the Macarthur Polish Saturday School nominated Dominik Figiel from grade 4. Dominik started learning Polish 5 years ago. I had the joy and the privilege of being his first teacher at Polish school. I remember this smart, well-spoken boy who has never come to school without completed homework – always prepared and always ready to learn. Together we have learned the first letters from the Polish alphabet and together we have read the first simple texts in Polish. With that pride and satisfaction, I looked at Dominik’s smiling face when he was receiving his well-deserved award from Mrs. Consul General Monika Konczyk! Moments like these are the most meaningful moments of every teacher’s life and career and gives a sense of a job well done. Dominik’s success is also, and perhaps above all, the success of his parents and grandparents, whom we congratulate with all our heart for raising such a wonderful boy. Without your sacrifice, without your hard work, a day like this would never become a

reality. Dearest Dominik, congratulations once again from our entire school community! We wish you nothing but success in the future!



✓ Minister's Award for Layla Smutek



On Monday, November 5th this year, a student of our school - Layla Smutek from the 5th grade, received the award of the NSW Minister of Education. The event took place at the University of NSW in Sydney. Layla should be proud of her excellent results in learning the Polish language. We sincerely and warmly congratulate Layla and her parents who couldn't be more proud of their daughter's achievements. Congratulations also to the teachers who have had the pleasure of teaching Layla over

the last 7 years. A day like this is also a source of joy and pride for our entire school community. Layla began studying at a Polish school at the age of four. Herself and her older brother Krystian attended school every Saturday. They would arrive with a smile on their faces and were always eager to learn and play with their peers. Layla is a very ambitious girl. She puts her whole heart into everything she does. She is not satisfied with half-successes. Over the past years, she has participated in many assemblies and celebrations organized by the school. She always puts a lot of work and effort into a beautiful recitation of poems and singing songs. I am sure that with such an attitude to study and work as Layla shows, she will achieve many more successes in the future, which we all wish for her with all our hearts. Once again, congratulations to Layla and her parents – Dominika and Adam, and to her proud grandmother, who takes an active role in her life. Your commitment to uphold the Polish language and culture is a great example for many Polish families to follow. Layla is fluent in both languages, which is undoubtedly credit to you.

Dear Layla – we are very happy about your well-deserved success!

✓ Easter Assembly

On Saturday the 2nd of April, the Macarthur Polish Saturday School hosted an Assembly for the occasion of the upcoming Easter. Easter – is one of the most important celebrations in the calendar of the Catholic Church. The traditions and customs of celebrating these holidays in Poland are certainly one of the richest in the world. On that day, the whole school community shared a very special, festive spirit. The day started with searching for bunnies, eggs and other chocolate treats in each of the classrooms. Easter egg hunt is an event that brings everyone lots of joy and fun. From time to time us teachers could hear shouts of happiness and excitement. Then it was time for a class talk, which was a continuation and at the same time a summary of the previous last two lessons, during which students learned about the rich customs and traditions of Easter celebrations in Poland. Just before 11:00 a.m. children from each class changed into national costumes purchased for them in Poland two years ago. A group of over 40 boys and girls – students of the Macarthur Polish Saturday School presented themselves to their parents and grandparents in these costumes looking truly festive and beautiful. While children were getting ready for the performance, the classroom where the assembly was to be held was slowly filling up with guests. When the teachers brought the children to the classroom, my heart grew seeing on one side the beautifully dressed students, and on the other – their parents, grandparents and friends of our school.

We started the assembly by singing our school song, to which the words were written by Mrs. Cecylia Macioch, and then the oldest class performed on the stage. The students briefly introduced the audience to the Polish Easter traditions and customs. During their performance, there was talk of Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter Sunday breakfast and Smigus-Dyngus on Easter Monday. All students deserve great praise for their beautiful reading. After the oldest class, children from grades 2 and 3 performed on the stage. The children recited a poem about Easter eggs and Smigus-Dyngus. They looked really fantastic! After that the children from class 0-1 presented the audience with a short performance about the search for the Easter Bunny. I was so impressed with how well they learned their lyrics. A huge congratulations to both students and their parents. Well done! Finally, our pre-

schoolers appeared on the stage. The little ones were wearing cute Easter bunny masks looking very sweet ? Three of them recited a short rhyme, which was rewarded with a storm of applause! All performances were interspersed with cheerful, Easter songs. Thank you very much to Mr. Darek Plust for the guitar accompaniment to each of them.

After all the performances were completed, it was time to meet for coffee, tea and cake. The atmosphere of the meeting was really warm and joyful. Among the guests, I should mention Mr. Adam Gajkowski (President of the Federation of Polish Organizations in NSW) and Mrs. Krysia Morawski, who once again prepared for us a beautifully decorated Easter table. The children viewed with great interest and delight all the decorations that Mrs. Krysia brought. Admiring this table was undoubtedly a joy for the eyes and the heart. Looking at it evoked Easter memories from a faraway country ...

I would like to thank our teachers and ladies from the Parent Committee for preparing our Easter Assembly, in particular, Mrs. Dominika Smutek, who funded chocolate treats for our students. Thank you to all those who shared the cake with us and brought the lottery gifts. ? Thank you to our dear sponsors - Marysia and Marek Strzemkowski and Lucynka and Wies?aw Pazdzior for donating gift cards for Polish delicatessen.

Summing up, after my favourite poet-Father Jan Twardowski I would like to wish *"each and every one in turn Easter joy, which may last despite suffering, truly Christian joy, which lasts even when they are overwhelmed - whether small or big - only human nights"*.



✓ Polish National Celebrations - May 2nd & May 3rd and Mother's Day



On Saturday, May 7, 2022, we celebrated two beautiful celebrations at our school. The first of them had a patriotic tint, and it was the Anniversary of May 3 Constitution. The second celebration was Mother's and Grandmother's Day. It was a very joyful celebration in a nice, friendly atmosphere. We started the assembly with the singing of the National Anthem, after which the gathered students, teachers and parents sang a song referring to the anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of May 3, entitled "Wiwat Maj!".

In the morning, teachers from each class conducted classes on the subject of "My Mom and Me". We talked to the children about Mom's hard work and ways to show gratitude for the effort and care that Mothers and Grandmothers put into raising the young generation. It is difficult to describe in simple words a mother's love for her children. It is a love in every way unique, full of sacrifices and hard work. At the same time, it is a happy and fulfilling love, full of warmth and joy. A love like no other. The most beautiful kind of love... During the assembly, students from each year group presented poems dedicated to Moms and Grandmothers. Singing songs for mothers united us in a very special way. After all - everyone has got a mum. Students of all classes prepared a gift for their mothers in the form of heart-shaped cards and flowers. During the presentation of these modest, symbolic, but very meaningful gifts, the entire classroom where our meeting was held was full of emotions, kindness, love, and warmth. You could feel it in every word spoken and in the hugs that our students did not spare their Mums & Grandmothers.

✓ Celebrating the 104th anniversary of Poland's regaining independence by students of the Polish Saturday School in Macarthur



On Saturday, September 12, 2022, students and teachers at the Macarthur Polish Saturday School celebrated the 104th anniversary of Poland regaining its independence.

At this time of the year, the lessons were focused on familiarising children with Polish national symbols such as the flag, national colours, national emblem and anthem. The classes were aimed at forming patriotic feelings and national identity in children. While conducting lessons, teachers of each grade used teaching methods suitable to the age and cognitive abilities of the children.

Both students and teachers were asked to bring souvenirs and gifts brought or received from Poland to school. We asked our dear Grandmothers to decorate the tables and prepare a mini-exhibition, and they undertook this task with great enthusiasm. Souvenirs brought from various regions of Poland appeared on the tables covered with white tablecloths. Thanks to the involvement of our grandmothers, a beautiful exhibition was created, attracting the eye with lots of colours. Students approached the tables and looked at the objects set on them with great interest. It was a beautiful and patriotic lesson, making us all aware of how beautiful and rich Polish history, culture and regional traditions are. On the map of Poland purchased last year, students stuck tiny flags, marking the place of origin of their families. The national anthem was also taught in every class without exception. In addition, students put together educational puzzles, the theme of which was the map of Poland. There was also the colouring of the national emblem, after familiarising the children with the legend of Lech, Czech and Rus.

At 12.00 we all gathered in the classroom, which was previously decorated for us by Grandmas, to sing Poland's national Anthem. A huge flag was sewn for the needs of the school, which became the background of our performance.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to making this day a beautiful and very clear lesson of patriotism and national pride for our students.

✓ „Our hearts for Ukraine” – Fundraising event



I am deeply convinced that the events of the past year have, to a greater or lesser extent, affected each and every one of us without exception. In my case, initially it was disbelief, then sadness followed by anger, and deep resentment at the fact that history repeats itself again. That there are individuals among us who have learned nothing from the terrible events of the past two World Wars. Today, many of us have recovered from the initial shock of the events that are happening in Ukraine. It's time to think about what we can do and how to help those who need our help these days. Witnessing the response of our country's men and women in Poland and their kindness, compassion and openness to those who flee the nightmare of war, it is impossible not to feel proud that the Poles rose up to the occasion. They open the doors of their hearts and homes and support our eastern neighbors in any way they can. I am really deeply touched by the hospitality that our country men and women show to the Ukrainians. In this flood of pain and suffering there is a spark of hope that good is in a man's heart, that it has not perished and that it can never be uprooted from human hearts. We are the witnesses of this GOODNESS happening right before our very eyes. At this point in time, it is very important to remain in solidarity with Ukraine and not to exhaust the accumulators of empathy and compassion. Help for Ukraine is needed today and will be needed for many weeks or months ahead ... This is not a sprint but a long-distance run. May we never become unsympathetic to the disaster that befell Ukraine. May we never "get used to" this tragedy. I was very touched by the words of the Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church in Kiev who said that ***"today none of us has the right to remain silent, because today silence is killing innocent people"***.

The kindness and support of our compatriots in Poland inspired me to organise our school community to help Ukraine. Last Saturday, we organized a fundraiser for humanitarian aid for refugees fleeing Ukraine. All income from the sale of bread and donuts was assigned to this purpose. Together, we managed to raise \$ 1142!. This is our little contribution to help those who need this help so much these

days. I would like to thank everyone who supported me in the organisation of this fundraising initiative! Yesterday the entire sum was paid to CARITAS AUSTRALIA - UKRAINE EMERGENCY APPEAL. So many people helped us on Saturday... Thank you very much to my dear friend for making the flag of Ukraine. I would like to thank Edyta Storos, Karinka, Grandmothers of Tymus and Olivia for making blue and yellow ribbons to be attached to the students and teachers school shirts. Thank you also for preparing materials and decorations for making little Ukrainian flags. I would like to thank the teachers – especially Mrs. Basia Magolan, who made the poster “Our hearts for Ukraine” with her class. Let me also thank Mrs. Maryla and Mrs. Krysia Morawski for their help and support. I would like to thank Marek and Marysia Strzemkowski from Copernicus for supporting our project. Thank you to Ania, Hania and Dominika for ordering and selling bread and donuts. It was quite difficult to guess how much of bread and donuts we should order and it turned out that there was not enough of it, but the most important thing is that with a joint effort we have collected a nice sum, which was then donated to a good cause. Finally, I would like to thank you, Dear Parents, Grandparents and Friends, for opening your hearts to those who need our help.

✓ International Children’s Day

"Project co-financed within the framework of Polonia funds of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland"



This was really a fantastic and extremely successful day!

On Saturday, May 28, for the first time since the school was founded, we went on a bus trip to the Polish Saturday School in Randwick to celebrate the happiest day of the year that is International Kids Day.

Along the way, with the accompaniment of Mr. Darek's guitar, we sang well-known Polish songs such as "Sokoly", "Szla Dzieweczka do laseczka", "Jagodki", "Kolorowe kredki" and many more. There was a nice and friendly atmosphere on the bus. When we got there, we quickly formed groups and there was a presentation of the seven countries participating in the Mini-Olympics. To the sounds of music, two children representing both schools lit the Olympic torch. After that the Olympic flag was being brought in by a group of children from both schools. The whole presentation made an absolutely fantastic impression that something really special was about to happen!

What happened next? It was just awesome! Students of both schools, divided into 7 age groups, took part in various sport competitions prepared and conducted by the professional company TRANSFORM-US Fitness for Kids. Everyone gathered at Randwick that day was quite impressed with the professionalism with which the activities and sports competitions were conducted. The kids had a really fantastic day full of fun and healthy sports rivalry. The three best players from each group were awarded 1st, 2nd or 3rd place. With great pride and joy I watched the students from our school, who went up to receive their prize ribbons!

Half way through the day, children and adults recharged their batteries with a hot-dog made with a tasty Polish sausage from Lucynka and Wieslaw Pazdzior's "Polonez" Polish Deli. 180 sausages have been ordered, of which there was... NOTHING left over. Let this just be a proof of how many people gathered at Randwick that day and how lavishly both schools celebrated Children's Day. We would like to thank Lucynka and Wiesiek for sponsoring our lunch? The sausages were delicious! We also thank the parents at Randwick Polish School for preparing the meal. Everything was organized very smoothly and without any delays. When the children were leaving, they got popcorn made on the spot and a sweet cup-cake. As the kids were leaving they all have had this beautiful and happy smile on their faces.

A few thanks...

First of all, thank God for the beautiful weather (and it was supposed to be raining all day!) On behalf of our entire school community, I would like to thank Consul General Monika Konczyk, Vice-Consul Joanna Splochanska and all employees of the Polish Consulate in Sydney for the financial support of our project.

Thank you to Magdalena Gondera for organizing the bus. Thank you to Mr. Darek Plust, who, despite the fact that he returned from Brisbane on Saturday morning, accompanied us on the way playing the guitar. Thank you to Dorotka Weale for all the photos she tirelessly took for us. I would also like to thank the photographer of the Polish School in Randwick - Mr. Daniel Aarons for his beautiful photos. I thank the teachers for preparing the flags, and Edyta Storos in particular for pinning the Olympic rings on the flag. Thank you to everyone who went with us and let those who did not want to get up in the morning regret it! I am sure that everyone present at Randwick that day brought home with them fantastic memories of that special day!

Congratulations to all students who bravely represented our school in all sports competitions! Bravo to YOU!!!! I am so proud of you!

A special thanks go to our HOSTS who welcomed us so beautifully and prepared everything wonderfully! We cooperated so well with each other, and the end result was AWESOME!!!

This was an undoubtedly successful and exceptionally joyful day!

Happy International Kids Day!

➤ School Excursion to Calmsley Hill City Farm



"The project is co-financed by the Polish diaspora funds of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland"

On Saturday, October 29, 2022, our long-awaited school trip to Calmsley Hill City Farm took place. The trip project – submitted exactly one year ago – was partially covered by the *funds of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland*"

We are extremely grateful to the Polish Consulate in Sydney for financial assistance in the implementation of our school excursion project. It is difficult to find words that would fully reflect our joy that we could spend this day together as a school community: students, teachers and parents.

Our trip had two basic goals: an educational goal and an integration goal.

Educational goals:

- The student recognizes and names animals living in the countryside in Polish;
- The student builds simple sentences in Polish on the subject of farm animals;
- The student learns about the ways of caring for farm animals.

Integration goal:

- Strengthening social attitudes and integration of the group of project participants and their environment.
- Promoting an active lifestyle and paying attention to the positive aspects of spending free time in the open – surrounded by nature.

On the beautiful spring Saturday morning, in front of the entrance gate to Calmsley Hill City Farm, the students gathered with their parents and teachers from the Macarthur Polish Saturday School.

The first event of the day was the possibility of touching and cuddling various types of domestic animals. There were rabbits and goats and sheep and ponies. Ah – what fun it was for kids! Besides, this joy was painted not only on the faces of children, but also on the faces of their parents. Some of our students had the unique opportunity to feed a little lamb from a bottle. Ah – what a sight it was! How much laughter, joy and uproar were there!

Another attraction was milking the cows. At 11:00 am, a large crowd onlookers of all age and size gathered together around the cow, and everyone, without exception, wanted to see if it was possible that chocolate or strawberry milk would flow by accident. Unfortunately, some of our kids were honestly disappointed when it turned out that milk from a cow is always ... only white. Some of our students tried their hand at milking the cow, which was captured in the pictures.

At 12:00 we gathered for a lunch together. All parents talked merrily with each other, and the children kicked a soccer ball on a large meadow. After lunch, some of the parents took their children to the farm, where kangaroos were laying lazily on the sun. Others went to watch dog training. Their trainer was just perfect in her profession. With great pleasure I watched the performances of her pupils. At the end, you could watch and admire the skills of men who deal with professional sheep shearing. They did it with amazing skill - the children became hypnotized watching them in action.

Our trip turned out to be a great adventure and success for both children and adults. Once again, we direct the words of gratitude towards the Polish Consulate in Sydney for making this trip possible.

And did the children like the Farm? Please, check the photos and decide it for yourself!

✓ End of the 2022 School Year Celebrations combined with blessing and handing over of a new school flag



It is with great pride and joy I share news about blessing and handing over of the new BANNER to our school.

The ceremony took place on Saturday, December 10, at the Church of Mary Immaculate Church in Eagle Vale. Choosing a patron and handing over the banner are some of the most important moments in the life of every school community. The banner of the school was funded by the Chancellery of the Prime Minister at the request of the "Freedom and Democracy" Foundation. Our ceremony was honoured by

the presence of the Consul General – Dr Monika Konczyk. The presence of a person of this rank – representing the Polish State – gave the ceremony an absolutely unique dimension. We are very grateful to the Consul General for finding time to be with us that day. The invitation to our ceremony was also accepted by: Father Antoni Dudek, Mr. Adam Gajkowski – President of the Association of Polish Organisations in NSW, Ms. Jolanta Zurawski – Manager of the Song and Dance Ensemble “Kujawy” and Mr. Jan Michalak – President of “Nasza Polonia” Association.

The ceremony began with the Holy Mass, which was concelebrated by Father Nadeem (OMI) and Father Antoni Dudek (S.Chr). We are very grateful to the parish priest Father Slawek Plonka (OMI) for being able to experience this important celebration for the school together with the Eagle Vale parish community. During the Holy Mass Polish songs close and familiar to the heart resounded. Girls and boys from the Polish school, festively dressed in national costumes, helped during Holy Mass through readings, prayers of the faithful and carrying gifts to the altar. Father Nadeem, who comes from Pakistan, was delighted with

the appearance and beauty of our national costumes. Our students looked nice and special in them. After Holy Communion, there was a ceremony of blessing the new banner, which was performed by Father Antoni Dudek at the request of our school parents. The banner was carried to the altar by the Consul General and Mr. Adam Gajkowski. After the blessing, the banner was placed in the hands of the School Director – Mrs. Bernadeta Kawa. Once the Mass concluded, we went to the parish hall next to the church, where official ceremonies related to the end of the school year and the handing over of the banner took place. Four students: Olivia, Franek, Martynka and Dominik presented the gathered with a description of the banner, the graphic design of which was made for the school by Mrs. Natalia Mitas. The background of the banner is red. In the center there is the school logo surrounded by intertwined flowers that represent the flora of Poland and Australia. These flowers are to symbolise that our Polish School is located on Australian soil and we – its students are to respect and love our two homelands. Above is the motto known to every Pole from the cradle: GOD, HONOR, FATHERLAND and KNOWLEDGE. Below, on the left, there is a lamp of knowledge, which symbolises the importance of education in human life. At the bottom right is an image of St. John Paul II, whom we chose as the patron of the school. There is also an inscription: “You must demand from yourself even if others do not demand from you”.

Then, there was a moment when the Consul handed over the banner to the School Principal – Mrs. Bernadeta Kawa who passed on the banner to the students in solemn words, and then the students swore to the banner. It was a touching and very special moment – all those gathered were aware of the uniqueness of this extraordinary time. The students, standing and touching their hearts with their right hand, vowed to be faithful to the School Banner and to guard its honour.

After completing the oath, the Consul addressed words of encouragement and respect to the gathered parents and grandparents for their work on passing on the mother tongue to the young generation of Poles in Australia.

The next item on the agenda was the handing out of school certificates to the students at the Macarthur Polish Saturday School. The children looked at their certificates with pride and joy. The certificates were presented to the students by the Consul General and other invited guests.

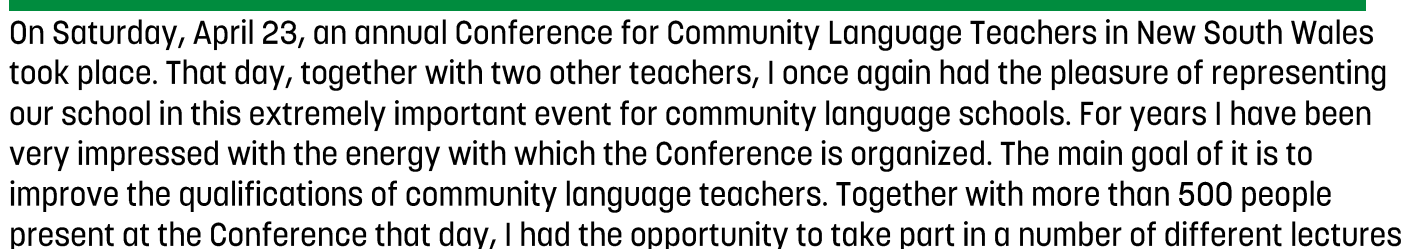
At the end, all students proudly holding their certificates in their little hands sang our school song and Christmas carol “Swiec Gwiazdeczko”.

The performances of two girls turned out to be an absolute hit. The first of them, Martynka (class II) recited a patriotic poem, and the second one – Victoria (class V) – sang in a beautiful, angelic voice the carol “When Christ was born”. I was hypnotised while listening to Victoria sing. None of us expected such a wonderful performance of this carol. It was truly phenomenal! Well done girls!!!

After the official part of the day concluded there was a time for socialising over coffee, tea and a piece of cake. I would like to thank our ladies from the Parental Committee for preparing refreshments for us

And since nothing happens by itself, I thank all those who worked hard to make this day a success. I would like to thank Michal Macioch, Darek Plust, teachers and the Parental Committee. There are moments in life when it is quite difficult to find the right words to express the gratitude that fills your heart, gratitude for the people who simply ARE THERE FOR US, and who do not spare time and support for a just cause and today I THANK GOOD GOD FOR ALL OF YOU!

- ✓ Annual State Community Language Teachers Conference & Professional Development Training Day



and workshops. The range and level of training available to participants each year is consistently at a very high level. Congratulations to the entire Organizing Committee for another great success. On behalf of the Ladies present at the Conference and the entire community of the Macarthur Polish Saturday School, we would like to thank the Organizing Committee for the opportunity to be a part of this event and wish you further successes in the future!

✓ The Premier's Harmony Dinner 2022



On March 21st this year, we will be celebrating Harmony Day in Australia. This is a wonderful celebration when in a special way, we can express the pride and joy of who we are and where we come from. Although we come from many different parts of the world, we are united by the fact that we live in this unique place on earth, where different cultures, languages, traditions and religions live side by side in harmony and mutual respect. On March 1 this year, three ladies from our school represented our school community at the NSW Premier's Harmony Dinner with the Prime Minister of NSW – Mr. Dominik Perrottet. This event coincided with the sad news of the war that had broken out in Europe in recent days. Our eastern neighbors are fighting for their home, for the most important values, which are freedom and independence of their country. Dear Ukraine – our hearts are with you! Prime Minister Dominic Perrottet, in his speech during Harmony Dinner, referred very strongly to the recent events in Ukraine. He cited Australia as an example of a country where different cultures and nations live in harmony and respect for the values that are common to us all. Groups representing both Russia and Ukraine were present at the Harmony Dinner. At the same time, he assured Ukraine of the support

coming from Australia's multicultural society. In this war, it is obvious whose side we all should be on. It is a choice between good and evil. Quoting the Archbishop of the Greek Catholic Church in Kiev, Sviatoslav Shevchuk on this important issue, *"today nobody has the right to remain silent because silence is killing innocent lives. Ukraine is alive, Ukraine is fighting, but today we are asking the world to be in solidarity with us and not to remain silent, because the word saves, the word builds the world. Whereas silence and indifference kill people"*. May we never be unsympathetic to such an important matter, may we always remember to support our brothers and sisters in Ukraine... We cannot remain silent on this matter.

✓ Federation of Community Languages – Annual Dinner



On Saturday, the 19 November 2022, the Annual Dinner of the New South Wales Federation of Community Languages was held. We were extremely impressed by the energy of this event in which, representatives of almost all ethnic schools from all over the state were represented. Congratulations to the President – Mrs. Lucia Johns and the entire Organization Committee on their huge success. We strongly congratulate you for the work and effort involved in the preparation of this celebration, as well as many other events aimed at supporting community language schools in NSW. The following ladies represented our school in this important event: Kinga Pacione, Jolanta Rybus, Magdalena Selevitch, Dorota Weale i Beata Szaflik. On behalf of the ladies present at the Annual Dinner and the entire community of the Macarthur Polish Saturday School, we thank the Federation Committee and all those involved in the preparation of the event for the opportunity to be part of it and wish you further successes in the future!

- **Summary of Term 1**

- ✓ **Preschool**



We started the first term with our youngest group by welcoming our new students: Sarah, Emilka, Ania, Tomek, Eryk and Michalek. Preschoolers welcomed their new friends with the song "Mr. Bear, it's time to get up" to the well-known melody "Mr. John".

Here it is:

*"Mr. Bear, Mr. Bear,
It's time to get up, it's time to get up
Time to say hello, time to say hello
Stop sleeping now, stop sleeping now".*

At the end of the song, the child who was holding a teddy bear in his/hers hands greeted the other children passing the teddy bear to them. The greeting song turned out to be a real hit, because for some children the barrier of physical contact was impossible to get over. But a teddy bear can do anything! As a result, the soft toy was a link between shy children and the rest of the group.

Then, when asked how they spent their holidays, the preschoolers agreed that most of them went to the beach. Hence, we moved to the topic discussing the safety rules during summer holidays. The children learned that you cannot go into deep water, that you must not go far away from your parents, that they should stay in the shade between 11am and 3 pm, especially during summer months, they should also drink plenty of water, and that they should swim in an inflatable donut or inflatable sleeves.

Another topic discussed during Term 1 was *"Insects around us"*. This subject was enthusiastically received by the children, because during these classes the preschoolers had the opportunity to observe real insect specimens such as: centipedes, snails, spiders and other insects, such as: ants, ladybugs, butterflies, beetles, poisonous spiders and dragonflies, were represented by plastic toys. The aim of these classes was to observe insects in their natural environment, shaping observation skills, improving visual perception, developing a pro-ecological attitude, assigning the appropriate number of insects to

the correct number from 1 to 10 and solving puzzles about insects:

"Its wings are beautiful with patterns

They are all colours

When the hot days come

Children run after them on the meadow (butterfly)

When it's the beginning of summer

She flies from petal to petal.

Thanks to her diligence

I have honey at home for my guests (a bee)

Their hiding place is sometimes a flower,

How many dots – so many years old.

Their wings are dotted,

These are just .. (ladybirds)

The topic of insects was then linked to observation in their natural habitat. To do this, we went outside to look for them. The children spotted bees, snails and earthworms. We talked about which one we liked the most and why? I warned the children not to try to touch the bee, explaining what might happen to them! We talked about the colours of the insects. Did they look the same? We tried to determine their size.

Our preschoolers liked these observations very much.

Another topic that we focused on in during term 1 was the topic of *"The countryside and farm animals"*.

We read the book *"A Year in the Country"* and made a chicken and a tractor out of paper.

We also made the flag of Ukraine in the collage technique to express solidarity with our neighbour.

The children got to know the play and the song *"The Old Bear is fast asleep"* and the poem *"Snail, snail, show your horns"*.

We concluded term 1 with the topic of *Easter* and getting to know the Easter customs in our country.

Preschoolers beautifully recited the following poems during the Easter appeal:

"The hare says to the lamb:

What a beautiful Easter egg.

Then a chick came out of the egg,

She ruffled her feathers.

Now she runs, screams loudly:

That he wishes us Happy Easter!"

Our preschoolers also sang the Easter song *"With an egg and a hare"* in a great way and they were happy to do an easter egg hunt.

Thank you very much for all your help and support during term 1 and we look forward to seeing you after the winter break!

Kinga Pacione / Magdalena Selevitch

✓ Kinder & Year 1



Term One in grade 0-1 passed very quickly, filled to the top with work and fun games. This year, four new students have joined the 0-1 grade. We warmly welcome them to our class group. The new students assimilated very quickly with their classmates. In this summary of Term One, I would like to emphasize very strongly how proud I am of the work of each of the students from grade 0-1. At the same time, I would like to express my great gratitude to the parents and grandparents of each of my students for their support and cooperation in teaching children the Polish language. The material learnt in the classroom has been gone through again at home, which is visible during the classes I conduct. I would also like to thank you for handing in homework on time. During Term One of this year, we learned the following letters of the Polish alphabet and related vocabulary: A, M, T, O, I, S. Students in grade 0-1 have a very diverse level of knowledge of the Polish language, starting with children with a very large vocabulary to children who are just taking their first steps in learning Polish. This requires the teacher to use various methods of work, thanks to which all children, regardless of their language proficiency, can learn new language skills from each lesson. Lessons are conducted both collectively and in small groups divided according to the level of language proficiency. It is important that the child, regardless of their language knowledge, can feel that he or she is making progress and that each lesson is another step forward in learning the mother tongue. Once again, I would like to thank both the children and their parents and grandparents for their cooperation in term one. I am looking forward to seeing you all in term two.

Bernadeta Kawa / Jolanta Rybus

✓ Year 2 & 3



Hello to all parents and grandparents of class 2/3.

This school year, classes in the second and third grades are being conducted using textbooks developed and edited by teachers from the Polish Saturday School of Sydney in Randwick. The title of the textbook for Term One is *"Come to my home"*.

The children learned and memorised new vocabulary related to the theme "my home".

During the class, we discussed household chores. We also talked about how to safely use electrical equipment that can be found in our homes.

The students also learned the difficult task of reading the time on an analogue watch. Each of the students made their own watch out of paper. Children enthusiastically tried to learn to recognize the hours on the wall clock as quickly as possible. It was a very healthy competition. During the classes we learned the song "Pan Tik -Tak".

In the following weeks we got to know the vowels "a" and "e". Students built sentences using words in which these two difficult Polish letters appeared. We also learned the softening of "ci".

At the end of Term One, students learned about the extremely rich Polish Easter traditions and rituals. We decorated an Easter egg and learned the poem: "Easter egg".

We finished Term One with an Easter Assembly.

I would like to thank all parents and grandparents for their cooperation during Term One and I am looking forward to your helping in the next term of the current school year.

Malgosia Jagodzinska

✓ Year 4, 5 & 6



This school year, grades 4-6 consists of twelve students. This group of children possesses a very different level of knowledge of the Polish language.

Due to the fact that last year's grade 3 (5 students) joined class 4-6, the first two weeks were spent on getting to know each other and assessing each student's language skills.

We repeated and memorised the names of the seasons, months and days of the week.

This year we work using textbooks written by teachers from the Polish Saturday School of Sydney in Randwick for all Polish community schools in Sydney.

The main topic for term one was: *"School is fun"*. We talked about the duties and rights of the Polish School student, about what it means to be a good friend and student at school. Based on these topics, we got to know a number of new nouns and verbs.

This short term ended with the Easter Assembly, for which students from grades 4-6 prepared and presented texts describing very rich and colourful Polish traditions and customs related to the celebration of Easter.

I would like to thank Mrs. Edyta Storos as well as parents and grandparents for their participation and help in preparing children for the Easter Assembly and for cooperation during term one.

Basia Magolan

✓ Summary of Term 2

✓ Preschool



The past term was exceptionally active and full of good and positive energy for our pre-schoolers. Despite rainy weather and low temperatures, good moods always accompanied our pupils during Saturday classes at the Polish school. Our artwork referred to the sports games in which our pupils had the opportunity to participate on the occasion of International Children's Day. On days when weather was kind, we spent a lot of time outdoors, where our pupils played football, had fun on the playground and learned the words associated with the current season. There were also games with playdough, drawing and painting, which develop the motor skills of our students.

Thank you very much for the time we have spent together on Saturdays. I hope that the holidays will be an opportunity for family walks and contact with nature. Have lots of rest and see you soon? More interesting adventures await us in the classroom and in the school yard.

Jolanta Rybus / Magdalena Selevitch

✓ Kinder & Year 1



The past term in the "0-1" class was full of hard work on learning the next letters of the Polish alphabet. Thanks to the kindness of the authors of the textbook

In the past term, the "0-1" class was full of hard work on learning the next letters of the Polish alphabet. Thanks to the kindness of the authors of the textbook prepared by the Polish Saturday School in Randwick, learning is more fluid, and the new - often difficult letters - easier for students to remember. The letters learned over the last few months are: S, L, K, D, Y, U, E, C, N. We start each class with checking the homework and then summarise the material we learned in the previous lesson. Then, it is time for 'mouth and tongue' gymnastics, which are very helpful with poems and songs that we practice regularly during each class. Our favourites are: "Autumn Orchestra", "Winter" and "Toothbrush, paste". Of the poems - children like the short poems about animals from the "ZOO" series by Jan Brzechwa. Then comes the most important part of the day, which is the introduction of a new 'magic' letter of the day. We search for well-known Polish words beginning with a given letter, divide each word into syllables and sounds and build sentences in Polish from newly learned words. Depending on the letter we learn, a physical game is also conducted. We can, for example, play pretending to be a dog or a kitten, or jump like a rabbit. Finally, we write our new letter on the blackboard and learn how to guide the hand correctly when writing it down. After introducing a new letter, it is time to work with the textbook, which aims not only to learn to write a new letter, but also to consolidate newly learned Polish words. While the children are doing the exercises from the textbook, I sit down with the students in small groups and we practice intensively all the words learned, which is also connected with learning to read.

Dear Parents - thanking you for your support, I am asking you to spend a moment each week repeating the material processed in the classroom.

Have a nice break and see you soon.

Bernadeta Kawa / Jolanta Rybus

✓ Year 2 & 3



During last term, in the combined grade 2-3, we were working on a topic: "Farm animals".

The children learnt and remembered the Polish names of farm animals that can be traditionally found on a farm. Among them were animals such as: horse, cow, pig, hen, rooster, duck, goose, ram, sheep, goat. During class time, the students learnt where the animals live, what they eat and what are the benefits of breeding them. Children recorded the names of the animals by arranging puzzles with animals. This game, apart from its cognitive values, also gave the students the opportunity to integrate with the group. This quarter, during lessons, the following new letters (softenings) were introduced: s, si, n, ni, z, zi. On the basis of the newly learnt letters, we searched for words in which these softenings occurred and we would build sentences with them. We also learnt the words of the song, "Old MacDonald had a farm". I strongly encourage you to sing the songs you have learned. In this way, we recapitulate the words learnt during class time.

Thank you for the time spent together. I wish you a good rest and see you after the winter break in class.

Malgosia Jagodzinska

✓ Year 4, 5 & 6



During last term, class 4-6 discussed issues related to the subject of a healthy lifestyle. Children learnt vocabulary related to selected sport disciplines, healthy eating and their favourite ways of spending free time. During the classes on health, students made a poster showing the essential elements of caring for a balanced state of the body and mind. Each child presented their own 'brick', from which we later built a collective work entitled 'MY HEALTH'. The effects of the intensified creative work are shown in the attached photographs.

Another topic we covered was 'healthy eating'. The students exchanged information on the necessary nutrients and the correct proportions of the food groups as shown in the healthy eating pyramid. After heated discussions about the right amount of sweet snacks for teenagers' daily caloric requirements, we managed to create a collage of cut-out photos from brochures and other available publications. The students decided to divide into groups of girls and boys. In this way, two works with a common title were created: 'PYRAMID OF HEALTHY EATING'.

The past quarter was full of hard work. We wish you all a nice rest and see you after the winter holidays.

Edyta Storos

- **Summary of Term 4**

- ✓ **Preschool**



Oh, it was happening in our Pre-schoolers Group throughout the entire 2022 school year! The creativity and imagination of the teachers from the Kindergarten Group knows no limits. I am very grateful for your great work and the huge effort to prepare interesting and engaging activities for children. Throughout the 2022 school year, the little ones were creating, cutting, building, painting, gluing, planting seeds and doing a lot of other creative activities that help them learn through play. Towards the end of term 4, you could sense a true Christmas spirit filling the air. Our little ones created a beautiful Christmas Tree that was used to decorate the school hall for the Assembly celebrating the end of the 2022 school year. See for yourself what wonders our pre-schoolers have put together under the watchful eye of their wonderful teachers. Congratulations to you ALL!

Kinga Pacione / Magdalena Selevitch

✓ Kinder & Year 1



Grade 0-1 worked tirelessly all year round learning the basic letters of the Polish alphabet. We did countless exercises dividing words into syllables and sounds. We also put a lot of hard work into correct pronunciation of newly learned words and phrases. Congratulations to all students of grade 0-1 for their regular attendance and hard work. We have learned a lot together this year. I am very proud of the progress you have made in listening, speaking, and reading. I am sure I will always remember the year 2022 with pleasure and great satisfaction. I believe I learn as much from you as you learn from me. Thanking you for this year, I wish you a Merry and beautiful Christmas and Happy New Year!

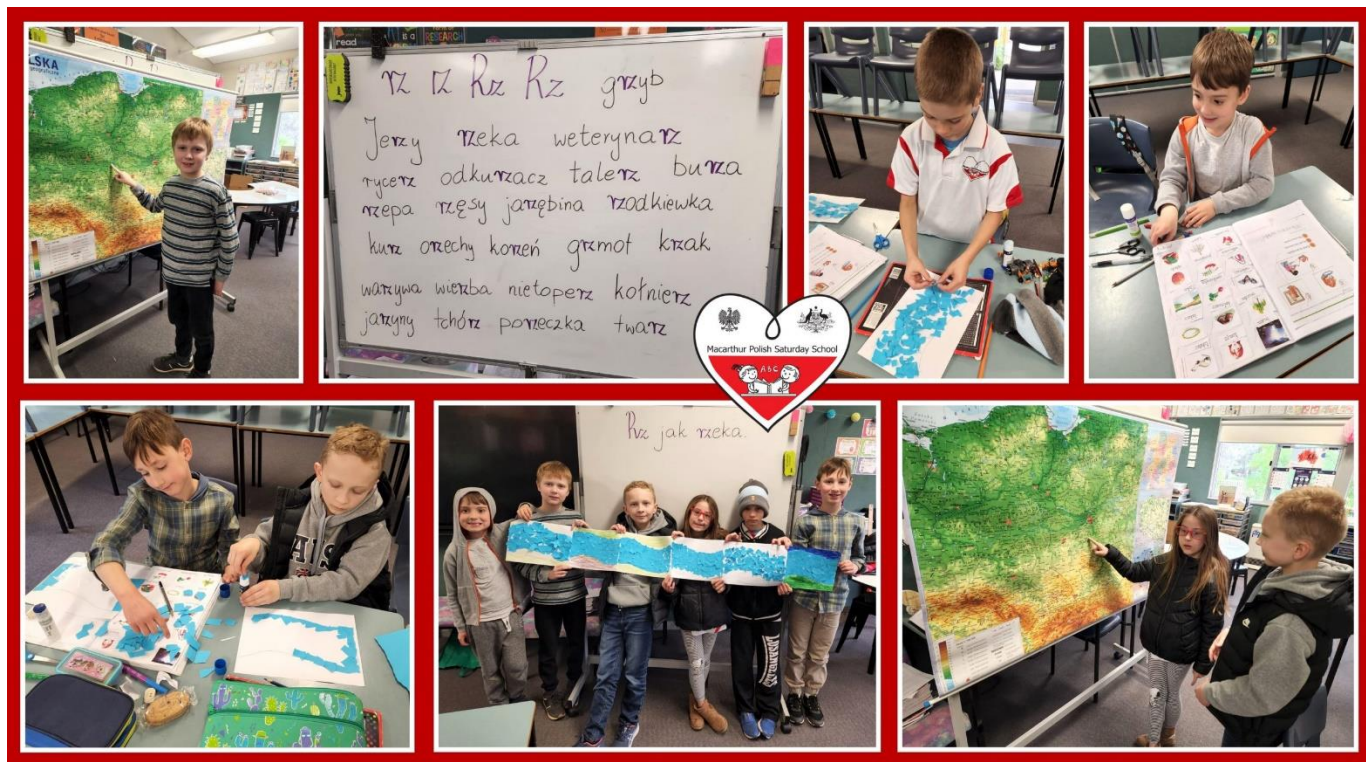
Have a nice and relaxing break!

Bernadeta Kawa / Jolanta Rybus

✓ Year 2 & 3

The end of the year is always an opportunity to go over everything that has happened throughout the year. Saturday December 3rd was the last teaching Saturday in the 2022 school year. This was a year of intensive work in class 2-3. Students worked hard all year memorising difficult words and letters of the Polish Alphabet. We did a lot of verbal and language exercises, which were aimed at consolidating the processed material. At the end of term 4, just like their classmates from the other grades, our class also made Christmas cards for the residents of the Nursing Home in Marayong. We wish them a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Malgosia Jagodzinska



✓ Year 4, 5 & 6



On Saturday, December 3rd, the last class for this year took place. The oldest grade worked hard all year round on expanding their vocabulary and knowledge of the Polish language through various types of language exercises. The topic of term 4 was: "A healthy mind in a healthy body". Pupils talked and wrote about their favourite sports, solved crossword puzzles and other language puzzles. It turned out that

the favourite sports of our students were football, swimming and running. Grade 4-6 also reworked the conjugation of nouns of The Polish Language. The students put their knowledge into practical use by performing various types of exercises. At the end of the term, students made Christmas cards for the residents of the Nursing Home in Marayong. We wish everyone Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Basia Magolan

✓ Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 10th February 2022 and elections for 2022 were conducted. Achievements, planned events, grants applications and financials were also presented to the families.

Below is the full composition of the School Committee for 2022, the body that oversees the activities of our school:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| • President | Dominika Herdzik |
| • Vice President | Magdalena Selevitch |
| • Public Officer | Anna Nowicka |
| • School Coordinator | Bernadeta Kawa |
| • Treasurer | Jolanta Rybus |
| • Secretary | Anna Dziubinska |

✓ Funding grants

We received our annual per capita grants from the Community Languages Schools Program – a unit of NSW Education and Communities. This grant was received in November 2022 and is used to purchase much needed teaching and organisational resources. We gratefully acknowledge and thank the Community Languages Schools Program for their ongoing financial assistance and support.

The School has also received additional funding to support the school's organisational needs. We extend our gratitude to the Consulate General of Republic of Poland for its assistance throughout the year.

At the beginning of 2022, the school applied for a grant from "Freedom and Democracy Foundation" and "Polish Community" Association at the Senate of the Republic of Poland supporting "Polish education abroad". It was with great excitement that funds were received in July 2022.

✓ Fundraiser raffle and our sponsors

A big "thank you" to our generous sponsors, who enabled the school to hold a Fundraiser Raffle, with many attractive prizes, which were drawn during the End of School Christmas performance. The proceeds of this raffle raised in excess of \$200 for the school. We also take this opportunity to thank all our other major sponsors for their ongoing support and commitment to our organisation and its aims. This includes:

- Copernicus Café
- Polonez Smallgoods
- Consulate General of the Polish Republic, Sydney
- NSW Federation of Polish Associations
- Freedom and Democracy Foundation

- NSW Community Languages Schools Program.
- "Polish Community" Association
- OfficeWorks
- "Our Polonia" Association

✓ Other key achievements for 2022

2022 was an extremely busy and fruitful year for the school. The school became a more active member of the NSW Federation of Community Languages as well as developed partnerships with the Polish Schools in Randwick. The committee was very productive in developing many documents for the school. The following lists only some of the achievements:

- Development of School Constitution, School Policies, Student Code of Conduct, Enrolment package and Accident/Incident forms and protocol.
- Completed all "Working with Children" declaration forms for volunteers.
- Actively sought sponsors to assist with purchasing school resources.
- The organisational website was upgraded as well as the Facebook page.
- A Student Safety Program was developed, and sessions conducted.
- Design & purchase of school flag.
- Established contacts with other Polish Schools in Sydney with plans for further collaboration.
- Affiliation with "Kujawy" Polish Song and Dance Ensemble & Polish Scouts was established.

Macarthur Polish Saturday School is a vibrant community. Our teachers are passionate to ensure that our students receive a high level of Polish language learning. Our parents are active participants, and our students have a thirst to learn and appreciate their rich Polish heritage.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all of our students, parents and families who comprise our unique Polish school community. Through their constant support, dedication and commitment we can be assured of the successful continuation of the Macarthur Polish Saturday School which will continue to thrive and embrace the future.

Macarthur Polish Saturday School acknowledges the ongoing funding and support provided by the NSW Community Languages Schools Program.