

The Vacy Voice

The newsletter of Vacy Public School

A Great Time Had By All

Last week Year 5-6 enjoyed their bi-annual excursion to our nation's capital and once again it was a terrific week out. It is a great excursion for our senior students as it gives them the chance to explore a new place whilst strengthening the bonds that develop from being together twenty-four hours a day. Believe me, on a five day excursion, everyone learns something new about their friends.

The week started and ended with a long bus trip but in between it was an adventure.

Monday included a visit to the National Capital Exhibition, Old Parliament House (where we debated the saving of the Franklin River) and the Mount Ainslie Lookout for a bird's eye view of Canberra.

Tuesday started with a visit to Parliament House and the National Art Gallery before a great lunch on the banks of Lake Burley Griffin. The afternoon a really educational walk through the War Memorial and a night-time trip to the CSIRO Discovery Centre, such a hit I expect there may be a few new converts to the scientific profession

Wednesday was spent at the Australian Museum, the Film And Sound Archive (where a copy of any film or sound source related to Australia is kept) and an afternoon spent at the Canberra Indoor Rock Climbing Centre, an experience I am sure no-one enjoyed.

Thursday we visited the Mint, where all of our coins are made (including seeing a small gold coin worth more than \$300000 - worth checking your change!), found out how our elections are held at the Electoral Centre and spent the afternoon at the Institute Of Sport, an experience I think Alex Rogers thought was extremely boring and just not worth the bother (although I did notice him hiding some clothes and a little food inside one of the lockers just in case he could give us the slip and live there permanently). A visit to the Black Mountain Tower at 8:00pm saw our students experience REAL cold (not the make believe stuff we have up here) and also allow some of them the experience of almost being blown off the tower from the very top level.

On Friday we ended the excursion with a visit to the Questacon Science Centre, a place not unlike a giant interactive Simon Townsend's Wonder World for those of us old enough to remember it. It provided a wonderful way to finish off the week (with Macca's on the way home a bit of a hit as well).



It is a really big week for staff and students alike and much thanks must go to Mrs. Fonti for her organisation and her enthusiasm through the week during which she didn't flag at all ... well, maybe just a little! Hopefully our senior students can take some of these experiences and have a really positive end to their school year, especially our Year 6 who will have created memories that will last a lifetime.

Two quotes of note from the week away: When viewing Pollock's painting "Blue Poles", perhaps the best known art work in Australia, our students were asked for their impressions. Replies included feeling confused and messed up before Benjamin Jessop opined that he "felt submerged by it". This analysis I think was one of the most in-depth the guides had encountered from someone so young and there was much discussion afterwards. Quote two came from Emmy-Lee Warr, when at the end of of a conversation regarding the two party system and voting patterns in parliament, she asked the guide "why don't politicians just vote for what they believe in?" The guide was rendered speechless as this question had never before been considered in Canberra but I am sure it will illicit some discussion in the future.



All in all, a very pleasant week was had by all. A slideshow of the photos taken will be showing in the foyer over the next couple of weeks.

From the principal...

*"It is not only for what we do that we are held responsible, but also for what we do not do."
Moliere 1622-1673, French playwright and actor*

Even after the passing of almost four hundred years, Moliere's words ring true. And he could never have envisioned the changes in societal structures and expectations that would occur in his future and the pressure that our children are under now in just living their day-to-day lives. Almost every action our children take will be recorded, either by themselves or others. In one day it might be a security camera, a video camera, a mobile phone, a social network...almost every action is recorded. This time two years ago most people hadn't heard of Twitter, now we have everything from celebrities announcing when they buy a cup of coffee to politicians announcing new policy in sound bites of 140 characters or less. Moliere's quote is about choice, choice in behaviour, in action, in standards and in principles. This week we begin our selection process for our school leaders and I urge parents of potential candidates to discuss with them the words above. Our choices now are very visible to others and it is of vital importance that our school leaders ensure that their choices are the right ones. They will be the very public face of our school, present at every event and involved in every activity. It is a great responsibility and one that we want our students to take very seriously. We want to develop citizens of character through our school, not just in our leaders but in every student. This should be modelled in our captains above anything else. Leaders act, and they do so in a manner that benefits those around them.

Regards,

Kevin Greaves (principal)

Dates To Remember

November

9	Mrs. Greaves returns
9	First Kinder 2011 Orientation 9:30am-10:30am
11	K-4 excursion to Australian Reptile Park
17	Second Kinder 2011 Orientation 9:30am-11:00am
22	Third Kinder 2011 Orientation 9:30am-11:30am

December

3	Year 6 Graduation Dinner
6	Vacy PS Presentation Night
15	Last Day Of Term 4
16-17	Staff Development Days - no students at school - have a happy holiday!

Class News

Kindergarten

Thank you all students who presented their recount for news last week. They were interested and very well prepared. We have just a few to complete this week. Please ensure your child has a rain coat and plenty of food packed for the Reptile Park excursion this Thursday. Children need to be at school at 7.30am and we will not return to school until 4.00pm.

Year 1-2

It is great to be back and see all your children and their happy smiling faces. We are all looking forward to our excursion this Thursday and are crossing our fingers for great weather. From all accounts the children enjoyed their trip to the Fire Station which was very informative and practical. This is often a good opportunity to revisit your home escape plans as a family.

Year 2-3-4

2/3/4 will be presenting their projects on "Instruments" this week. We will also be designing a bag based on a favourite book and filling it with games, reviews, letters and bookmarks. This week we will be learning about the Buddhist religion as a part of our "People and their Beliefs" unit. We look forward to a fun time on Thursday at the Australian Reptile Park.

Year 4-5-6

Thank you to all of the Year 4 students who last week helped with the many jobs around the school. I believe your behaviour was excellent and I am very proud of you all. Year 5 parents – Notes will come home this week regarding the election process for captains and sports captains for 2011. Please discuss the information with your child.

School And Community News

Kinder Orientation Program

Today sees the beginning of our Kindergarten orientation program with parents meeting with Mrs. Rogers, Mr. Greaves and Mrs. Helen Doust (Best Start Co-ordinator) to discuss the start of school next year whilst our new enrolments will be enjoying the hospitality of our current Kinders in the classroom. It is a big day for them as they enter the "land of the giants" for the first time but I am sure that by the end of the transition program they will be familiar and comfortable in their new environment for the start of school next year.

Remembrance Day Tomorrow

Remembrance Day will be marked at school tomorrow with a small ceremony at 10:45am hosted by our student leaders. After their visit to the War Memorial last week I am sure they will have a greater understanding of the sacrifices made in their name and the occasion will be all the more significant because of it. Parents are welcome to attend.

K-4 Excursion To Gosford

The excursion to the Australian Reptile Park looks like it will go ahead in good weather which will be something a little different from previous years. Usually the K-4 excursion brings on the worst weather of the year but we may even have a little sunshine about. The bus will leave Vacy Public at 7:30am sharp and return at 4:00pm (probably not so sharp). Parents who have made arrangements to come should confirm them through the school office before Thursday. It should be a great day.

Election Of School Captains

Information regarding the election of school captains will be distributed to Year 5 students this week for their consideration. Students will nominate for election over the next two weeks before having the opportunity to address the students and staff on the afternoons of November 25 and 26. As I have mentioned above, these are serious positions for serious people and we look forward to seeing Year 5 put their candidacy forward. Our student leaders will be announced to students on December 1 and confirmed before the community at Presentation Night on December 6. Good luck to all candidates.

Australian Government assistance for National Capital excursion

Students from our school have recently undertaken, an educational tour of the national capital. While on this tour they participate in a variety of educational programmes focused on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist you in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) programme toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution will be paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion. We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program.

Canteen

Thursday November 11

Bek and Kenny Bennett

Thursday Lunch Special (\$2.50): Sausages, mashed potato with peas & corn

Years K-4 are away but canteen is still on!

Monday November 15

Heather Williams & Bek Hancock

Monday Recess Special (\$1.50): Fruit Salad in season

Assembly Awards 2010

Student of the Week Awards

K Hunter Sweetman
1-2 Emilia Gibson
4-5-6 Jake Eyb

Class Awards

K Jacob Ford
1 Max Wysel
2 Archer Woller
3 Ruby Wilson