

# The Vacy Voice

The newsletter of Vacy Public School

## Dancers Star In Maitland Concert

On the weekend I had the pleasure of watching the talents on show from the Vacy and Gresford Dance Centre and was especially impressed the talent shown by our own students. There was a wide variety of styles on display with the one common feature being the size of the smiles on all of the faces. From Vacy Public we saw Selena Holt, Kacia Rowles, Bailey Hack, Kyle Lechner, Tom Priestley, Ben Williams, Saskia Bickerdike, Madison Hack, Sophie Jordan, Emmy-Lee Warr, Josie Waight, Zoe Butler, Libby Cant, Kayla Hallinan, Chelsey Hughes, Ellie Wight, Rose Washbourne, Charlotte Wintle, Victoria Lee-Williams, Jessica Pillidge, Alice Washbourne, Shelby-Lee Wintle and Connor McQuilliam as well as ex-students Gabrielle Brand, Michaela Pillidge, Samantha Muncaster, Emma Newby and Danika Horn. The costumes were terrific and the whole performance was a credit to Lu McQuilliam and the great program she puts together for our local children. Well done to all!



## Bishop Garry Visits

Yesterday we were honoured to play host to Bishop Garry Weatherill from South Australia as he visited the local Anglican parish over the weekend. Bishop Garry spoke to our whole school about giving and service and answered some very curly questions about what it is like being a bishop. It was great to have him here and nice for the children to see the man behind the robes as he came across as a very humble and caring person. Many thanks to Father Stephen for making his visit to our school possible.



## P&C Meeting 9:15am Tomorrow

The next meeting of the P&C will be held at 9:15am tomorrow morning. Whilst I realise that this is normally an evening meeting, at the last meeting it was decided to have it as a daytime one due to the proliferation of evening events at this time of year. My apologies for the late notice. I was unaware it hadn't been advertised but hopefully we will still get a good roll-up. On the agenda is the new buildings, classes for 2011, staffing arrangements and much more. If it is at all possible, this is one you should get along to. Hope to see you there.

## From the principal...

For a long time Special Religious Education classes have been “protected” within public schools so that no alternate curriculum or teaching could be provided at the same time for students who were not involved. It was announced this week that this will change with ethics classes now being offered at the same time. My belief is that any teaching around values, be they religion or morals based, can only be a very good thing for our students. Within each area, we are focusing on developing the skills in our students to lead better lives, to make good choices and to contribute positively to our society and those more immediately around them. I am unsure as yet as to what structure the new ethics classes will be taking and there is still a lot of work to be done legislatively in seeing the policy become a reality. Throw in an election in March and the whole scheme might still not eventuate. I do hope though that the proposed new classes add in a positive way to our curriculum. A lot of lip service is paid to which system best provides the moral structures our children need when the truth is that all schools have values and morals at the heart of what they do and it the core of our business. We are about developing good citizens and a strong moral compass, a sense of responsibility and a desire to do what is good for others above ourselves is probably more important than much of the learning we concentrate so hard on.

This looks to be the first of what will be many new curriculum changes over the next three years. The advent of a national curriculum is a step in the right direction as long as it is aspirational rather than being compromised in any way. The difficulty is that students in this day need skills and conceptual understandings rather than direct knowledge because the incredible amount of information that is out there is in a fairly constant state of flux. The national curriculum will provide many challenges for schools and staff. It is a complete restructure of teaching programs and will lead to greater accountability. If the changes are educationally rather than politically driven, all the better. The last indications were that NSW would reject the initial proposal so we wait and see what transpires from here.

Regards,

Kevin Greaves (principal)

## Dates To Remember

### November

30 Financial rollover day

### December

1 P&C Meeting 9:15am  
2 Announcement to Year 6 of 2011 school and sports captains 2:30pm  
3 Jack Newton golf clinics 9:30am - 12:00pm  
3 Year 6 Graduation Dinner 6:00pm - 9:00pm  
6 Vacy PS Presentation Night 6:30pm - 8:30pm  
10 Jack Newton golf clinics/NNSW soccer clinics 9:30am - 12:00pm  
13 Bike Safety day - Years 3 - 6  
14 Talent Show - Vacy School Of Arts Hall 9:30pm  
15 Col Hatchman drum show - see what's on offer next year!  
15 Class parties 11:30am  
15 Ringing Of The Bell ceremony - Year 6 farewell 2:45pm  
15 Last Day Of Term 4  
16-17 Staff Development Days - no students at school - have a happy holiday!

### **Announcement Of School And House Captains**

The votes are in and the captains for next year...will be announced at a special gathering for Years 5 and 6 tomorrow afternoon at 2:30pm. This is a process we have recently adopted so as to lessen the stress of the big presentation night announcement. Our captains will be announced tomorrow to Years 5 and 6 and then formally announced to the whole school community on presentation night. Parents and friends of Year 5 and 6 students have been invited to attend tomorrow's announcement.

### **Year 6 Graduation Dinner**

Our annual dinner will be held this Friday evening starting from 6:00pm with the big arrivals. Nibblies will be served and photos taken before our graduates and their families retire to the School Of Arts Hall for a formal dinner to celebrate their seven years of primary school. This is a terrific occasion for our senior students and one that provides some great memories for them. Thank you to the P&C for their support of this event which makes it cost-free for all attending.

### **Presentation Night**

Our annual presentation night will move back (I hope) to its home in the school grounds this year. We will kick off at 6:30pm with a picnic in the school grounds (BYO chairs, food and drink - no alcohol) before stating the formal part of our evening at 7:30pm. If the weather is not kind to us, Tocal Hall has been booked and we will send a letter home on the day telling of any changes of plans. Hopefully it will be good as having the event under the stars has always been something unique and makes for a very relaxing evening.

### **End Of Term Activities**

We have a massive schedule for the end of the year (which is getting closer very quickly). On December 10 sport will include our golf program as well as a visit from the Northern NSW coaches to take our kids through some skills.

We will hold our bike safety day for Years 3 to 6 on Monday the 13th. Children will be able to bring in their own bikes for a check over but, if they don't have one, we will have plenty for them to use. K-2 will also be doing some bike/scooter safety activities.

On Tuesday the 14th we will hold our annual talent show. This is a chance for the children to get up and show what they can do and is always a lot of fun. It will start at 9:30am and will continue until the talent just runs out. All parents and families are welcome. The talent show will be followed by a movie afternoon later in the day. Eating times will change during the day but, with the new whiteboards, it should be a nice afternoon.

Our last day will be the Wednesday. We will kick it off with Col Hatchman (drummer with the Screaming Jets among others) who will be moving to the Paterson area next year and who will be bringing a really unique drum program to the school to add to our music lessons. It will be a noisy but fun start to the day and will hopefully entice quite a few students to put it on on their wish list for 2010. Our class parties (and, yes, the water fight) will be held between recess and lunch before we finish the day with the Ringing Of The Bell ceremony to farewell Year 6. Notes regarding each class party will be sent home by class teachers.

## Canteen

### **Thursday December 2**

No special

Helpers: Bek and Kenny Bennett

### **Monday December 6**

Recess: pancakes with ice cream and strawberries or maple syrup

Helpers: Kylie Cant and Nicole Long



# Christmas Giving Tree

**Make sure every child in our neighbourhood has a present this Christmas**

McElwaine Hunter Valley in conjunction with Dungog Shire Community Centre are taking on the role of Santa's helpers this year.

Both are working towards brightening the Christmas of our struggling local families, who may not, without the communities help, have a Merry Christmas. McElwaine Hunter Valley are requesting those who wish to help, place a new gift of toys or books under their Christmas tree in the office.

Every year the Community Centre have Christmas hampers which they distribute to those doing it a bit tough. This season McElwaine Valley are asking you to make sure the children of those families will have a gift to unwrap on Christmas morning.

This is a great cause which you can involve the whole family in and we are inviting everyone to help them to make sure those children who otherwise may not receive a gift this year, will do so. Let's all have a Merry Christmas this year!



**Gifts for ages from toddlers to teenagers!**

**Needed by  
12th December**

Gifts welcomed  
under the tree at  
**McElwaine Hunter Valley**  
**119 Dowling Street Dungog**

**Please leave your new  
gift unwrapped!**

More Information:

Call into 119 Dowling Street Dungog  
or call Natasha McElwaine on 0429 308 492

