

The Vacy Voice

The newsletter of Vacy Public School

Developing Young Leaders At Vacy Public School

By Brooke Cowley

On Sunday March 27 we departed Maitland Railway Station by bus. We didn't get far as we found out our bus didn't have seatbelts so we changed over buses and left again.

After two and a half hours we were in Sydney. We went to the Kyoto Teppenyaki Restaurant first.

We tried all of the foods and found most of them very nice. My favourite was the miso beef. We left the restaurant feeling very full after having a lot of our food thrown at us. Most of us were successful with catching it but some weren't.



At Mr. and Mrs. Pike's house we inflated the beds but didn't get much sleep.

On Monday we got up early and left for the Young Leaders' Conference. First to speak was Mike Martin, general manager of the Halogen Foundation. Then came Greg Mullins, the chief commissioner of the NSW fire brigades. He spoke about how family needed to be kept "number one".

There were lots of other speakers including Jessica Watson and Talia Fowler but the best was Kurt Fearnley. There was a very strong aura around him. Everyone's eyes were glued to the stage as they waited for his next words and, even if he weren't a paralympian, I don't think it would have made much difference with the way he spoke. He was the most inspiring person I've ever met or seen. He crawled the Kokoda Track as well as being a world champion wheelchair athlete. There was nothing he couldn't do - he amazed me!

On the way home everyone was feeling very tired but fulfilled. We were all ready for a good sleep when we got home.



From the principal...

Many thanks to everyone who returned their school surveys. We got rid of quite a few chocolate frogs but there were enough left over for me so everyone is a winner in this exercise. I will spend the next two days collating and analysing the data from the surveys and will present the full findings at the next meeting of the P&C. In the meantime I will finalise our 2010 Annual School Report and have it ready for distribution soon.

Opportunities, such as this one, to contribute to school direction are really important to seize when they do occur. Over the remainder of this year I will be coordinating the development of our new school plan that will run from 2012 to 2014. Our entire Department runs on a three-year planning cycle and the ideas (and criticisms) that have been stated within the surveys are important in guiding our school through that period.

There will be, especially with the change of government, a host of programs and initiatives that need to be addressed from outside the school so it is vitally important that we control our direction from inside the school rather than let outside factors take over. The P&C will be a vital tool within this planning. Please try and get along to the next meeting (the AGM) and have a say. We would love to see you there.

Already from the surveys I can glean that one area we do need to focus on is our communication processes. Not in how we communicate, because I think we do have a fair suite of options, but rather in what we communicate. We do a lot of great things at our school that it is evident aren't being recognised. We need to look a little closer at getting the message out there and letting people know why our school is such a great one to attend.

Regards,

Kevin Greaves
(principal)

Class News

Kindergarten/Year 1

This Thursday Mrs. Greaves and myself will be attending a professional development day on early literacy. Our classes will follow normal class routine.

This week Kindergarten will be learning the sounds 'd', 'm' and 'g'. Kindergarten sight words this week are 'here' and 'is'.

Year 2

We all enjoyed our swimming time and improved heaps over the two weeks. Thanks to Mrs. Hope and Ms. Fay for all of their hard work organising it for us.

Now swimming is over, reading groups and homework return to usual. I will be away on Thursday at a literacy course and Mrs. Woods will be responsible for the Year 2 class on this day. She will be following our regular class program.

Year 3-4

Students have started to do some borrowing from the library but these books need to stay at school until the full computer system in the library is up and running.

A note will go home this week about some Easter cooking activities that students will participate in.

Projects are due next Wednesday. There is no pressure as to how much or how little students choose to do. Everything they do will supplement the main program in class and will only enhance their understandings.

Year 5-6

There are some very tired Year 6 students in my class today. They are all still recovering from their great adventure over the weekend. I am glad to hear today that the students enjoyed their time away. It was lots of fun.

A huge thank you to my wonderful Year 5 students who took over the older students' duties yesterday. I am very proud of you all.

Great projects, Year 5-6!

Remember that Ms. Corrigan is in from Thursday until the end of term (excluding Friday). Here I come again, hospital! Have a safe and happy holiday everyone.

School And Community News

Regional Director's Visit

This Thursday we will be playing host to our regional director, Mrs. Robyn McKerihan, as well as our school education director, Mr. Graeme Valler. Mrs. McKerihan last visited only last year but will take the opportunity to have a look over our new buildings and our future direction. She must have enjoyed her last visit very much. We will have Mrs. Fonti, Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Greaves away that day through illness and training but we will have plenty to show off anyway.

Easter Activities

We have a bit of a weird end to the term with Easter falling in the second week of the holidays but we will be going ahead with our Easter activities day (co-ordinated by Mrs. Rogers) on Thursday April 7.

The agenda for the day is:

11:00am Morning tea - don't forget to get your hot cross bun order in
11:30am Church service at St. Johns
12:10pm Easter raffle draw - we are still taking tickets and donations of prizes
12:20pm Easter games
1:00pm Fish and chip lunch

Order forms for the hot cross buns and fish and chips are included with the newsletter today and should be returned by this Friday.

Please don't forget those donations of eggs for our raffle. The more eggs we get, the more prizes we can offer. Tickets, sold or unsold, should be returned by Monday April 4.

Our Easter games will require each child to bring in 3 boiled eggs. Please have them at school by Wednesday.

We invite all parents and friends to join us for our Easter activities. It is always good fun and a good chance to get together as a school community.

Drumming News

Col has been good enough to bring in a class supply of exactly the same bucket so we are sending the ones home the children sourced so that they can practice on them. I must say, toady they sounded terrific and are making great progress. I can't wait to hear them perform later in the year.

KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE

Most of the following information is taken from the RTA website: www.rta.nsw.gov.au.

SPEEDING OR SAFETY? (IT IS ALWAYS YOUR CHOICE) IN A 40KM/H SCHOOL ZONE

Speed (km/hr)	Distance (km)	Travel Time (secs)	Maximum Time Saved in 40 Zone (secs)	Increase in the risk of a serious crash
40	0.5	45	0	0
45	0.5	40	5	2x
50	0.5	36	9	4x
55	0.5	33	12	8x
60	0.5	30	15	16x
65	0.5	28	17	32x
70	0.5	26	19	64x
75	0.5	24	21	128x
80	0.5	23	23	256x

EXAMPLE

- The 40km/h School Zone at your school is less than 0.5kms in length. So that means if you are driving at 60km/h in during the 40km/h school zone time you are about 16 times more likely to have a serious crash. And all you save is about 15 seconds. You have to ask yourself IS IT WORTH IT?
- Less than 5%** of pedestrians hit at 30km/h are fatally injured, but over **90%** of pedestrians hit at 60km/h will die.
- So ***SLOW DOWN*** and protect our children in residential areas and near schools. ***THINK*** about the consequences - SAFETY IS A CHOICE!

A road safety message from Dungog Shire Council's Road Safety Officer.



this be adhered to but thank you for your cooperation.

Vacy Public School Uniform Shop

Autumn Specials

Cargo pants
Reg. price \$19.00
Special price \$17.00

Girls Bootleg Tights
Reg. price \$19.00
Special price \$ 17.00

Special price expires 31st March 2011

All orders must be placed before this date to be eligible for the special price.

Orders can be lodged any day of the week, orders will be filled Tuesdays.

Canteen Roster

Thursday March 31
Fiona Wysel and Michelle Hughes

Monday April 4
Tanya Waight and Carrie Butler

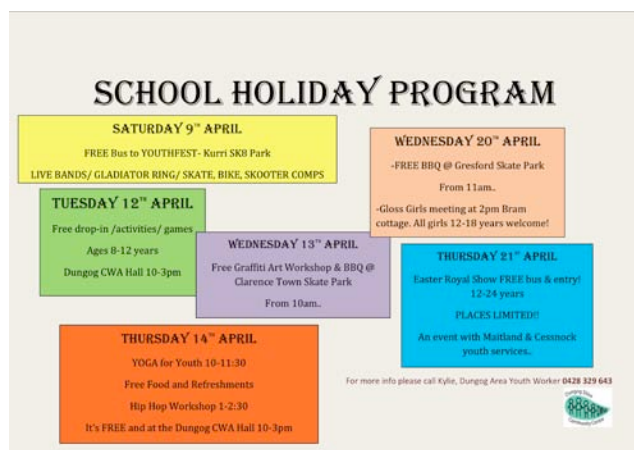
Award Winners

Student Of The Week

Bronte Parish
Kyle Lechner
Shawn Pillidge
Brooke Cowley

Class Awards

Connor Fernance
Imogen Key
Indy Chapman
Chelsey Hughes
Ty Deacon
Shelby-Lee Wintle



Illness At School

We have had a time of it of late with the vomiting/sore throat virus going through much of the school population and this week's alert for head lice and hand, foot and mouth disease. Please be aware of the information that went home yesterday.

Also please remember our school policy of not returning to school in the 24 hours after vomiting. This means that if your child vomits at 10:00am on one day that they do not return to school the next. This can be an inconvenience but we have an environment that seems to encourage illness through a large percentage of the population and early returns only add to the spread of what on this occasion is a virus. We can only ask that