

The Vacy Voice

The newsletter of Vacy Public School

Easter Activities A Hit

Late last term we held our annual Easter activities day and it was great to see so many parents come along and get involved, not only in the activities but especially in helping out with a shortage of canteen helpers. So much fun was had in there that I am sure we will have some of the eight helpers back again.

It was also nice to have a good roll-up for the scripture service. Our scripture teachers devote a lot of time to their classes and it is nice for them to see the interest from parents in what is happening.



Picture: Some of the parents who attended the Easter activities.



Picture: Joseph Ford and Jake Eyb compete in Easter egg bowling.

Our activities were changed slightly due to the wet but it didn't stop the children getting in and having a lot of fun. The raffle went off smoothly with some winners

being very lucky on the day and it was just nice to see the smiling faces on such a fun day.

Many thanks to everyone who came along and especially to those who gave a hand in the canteen on a very big day. Many thanks to Mrs. Rogers for her organisation.

ANZAC Services

My apologies for the mix-up over the ANZAC service. I completely overlooked putting a note out about the march and so represented the school on my own on ANZAC Day. This is a tremendous occasion and deserves our support so I will ensure that our representation is stronger next year.

Our school service was conducted last Friday and carried out beautifully by our school leaders. We have developed a terrific service over the past few years with our students running the entire commemoration. It is a great thing for them to be able to do, and especially to carry it out so confidently, and to be able to contribute in this way. Congratulations to all of them on their efforts.

School Cross Country Trials

Yesterday we were finally able to get our cross country trials finished with a greatly reduced course size due to the rain that has plagued us over the past few weeks. Every student participated enthusiastically and enjoyed the challenge and competition. With the size of the track, students were required to run seven laps in all but most finished still smiling and enjoying themselves throughout.

Our representative team to go to the zone trials this Friday at Tocal (weather permitting) is Max Wysel, Max Tanner, Mitchell Carter, Hayden Reid, Ty Deacon, Tom Priestley, Liam Key, Jacob Jessop, Ben Williams, Jake Eyb, Lleyton Lloyd, Harry Flynn, Jarrod Hughes, Noah Wysel, Lachlan McCosker, Benjamin Jessop, Ana Lutschini, Rose Washbourne, Tess Bennett, Imogen Key, Ellie Waight, Madison Hack, Kayla Hallinan, Chelsey Hughes, Brooke Cowley, Elizabeth Parish, Emmy Lee Warr, Sophie Jordan, Tia Tanner and Alice Washbourne. These students were handed permission notes yesterday after the trials and need to have them returned by this Thursday. Please remember that it is parents' responsibility to arrange transport for their children to this event. Mr. Greaves will be there on the day for a school contact. Good luck to our team.

From The Principal...

Having a bit more of a chance to sit down and catch up with the news recently, I have been struck by how much of what we do as a society is driven by public opinion and polls. Where the media previously took great pride in their independence and unbiased reporting of the facts, personal opinion columns and strategic bias now drives the news...and people listen!

Many of the difficulties we currently have as a society could be better solved by simply identifying and then doing the right thing! This is not always the popular thing and not always the cheapest but it is infinitely better for us as a community in the long run.

This attitude or culture flies in the face of our greatest challenge as teachers and parents which is to develop in our children a sense of character strong enough to ensure that they do the right thing. We don't think that every one of our children is going to be the absolute best at everything they do in life but we do want to give them the skills to do what is right in life. Yet, as a society, we model the absolute opposite.

We ask children to be tolerant but our society models the opposite. We ask children to be trustworthy but everyday our society models the opposite. We ask children to be responsible but, again, society models the opposite.

I find it very frustrating as a teacher that our media is filled day after day with stories of people doing the wrong things or our leaders doing the popular thing, even in the face of what they truly believe in. We address constantly the peer pressure that underlies bullying and bad decision making but then watch reality TV in which almost every show is determined by people having to be voted out.

It is our greatest challenge, in my opinion, as teachers and parents to develop strength of character in our students and our children. We do this by modelling every day the behaviours that will see them do good in the world. We talk with them about better ways in which they can conduct themselves. And we promote the concept of service, to our families, to our communities and to our society, in the hope that our children will make this world a better place for their children to grow up in.

Regards,

Kevin Greaves (principal)



Picture: Off and racing in the 12/13 years girls' cross country. Notice the elbows are out to make a bit of room!

Dates To Remember

May 6	Mothers' Day Stall 9:30am
May 6	Zone cross country trials 11:30am
May 7	Bunnings BBQ – assistance needed!
May 10	K-2 drama excursion
May 10-12	NAPLAN
May 11	P&C Annual General Meeting 7:30pm
May 13	PSSA Boys' Soccer v Paterson 10am
May 13	Principal meeting–Maitland 11:30am
May 13	School disco 6:30pm
May 16	Debating v Paterson 10am
May 16-19	State AFL – Mr. Greaves attending
May 24	ICAS academic competition – computing
Jun 8	ICAS academic competition – science
Jun 13	Queen's Birthday holiday
Jun 15-16	Life Education Van visit
Jun 21	ICAS academic competitions – spelling/writing
Jul 1	Last day of Term 2

Class News

Kinder/Year 1

Welcome to Term 2! I hope everyone enjoyed their break. As we approach winter and the mornings are becoming cooler many children wear their jumpers to school but then take them off as the day warms up. Please ensure your child's jumpers are labelled.

K/1/2 reading groups will begin next week, groups will be going from 10.00am to 11.00am and will incorporate literacy activities. If any parents can help out please let me know. Last term's parent helpers still have their same day only time will now be from 10.00am to 11.00am.

Please keep revising Kindergarten sounds and sight words at home. Home readers can be changed on your child's news day.

Year 2

Reading groups will resume next week. We have made a few changes to our reading time which means groups will be Tuesday to Friday 10.00am - 11.00am. However if you are unable to come for that length of time let me know and we can be flexible. Due to our changes it may not always be possible to be with your own children during this time. We will be spreading our helpers over both the K/1 and year 2 class and you may be asked to supervise a group, or individual readers. If there are any problems with this please don't hesitate to see me.

Don't forget Mother's Day Stall this Friday.

Year 3-4

Welcome back to Term 2. I have heard great stories of adventures over the school holidays. This term I am changing the homework collection from Friday to a Monday and students will get new words on a Tuesday.

Year 3 will be sitting their NAPLAN tests on Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th May. A note will go home later in the week with more details.

Mr. Greaves will be away at the end of this week at meetings and the cross-country. Ms. Fay will be continuing through the whole week.

Year 5-6

I was pleased to see that all of 5/6 returned without injury from the Easter break. Congratulations to the Wintle family! A beautiful baby boy visited our room yesterday.

Project topics need to be chosen by **all** children by the end of this week. Notes went home last week so please check bags if you know nothing about the project.

Congratulations to all 5/6. You all participated well in yesterdays Cross Country. Good luck to our school representatives on Friday.

School News

Coming Up...

Mothers' Day Stall

This Friday we will be holding our annual Mothers' Day stall in the canteen from 9:30am (as we have quite a few students leaving for the zone cross-country

at 11:30am). All students should have brought in their money already so it will be simply a matter of making a selection on the day. Many thanks to Nicole Carter for her time in putting everything together for the stall.

K-2 Drama Excursion

Kinder to Year 2 students have been invited to Paterson Pre-school for a drama performance next Tuesday May 10. A permission note has been sent home today and the cost will be \$10. It sounds like an interesting time and it will give the pre-school kids a chance to meet some of the older children who they will be attending school with next year.

NAPLAN

Next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we will be holding the NAPLAN tests for Year 3 and 5. The tests will be held in the Year 5-6 building and Years 4 and 6 will be in the Year 3-4 building. These tests are held annually and provide data to assist in directing learning program development.

School Disco

We will be hosting a school disco on the evening of Friday May 13 and the date is the theme of the night as well (we will leave that open to interpretation). The disco will go from 6:30pm to 8:00pm and the entry cost of \$5 includes a packet of chips and a poppa. It should be a good night. Many thanks to Ms. Fay for organising it all for us.

Active After School Sports

Our Term 1 sports continue this term with both sports starting next week. Tennis will continue on the Thursday and Futsal on the Friday. This program is again free. Placements continue from Term 1 but, if you would like your child to be involved in one, the other or both, please contact Mrs. Hope in the school office.

Guitar And Drumming Tuition

Drum tuition will begin from next Tuesday morning with Col returning for another term. Cost of the program for Term 2 is \$90 per child. This is not a week-by-week fee but a full term fee and is payable whether the child is absent or not. We still have to make full payment so this cost must be passed on.

Guitar tuition started on Monday. Lessons will continue in the school library.

Again, there are places available in each instrument for interested students so please contact Mrs. Hope if you would like your child involved.

Library Renovation

The painting of the library is almost done and the shelving has started to go in so we are looking to get the facility on-line by the middle of term. This will require a lot of work still but we are much closer due to the efforts of our esteemed painter, Michelangelo (and yes, the ceiling came up a treat).

P&C News

We are still looking for assistants for the Bunnings BBQ on May 7. This is a great fundraiser for the school with not a lot of effort required – just helpers! A note has gone home and we would love to get a few back. It only takes a couple of hours to make a difference! At the last meeting of the P&C, it was moved that we support the establishment of the new library in the school to the tune of \$5000 so the funds from the Bunnings day will assist in this endeavour.

Also early this term, Mrs. Woller will be leading a team of senior students in painting a mural at the school. It will be a great new addition but, to keep costs down, we are looking for donations of any water-based paints (to be left at the school by the end of Week 2, Term 2).

Also, please do not forget our annual general meeting being held next Wednesday evening at 7:30pm in the staff room. It would be great to see a good roll up of interested parents to help direct some of the great work that gets done by the P&C.

Canteen

Thursday May 5

Bek Bennett and Kenny Bennett

Monday May 9

Nicole Long and Karen Turner



Picture: Noah Wysel leads the way down the garden path.



Have your say in shaping Dungog Shire for the next 20 years!

Dungog Shire Council is changing the way it undertakes its long term planning to provide a blueprint for our community and Council activities which will ensure a more sustainable future.

The first and most important step in this process is to develop a 20 year Community Strategic Plan—Dungog Shire 2030. This plan will identify your, the community's, main priorities and aspirations for the future and will target social, environmental and economic issues.

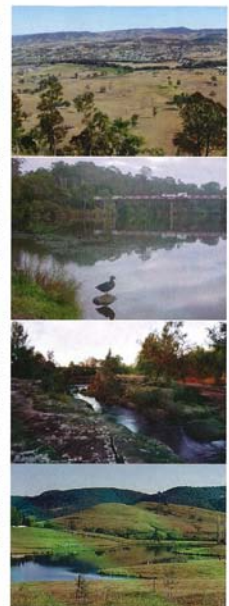
This is your opportunity to engage with the Council and have a voice in shaping the Dungog Shire that you want to see in 2030 and beyond.

See over for details 

To ensure that as many voices as possible are heard, Council will be holding four public forums in early May. These forums will be open to all members of the community, but numbers are limited by venue size so RSVP's are essential.

The forums will not be focussed on issues affecting the location where they are held, but will instead look at the Dungog Shire Local Government Area as a whole. Each forum will be identical in format and content so it doesn't matter which forum you attend. Each will run for about 3 hours with a light dinner provided.

We would love to see you at one of the venues below, but if you can't make it in person don't feel left out. There will be a number of other ways that you can contribute to Dungog Shire 2030, particularly for those with mobility or access issues. Keep an eye on our website (www.dungog.nsw.gov.au), the Dungog Chronicle or you can register your interest by phoning Council on 4995 7777 or sending an email to shirecouncil@dungog.nsw.gov.au and we will contact you with the details in mid May.



Please join us at one of these forums (a light dinner will be provided):

9 May 2011	Gresford School of Arts Hall at 6pm
10 May 2011	Clarence Town Primary School Hall at 6pm
11 May 2011	Dungog High School MPC at 6pm
12 May 2011	Paterson School of Arts Hall at 6pm

Don't forget to RSVP by Wednesday 4 May 2011 to Council on 4995 7777 or shirecouncil@dungog.nsw.gov.au