

The Newsletter of Vacy Public School

786 Gresford Road, Vacy 2421
www.vacy-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Tuesday 28 August 2012
Ph: 0249388153

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Principal: Mr Graeme Oke



“Friendship and Learning”

From the Principal

Last week, I attended a Principals' meeting in Muswellbrook which focused on the changes that are currently being implemented to Public Schools across NSW. It is certainly a very exciting time for public education as we move to a system that will give schools greater autonomy and more direct control over their finances. The changes are complex and the DEC has vodcasts and fact sheets on their website to provide easily digestible information for parents.

Our next P&C meeting is scheduled for 7:00pm next Wednesday 5 September at which time I will be able to give an overview of the changes and provide some of the detail.

We have needed to change the arrangements for the Vacy Country Carnival on 16 September. Following discussions, we will commit our help to the Lamb Carvery with Greg and Lorraine, there will NOT be an International Food Stall. We will have soft drinks, juices and water for sale under the COLA.

We will also be running a few activities for children including Sponge Throw, Soccer Sharp Shoot and Tennis Ball Toss, and of course our dancers will entertain.

How can you help? Contact the office to put your name down to help as a carver, server or money handler on the day. Thanks to those volunteers who have already made themselves available. The more support we get, the less time each person needs to spend on the carvery stall.

Our school has a terrific uniform and I'd like to congratulate all of those students who wear their uniform with pride. Over winter we have seen jackets being worn which are not part of the uniform and I would ask that parents order the school jacket to keep us looking great. Uniform order forms are available at the office.

As a SunSmart school, students are required to wear their hat whenever they go outside the classroom. This includes break times, fitness and during sport. If your child doesn't have a hat at school, they will need to play under the COLA and will bring a slip home to make you aware of their need for a hat at school.

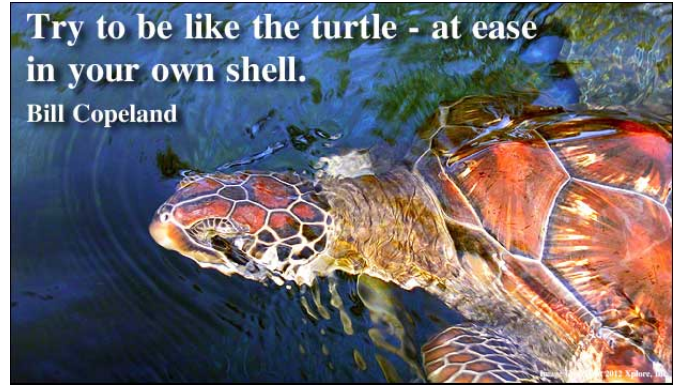
Don't forget to label your child's clothing as it makes it so much easier to return to the owner. We have quite a substantial number of school jumpers and jackets which are not labelled and are 'lost'. If your child doesn't have their jumper or jacket, please have them check through this 'lost' collection.

Regards,
Graeme

Quote of the Week

Try to be like the turtle - at ease
in your own shell.

Bill Copeland



Chicken Pox

There has been a couple of children who have come down with the Chicken Pox virus. Chicken Pox usually starts with one spot, but more quickly appear, with fever, headache, runny nose, a cough and feeling very tired. The average incubation period is 14 to 15 days, but may range from 10 to 21 days. The infectious period is from two days before the rash appears (that is, during the coughing, runny nose stage) and until all blister have formed scales or crusts.

Children should be excluded from school until all blister have dried. This is usually at least 5 days after the rash first appeared in unimmunised children and less in immunised children.

Vomiting Virus

If your child has been vomiting we would ask that you keep them home for 24 hours after the last occurrence of vomiting. This will assist us with the infection protection of other students.

Dates to Remember

August

30 & 31 Gala Sports Day @ Dungog

September

- 3 Canteen Committee Meeting 9.15am
- 5 P & C Meeting 7.00pm
- 16 Vacy Country Fair
- 19 Science & Engineering Day for 5/6
- 20 Olympics Day at Dungog (whole school)
- 21 Last day Term 3

Class News



Kindergarten

An unexpected accident prevented homework going home yesterday, students will have it in their bags today. Homework can be handed in Monday next week. This Thursday and Friday students will be travelling to Dungog High School for the Small Schools Gala Day. Please make sure your child is equipped for the day. It has been lovely to see so many Kindergarten 2013 children participating in our "drop in" for Tuesday recess days. If you know of any new families to the area with school aged children please contact the office.

I wish all Father's a lovely day on Sunday.

1/2

Homework will be due next Monday due to our Gala Days at the end of the week (if they are cancelled due to rain we will revert to our normal routine of homework and spelling test on Friday).

Please make sure your children have enough water and suitable footwear for our Gala Days and if you haven't ordered their lunch, enough food to see them through the day. Just to refresh your memory some children have ordered food for Thursday and on Friday, the sausage sizzle is free but if your child wants more than one they will need to pay for it.

3/4

We have begun our unit on Energy and the children have conducted an energy audit at school. They have identified some very clear ways in which energy usage can be reduced at school and we will conduct a follow up audit later in the year.

For homework this week, students in Year 3/4 will need to conduct a home energy audit to monitor energy usage and to highlights ways in which energy consumption can be reduced. A table has been provided for them to complete the energy audit.

Students will also need to prepare a design for a model of one of the forms of electricity production. This could be hydro-electricity, wind-powered electricity, solar energy production, coal or gas based energy production.

They should Google the type of electricity production and identify the materials that they will need to make the model (at school).

5/6

Last Thursday, we visited Dungog High for a special robotics workshop with Mr Tony Skimmings and his Year 9 Engineering students and we all had a fantastic time. Many thanks to the gracious parents who transported us over there.

A reminder that projects are due in 2 weeks. By now all students should have seen me about their preparation and presenting their information should be well underway.

Good luck Ellie for Saturday's game! Good luck Lleyton at the Hunter AWD Carnival on Wednesday.

School News

Premier's Reading

Validated students are automatically provided with a certificate and their name is placed on the honour roll in the Sun Herald. We will use the permission slip filled out at the beginning of the year indicating what forms of media your child's name can be displayed in. If anyone wishes to change what is on their form (ie: not give or give permission) please contact the office. If you require further information please contact Mrs Greaves.

* Congratulations to K/1/2, Saskia Bickerdike, Brendan Lambert, Amy Magri, Chloe Reid, Libby Cant, Ana Lutschini, Rose Washbourne for completing this years challenge.

2013 Kindergarten Orientation Day

During Term 3 we would like to invite Kindergarten 2013 to join us for recess each Tuesday. We have found this to be a successful part of their transition to school. For more details and confirmation of participation please contact the office on 4938 8153.

Fun with friends and family

Want to encourage your child to try something new outside of school? Try the range of options provided by NSW Sport and Recreation – from camps and sailing to a variety of disability sport activities. Go to: What's on around NSW – Sport and recreation

<http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/active/whatson.asp>

Spelling it out at home

The School A to Z website's popular mobile Spelling Bee game can now be played on your home computer. The game is designed for both junior and senior primary school students, and features words from the Macquarie Dictionary. Parents might be tempted to test their skill on the harder levels.

Go to: Spelling Bee

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/educational-games/spelling-bee>

Coming to grips with measurement

It may come as no surprise to learn that a child's early awareness of mass and volume is often based on watching their parents. Seeing mum or dad measure and pour ingredients for a recipe or weigh items at the fruit shop will often become part of their play. Find out what you can do at home to help your child measure mass and volume.

Go to: Helping your child measure mass and volume <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/mathematics/mathematics-tips/helping-your-child-measure-mass-and-volume>

Face at the Maitland Regional Art Gallery

Councillor Peter Blackmore, Mayor of the City of Maitland, the Councillors of Maitland City Council together with Joseph Eisenberg OAM, Cultural Director of Maitland Regional Art Gallery invite you to 'face' an exhibition of portraits by Hunter and Central Coast K-10 students.

Opening Celebration:
Saturday 8 September 2012

3.00p - 5.00pm

To be opened by:

Lyn Cook, Regional Arts Coordinator, Department of

Education & Communities

MAITLAND REGIONAL ART GALLERY

230 High St, Maitland NSW 2320

Exhibition dates: 31.8.2012 - 11.11.2012

National Literacy Week

This Wednesday at 2pm students will join teachers and students all over Australia for a "read in". Students will read "Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsons" by Aaron Blabey and complete activities.

Vacy P & C Shopping Trip

In today's newsletter is a booking sheet for the Vacy P & C Shopping Trip to Sydney to the factory outlets. The proceeds from the Shopping Trip will go towards school resources. If you are interested in attending this wonderful trip please fill in your details and return to school by 5 September.

Asthma

Please be aware that we are no longer allowed to have reusable spacers available at school for asthma medication. We have at least 20 students in our school who are identified as having asthma so they will need to provide their own for use in an emergency or for self medicating. Please be aware that the children can keep these in their bag or we can store in the office if you require further information regarding this please contact the school.

We Need Your Help At the Vacy Country Carnival

Contact the office to indicate what time you can help or make a monetary contribution to purchase the legs of lamb. Helpers will be required from 10.00 am to 3.00pm.

You're Invited to Join the Canteen Committee

First meeting will be held on Monday, 3 September at 9.15am in the canteen. Matters to be discussed will be healthy alternatives for the menu.

Canteen News

Thanks to all those families who have returned the Canteen Survey.



Roster

Thursday 30 August	No Canteen Dungog Gala Day
Monday 3 September	Tanya Waight & Jo Magri



Community News

Invite a little bit of Italy into your Home!

Become second parents to an exchange student as they adapt themselves to the Aussie way of life and share their cuisine, history and culture with you. Volunteer host families come from all walks of life and communities: rural, suburban and urban.

Contact WEP for more information :

1300884733 or wep.org.au

The Challenge Is On

16th September 2012

Enter Our Challenge

Its Free

Prizes Awarded

"Crazy Beanie Challenge"

Create a Crazy Colourful Quirky Beanie

AND

"Teddy Bear Challenge"

Can Be A Soft Cuddly Bear

A Painting or Anything With a Bear Theme

Have some fun and get your creative juices flowing
the only limit is your imagination!

All Entries Must Be Hand Crafted

Hosted by

Vacy Community Arts Centre Inc.

Ph: Annette 49388013 or Elaine 49389510

email:vacyarts@y7mail.com

Maitland Tennis Centre

Sept/Oct School Holiday Tennis Clinic

When: Tuesday 2, Wednesday 3, and
Thursday 4 October 2012

Where: Maitland Tennis Centre

Cnr Page and Lawes St East Maitland

Time: 9.00 to 10.30am per day

Price: \$50.00 for 3 days (Family discounts available)

Age: 4 to 16 years

Book Now on 4934 5016, 0421882055 or

Online @ www.maitlandtenniscentre.com.au



A close encounter with Blackbutt's kool koala!

The Newcastle Permanent Junior
Ranger program brings kids back to
nature. Have a close encounter
and photo with a koala, plant a
tree in the reserve, spot some of
Blackbutt's residents, and get
creative with a craft activity!



Dates: 25 - 27 September 2012

Time: 9.30 - 11.30am

Location: Carnley Avenue Reserve

Fees apply and bookings are essential.

For further information please contact:

Blackbutt Reserve Office - 4904 3344 or visit

www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au

Vacy Charity Cutting Horse Event

Sat 13th October 2012

'Riverview'

Summerhill Rd, Vacy

2 handed snafflebit

\$1500 worth of prizes.

Spectators free Entry

Camp Oven,& BBQ,Cold Drinks & Restricted Bar

***Proceeds to Westpac Helicopter
and***

Vacy Public School

Prizes to 10th place

Encouragement prizes for beginners & under 21s

Limited to 40 entries

Entries strictly prepaid (Limit 2 rides)

Opens 27.08.2012

Closed October 1st or when full.

Contacts: Adele Horn Mobile: 0428388055

Email: fixit@valleymachinery.com.au or

Leesa Preistley: 49385591 Mobile: 0412002101



Maitland Senior & Little Athletics Club Inc.

Registrations:

Friday 31 August and Friday 7 September 5.30-6.30pm

Where:

Smythe Field, Maitland

Costs:

\$30 Tiny Tots, \$60 Little Athletes

Ages:

3 year up to any age

Competition:

Begins 6.30pm 14 September at Smythe Field

Contact:

Matthew Harris 0432353161

maitland.athletics.club@gmail.com

Website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/maitlandathletics/home>



Maitland Horse Sports Day

Hosted by: Iona Public School



Tuesday 16 October 2012

at

**Maitland Polocrosse Grounds, Anambah Rd
Rutherford**

(1km off New England Highway)

**Commencing: 8.30am Gear Check by Team Manager,
9.00am START**

All forms available on the school website below:

www.iona-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Entry Fee: \$20 per rider * (see conditions of entry)

Riding Events:

- Riding Classes
- Hacking Classes
- Pleasure Hack

Sporting Events: TBA

Entries Close:

Thursday 20 September 2012

Enquiries: Fiona Lawrence

Phone: 4930 0921 Mobile: 0448 30023

Email: f.lawrence5@bigpond.com.au