

# The Newsletter of Vacy Public School

786 Gresford Road, Vacy 2421  
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Tuesday 5 March 2013  
Ph: 0249388153

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Principal: Mr Graeme Oke



## “Friendship and Learning”

### Principal's Message

Thank you to those families who have completed and returned the Computer Technology Survey for parents of students in Years 1 to 6. The purpose of the survey is to evaluate one of the identified priority areas of our 2012-2014 School Plan. A total of 35 survey responses were collected.

Fingers crossed that our rescheduled Surf Day goes ahead this Friday 8 March. Permission notes that were completed and signed for the earlier date remain valid for this excursion. Again, students will need to come to school prepared for the excursion as we will not be informed about beach closures until the morning of the event.

During flood times such as these we are currently experiencing, the school buses operate 'flood runs' which differ to their normal operations. One change concerns the Gresford run and the Lennoxton Road run. The flood run requires that the Gresford run is completed first in the afternoon before returning to school to collect students on the Lennoxton Road run. Please be aware that this may mean your children arrive either earlier or later at their stop. Any enquiries should be directed to Linq Coaches on 49389394

Our Student Representative Councillors (SRC) for Term 1 are organising a range of games and activities for students to participate in at lunchtime. This week, Libby will be running a handball competition and next week, Zoe will be organising Netta and Netball games for those interested.

Vacy P&C will be coordinating the Craft section of the Total Field Days for 2013.

Total College will contribute \$2000 to the school's P&C and will provide materials required for the craft activities. We don't need to cook anything or sell anything to benefit by \$2000! Can you help by giving just 2 hours to support the P&C and ultimately the students?

The Total Field Days will run from 3-5 May 2013. To volunteer your assistance, contact Glenn Butler. Students are recycling their flavoured milk bottles and we are collecting milk bottle lids. Please send in any milk bottle lids – they will be used to make 'ladybugs'.

Well done to our competitors at the Zone Swimming Carnival held last week. They all competed valiantly and were encouraging supporters. Thank you to those parents who attended the carnival and assisted our swimmers.

Regards,  
Graeme

### Quote of the Week

*You are the only person on earth  
who can use your ability.*

*~ Zig Ziglar*



### ASSEMBLY AWARDS

Week ending 01/03/13

	STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS
K	Marshall Parker
1	Sienna Holding
2-3	Mia Roberti
4-5	Josie Waight
5-6	Ellie Waight

	CLASS AWARDS
K	Lucy Thompson
1	Ursula Thompson
2	Jack Magri
3	Lillian Richardson
4	Max Wysel
5	Rose Washbourne
6	Zoe Butler

### Dates to Remember

#### March

Wednesday 6	Binless Day
Thursday 7	Regional Swimming
Friday 8	Surf Day
Monday 11	Book Club return
Friday 15	3/4 Soccer Gala Day at Gresford
Thursday 21	Harmony Day
Monday 25	Young Leaders Conference
Wednesday 27	P & C AGM
Thursday 28	Easter Service
Friday 29	Good Friday

## Class News



### **Kindergarten**

I have my fingers crossed the weather will be kind to us on Friday for our Stockton Ferry Excursion. Please pack a raincoat, just in case, and plenty of food and water for the day. Students have worked very hard on their Gresford Show paintings, the theme for this year is "My Favourite Animal". Please visit the Children's Pavilion at Gresford Show and check out our wonderful works of art. Please continue to revise sight words and letter sounds.

### **Year 1**

Great to see lots of children taking the time to use their studyladder website. Their log in details are in the front of their homework book. A busy week this week with our show painting entries being finalised yesterday and our excursion on Friday. Due to our excursion we will not require our parent helpers for Friday this week but we look forward to seeing you the following week.

### **Year 2/3**

The Newcastle excursion is on this Friday (weather permitting) please ensure your child has all the necessary items for the day. It should be a great day out. Just a reminder that this weeks news topic is somewhere I have visited in Australia.

I would also like to make a correction. On parent information night I stated that year 3 would be learning their 2, 3, 5, and 10 times tables. This is true however they will also be learning their 4 and 6 times tables. We have started looking at our 4 times tables and we will be learning our 6 times tables later in the year. I am happy for your child to practise all times tables including 4 and 6. Year 2 will be learning their 2, 3, 5, and 10 times tables. They should be familiar with 2, 5 and 10 and we will be looking more at our 3 times tables later in the year. Thank you.

### **Year 4/5**

I would just like to congratulate the students from 4/5 who represented Vacy at the Zone swimming carnival. We were all really proud to see you try your hardest. Students in 4/5 will be bringing home their first mini project later this week. Please make sure students are working on it. The project will be due on the 8 April. If students need any further assistance with his task please feel free to contact me at school. Just a reminder that tomorrow is our "Binless Day". Students are encouraged to bring food in containers or paper bags. In class we will be discussing the effects of rubbish on our environment and what we can do to reduce it.

### **Year 5/6**

I hope that by now everyone has begun their projects on their "Great Australian". All projects are due on the 15th of March so if you are still requiring my assistance, please make sure that you see me in the next few days. I am very pleased with the progress that most of the students have made and look forward to seeing the finished products.

## School News

### **Binless Day**

On Wednesday 6th March the Environmental Group is having a "binless day". We are asking all students to bring their recess and lunch in reuseable containers. We will not be using our bins on this day and any rubbish will be brought home. The reason for having a "binless day" is to create an awareness of the amount of rubbish we generate each day. We hope students may be able to improve upon the disposable waste in their lunch boxes after " binless day". We ask parents to help students to make this a worth while activity. We will monitor rubbish before and after "binless day".

A fundraiser will be held later in the year by the Environmental Group selling reusable bags for food brought to school.

Tom Priestley and Liam Key

### **Surf Safety Excursion**

Our Surf Safety day that was cancelled last week because of bad weather has been rescheduled and will take place on 8 March 2013. This is a great day and one which provides invaluable safety lessons for the students that may one day save their life.

The students from Years Three to Six will attend this day and it is free of charge.

The Infants will have an excursion to Stockton by ferry and will meet up with the rest of the school later in the day.

### **Easter Activities**

This year Vacy School will celebrate Easter on Thursday 28th March 2013. We ask each family to donate Easter eggs for our Easter raffle. Donations can be left at the office. More information about activities to follow.

### **Active After Schools Communities**

A.A.S.C. Tennis continues Thursdays from 3.15pm to 4.15pm.

Hockey is on Tuesdays from 3.15pm to 4.15pm.

## Premier's Reading Challenge News

The 2013 challenge started on the 1st of March. K/1/2 will be completing the challenging at school with their class teachers. Years 3-6 will need to do their reading at home and during DEAR time at school. The 3-6 students can enter their own books using their student portal. They can also access the reading lists that are appropriate for their age group on their portal as well. If they have any problems with this then they need to see Mrs Greaves at school and she can help them access it. As the students that are entered are published in the national newspaper we will need your permission, so we will be guided by the Media Permission Form that we have on file at the school. If there are any changes you want to make in regards to this then please contact Mrs Greaves. **Please note that if they can not have their name published they will not receive a certificate.** We would love to get as many students as possible involved this year. Don't forget lots of Year Three children will qualify for their gold award this year which recognises four years of entering the Premier's Reading Challenge. Happy reading everyone.

## NSW Police Force

Central Hunter Police Command has reported a recent trend in break and enters of remote schools, that is schools located outside the major CBD's. Parents and students are asked to be vigilant in reporting any unusual activity, recording registration numbers of vehicles seen around schools particularly at night.

## Celebrate and reward school volunteers

Parents and families give so much to their community, from volunteering at the school canteen, to helping out with kid's sports teams, to raising money for schools through stalls and fetes. This contribution is extraordinary and helps to keep school communities thriving.

Often though these commitments can get in the way of other things and parents find themselves wishing they had an extra pair of hands to help out. The good news is that a new community based initiative called Timebanking that provides this support is currently being trialled across Hunter Councils, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Central Coast regions. Timebanking is an initiative of the NSW Government.

Timebanking operates by members earning 'time credits' when they provide a service to another Timebanker member such as volunteering to read in classrooms or helping coach a sport teams. They 'bank' these time credits and then redeem them later on a service they or their family need, such as some gardening, tutoring for their children, or some handy work around the home, Timebanking provides a simple and easy way to help build the school community and acknowledge the efforts of volunteers.

## Have You Received The Schoolkids Bonus???

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – *have you?*

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive \$410 a year for each primary student and \$820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don't have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children's education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting [australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus](http://australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus) and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

## Canteen News

**Due to the increase in our enrolment numbers we still require volunteers for our Thursday roster. If you are able to volunteer one day a month please phone Eleesha Pereira on 4938 5046.**



## Recess & Lunch Orders

When ordering both recess and lunch please write orders on separate bags with your child's full name and class.

## Canteen Roster

<b>Thursday 7 March</b>	Leesa Priestly Kristy Rowe Emma Thompson
<b>Monday 11 March</b>	Karen Turner Kelly Richardson

## Book Club

Book Club is included with today's newsletter. All orders must be returned to school **no** later than Monday 11 March. Unfortunately orders received after this date will not be processed and will be returned.



## Community News

### **Dungog Junior Rugby League Needs You**

We require more players for teams in 2013

If you are interested please ring

Lindy Hunt - 0429825570

Barry Allen - 0414577727

Shane Darr - 0428044588

All players receive a free football after registration and new  
Under 6 years or 7 years are FREE REGO!

### **Vacy and Gresford Dance Centre**

#### **Vacy School of Arts**

#### **Gresford School of Arts**

#### **CLASSES AVAILABLE:**

Jazz Tap Ballet

Gymnastics Hip-Hop

Cheerleading Zumba

For all enquires contact Brooke Holz

Phone: 0437354577

Email: [brookedance@bigpond.com](mailto:brookedance@bigpond.com)



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## **Yoga**

People who have not tried yoga have an idea that you need to be able to tie yourself in knots to do it. Not so (haha)! If you have never been flexible or have lost your flexibility the good news is you can improve from there. A student who begins the practice of yoga has much more potential for improvement than the student who can already fold in half! This class is perfect for anyone wanting to try yoga (or maybe Tuesday mornings just suit you!). The class is suitable for any age, male or female.

**Local "guru" Donna Cavanough** has been a yoga lover for nearly 25 years and a teacher for 13. She teaches in a relaxed, cheerful but focused way. She uses props (mats, blankets, bolsters and blocks to help each student access each yoga posture to the best of their ability. Donna has students in their 70s and 80s practising in Gresford – and the class has nearly as many men as women.

**When:** Every Tuesday - 10.30am-noon during term time.

**Where:** Games room at the Dungog RSL.

**Cost:** Casual classes \$17/class. Term \$15/14 per class (price to be confirmed).

**What to wear:** Comfortable stretchy clothing (tracksuits are quite good). All equipment is provided but you can bring your own yoga mat and equipment if you wish.

**Rating:** *For beginners or those wanting to consolidate. Perfect if you're not sure but want to give it a serious go.*

## **First Aid Certificate**

Learn all aspects of routine first aid, to a certificate standard. What's covered: CPR for adults and infants, fractures, sprains, burns, control of bleeding, responding to heart attack, asthma, snakebites and exposure, and much more. Do CPR on dummies, make slings, ask questions. All led by experienced district local Sonja Medcalf (Registered Training Organisation Parasol Ltd). You can also renew your current certificate on this course.

**Note:** *Students without a current certificate are required to complete a workbook prior to the commencement of the course.*

Over two evenings, Wed 3rd & Thurs 4th April 2013, 6-9pm, Paterson School Of Arts. Cost: full course \$160; re-certification \$140.

Accreditation level: HLTF301B – also known as Senior First Aid Certificate or Apply First Aid.

**Booking essential. Just contact Dungog Community College. Learn locally; get safe.**

[www.dungogcommunitycollege.org.au](http://www.dungogcommunitycollege.org.au);  
[education@dins.org.au](mailto:education@dins.org.au)

or 4992 1133. (We are also offering the certificate in a one-day course in Dungog on 18 March.)