

# The Newsletter of Vacy Public School

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## “Friendship and Learning”

### Principal's Message

We finally managed to hold the Surf Day which has had to be postponed for the last four years!

Kinder to Year 2 students enjoyed a pleasant ferry ride to Stockton before having morning tea. On their return they climbed the Queen's Wharf Tower for a view of the harbour and beyond to Nobby's Headland. They then strolled along the boardwalk to Nobby's Beach to join Years 3 to 6 and have a much needed rest and some lunch. Primary students were split into three groups and rotated through a variety of activities including beach sprints and games, board riding and modified surf races.

After each rotation the students enjoyed a 'free surf' and one of the highlights was building sand castles. The life savers gave the students a real insight into the surf lifesaving movement and water safety.

The excursion was extremely worthwhile and the students were wonderful ambassadors for Vacy Public School.

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, Zoe will be running Netta and Netball games and next week, Liam will be organising chess games for those interested.

The Total Field Days will run from 3-5 May 2013 and Vacy P&C will be coordinating the Craft section. Can you help by giving just 2 hours to support the P&C and ultimately the students?

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'.

Vacy Public School is a 'uniform' school and it is very impressive the manner in which students proudly wear the school uniform. As autumn kicks in and cooler weather approaches, now is the time to consider checking whether school jumpers are still fitting and to order new jumpers. Jumpers with picture, logos and hoods are inappropriate for school and pose a potential safety risk. Please adhere to the school uniform and if assistance is required to ensure that your child wears the complete school uniform, contact the school.

The school will be celebrating Harmony Day on Thursday 21 March and Ms Fay has organised some special guest presenters and a special morning tea. Due to the special morning tea, please note that there will be no recess orders for the canteen on this day. A separate note with details accompanies this newsletter.

Regards,  
Graeme

### Quote of the Week

*Pull the string, and it will follow wherever you wish.  
Push it, and it will go nowhere at all.*

*~ Dwight D. Eisenhower*

### 3/4/5/6 Surf Excursion



### Dates to Remember

#### March

Wed 20

Thursday 21

Monday 25

Wednesday 27

Thursday 28

Friday 29

Cross Country

Harmony Day

Young Leaders Conference

P & C AGM

Easter Service

Good Friday

#### April

Mon 1

Thu 11

Fri 12

Easter Monday

Bolognaise Day

Mufti Day ~ Last Day Term 1

## Class News



### Kindergarten

Our excursion last Friday to Stockton and Nobby's Beach was excellent. The weather was great, the students were well behaved and accompanying the students were a terrific bunch of parent helpers. Thank you Mrs Hope for organising a wonderful day and many thanks to our parent helpers. Over the next few weeks students will bring home, home readers. Please take note of the day written on their folder as this is the day they are asked to return readers to school. I will be checking if students can recall sight words before taking home readers.

### Year 1

I have asked the children to please remember to fill in their homework record that is glued into their book with their spelling lists as this gives me an idea of the activities they have completed each week. If you could encourage them to do this, it would be appreciated.

You would no doubt have heard lots of stories regarding our excursion last week. We were very lucky with the weather and it was a beautiful day for a ferry ride and walk. We have been studying Wet and Dry Environments in H.S.I.E so this excursion fitted in well. Judging by the number of students who fell asleep on the way home, they were worn out after a big day. A big thank you to our parent helpers for the day, Karen Prior and Nat Convery.

### Year 2/3

Years 2 and 3 had a great day on the excursion on Friday. Year 3 learnt some important surf safety information and Year 2 had great time learning about different modes of transport.

Don't forget to bring in your home readers on news day to change. Everyone is doing a good job presenting their news, however I can see the difference in the students that rehearse at home.

### Year 4/5

Last Friday 4/5 attended the surf day at Nobbys Beach. We had a lot of fun surfing, wading and playing in the sand. I wouldn't be surprised if many children came home asking for a surfboard for their birthday.

As you all should know 4/5, have been given their first mini project on Andy Griffiths. It is only a small project so please encourage students to include only the important information or the information they found interesting.

A big thank you to the families that have been bringing in recyclables for our classroom. Our storage box is now overflowing. Hopefully we have enough to last us throughout the semester .

### Year 5/6

This week is a pretty busy one with projects due on Friday. By now all of the students should be putting their final presentations together ready for handing in by the end of the week.

The Year Six Young Leaders Conference money is also due in by Friday. Please contact Mr Oke if you need an extension.

Finally, congratulations to all of the Year Five students who have been working so hard in my room. I love to see kids challenging themselves to achieve a high standard and that is certainly what has been happening in the 5/6 room lately.

## School News

### 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.

Our Easter Celebrations are as follows:

We invite parents and friends to join us for a hot cross bun morning tea at 11am. Easter buns can be ordered from the canteen ( order form in next weeks newsletter ).

At 11.30am we will be having our Easter scripture service in the K/1/2 room. Following this we will congregate in the COLA to draw our Easter raffle. K/1/2 will sing Easter songs to conclude our celebration.

### 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.

### K/1/2 Stockton Excursion







## 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 who have 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 sporting team. 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 benefited 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.



## Canteen Roster

Thursday 14 March	Nat Parker Amy Rowles Joe Thompson
Monday 18 March	Kristie Roberti Liz Street

## Recess & Lunch Orders

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

## Harmony Day

Due to Harmony Day on Thursday 21 March there will be no canteen for recess.

## 3/4/5/6 Surf Excursion

