

The Newsletter of Vacy Public School

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

Tuesday 19 March 2013

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Principal: Mr Graeme Oke



“Friendship and Learning”

Principal's Message

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, Liam will be organising chess games and next week Libby will have some colouring in for those interested.

I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work that is done by our P & C office bearers and members. The funds raised by the P & C assist all students and the meetings throughout 2012 have been well attended. Please come along next Wednesday 27 March to the P&C AGM at 7:00 pm followed by a general meeting.

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.

Our Cross Country races will be held at school between recess and lunch tomorrow, Wednesday 20 March and placegetters will be invited to compete in the Zone Cross Country to be held on Thursday 4 April at Total.

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, there will be no canteen for recess on this day.

Next Monday 25 March our Year 6 students will be attending the Young Leaders Conference at Darling Harbour. The conference includes high profile presenters who provide motivation and inspiration for the students. Following this, eight Year 6 students will be attending a debating workshop on Tuesday 26 March in preparation for the Debating Competition to be held later in the year.

Regards,
Graeme

Quote of the Week

The ladder of success is best climbed by stepping on the rungs of opportunity.

~ Ayn Rand

ASSEMBLY AWARDS

Week ending 15/03/13

STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS	
K	Jack Butler
1	Lincoln Ney
2-3	Tom Doyle
4-5	Grace Miller
5-6	Nalani Basham

CLASS AWARDS	
K	Jack Tyler
1	Jackson Lambert
2	Toby Carter
3	Kacia Rowles
4	Chloe Reid
5	Indica Chapman
6	Kayla Hallinan

Dates to Remember

March

Wednesday 20	Cross Country
Thursday 21	Harmony Day
Monday 25	Young Leaders Conference
Wednesday 27	P & C AGM
Thursday 28	Easter Service
Friday 29	Good Friday

April

Monday 1	Easter Monday
Thursday 11	Canteen's Bolognaise Day
Friday 12	Mufti Day—Last Day Term 1

Class News



Kindergarten

Today students have this week's homework in their folders. It missed going in yesterday, my apologies. On Wednesday we will be having our cross country running. Today we walked the course, please make sure your child has running shoes on for this event.

Please continue to revise sight words and sounds at home, last week students were assessed for these if you would like know your child's results come and see me.

Year 1

Lots happening this week. On Wednesday it is our annual Cross Country. We will participate by running/walking a lap, so please ensure the children have appropriate shoes for this.

Our Harmony Day activities take place on Thursday. Please remember there are no other recess items that can be ordered on this day.

Thanks to everyone who has sent in an egg already for our Easter raffle (28.03.13). Thanks also to all the children who remembered to fill in their Homework Record last week.

I have spoken to the children regarding how they are going home each day. I have reminded them that if they are booked into Active After School Sports or A.S.C or if they usually go home by bus/walkers, this is where I will send them, unless there is notification from you in their communication folder or via the messages book in the office. If you could ensure your child knows how they are to go home it would be appreciated. I am happy to remind them if you place it in their communication folder.

Year 2/3

The next news topic for 2/3 is "My Favourite Pet or Animal". Thursday is Harmony Day and we will be celebrating with a special recess and guest speakers.

Ms Graham is away for the rest of the term and Mr Michael Incze will be replacing her. All normal class routines and programs will be followed in her absence.

Year 4/5

Last Friday 4/5 participated in the soccer gala day at school. We were able to participate in many round robin games and competitions even though the weather was a bit on the wet side.

We are quickly approaching the Easter break with many up-coming events. This week 4/5 will be participating in cross-country on Wednesday and Harmony Day on Thursday. Please keep working on the mini projects.

It's great to hear that some students are already working hard on them.

Year 5/6

Last Friday, I received 25 outstanding projects from 25 outstanding students. Thank you all for the effort that you put into preparing your projects for this term. I was overwhelmed by the standard of your work and very proud

of all of you.

Notes are going out today about the arrangements for the 5/6 camp this year. As soon as we finalise the number of students attending, the sooner we can finalise the total cost of the excursion.

Good luck to all of the students who will be attending the PSSA Soccer and Netball trials in Maitland this Friday. Parents are expected to provide their own child's transport as there will not be a teacher from Vacy School attending. Please read the permission notes carefully for further details.

A note will be coming home later in the week reminding parents about the final arrangements for the Year Six excursion to the Young Leaders Conference in Sydney on Monday 25 March.

School News

Easter Activities

This year Vacy School will celebrate Easter on Thursday 28 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 with 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.

Premier's Reading Challenge News

Keep on reading and entering your books. If you are unsure of how to do this please try the following.

1. Go to your Student Portal.
2. Go to Learning section
3. Click on more
4. Click on Premier's Reading

This will then allow you to access book lists, your reading record, rules and lots more. If you are still having difficulties please see Mrs Greaves.

Book Club

With today's newsletter is a clearance edition of Book Club. ALL orders are to be return no later than Friday 22 March.

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 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 Recess & Lunch Orders



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

Thursday 21 March	Jen McCosker Eleesha Pereira Tim Carter
Monday 25 March	Tanya Wright Wendy Farrow

Harmony Day

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

Photocopier for Tender

The school has for tender a black and white Toshiba e-studio 280, photocopier that is surplus to our needs. If you would like to view the photocopier, contact the school to arrange a convenient time. Tenders close Friday 5th April at 4.00pm. Written submissions may be left at the office.



Community News

Newcastle Youth Orchestra

The **Newcastle Youth Orchestra** presents their launch concert **KIDS CLASSICS** at the Civic Theatre on Sunday the 7th of April at 2pm. This concert explores the amazing power of storytelling with children's classics such as: The Nutcracker Suite, Hall of the Mountain King, William Tell Overture and more! This will be the first concert by the Newcastle Youth Orchestra, an orchestra composed of talented young musicians between 14 and 25 years from the Newcastle region. With magical special guests, this is a fantastic way to introduce your children to classical music. Please come and help us celebrate this wonderful event. Tickets are available from Ticketek Adults \$29, Concession \$25, Child (under 16) \$19 and Family Ticket \$76 (2 adults and 2 children). www.nyo.com.au

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED IN JUNE/ JULY EXPERIENCE ANOTHER CULTURE IN 2013 IMPROVE YOUR LANGUAGE STUDIES AT HOME

In June-July 2013 Student Exchange Australia New Zealand Ltd will be receiving exchange students from Europe, Canada, the USA, and Latin America. We are looking for volunteer host families to welcome these students into their homes for between 2-10 months.

I would like to inform Vacy Public School students and their families about this is an exciting opportunity to experience a different culture without having to leave their homes. It's a great way for them to learn about a new country and share an unforgettable experience with the entire family! Host families come in all shapes and sizes, backgrounds and ages. To this end, we would again be grateful if you would place a notice in your newsletter/bulletin or mention it on your website. You can download the newsletter notice here in [Word](#) format, as a [JPG](#) or in [PDF](#) format. Please note that all our host families are interviewed in their homes and carefully checked for suitability.

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is a not-for-profit secondary exchange organisation which is registered with education & regulatory authorities in each State and Territory. You can find out more about our organisation by visiting www.studentexchange.org.au.

If Vacy Public School families have any questions about hosting an exchange student or would like to view profiles of students arriving from other countries, they can respond to this email, call our office on 1300 135 331 or visit our [website](#). Our staff members will be happy to discuss which student might be best suited to their family. No obligation.

Coastal Valleys Region Girl Guides invite you to Come and Try Guides! At your local Girl Guide unit For girls aged 7-18 years

Guides enjoy challenging and fun program of indoor and outdoor activities: games, leadership and life skills, craft, badges, cooking, camping and community events

For information on the location and available meetings in your area

Please email

**coastalvalleysgirlguides@live.com.au or
call 13004475484**

Or visit our website www.girlguides-nswact.org.au to find out more about Guides

**HAVING FUN TODAY -
LEADING THE WORLD TOMORROW ..**

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: HLTFA301B – 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;

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

School Holiday Netball Development Clinic

Registrations NOW OPEN

For children turning 9-12 years in 2013

Are you passionate Junior netballer who would like to build confidence, develop teamwork and further enhance your skills? Pivot Netball Academy can assist you.

For further info contact email: jula@pivotnetball.com.au
www.pivotnetball.com.au