

The Newsletter of Vacy Public School

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"Friendship and Learning"

Co-operation

Respect

Dungog & District Community of Schools



Dungog High School



Dungog Public School



Clarence Town Public School



Vacy Public School



Paterson Public School



Glen William Public School



Gresford Public School



Martins Creek Public School

Play fairly & Be safe

Think before you do

Principals Message

Last Friday I attended our **Dungog Community of Schools** meeting with the Principals of the schools in the area. These meetings are held each term and I must say that it is so professionally rewarding to be a part of such an active and productive network.

Amongst the discussion points were the forward planning for a range of events this year including transition to High School, our Term 3 combined School Development Day, a combined Commonwealth Games day in Term 3 and the Dungog Community of Schools Education Week ceremony.

Following the meeting, we each received a pull-up display banner that will be used at any event that Vacy PS or any of the other school attends to promote our network of schools. I have included a photo of the banner and you will see that our students, Amy and Alec, are standing front and centre, looking resplendent in our distinctive and, I believe, contemporary uniforms.

This Friday 7 March, the **Channel 7 'Sunrise'** program will be filming from the Gresford Show from 6:00 to 9:00 am. This is a great chance to be seen on national television and show our colours. Make a cardboard sign and say g'day to distant relatives.

Our **SRC** lunchtime games continue this week with basketball in the basketball court area. These games are being organised and run by the SRC. Students involved in this week's games will get the first opportunity to use our new basketballs.

Our **Masters BBQ** fundraiser is on **15 March from 7.30 to 4.30pm**. It would be wonderful if we could get a lot of volunteers for the day! The BBQ is a terrific fundraiser for the P & C and benefits the students of Vacy Public School.

Don't think that staff is confused about what day of the week it is when you pass the school on Saturday 15 March and see all the cars in the car park. We'll be undertaking a full day of First Aid training to ensure that we remain compliant. This will keep us up to date for all excursions.

The **SRC** met yesterday and would like us all to get right behind the **National Day of Action Against Bullying** on Friday 21 March. The day coincides with **Harmony Day** and its theme of **Everyone Belongs**. We will meet again to discuss the activities that will be conducted.

I have included some information from the **BullyingNoWay** website for your information and will include more information over the coming weeks.

Regards,

Graeme

Dates to Remember

March

Sat 15 - Masters BBQ

Mon 31 - Young Leaders Conference - Year 6 only

April

Fri 11 - Last day Term 1

Mon 28 - Staff Development Day

Canteen News

Thank you to all the families who have volunteered to work in the Canteen this term.

Canteen Roster Term 1 2014

Thursday 6 March - Eleesha Pereira, Marlee Langfield & Wendy Langfield

Monday 10 March - Donna Tolhurst & Karen Turner

The Textbook and Resource Levy is now due.

Accounts were sent home last month and your prompt payment is greatly appreciated. Thank you to the many families who have made their payments. If you are having difficulty in making the payment, please contact me at school to make other arrangements.

Congratulations to our Zone Swimmers

Congratulations to Jasper Lloyd, Archer Woller and Jack Magri who all attended the Zone Swimming at Maitland pool last Tuesday. They swam extremely well and represented their school with pride. Thank you to Mrs Lloyd for managing the boys on the day. Your assistance was appreciated by both the staff and students of Vacy school.

ASSEMBLY AWARDS ~ Week Ending 28 February, 2014



STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS

Kinder -	Deegan Holding
1-2-3 -	Brigette Finlay
4-5-6F -	Amy Magri
4-5-6C -	Josie Waight

CLASS AWARDS

K -	Madeline Priestley
1 -	Jack Butler
2 -	Danika Smith
3 -	Seth Deacon
4 -	Lillian Richardson
5 -	Imogen Key
6 -	Archer Woller



What is bullying?

The National Safe Schools Framework defines bullying as repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. Cyberbullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies, e.g. the internet or mobile devices. Conflicts or fights between equals and single incidents are not defined as bullying. Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders.

In short, bullying is a repeated pattern of harmful verbal, physical or social behaviour which involves the misuse of power. Cyberbullying is bullying through the internet or mobile devices.

Is every conflict between students bullying?

Not all aggressive or harmful behaviour between people is bullying. While conflicts and aggressive behaviour need to be addressed, it is important to be clear when these behaviours are not actually bullying.

The definition of bullying has three critical aspects - a repeated pattern, the misuse of power within relationships, and behaviour which causes harm; all three aspects need to be present in order for behaviour to be called bullying.

What does the 'misuse of power' mean?

In a situation where there is a power imbalance, one person or group has a significant advantage over another, and if this power is misused, this enables them to coerce or mistreat another for their own ends. In a bullying situation this power imbalance may arise from the context (e.g. having others to back you up), from assets (e.g. access to a weapon) or from personal characteristics (e.g. being stronger, more articulate or more able to socially manipulate others).

Why is the definition of bullying important?

A clear, comprehensive and shared definition is essential to enable schools to identify bullying, and distinguish it from other types of conflicts or violence, so that appropriate strategies and interventions can be used.

How is bullying different from violence, harassment and discrimination?

The critical feature that distinguishes violence, harassment and discrimination from bullying is that bullying happens within social relationships, featuring repeated and harmful behaviours that stem from a misuse of power. Violence, harassment and discrimination can occur as part of bullying, but also can occur in one-off conflicts or between strangers.

It is important to know the difference as the effect on the individual or group may be different and the responses to each may need to be different.

Intervening in less serious bullying early can often prevent harassment, discrimination and more serious negative behaviours from becoming part of the bullying pattern.