

# The Newsletter of Vacy Public School

786 Gresford Road, Vacy 2421

[www.vacy-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.vacy-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

Tuesday 18 March 2014

Ph: 0249388153

Principal: Mr Graeme Oke



## "Friendship and Learning"

### Co-operate



### Respect



### Play fairly



### Be safe



### Think before you do

## Principals Message

We've made a couple of changes to our end of school day routines. You may have noticed that two benches can be found under the shady trees in the school front yard. These are to provide a comfortable place for parents to wait for their children when they pick them up. We've changed the route as well – the 'walkers' line now comes out past the bell and out the top gate. For safety reasons, the staff carpark is not to be used until 3:40 pm whilst there are students on site. Students using the crossing will be escorted by a teacher past the driveway and safely across the road.

Last Saturday, teachers, support staff and our Before and After School Care team completed their First Aid accreditation. This was a full day course and gives us all the chance to improve our skills in line with changing procedures and protocols.

Our SRC lunchtime games continue this week with Netta and netball. These games are being organised and run by the SRC. Congratulations to our SRC led by Ana and Mitchell. You are a credit to your classes. Well done Shawn, Josie, Abby, Tom and Tia for giving up your lunchtimes to set up some games and activities for others.

The P&C AGM will be held tonight 18 March in the staffroom commencing at 7 pm and will be followed by a general meeting. Amongst the agenda items is the organisation for the Total Field Days as we follow up on the successful craft stall which netted the P&C \$2000.

The SRC would like to encourage all of us to support the National Day of Action Against Bullying on Friday 21 March. The day also coincides with Harmony Day and its theme of Everyone Belongs. We will join many other schools around Australia in celebrating both events concurrently.

Following recess on Friday 21 March, we will have an assembly which includes an overview of the meaning of Harmony Day and the reasons behind having a National Day of Action Against Bullying, a celebratory song "You've Got a Friend in Me". Then students will be in five mixed K-6 groups where they will complete some activities including colouring their flags of origin, designing a 'My School Without Bullying' poster, 'Everyone Belongs' handprints and bunting. All of the activities are aimed at increasing student awareness of tolerance and respect.

I have included some more information from the BullyingNoWay website for your consideration and will include more information over the coming weeks. This week the focus is on why bullying happens and its prevalence.

Regards,

Graeme

## Dates to Remember

### March

Fri 21 - Harmony Day

Mon 31 - Young Leaders Conference - Year 6 only

### April

Thu 3 - Maitland Zone Cross Country

Fri 11 - Last day Term 1

Mon 28 - Staff Development Day

Tue 29 - All students return

## Canteen News

The Canteen Roster for Term 2 is currently being compiled. Volunteers from Term 1 will be automatically included on the roster for the same amount of shifts. If your circumstances have changed and you no longer wish to be on the roster or you are now available to assist, please contact Eleesha Pereira via email: [e\\_pereira4@bigpond.com](mailto:e_pereira4@bigpond.com) or phone 4938 5046.

Thank you.

## Easter Activities 2014

Our Easter activities for 2014 will take place on Thursday 10 April. We would like to welcome parents and friends to join us for our combined scripture service at 11.30am followed by our Easter raffle draw, presentation of prizes for our Easter colouring competition and Easter songs by the Junior Choir.

We will be having a hot cross bun morning tea at 11am, you are welcome to join students in the COLA. Order forms for hot cross buns will be sent home next week.

Next week we will be sending home raffle tickets for the Easter raffle and we are asking each family to donation Easter eggs for raffle prizes. Please bring donations to the office.

We look forward to seeing you at our Easter celebrations.



## ASSEMBLY AWARDS ~ Week Ending 14 March, 2014

### STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS



<b>Kinder -</b>	Rory Ashcroft
<b>1-2-3 -</b>	Alana Waight
<b>4-5-6F -</b>	Saskia Bickerdike
<b>4-5-6C -</b>	Anastasia Lutschini

### CLASS AWARDS

<b>K -</b>	Fay Magri
<b>1 -</b>	Madison McCosker
<b>2 -</b>	Fox Nicholson
<b>3 -</b>	Jessica Johnson
<b>4 -</b>	Jacob Ford
<b>5 -</b>	Grace Miller
<b>6 -</b>	Brianna Arthur



# Why does bullying happen?

## ***Why do people bully others?***

People who bully others are often motivated by the status and social power they can achieve through bullying. Some may bully others to compensate for what is happening to them and their own feelings of powerlessness. Bullying behaviours can also be copied by others.

***Who bullies others?*** All individuals have the potential to bully others or to be bullied.

## ***Why is it sometimes hard to identify bullying?***

Bullying can be done through a number of different actions and behaviours, it can be overt or covert, and can occur in both individual and group situations. Some bullying can be quite subtle or involve words known only by the students, making it difficult for adults to recognise. These complexities can make it difficult to identify if a person or group is being bullied.

# Prevalence of bullying

## ***How common is bullying amongst students in schools?***

Australian research suggests that up to one in four students have experienced some level of bullying. Researchers have made different findings about how common bullying is, largely due to differences in how they define 'bullying'. However, we do know that most young people do not engage in bullying behaviour.

## ***Is there a pattern to bullying?***

Australian research has revealed that bullying behaviour peaks in the middle primary school years and the first year of high school. This appears to be related to the rapid changes in the social skills and social demands for students at these times.

Some other general patterns of bullying have been identified. Younger children are more likely to bully others physically or verbally, and then as they get older social bullying behaviours increase (including exclusion and manipulation). Cyberbullying increases when students begin to have greater access to online communication and mobile phones.

## ***Is bullying increasing?***

The fact that we are hearing a lot about bullying these days may well be a positive sign that we are taking it seriously and exploring ways to reduce it. Australian researchers have suggested we are more aware of the potential impact of ignoring bullying, and willing to take the necessary positive action, rather than the bullying problem actually increasing.

## ***Why is it hard to know exactly how common bullying is?***

Children and young people often don't tell adults about bullying. Sometimes children and young people don't want their parents or teachers to become involved as they are afraid of what might happen if the person who is doing the bullying finds out they have told. Sometimes, students simply don't think to ask for adult help or they don't think anyone will believe them or could help even if they told.





**FREE**  
in April  
school hols

## Newcastle Permanent Junior Ranger Fun Day

A great opportunity to have an exciting learning experience at Blackbutt Reserve where children can participate in fun and educational activities.

**When:** 11am - 1pm, Tuesday 15 April 2014

**Where:** Richley Reserve top flat (entry off Freyberg St)

Free Sausage sandwich for children only, \$1 each for adults.

Drinks available for purchase.

Compulsory parental supervision at all times.  
Children must wear fully enclosed shoes.

Blackbutt Reserve Office: 4904 3344  
Email: [blackbuttadmin@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:blackbuttadmin@ncc.nsw.gov.au)



**No safety gear  
No ride**



# GRESFORD BILLY CART DERBY

"a Dungog Shire Event"

**Easter Saturday 19 April 2014**  
**Park Street, East Gresford**  
**Races start: 9.00am**

[www.gresfordbillycartderby.wordpress.com](http://www.gresfordbillycartderby.wordpress.com)

Primary  
Sponsors:

**RAVENSWORTH  
UNDERGROUND**  
GLENCOORE



## MAITLAND CITY LIBRARY HOLIDAY FUN

### APRIL

#### LEGOMANIA

**LEGOmania** hits Maitland City Library these April holidays. You've seen it on the big screen, now get into the library and get building with LEGO! Lots of exciting activities and challenges for kids from 4 -14 years. Booking and payment prior to events is essential and may be made online at [www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/library/kids/holidayfun](http://www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/library/kids/holidayfun) . Contact Maitland City Library for more information on 4933 6952.

**STOP-MOTION LEGO** -Have you ever heard of stop-motion? Discover this fun film animation method through watching selected LEGO stop-motion productions, and investigate stop-motion techniques for yourself using LEGO.

**Maitland Library** - Saturday 12 April - 12.00 pm – 1.00 pm - 7 – 14 yrs - Free

**LEGO LIBRARY COMPETITION BUILDING WORKSHOP** -Bring your own LEGO and build your dream library for the chance to win! Entries will be displayed in branch during the holidays.

**Maitland Library** - Monday 14 April - 10.00 am – 11.00 am - 4 – 14 yrs - Free

**Rutherford Library** - Tuesday 15 April - 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm - 4 – 14 yrs -Free

**Thornton Library** - Wednesday 16 April - 12.00pm – 1.00pm - 4 – 14 yrs -Free

**East Maitland Library** - Wednesday 16 April - 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm - 4 – 14 yrs -Free

**LEGO ROBOTICS** - An interactive hands on workshop designed to demonstrate how a robot really works. Using laptops and the NXT Lego Mindstorms robots, you will learn about basic programming and how to make your robot perform precise movements as well as how to operate environmental sensors such as light and sound. The workshop concludes with students creatively programming their own robots to perform a short dance routine.

**East Maitland Library** - Thursday 17 April - 10.00 am – 11.30 am - 8 – 12 yrs Cost: \$5

**MECCANO MACHINES** -Get busy and get building. Kids use hand tools to create simple and complex machines with Meccano during this hands-on workshop. Learn about levers, pulleys, gear trains, inclined planes and wheel and axles whilst having heaps of hands on fun!

**Maitland Library** - Thursday 17 April - 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm - 8 – 12 yrs - Cost:\$5