

# The Newsletter of Vacy Public School

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

Tuesday 25 March 2014

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Principal: Mr Graeme Oke



## "Friendship and Learning"

### Principals Message

As you read this newsletter, I will be sailing on the high seas while I take some Long Service Leave. During my absence Mrs Greaves will be Acting Principal and Mrs Fonti will be Relieving Assistant Principal. Ms Makenzy Fay will be filling in for Literacy and COWs groups as well as providing additional release time for teachers during this time. I will return from leave on Thursday 10 April.

The P&C Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Tuesday 8 April in the staffroom commencing at 7 pm. At the AGM all positions will be declared vacant and elections held to fill the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary.

The AGM and will be followed by a brief meeting to finalise the organisation for the Tocal Field Days as we follow up on the successful craft stall which netted the P&C \$2000 last year.

Last week I had the pleasure of escorting 20 of our Year 3 to Year 6 students who participated in the Dungog League Tag Gala Day. It was a fun day and our students played well and learnt some new skills. Thank you to the parents who were able to assist with transport. Photos included on Page 4.

We enjoyed celebrating Harmony Day and the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence last Friday. We also joined many other schools around Australia in celebrating both events concurrently.

After recess Rose and Archer led an assembly which included an overview of the meaning of Harmony Day and the reasons behind having a National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence and concluded with a celebratory song "You've Got a Friend in Me". Parents are welcome to call into our Library to view our Harmony Day Tree. Thank you to Ms Alicia Fay for her organisation for this activity.

The students then met as K-6 peer support groups to complete some awareness raising activities. The photos which feature in this week's newsletter show the great opportunities that students can engage in to support each other no matter what the age difference.

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.

This week marks the end of Active After-schools Communities program for Term 1. Our Term 2 activities will be League Tag on Tuesday afternoons from 3.15pm to 4.15pm and Hockey on Thursday afternoons from 3.15pm to 4.15pm. Places are limited to 20 students and I would ask that when students accept a place in the program that they commit to the activity for the term to avoid other students missing out. Nomination forms are included with this newsletter. Please return by Friday 4 April 2014.

Have a great week!

Regards,

Graeme



**Co-operate**



**Respect**



**Play fairly**



**Be safe**



**Think before you do**

## Dates to Remember

### March

Mon 31 Young Leaders Conference - Year 6

### April

Thurs 3 Maitland Zone Cross Country

Tues 8 P & C AGM 7pm

Fri 11 Last day Term 1

Mon 28 Staff Development Day

Tues 29 Students return for Term 2

## Canteen News

Thursday 27 March Tracey Ney, David Ney  
and Jen McCosker

Monday 31 March Karen Turner and Liz  
Burgman

We are in need of one more volunteer for Thursday 15th May and three volunteers for Thursday 29th May. Please contact Eleesha Pereira via email: e\_pereira4@bigpond.com.au of 4938 5046 if you can help out.

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.

Attached to this newsletter are raffle tickets for the Easter raffle and we are asking each family to donate Easter eggs for raffle prizes. Please bring donations to the office.

We look forward to seeing you at our Easter celebrations.

**Please find attached our Hot Cross Bun order form.**

## Mothers Day Stall

Please find attached the Mothers Day Stall order form. The P & C run the Mothers Day Stall each year for the students to purchase presents for Mums, Grandmothers and other female relatives. All orders need to be returned by Friday 11 April 2014. The stall will be held on Thursday 8 May 2014.



## Text Book and Resource Levy and Voluntary School Contributions

The textbook and resource levy is now due. Accounts were sent home last month and your prompt payment is greatly appreciated. Text book fees are \$50 per student and Voluntary School Fees are also \$50.00 per student. Thank you to the many families who have made their payments. If you are having difficulty in making the payment, please contact the school to make alternate arrangements.

## Assembly Awards— Doing Our Best

28 March 2014

### Student of the Week

K	Emmaline Wintle
1/2	Madison McCosker
2/3	Connor Fernance
4/5/6 F	Zac Rocco
4/5/6 C	Abby-Rose Maslen

### Class Awards

Kindergarten	Madeline Lean
Year 1	Marshall Parker
Year 2	Ursula Thompson
Year 3	
Year 4	Aiden Johnson
Year 5	Josie Waight
Year 6	Jorgia Watts



## Vacy Public School Celebrates Harmony Day



## Dungog League Tag Gala Day



## **Impact of Bullying**

### *Is bullying really something to be worried about?*

Bullying affects everyone involved, including people who witness it. It can have serious and long-term emotional or psychological consequences in addition to the immediate harmful effects.

Communities that condone or ignore bullying may create an environment where more serious anti-social behaviour is condoned.

Bullying undermines key values that schools aim to promote in students—respect, trust and honesty.

### *Isn't bullying just a normal part of growing up?*

Bullying is not a normal stage that all children and young people pass through, and it is not just something to put up with as 'part of life'. Behaviour that is intended to harm can impede healthy development.

Ignoring bullying or thinking that it is just something that children and young people do or that it will be 'character building' can give silent approval for bullying to continue and further traumatise those who are bullied.

### *What are the impacts of bullying on those people who are bullied?*

Being bullied can result in a person feeling miserable and powerless, so the response of those around that person is important in making a change.

Research shows that bullying can have a negative impact on students' academic performance, self-esteem, coping skills and can increase anxiety and unhappiness. It is important that students, staff and parents get involved to make positive change.

Bullying can negatively affect how children and young people see themselves and how they feel about themselves.

### *What are the impacts on those who bully others?*

The outcomes for people who bully others are also not good in the long-term. Children and young people who bully others may come to see bullying as a normal and acceptable way to behave. Those who bully others need support to learn more appropriate ways of behaving and of resolving conflict to prepare them for adulthood and to reduce the likelihood of developing even more serious anti-social behaviours.

### *Is there an impact on bystanders to bullying?*

Bystanders are present in many bullying incidents. Research indicates that bystanders can be negatively impacted by witnessing bullying.

## **International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)**

The ICAS assessments for students in Years 3 to 6 are again available at our school. The University of New South Wales design and deliver the assessments in Key Learning Areas such as Maths, English, Science and Computer Skills. If you would like further information please read the attached letter. Enrolments and entry fees need to be returned to the school by Wednesday 9th April. Comprehensive results are then sent home later in the year as a record of your child's achievement.