



Newsletter

Important Dates

Week 6

Tuesday 27/8

Final Tuning into Teens

ICAS Exams Begin

Friday 30/8

Final day to submit Premiers
Reading Challenge for students

Week 7

Mon-Friday 2-6/9

Stage Three Camp to Sydney

Tuesday 3/9

P & C Meeting 7pm

Friday 6/9

K-2 Australian Reptile Park

Excursion

Saturday 8/9

Vacy Country Carnival

Junior/Senior Dancers

Performing

Week 9

Monday 16/9

Kinder & 5/6 Dairy Visit

Tues-Wednesday 17-18/9

3/4 Zoo Snooze Taronga Zoo

Thursday 19/9

Train 4 School 10am

UNO Finals at Iona PS (for selected
students)

Friday Netball Gala Day

Week 10

Thursday 19/9

3 Way Conferences K-6

A message from the Principal.....

Already this term has been a busy one at Vacy School. Firstly, I would like to begin by saying a huge thank you for your support in regards to our special Education Week, Grandparents & Friends Day and our 160th Birthday celebrations. Despite the crazy weather on the day, our assembly was a great success and the staff and students all enjoyed showcasing some of what we do here at Vacy during the day. We are very proud of all our students and their achievements and we love sharing with our school community our successes.

As you are aware, this term sees our students in Years 3-6 attending camps to Sydney and Taronga Zoo. These camps can only be undertaken because our teachers are willing to first organise them, but also attend them. To those members of staff who are accompanying the students this year: Mrs Babic, Ms Graham, Mr Prior and Mrs Smith, we thank you for giving up your own family time to allow our students to experience great things outside of the classroom environment. I'm sure all of the students will enjoy the opportunity that you and their parents have made possible.

Recently, I have lodged a submission into the department to have a stage area built at the end of the COLA for our students to perform on. This is a project, similar to the new playground, that is supported by our P & C Association and their financial contribution to the school. I will keep you all up to date with the progress of the venture as permissions come through. We are also applying for a government grant of \$20,000 to update the furniture in all of our classrooms. Hopefully everything comes together so that our students can enjoy some modern facilities like many other schools in the area.

This week I was advised that approximately \$75,000 worth of maintenance work will be taking place throughout the school in the next few months. This will include upgrades to one of our demountable buildings (3/4 classroom) as well as painting and some other minor projects. This may cause some disruptions throughout the school however we will make sure that all students are safe and able to continue their learning programs during the process.

Kind regards,

Karen Fonti

Principal (relieving)



Attention 1/2G Parents

Due to a change in our timetable we will now have library on a Friday. Please ensure the children have a library bag if they wish to borrow.

Swimming School

Swim school places have filled very quickly this year and were closed as of last week. We have begun a waiting list for students who were interested in attending but unfortunately missed out on a position. If a vacancy occurs it will be filled from the list. A note about swimming ability will come home next week for children who will be attending. Please fill it in and return it to school by Friday 30th August. These will assist the swim school organisers to group the students appropriately.

Maree Greaves-Swim School Co-ordinator

Premier's Reading Challenge

The 2019 challenge closes for students on August 30th. Year 3-6 students will need to have their reading records finalised by this date, ready for validation by the coordinator. Well done and congratulations to all who have taken part in the challenge for 2019. Certificates will be presented to students at the end of the year. Special awards for students who have completed the challenge four or seven times will take place on Presentation Day.

Maree Greaves- Premier's Reading Challenge Co-ordinator.

PBL Splatter Reward Day

The changes to our system that were outlined in our previous newsletter have been embraced enthusiastically by the students and all are working hard in the playground to collect tokens to go toward the tally to earn our special afternoon. The children earn tokens for demonstrating our core expectations of; Respect, Responsibility and Safety. It is fantastic to see all the students working together to achieve a common goal. **As this is a group effort, no students will miss out on the splatter reward.** Well done Vacy School! We will let you know when this will take place as soon as the reward jar is full.

Maree Greaves- PBL Co-ordinator



Afternoon Student Departure

Arrangements

Vacy Public School is one of the only schools that offers the opportunity for departure reminders and arrangement changes via our afternoon bus book system. We are happy to continue doing this for our students and parents however, at times it does cause us headaches. Below is a list of things that you can do to assist us to make our afternoon student departure time easier for you and us and less stressful for our students:

If you are going to be late and your child knows you are supposed to be picking them up, please let us know as soon as you can so we can supervise your child either in the office or with the late bus children.

If your child is going home with another parent, please communicate this clearly to either their teacher via their communication folder or through the office so it is written in the bus book. Please don't assume we will know. We can only act on the information that we have that is given to us by parents.

On occasions the bus company (Linq) allows us to combine our first bus and last bus group. We only know if this is going to occur on the day. The company has put in an application to combine the buses on a permanent basis but until that is approved by the Department of Transport, these arrangements will continue to take place when our numbers allow. Please be mindful that your child could there for be home earlier .

Absences and Late Arrivals

Attendance at school is a legal requirement for all children and therefore our attendance records are checked regularly by our Home School Liaison Officer. Being late in the mornings or leaving early from school must be justified with a good explanation. Guidelines, set by the Department of Education are followed by all schools including Vacy, and policies and practices are put into place so that the wellbeing of our students is being taken care of. It is therefore necessary that you as parents and caregivers inform us of any absences and provide us with justified explanations regarding late arrivals and early departures. Policy details are available on our school website.

5/6 News

It has been a busy start to the term for our 5/6 class! Between Hunter Dance Festival, touch football games, the Horse Tales program, Zone Athletics, public speaking competitions and our Education Week assembly, we have still managed to fit in some exceptional learning experiences here at school.

In English, we are learning to write informative texts whilst studying natural disasters. We are developing our research and note-taking skills so we can publish a book about all of the different types of natural disasters.

Our mathematics lessons continue to challenge us with real-life scenarios in which we need to work mathematically. 'Which is the most efficient algorithm to use?' is the question we are asking ourselves frequently.

We've enjoyed being active whilst learning to play AFL with our coach, Georgia, and when choreographing our own dance piece about the four seasons. We've tried to portray through movement how the changing seasons impact on humans, our emotions and the environment around us.

Our science lessons are preparing us to explore the different states of matter whilst our health lessons are ensuring we know how to keep ourselves protected, cared for and healthy in our rapidly changing world.

There is a buzz building in our classroom with most of the dialogue focused on camp! Our week away is just around the corner so it is important that we start thinking about what we need packed in our bags (with the most important thing being chocolate for Mrs Babic). At the rate this term is flying by, it will be here before we know it.

Thanks, Jamie Babic



ROBOCUP JUNIOR - NSW OPEN

Some very proud achievements this week as two of our robotics teams came away with high prizes at the RoboCup Junior NSW Open event. Against dozens of schools from all over the state - including high schools and private schools - the Money Makers (Madi, Fay, Sam S. and James M.) managed to take out second place in the On Stage event with an intricately choreographed performance with their four robots around the theme of money. Meanwhile, the Winnerz (Lars, Jesse, and Harry M.) walked away with second prize in the Standard Soccer League after a stunning run of seven wins in a row with their two robots. The two wins represent an incredible achievement for the students and I could not be more proud of what the students have accomplished since we began the RoboCup program only last year. On top of everything else, the teams were roundly praised for their sportsmanship and courtesy by the event organisers and other teams. Well done guys!



F1

This term all students in Vacy have been participating in the Jaguar F1 Primary Schools Challenge, designing and constructing racecars powered by small canisters of carbon dioxide, while learning about the principles of force and aerodynamics. The best car designs from each class will be selected to attend the F1 in Schools event in Maitland on Tuesday 27th October. Cars on the track can reach speeds of 80km/hr in under a second! We look forward to seeing all the incredible designs that our students come up with!



NSW Health Hunter New England Local Health District **Dungog**

HEALTH EXPO 2019

All welcome for a FREE information day
Wednesday, 25th September
James Theatre, Dungog
9:00am - 3:00pm

Morning Tea & Lunch Provided

- Trauma - "Should I make the 000 call"
- Rural Mental Health
- Good Guts
- Drug Safety
- New Maitland Hospital
- Dungog Hospital Renovations
- Exhibitor Tables

RSVP by 16th September 2019 to
Dungog Hospital - 49 957 000 (Mon - Fri 9am - 4pm)

Extended Leave

If your child is going to be absent for over five days of school, you must fill in an extended leave form before you go on holidays. The Principal will then approve and sign the form and issue a "Certificate Of Leave" to the parent. These forms are available from the office. The leave is still marked as absent but it will be explained and recorded as a justified absence.

P & C Meeting

Our next **P & C meeting** will be held in the staffroom on **Tuesday 3rd September, at 7pm** and it would be lovely to see some new faces there. These meetings give our parents the opportunity to discuss with me, the staff and the rest of the community their thoughts and concerns about what is happening within the school and what is being planned for the future. The partnerships that we form with you as parents and caregivers are highly valued, so please come along.

Canteen Roster

Week	Monday	Thursday
6	26th August	29th August
7	2nd September Mel Lutschini	5th September Heather Maddocks
8	9th September Karen Whiteley	12th September
9	16th September	19th September
10	23rd September Heidi Watson Alyssa	26th September Heather Maddocks Summah Lagettie

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers but unfortunately we do have several days without two volunteers. If we cannot fill these we spots the canteen will close. Please contact Tanya Reynolds on 0429800608 or find them on Facebook "Vacy School Canteen".

Kindergarten

2020

Orientation Dates

Informal dates Term 3 2019 - 2020 kindy students can join us for recess from 11:10-11:35am, where they will sit and eat recess and then play in the playground. When the bell rings the new kindy's can enjoy a story read to them by their year 6 buddies in the sensory garden. Parents must accompany them on these days:

August 26th and September 5th



Term 4 sessions– 6th & 13th November (more information to follow)

Please remind any families or friends to contact the office regarding any students who will be enrolling in Kindergarten next year.

The presenters of



bring to you

Bethlehem Rhapsody



A musical look at Christmas!

[See it on YouTube - Bethlehemian Rhapsody]

- We need puppeteers from Years 5 and 6 at Vacy School
- Practices at Vacy School (during lunch on Fridays)
- Performance at St Anne's Gresford on Thursday 19 December, 6pm (the day after school breaks up).

If you can commit to the practices and the performance date please contact Mrs Joyce Earngey
0421 417 467 or joyce@rea.com.au

Organised by the Ministry Team at Gresford Paterson Anglican Church

Last day of Term 3

Friday 27/9

All staff and students return on

Monday 14th October, 2019