



Villawood North Public School

Nurturing, Innovative and Dedicated

BLIGH STREET FAIRFIELD EAST 2165 T 9724 1423 or 9724 4220 F 9728 2296 E villawoodn-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Monthly Newsletter– February 2015

Principals Report– School Success

Welcome back to a new school year. As always the Staff of Villawood North Public School are striving to improve the educational outcomes of all our students. You might be surprised to read that all staff members continue their training each year to improve their skills. This year some of the training will be in mathematics, literacy and engaging children.

Great New Staff

We welcome Miss McEvoy and Miss Rowley.

Miss McEvoy has worked at the school as a casual teacher in 2014. She will be teaching M1/2.

Miss Rowley returns to Villawood after a break teaching overseas. She will be teaching BR3/4 on Monday and Tuesday. The rest of the week she will be helping students in years 3 and 4.

School Staff 2015

Ms Turnbull Instructional Leader (K-2)

Early Stage 1 Mrs Masri (Coordinator)

EK Miss McLaren MK Mrs Masri (Mon to Thurs) and Mrs Treen (Fridays)

Stage 1 Ms Fayle (Coordinator, Learning Support Teacher, Assistant Principal)

B1 Ms Bailey

M1/2 Miss McEvoy S1/2 Mrs Saini D2 Miss Dang

Support Mrs Glissan (Kindy to yr 2)

Stage 2 Miss Kinloch (Coordinator, Assistant Principal)

K3/4 Miss Kinloch

BR3/4 Miss Rowley (Mon, Tues) Miss Busuttill (Wed to Fri)

T3/4 Mrs Talbot

Support Miss Rowley (Wed to Fri)

Stage 3 Mrs Olivieri (Coordinator, Assistant Principal)

G5 Mr Geddes

M5/6 Mrs Olivieri

O6 Mrs Malvicino

Support Mrs Truica (Mon to Wed)

Librarian Ms Treen

Reading Recovery Miss Danh

Computers Mrs Jugovac

Arabic Mr Dimian

Vietnamese Ms Tran

EAL/D Mr Green

SLSOs Miss Emily

Mrs Donatello

Mrs Ngo

Why do we have multi-grade classes and how do we choose students for a class?

I get asked this question the most at the beginning of each year. The department allocate schools teachers based on the number of students in the school, not the number of students in a grade. This means we look for the best way to use these teachers which often results in multi-grade classes. Teachers will plan learning activities for the needs of their students. So students in multi-grade classes are **not** disadvantaged. At Villawood North students are not put into classes solely based on academic results. We attempt to balance each class based on gender, needs, personality and cultural group.

School App

Don't forget to download the free school app from either iTunes or Play Store. **Reminder:** Change your settings in the app to have the correct grades of your children selected. Over the last 2 years we have had over 200 downloads.

The P & C needs you

On the 17/2/15 the P & C will hold an Annual General Meeting. The first part is to elect positions before discussing the year ahead. To have a successful P & C we need to have more parents involved. The P & C make decisions on how to spend money, consult with the school on ideas and help make school decisions. For example: Changing the school uniform. Selecting the photographer for 2016. I hope to see a lot of new faces this year.

Wishing you a wonderful year of learning.

Garrett Nelson

Principal

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Dates to Remember

17/02	Year 6 Excursion
24/02	Kindy Walk
03/03	Zone Swimming Carnival
18-19/03	Healthy Harold

Early Stage One (Kindergarten)

Welcome to all our new Kindergarten students and families. We've had a lovely start to the term with all students settling into their classrooms and routines.

At present our classes are still separated into boys and girls however this week you will receive a letter informing you of which class your child will be moving into permanently for the remainder of 2015.

Homework and Home Reading will commence in Week 5 and we are asking for parent volunteers to assist us with changing home readers and possibly providing some reading time as well. If you are interested please see Mrs Masri, Mrs Treen or Ms McLaren as this will be greatly appreciated.

As part of our Science unit this term "Getting About", Kindergarten will be going on a short walk around our local area to look at the different types of transport in our community. A note has already been sent home. This needs to be signed and returned in order for your child to attend this walk.

We are in the process of completing the Best Start Assessment on all our kindergarten students. All parents will receive a Best Start Report to explain the results of this assessment and this report will also provide extra ideas for activities you can do with your child at home to assist them. You will receive this report by the end of Week 8.

We are looking forward to a fun filled year with plenty of learning. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to come and see the Kindergarten teachers.

Mrs Masri, Ms McLaren and Mrs Treen

Stage One (Years 1 and 2)

Welcome to all year 1 and 2 students and families for 2015. We are very excited to start a new school year.

Our classes for this year are, Miss Bailey on B1, Mrs Saini on S1/2, Miss McEvoy on M1/2 and Miss Dang on D2.

Ms Fayle is Stage coordinator, Mrs Turnbull is our instructional leader and Mrs Glissan is our interventionist.

Students this term have started learning exciting things about under the sea for our Creative Art unit of work. You may have already seen their fabulous artwork hanging in the classrooms. We are looking at how to predict weather in Science and students will soon be making things to predict temperature. This is supported with our English unit Come on Rain where students are studying the book and starting to write interesting stories about the weather. It may be useful to encourage students to watch the weather in the evening, to understand how we get information about what the weather might be like over the week. This will help students predict weather in class. We are also looking at Wet and Dry environments in HSIE so that all our units link this term. Students are also very excited about the gymnastics program this term, and we are also keeping active with skipping each morning and dance on Friday mornings.

The 'Home Reader Program' will be starting on Monday the 23rd of February. A note will be sent home to gain your permission for your child to participate this year. Books this year will be changed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday as we encourage students to read regularly. Teachers would appreciate help with changing the books, so if you are available for 30minutes on Monday, Wednesday or Friday at any time during the day, please speak with your students classroom teacher to offer your assistance. Thank you in advance.

Students are continuing the TEN maths program this year as we had such great success last year. Students are working hard and having fun with their maths games while learning new skills.

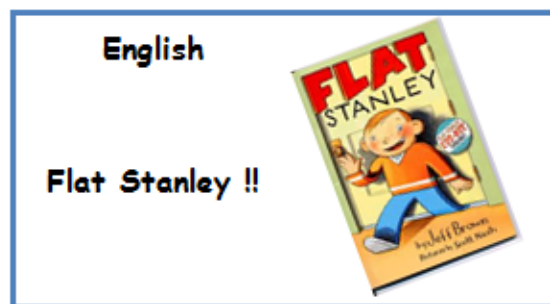
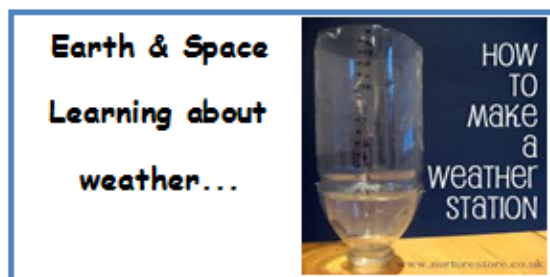
If you have any questions or concerns about your child all teachers are more than happy to talk to you in person or over the phone. Feel free to call the school and the teacher will call you back when it is convenient.

Mrs Saini – S1/2 teacher.

Stage Two (Years 3 and 4)

Welcome Back!

We are very excited to return and begin a new school year. The students are now settled into the 3 classes and we welcome Miss Rowley to the Stage 2 team. We have lots of exciting learning happening this term. Look at what we'll be studying !!



Looking forward to all this fabulous learning
Miss Kinloch

Stage Three (Years 5 and 6)

Welcome to the start of 2015!

Children have started the year well. They are to be commended for their good behaviour and willingness to learn. A reminder that children should arrive at school before 9am and have all their essential equipment with them. If they are absent from school a letter of explanation should be sent to school when they return. This year promises to be a busy one with lots of activities already planned. Gymnastics and our swimming carnival are scheduled for early this term.

Year 6 will be busy preparing for their transition into high school. This transition commences with a free excursion exploring life after high school in week four. They will also be invited to visit a local high school and experience first hand life in high school.

Later in the year, Stage Three will have the opportunity to visit Canberra. Children have been told to start putting some money away to help with the cost. This is a wonderful experience and we hope lots of children will be able to attend.

The teachers of Stage Three look forward to meeting you. Please feel free to speak to your child's teacher and discuss their progress.

Mrs Olivieri

A reminder to parents to notify the school about your child's health

We welcome information from parents about your child's health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child's health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing to the Principal. You may also contact our school office and make an appointment with either Mr Nelson or myself.

This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child's health and wellbeing.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughter's health needs or as otherwise required by law.

The Department of Education and Communities require all schools to have in place current student Health Care Plans for any health issue which may result in a possible emergency situation.

If your son or daughter has any of the following- **Diabetes, Asthma, Epilepsy or allergies including Anaphylaxis**, they are required to have a current Health Care Plan in place.

They are required to have an Emergency Care Plan when this health condition may result in a medical emergency.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school on 97241423.

If you require the assistance of the telephone interpreter service, please let us know and this can be easily arranged for you.

Regards for a healthy and happy school year,

Ms Leanne Fayle

This is the ASCIA Action Plan for Allergic Reactions form. It includes fields for Name, Date of birth, and Photo. The 'MILD TO MODERATE ALLERGIC REACTION' section lists symptoms like swelling of lips, hives, and itchy mouth. The 'ACTION' section provides steps for insect allergies, such as not removing ticks and staying with a person until help arrives. It also includes fields for medical allergies, family emergency contact names, and phone numbers.

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School Leaders for 2015

Congratulations to all of the students who were brave enough to get up at the end of 2014 and present themselves as prospective leaders for year 6 in 2015. You should all be very proud of the effort you put in.

Congratulations to **Madison Truong and Jolin Ye** who were voted as our new School Captains.

We would also like to congratulate Pauliasi 'Amone and Angelina Tran who were voted as our schools vice Captains.

We look forward to you all representing our school in 2015.



House Captains

The 2014 Colour captains were officially pinned on the Friday 6th February.

Congratulations to these students!



Koala Captains - Pauliasi O6 and Julie O6
vice captains - Rizki M5/6 NAD Sophia M5/6



Rosella Captains - Zethan O6 and Hiba M5/6
Vice Captains Josh G5 and Shantyl M5/6



Kookaburra Captains - Ali O6 and Mandy o6
vice Captains Ahmed M5/6 and Elizabeth G5



Waratahs Captain- Tom O6 and Eman O6
Vice captains Jordan M56 and Vanessa G5

Swimming Carnival

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VNPS had their annual Swimming Carnival at Fairfield Leisure Centre on Tuesday, 10th February. We had excellent swimming weather, and all the children seemed to enjoy the day. The children especially enjoyed the bonus time at the Aqua Park to end the day!

The points for day and colour house to win are as follows:

Koalas 135p,

Rosellas 241p,

Kookaburras 201p and

Waratahs 224p

Congratulations Rosellas!

Congratulations to all the children that participated in races on the day. Children will be notified shortly if they will continue on to the Zone Swimming Carnival.

We would personally like to thank all the teachers that helped on the day, especially our two University students Miss Lim and Miss Lim. Another big thank you to our parent helpers: Cheryl, Mark, Robyn and Diana. We are grateful for your continued support to our school.

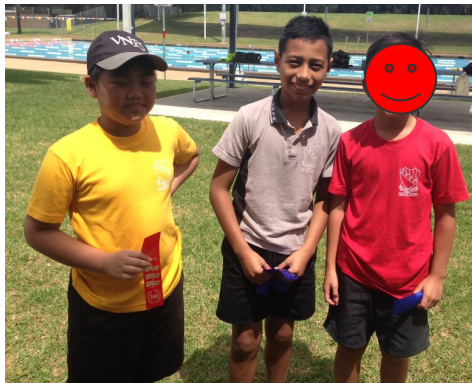
Thanks again

Mrs Marcela Malvicino and Mrs Aimee Busuttill

Sports Co-ordinators



Swimming Carnival



Caring for our School Environment

Mr Green and Mrs Saini have been hard at work trying to prepare our school gardens for some new plants and vegetables. Throughout the year kindergarten will use these plants as an opportunity to learn about healthy food and where it comes from.

Kindergarten and some of our other students have come along to lend a hand and have had a lot of fun learning about gardening.



Handy Tips from School A-Z (schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au)

School A to Z publishes weekly articles to help manage your children's school experience. For more handy hints visit their website.

School Organisation -5 great ways to get your kids organised for school

1. Set up simple routines at home to make things more efficient.
2. Talk to your kids regularly about planning how they use their time.
3. Make a list of homework tasks and ask your child to tick each one off as they finish.
4. Set a timer for working or playing on the computer if there are a few people wanting to use it.
5. Praise your child's attempts to improve their organisation.

Maths questions

Are you in search of an educational game to sharpen your child's maths skills and recall? Maths Monkey's Quest features maths questions on topics ranging from addition and subtraction to ratios and percentages. It's aimed at children from Years 3 to 8.

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/maths-monkey-s-quest>

Helping your child with homework

How do you help your child while allowing them to develop independence? Teachers talk about how parents can help kids take responsibility for their homework and avoid Thursday night meltdowns.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/helping-your-primary-school-child-with-homework>

Jargon buster

Wondering why your kids talk about playing under the school COLA? Baffled at parent-teacher discussions about KLA's? This list of common abbreviations or terms will help you to become familiar with the world inside school.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/school-jargon-busters>