

Villawood North Public School

Nurturing, Innovative and Dedicated

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Monthly Newsletter– February 2016

Principals Report– School Success

Welcome Back

Welcome or welcome back to Villawood North Public School for 2016. I hope your children are as excited to be back at school as we are.

Who to contact

You may have a concern related to your child's education from time to time. I find that it is best to make contact with the class teacher to discuss as, most concerns can be dealt with quickly. Teachers can be very busy and it may be necessary to make an appointment with them if a longer discussion is needed.

Introducing new staff

Miss Mudie	MK	Miss Mudie worked at VNPS in a variety of classes through 2015.
Miss Baillie	T3/4	Miss Baillie previously worked in other schools as a class teacher before coming to VNPS this year.
Mr Yoia	Y3/4	Mr Yoia has worked in a number of schools and returned back to VNPS in 2015 from overseas.
Miss Wanasawage	Yr3- Yr 6 Support	Miss Wanasawage has been working as a class teacher at Ultimo PS before taking on a support role at VNPS for 2016.
Mr Howell	Librarian	Mr Howell is continuing as the Teacher Librarian until the position is hopefully filled permanently this term.

Always working to improve Villawood North Public School

Every public school in NSW is working to improve. Our school improvement plan was developed in consultation with the school community to improve in three main strategic directions.

- **Excellence in student academic results in oracy, literacy and numeracy.**
We believe our children can learn and that our school academic results can improve. To accomplish this our fantastic teachers are continually learning new programs and strategies to improve teaching.
- **Wellbeing and engagement strategies empower students as life-long learners and positive, resilient citizens.**
We are striving to instil these values into our students as they progress through VNPS to give them a solid foundation to continue to grow beyond primary school.
- **Enhanced leadership and supportive professional development across the school community.**
We are working to build leadership skills of staff and students and looking for new ways to allow parents, students and teachers to be part of school decision making.

Regards

Garrett Nelson
Principal

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		

- Public holidays
- School holidays
- Start of school term for students
- School development days*

Important Dates to Remember in March

1st	Open day at CHHS with parents
Every Wed	Community Morning Tea
Every Wed	Parent workshops
22nd	K-2 Easter Day
23rd	School Photo Day
25th	Good Friday
28th	Easter Monday

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 new classrooms and routines.

Homework and the Home Reading program have commenced for the year. 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 Trinder or Miss Mudie as this will be greatly appreciated.

The teachers have completed 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.

Kindergarten visited Calmsley Hill City Farm where they saw many of the farm animals they have been learning about in the classroom. The students milked a cow, they snuggled baby animals and they watched a sheep shearing show. The students thoroughly enjoyed their day at the farm. We would like to thank the parents who attended the excursion. The students really enjoyed sharing the experience with you.

TK and MK have also been caring for the Community Garden this term. The students visit the garden to water the plants, remove the weeds and harvest the vegetables. The students have been learning about healthy food and will use the produce from the garden to make a picnic lunch at the end of the term.

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.

Kindergarten Teachers



Stage One (Years 1 and 2)

Welcome back to Term 1 of 2016. All Year 1 and 2 classes have had a nice start to the year and most students have settled well into their classrooms. We have a very busy year ahead of us and the teachers look forward to working with the children and families to provide the students with many meaningful learning experiences.

The Year 1 teachers for this year are Mrs Masri and Ms Bailey and Year 2 teachers are Miss Danh and Miss Dang. I encourage you to maintain ongoing communication with your child's teacher as this will allow you to be well informed of school events and your child's progress.

We hope you gained a lot of information at our 'Meet the Teacher' session. It was lovely to see many parents and other family members attend this. If you have any further questions you would like to ask or need extra clarity on certain topics please see your child's class teacher.

Later this term our annual Easter Fun Day will be held where students will be parading their Easter hats and will be involved in some exciting Easter activities. Keep an eye out for the invitation to attend this event.

Home Reading and Homework for this term have already commenced. If you can spare 15 minutes on a Tuesday or Friday to assist with changing Home Readers that would be greatly appreciated.

Kindest Regards,
Mrs Masri

Stage Two (Years 3 and 4)

We were extremely happy with how our Meet the Teacher information session went on Tuesday afternoon. We were overwhelmed by the number of families who were able to join us. There were over thirty families who attended our stage 2 session. It was obvious to us and to your children that you are a group of parents who are interested in what your children are learning in class. Thank you for those who were able to come along.

Many teachers are also working parents, so we do understand that some of you may have had work commitments which prevented you from attending.

Our Stage 2 Units of work for this term are really interesting .They are:

HSIE-China Down Under

Science- Friends or Foe

English-James and the Giant Peach

Creative and Practical Arts-Mythical Creatures

Please remember that we welcome any questions you may have throughout the school year. Our staff are always happy to speak to you. If you call the school office and leave a message for your child's teacher, they will call you back as soon as they can.

Ms Fayle

Stage 2 Assistant Principal

Stage Three (Years 5 and 6)

Welcome to the start of another school year at Villawood North. Students have settled into their new classroom routines and are working well. Thank you to all the parents who have made sure that their child has all classroom essentials.

This year will be a busy one with many activities already organized for students. We have been fortunate enough to have a visit by members of the Japanese consulate in Sydney this term. They discussed Japan as part of our study of an Asian country in Human Society and Its Environment/ History.

This year is the year to get fit! We have included more fitness to our class programs as recommended by the Department of Education. Stage Three run each morning, play sport on Friday's as well as take part in a sporting program where they will learn the skills to play softball on Wednesday. Please ensure your child has plenty of water, running shoes and their hat.

We look forward to teaching your child this year. Please feel free to contact your class teacher with any concerns and questions.

Mrs Olivieri

Stage Three



Meet the Teacher Day

On Tuesday the 23rd of February we held our annual meet the teacher sessions. This year we invited parents and families to VNPS during the day to an information session with their child's classroom teacher, and a free BBQ lunch with their child.

It was great to see so many families here on the day supporting the education of our students.

A big thank you to our wonderful parents Mrs Abdul-Hamid, Mrs Nhan and Mrs Chalak for stepping in and assisting the School Captains and teachers serving the crowds of hungry people!



Visit from the Taronga Zoomobile

On Tuesday the 23rd of February 2016 the Taronga Zoomobile visited our Kindergarten students. Two Taronga Zoo educators travelled from the zoo giving the children the opportunity to meet, learn about and interact with a collection of Australian native animals.

Kindergarten got up close with a stick insect, a frog, a snake, a blue tongue lizard and a possum.

We learnt lots of interesting facts about each animal. We also learnt about what we can do to protect these creatures habitats such as putting our rubbish in the bin.

This was a fantastic program and the students enjoyed learning about the animals.



Sporting Schools

Once again VNPS has taken advantage of the Sporting Schools grants for 2016.

"Sporting Schools is a \$100 million Australian Government initiative designed to help schools to increase children's participation in sport, and to connect children with community sport."

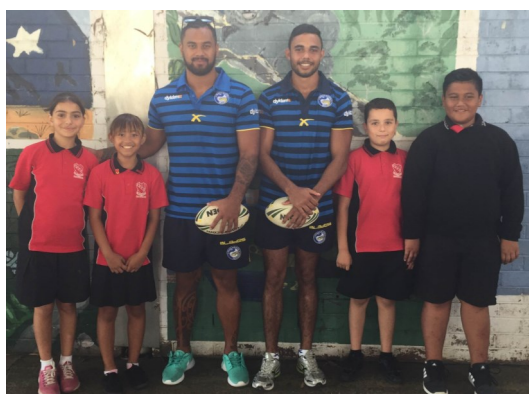
With this continued mission, our school has used the grant to include the following sports into our school fitness regime: T/Ball for Kindergarten to year 4 and softball for Years 5 and 6.

The program is a K-6 led sports program, run by professional coaches on Wednesday's and Thursday's from Week 4 to Week 7. Thanks to Softball Australia and our coaches Michael, Will and Sahara.

Community Carnival Tuesday, 16th February

VNPS was fortunate enough to participate in this years NRL Community Carnival, with a visit from current Parramatta Eels players from the first grade team. The Parramatta players were here to promote 'Wellbeing' and the importance of physical activity during everyday living. Thanks again to our NRL Development team organiser Keehan Diamond, to the players Kenny and Bevan and their mentor David.

Go Parramatta 2016!!



VNPS Swimming Carnival

Our annual Swimming Carnival held on Tuesday, 9th February, was a success with perfect weather conditions and great participation by all the students that attended on the day.

Participation points and house colour points were awarded were as follows:

Waratahs 88 Koalas 49 Kookaburras 230 Rosellas 247 Congratulations to Rosellas!

Thanks to all that assisted, especially the parents Mark Sutherland, Cheryl Al-Zeyat and Donna Berkhout who gave up their day to help out. The day would not be a success without the combined effort and dedication of our parents, teachers and other helpers.

Congratulations to the students that have made it to the Zone Carnival to be held 1st March. Well Done and good luck at Zone: Andrew (O5/6), Lilly (G5/6), Paige (G5/6), Ellyse (3/4), Chelsea (O5/6) and Vincent (G5/6).



The *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the ***Tell Them From Me*** student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>
The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 26 February. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

Smile and Win! Free School Oral Health and Dental Care

Our school recently partnered with Australian Mobile Dental Care (AMDC) to offer an excellent preventative dental program at **no cost** to students who are eligible under the federal government's Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS).

To support a **healthier school community**, students wishing to have their teeth checked for a healthy smile, as well as for a **chance to win** an iPad and gift voucher, should read and return the information and **parental consent forms** you received last week.



The large state-of-the-art clinic will be here in Term 1 Weeks 10 and 11 to provide free assessments and one-one education to every student; they will also provide fully bulk billed services, including a scale and clean, fissure sealants, fluoride applications and further treatment as required. We also offer prevention packages to students in private health funds who do not qualify for the Medicare CDBS scheme with NO GAP payable.

The healthy program has been successfully established by AMDC for a number of years now in over 150 schools throughout NSW alone to encourage children to take care of their teeth and gums from an early age. Student eligibility is based upon the CDBS scheme, which we can check for you on completion of the consent form.

We are all very excited to be a part of this transforming opportunity for our students especially those who struggle to regularly visit the dentist, because, as we know, bad oral health also affect our students' overall wellbeing including their eating habits and nutrition, classroom attentiveness, speech development and social confidence.

If you have any questions regarding eligibility and what the program offers, please contact the school or AMDC directly on 02 9761 4700.

Helping your child with Reading and Writing

Would you like to learn more about how to help your child at home in reading and writing?

During this term, we are running workshops for parents about reading and writing. The workshops will be held each Wednesday morning at the parent café from 9.15am– 9.45am. They will be very relaxed and informal. You will get lots of ideas about how to help your child at home. The workshops will be translated into Vietnamese and Arabic.

These are the workshops for this term. We hope to see you next Wednesday.

Workshops outline

1. Wednesday 2 March 9.15 – 9.45
Reading to your child
2. Wednesday 9 March 9.15 – 9.45
Helping your child to read
3. Wednesday 16 March 9.15 – 9.45
Helping your child with talking and listening
4. Wednesday 23 March 9.15 – 9.45
Helping your child with writing
5. Wednesday 30 March 9.15 – 9.45
Problem solving – What to do when my child gets stuck



Community Morning Tea

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been a great start to our Community Parent Morning Tea which is held every Wednesday morning from 9:00-10:00am. I would like to say thank you to all the parents for their time and involvement in our program. I look forward to another fabulous year working with everyone and I also hope to see more parents becoming involved in their child's education in the coming days.

Thank you for your cooperation and participation!

Mrs Phan



School Start and Finish Times

Listed below are important times you need to be aware of to ensure that your child is at school on time ready to learn and picked up on time in the afternoon:

Supervision 8:30am

Please ensure your children are not at school before 8:30am unless there is an excursion.

Line up 8:58am

Music starts for students to move to lines

School starts 9:00am

Students will be asked to go to the office to register as late after the 9:00 bell.

School finishes 3:00pm

It is unfair to our staff for parents to consistently pick up students after 3:00.

Please Note

Our bell is automated and may not be exactly the same as your watch or phone. We will use our bell to determine if a student is late in the morning.

Why being on time is important

Children are learning and developing their own set of values. Parents and caregivers are the main source of these values. Getting children to school on time shows that you believe that education is important. It will also set up a good standard for their working life after school.

There are going to be times when being late is unavoidable. When this occurs students will need to get a late note from the office.

Thank you for supporting the school by being on time.

Mr Nelson

Crunch and Sip

Just a reminder that each classroom has begun crunch and sip as part of their morning routine. Please remember to pack a healthy fruit or vegetable snack and drink of water for your child to enjoy during this time.



NOT ALLOWED

'Fruit' products (e.g. fruit leathers, fruit roll-ups, fruit straps)

Fruit jams or jellies

Fruit pies or cakes

Tinned fruit in syrup

Vegetable or potato crisps

Hot potato chips

Olives

Vegetable pastries (pies, pasties)

Baked vegetable breads

Vegetable cakes, fritters
quiches or similar

Popcorn

Flavoured and/or carbonated water

Fruit or vegetable juices

Fruit cordial

Any drink other than plain water