Monthly Newsletter– March 2015

Principals Report– School Success

Swimming Carnival
Our school swimming carnival was a well organised and successful day. You may not realise, but, some schools choose not to run swimming carnivals. At VNPS we believe that sport is an important aspect of school life and it is wonderful that our students can enjoy a wide range of activities. Thank you to Mrs Malvicino and Mrs Busuttil for your excellent leadership and to our parent volunteers for helping on the day.

Ideas to change the school uniform
Recently a few students and staff met with a LUPCO representative (Uniform supplier) to discuss ideas to change the school uniform. At this stage we are looking at ideas to have the boys and girls uniforms match. It is important to keep red in any changed uniform to acknowledge the schools traditional colour. There will be no decision made without consulting with a larger group of parents and students.

The children had very definite ideas on what they wanted to change which include:
- Both polo shirts having red and black as the main colours
- Removing the initials VNPS from the collar of the polo shirt
- Having black track pants
- Having a choice of a cap or wide brim hat

Having the children’s input was incredibly helpful. The next stage is to have some designs made up to display.

Any change to the uniform is a long process with community consultation. There is also a 2 year change over period where both the old and the new uniforms are acceptable to wear at school.

Do we need u-turns or 3 point turns?
We have all seen drivers completing 3 point turns in our pick up areas around the school and I wonder why. I understand that many parents are in a hurry to; pick up other children, get to appointments, take children to sport etc. However, after looking at our map we could easily go around the block.

We are all trying to make this school the best place for our children to learn and be safe. I ask that you consider the safety of our children at drop off and pick up times.
Early Stage One (Kindergarten)

Students have settled in nicely into their permanent classes for the year. All students are working hard in all learning areas. We have been focusing on reading in Kindergarten with the commencement of our L3 (Language, Learning and Literacy) program. Most students are making positive progress with their reading abilities and are displaying great initiative.

Just a reminder that our Home Reading days are Mondays and Fridays and we encourage all children to bring their home reading books back on these days to replace them with new ones. Homework and Sight Words books are due in on a Friday and will be handed back on a Monday. We encourage all children to be involved with this.

Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered some of their valuable time to spend in classes changing home readers. If you would like to assist Kindergarten with home reading please see your child’s class teacher and we would be appreciative of this.

As we head towards the end of Term 1 we want to wish all the families a happy holiday and we look forward to hearing all about the great experiences the children will have to share when we return in Term 2.

Mrs Masri, Ms McLaren and Mrs Treen

Stage One (Years 1 and 2)

On Tuesday the 31st of March, we held our traditional Easter Hat Parade and Special Assembly. Our school community is lucky to be made up of a wide range of cultures and religions. We believe Easter is a time for celebrating life and new beginnings. Your children were very excited to see all of the families who came to school for this fun event, thank you for your support and for helping us celebrate the wonderful life that we enjoy together.

The Hat Parade was a great way for the children to show off their creative abilities to their friends at school and to their families.

There was also a special hat parade for students who made their own hat at home and a prize was awarded for the most creative hat. Thank you to all of the children and their families who made the effort to be a part of this.

Each child will also be receiving a small gift of some Easter Eggs from the Easter Bunny when he or she secretly visits the classrooms.

Ms Fayle

Stage One Coordinator
Stage News– Primary

Stage Two (Years 3 and 4)

Botanical Gardens
On Tuesday 17th March, 2015 Years 3 and 4 went on an excursion to the city. We started off with a fast walk down to Villawood Station to catch our train into Circular Quay. From there we walked to the Botanical Gardens to complete our lesson on the weather and seasons. We enjoyed lunch in the gardens before heading back to Circular Quay to sketch pictures of the Opera House and Harbour Bridge. It was a great day and we all got back safe, sound and very tired!!

Stage 2 Teachers

Stage Three (Years 5 and 6)

Term one is almost over and what a busy term it has been! Stage Three has worked very well in all Key Learning Areas throughout this busy term and I’m sure are ready for the term break. The teachers have all been happy with the way children have worked on set tasks.

A big thank you to parents who have returned the permission notes and deposits for our end of year camp to Canberra so quickly. We already have our 50 places filled for this great experience. Later in the year, more information regarding this camp will be forwarded to our parents.

To parents of Year 6 children, a reminder that your Expression of Interest Form for placement in Year 7 next year is due by the end of March.

Wishing you all a very happy holiday.

Mrs Oliveri

Stage Three Coordinator.
Lansdowne Zone Swimming Carnival

VNPS attended the Zone Swimming Carnival on the 3rd of March at Fairfield Leisure Centre. Fourteen very keen and proud students attended, and cheered most of the day for our school. The students swam in all their nominated races and did their very best to represent our school. The students were Kye T3/4, Paige BR3/4, Ellyse K3/4, Stanley G5, Chelsea G5, Lilly M5/6, Shantyl M5/6, Andrew M5/6, Tom M5/6, Angelina M5/6, Grace M5/6, Jolin O6 and Denise O6.

Well done VNPS, all the students representing our school should be proud of your achievements.
What has been happening at VNPS?

NRL Community Carnival

On the 23rd of February, NRL and Parramatta Eels representatives attended our school as part of the yearly annual event. The focus for this year’s carnival was ‘Well Being’ to reinforce the importance of Physical Activity, Healthy Eating and Mental Wellness. The students enjoyed the talk, the social aspect of the program, and the opportunity to interact with the ambassadors before the talk.

Thank you NRL and Parramatta Eels.

Mrs Malvicino
Sports Coordinator

Asthma Foundation NSW– Student and Parent Workshops

On Friday the 27th of March, the Asthma Foundation of NSW visited our school and offered a free asthma information workshop to all of our students. They also invited families to attend a parent information session.

The aim of these workshops is to teach students to build an understanding of; what asthma is, who gets it, what causes it and what to do if they or another student has an asthma attack.

Each information session offered asthma information at the level of understanding for each class. For example, the Kindergarten workshop will be quite different from the workshop for Years 5&6. It is also vital for parents to have a good understanding of their child’s asthma.

Asthma in children is one of the most common causes of hospital admission and visits to the doctor in this age group.

The aim of good asthma management is to ensure that children can lead a normal healthy life, while taking only as much medication as is needed to keep them well and avoid asthma attacks.

90% of people with asthma don’t know how to use their device correctly. This can make it difficult for people with asthma to achieve good asthma control. (Asthma Foundation NSW Parent Information)

Leanne Fayle
Assistant Principal
Gymnastics

This term students were given the opportunity to participate in our fantastic Gymnastics Program. All lessons were conducted by two qualified teachers from Sportspro in a fun and safe environment. Our gymnastics program was part of our Kindergarten to Year 6 PD/H/PE curriculum focusing specifically on the development of students muscular endurance, strength, power, flexibility, coordination, agility and balance.

Each weekly session began with a warm up of stretches and fun movement games. We then learnt a new skill each week and participated in a rotation of activities which allowed us to practice these skills and also experiment with the gymnastics equipment such as the balance beam, mini trampoline and bars.

The students thoroughly enjoyed this wonderful learning experience. As shown in the action shots below.
What’s been happening at VNPS?

Healthy Harold

Life Education Australia visited Villawood North Public School from 18th to 24th March, 2015. Students in Kindergarten to Year 6 participated in workshops where they developed the social skills necessary for effective decision making, communication, negotiation, peer resistance and refusal in drug-related situations. The students relished the opportunity to meet Healthy Harold, participate in various role-play scenarios, develop their social skills and engage with the latest in multi-media technology. The programs delivered by Life Education Australia were thoroughly enjoyed by the staff and students.
Reading in the School Holidays

Encouraging your kids to pick up a few good books during the holidays is a great way to keep their hard-earned reading skills from slipping.

Choosing good holiday reading books for your child

It may be stating the obvious, but the best books you can buy or borrow for your kids during the holidays are the ones that your child will actually read. Find out how many words they like to see on the page for it still to be fun to read, check out the last book they enjoyed, ask them what topics interest them – and don't be afraid to expand their horizons.

A visit to the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge website lists great books that are available in bookshops. The books are listed in age-challenge levels with lots of detail to check out. Remember they are just a guide so if you have a child in Year 3 who is a good reader, you may like to look at the challenge level 5-6 booklist and use the extra information about the book to make sure the content is suitable.

When reading to young ones, you may want to pick a book you love too (as you will be reading it over and over with them).

Books for young kids

For boys and girls in Kindergarten to Year 2, you can't go past the fun rhyming text of Ursula Dubosarsky's *The Terrible Plop*. The team also recommends Libby Gleeson's *Clancy & Millie and the Very Fine House*.

For boys and girls in Years 3 and 4, *Ballroom Bonanza* by Nina Rycroft is a fabulous rhyming alphabetical picture book with detailed illustrations and some other hidden attractions to keep kids happy for more than just one reading, and Nette Hilton's *The Adventures of a Late-Night Swearer* and *The Walk Right in Detective Agency* series by Moya Simons have heaps of humour and a quirky appeal.

Books for tweens

Girls in Years 5 and 6 will enjoy Sally Murphy's *Pearl Verses the World*, the story of a girl who writes in blank verse and belongs to a group of one, and boys will enjoy any of the crazy but cool books in Andy Griffith's *School-ing Around* series. More advanced readers in this age group may like *Noodle Pie* by Ruth Starke, an Australian-Vietnamese story, and don’t forget to look at the challenge level 7-9 books.