



Vaucluse Public School  
- est. 1858 -

## THE VAUCLUSE WEEKLY

### 19 DECEMBER 2013

VAUCLUSE PUBLIC SCHOOL

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*Term four Week eleven.*

### Coming Events

Wed 29 Jan 2014	Students from Year 1 – 6 start school
Monday 3 Feb 2014	Kindergarten 2014 start school
Tuesday 4 Feb 2014	Classes will be formed

*Classes PJ, PN and PM held an Art Show last week, which highlighted some of their many creative talents.*



Dear Parents

The last week of school has been packed with outstanding activities.

Last Friday's Presentation Day at Rose Bay Secondary College was a celebration of achievement for all our school. Our students were either delighted to be awarded prizes or delighted for their friends who received prizes. Thank you to the many parents who attended and shared this joy. Prue Watt – the Paralympian who was our guest speaker was inspirational. Prue's speech was perfectly pitched at our students. Most of the school had watched a documentary about her extraordinary career as an elite athlete during the week. Their familiarity with Prue's story made it a wonderful experience seeing her in reality. We were all inspired by Prue's story and took away her strong message of belief in oneself. I have included in this week's newsletter a copy of the Principal's speech for those who were unable to attend.

Monday night's concert and film festival was another heady Vaucluse PS experience. When you combine the beautiful weather, ambient location and the outstanding performances you have a powerful experience. The variety of talent in the school and the confident way our students presented themselves ensured the evening had high entertainment value. For those families who stayed and viewed the Film Festival created by Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 it was certainly worth the effort. For a small school we are a powerhouse of creativity. Congratulations to Vaucluse PS staff, who have worked tirelessly to audition, rehearse and produce such a wonderful group of entertainers. As a member of the audience I was alternatively entertained, charmed, surprised, thrilled and filled with enormous pride for our fabulous school. Thank you everyone.

On Tuesday evening we celebrated and farewelled 2013 Year 6 students in our unique Vaucluse way. The evening commenced at the Fisherman's club on the wharf at Watsons Bay with Thank You speeches. We then boarded a restored wooden ferry – the *Lithgow* and sailed up to the Harbour Bridge and back to watch the sunset and the full moon rising. We ate, sang and danced away around the Harbour with our special group of Year 6 and it was delightful. Year 6 has consisted of twelve students this year and the size of the group has enabled all staff to work closely and get to know each student well. They have been an outstanding group and there were not many dry eyes on Tuesday night. Special thanks goes to the Year 6 parents who put an enormous amount of work into ensuring the evening went smoothly. (It did !!)

Finally on Wednesday we had a special assembly for the whole school to farewell our Year 6. You will see a wonderful photo in the body of the newsletter. *The Tunnel of Love* as we call it is a guard of honour created by the rest of the school and Year 6 walk through it as we send our best wishes and congratulations to each student. It was an emotional but heartfelt way to end the school year but it was also one that everyone enjoyed.

One last vote of thanks for Ali Satchell, Mads Anderson and the team that put together the P&C fundraiser at Watsons Bay Hotel. This event raised \$6000 which will go towards funding some of those big plans for 2014. What a team !!!

School will recommence for staff only on Tuesday 28 January 2014. Students will return on Wednesday 29 January 2014. Kindergarten will commence on Monday 3 February 2014. Classes will be formed on Tuesday 4 February 2014. For the first four days of Term 1 2014 students will return to their 2013 class teacher. We implement this organisation to ensure a calm start to school. Students return to familiar faces and familiar organisation and when settled, classes are formed. Staff have spent a great deal of time with class organisation this term. Much thought has gone into the placement of each child. It is not until all our Kindergarten enrolments have arrived are we able to form classes. Schools are staffed on a total number of students. Until we have confirmed our total number of enrolments we do not form classes.

In 2014 we welcome a new Assistant Principal – David Todd and a Targeted Graduate – Kara McMenemy. We farewell Nicole Martins, Jo Tatton and Tom Hosegood. We wish them much success in their next adventure.

On behalf of all Vaucluse staff we wish you a happy and safe holiday. Enjoy your time with those you love the most.

*Maureen Hallahan*

Principal



**WOW!!**

I cannot believe it's been a year since I took over the canteen. I never thought I could fry so many schnitzels a week and still enjoy eating them! I Absolutely loved my little customers. I got to know them all by their names and their special requests. ....*Just tomatoes... Just cucumber and of course soy on rice!*

To all the parents I have loved feeding your beautiful and polite children. There will be a new and exciting menu next year.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday

Love

Miri







***The Tunnel of love. The students and teachers farewell Year 6, as they walk out of Vaocluse Public School for the very last time.***













*Easily confused as The Academy Awards! Another wonderful Presentation Day last Friday.*

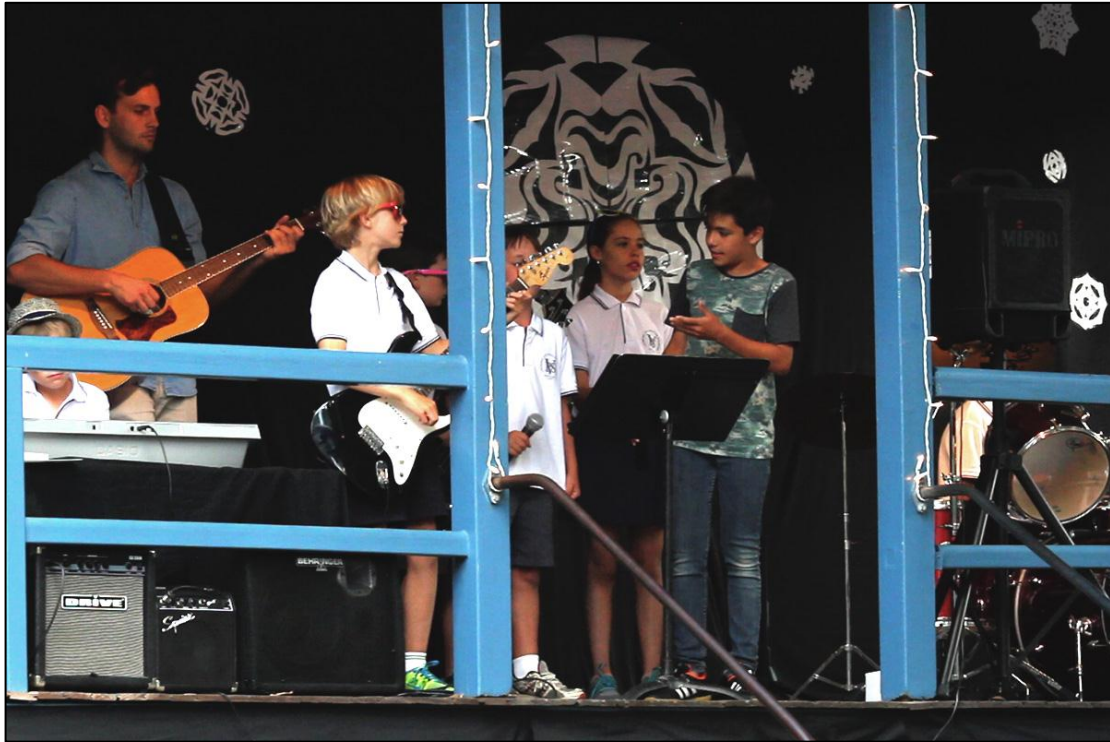












VAUCLUSE SUR L'HERBE



## *2013 Principal's Presentation Day Speech*

Good afternoon students, teachers, parents and distinguished guests. I would like to acknowledge the Gadigal people who are the traditional custodians of this land. I would also like to pay respect to Elders both past and present of the great Eora nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present.

2013 has been a very significant year for Vaucluse Public School. We commenced the start of the school year by increasing our numbers for the fourth consecutive year. In the last three years our school population has doubled in size. At the start of this year it was necessary to implement an enrolment Policy that allowed enrolments for in area and siblings only. This year for the first time we have a waiting list for Kindergarten. Next year our school will grow by another two classes. Many of you would have seen the arrival of the two classrooms yesterday. In 2014 we will have an additional Assistant Principal giving Vaucluse four APS in total. And we welcome David Todd from Bourke St Public School to the position.

How does this happen – how does a school come from a small population to a dynamic growing environment bursting at its seams. .

Each Wednesday for the last two years Corinne Montano has led school tours of prospective parents. Corinne is one of our many secret weapons. She takes parents to see the Gym program where Geraldine and her classes achieve amazing results and the parents marvel at a quality program that does not need a dedicated gym to succeed. She pops her head into one of our Support classes and parents witness the most extraordinary learning taking place. She visits the Library and parents are able to see our students completely immersed in literacy activities under the expert hands of Laura Caesar. They walk past the canteen where they are welcomed by Miri and the inviting presence of what is cooking that day for lunch. By the time these parents leave the kitchen and look down on to the beautiful playground they are sold. After Karla Aspden and her team have finished with these unsuspecting parents they are hooked well and truly. The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden finally finishes them off. By the time they are greeted by Cath Stallman and Leeann Bell in the uniform shop they are asking how soon can their children start. As Corinne walks them back to the office and they see our beautiful grounds and our latest addition – the multi purpose sports field they are desperate to be a part of this wonderful school. Finally Corinne brings them to my office. And as I speak to them they talk about the harmonious atmosphere , how calm it is, the friendliness of our students and staff and how can a school like this exist in the city. Corinne and I smile, nod our heads and try not to puff up too much with pride.

But we have much more in the treasure chest that makes Vaucluse Public School the unique place that it is. We are able to share the outstanding commitment of the parent body. To tell of the parent helpers that attend our school regularly for classroom support, kitchen and garden help, and library support. Help with excursions, mentoring and assisting with a wide variety of school activities. We talk about the strength of the Class Parent Organisation and of the outstanding work of the P&C.



We are able to talk about the team work that takes place between teachers and parents. Our shared vision of creating the best teaching and learning environment for our students that we possibly can. Finally we talk about our common purpose - our students- and a school where students come first.

Because our visitors are only in the school for a short time they are unable to see the wonderful leadership demonstrated by our senior students. Nor the tolerance of our children who welcome and include everyone. They are unable to see their generosity and thoughtfulness and how aware and considerate they are of all around them.

Visitors are able to have a glimpse of the dedication of the staff that lead teaching and learning but they do not experience their level of commitment nor do they see a group of professionals who continually ensure students come first. They do however get to experience the warmth with which Corinne and Ellaine welcome everyone.

That is how it is done.

It is the combined efforts of all members of our community. Our power comes from the collective commitment and a shared vision. That is how we have made Vacluse Public School – the school on everyone's lips in 2013.

Yesterday the staff welcomed a large group of dedicated helpers and provided morning tea to thank them for their support throughout the year. One of the scripture teachers who have<sup>3</sup> been working at the school for many years came to thank me. Mary also said she wanted to say how much she enjoyed working at the school. She said our school had a wonderful tone and she had never encountered such caring and polite children. Unbeknown to me she struggles with the stairs but she said each week our children go out of their way to meet her and carry her bags up and down the stairs. She said they were always so happy to help. This is how we measure success.

It is a great privilege to lead this school and know we are all guiding and shaping compassionate and responsible twenty first century citizens. Thank You.