



# The Vaucluse Weekly

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Friday 4 December 2015

Term 4 Week 9



Everyone lends a helping hand at the  
Helpers Morning Tea yesterday. Otylia from 1J caring for her stunning baby  
sister, Elettra so mum Emily can mingle with the other wonderful volunteers.

## Principal's Report

Dear Parents

Yesterday was our last assembly for the year. David Todd and Year 6 presented a farewell film they had made for the whole assembly. It was brilliant. What great role models they are for the rest of our students to aspire to. They are a group with a very strong sense of social justice. Recently they completed a unit of work on Moon Bears (if you don't know about the terrible plight of Moon Bears, grab someone in Year 6 to inform you or go to Youtube.) Year 6 then raised \$500 to send off to *Animals Asia* to support the *Moon Bear Project*. They have just organized a collection for the homeless people of Surry Hills. Please see the note in the body of the newsletter. Year 6 are asking for everyone to bring in a treat to be handed out on Christmas Day. We love the fact that there is a strong sense of helping others beyond self. We will watch them all grow with much interest.

Yesterday morning was the Helper's Morning Tea and it was our opportunity to say thank you to all those wonderful people behind the scenes. The staff excelled themselves as usual and there was a delicious assortment of treats to tempt our volunteers. It was an opportunity to talk with many people we do not often see particularly our wonderful neighbours. You may not be aware but for a number of years now there are group of dedicated neighbours who keep the chickens and the garden alive during holiday time and on the weekends. We could not keep the garden in such great shape if it were not for their contributions. Rudi works closely with them and under his guidance the garden is looked after during the holidays.

It was an excellent opportunity to acknowledge the diversity of ways our parents contribute to our school. Great strength is drawn from the commitment of our parents. Their unselfishness and dedication to ensure this is a wonderful place for all children contributes significantly to the success of our school. That dedication was in evidence last Sunday at the Christmas Fair where a large number of parents baked, volunteered to manage the stall, sold seedlings, preserved lemons, cooked sausages and sold Christmas cards. All for our favourite cause – the students of Vaocluse Public School. Thank you from all the staff at VPS.

We are looking forward to seeing the wonderful performances of our talented students next Thursday night at Vaocluse sur L'herbe. The P&C will be running a sausage sizzle and our very creative Christmas cards will be on sale. We have included the note in the newsletter if you have forgotten details. Please remember all students must be accompanied by an adult.

Next year we will improve our communication with a *Vaocluse Public School APP*. The APP will have newsletters, class bulletins, permission notes and a vast array of tools for us to communicate with. This App will be ready for use when school returns at the end of January (an awful thought at this stage). We think it will improve and strengthen communication at our school.

In next week's newsletter we will publish the *Visiting Therapist Policy*. If you have organised with us in 2015 to have a therapist visit the school the contract will expire at the end of term. In 2016 new contracts must be negotiated with us in order for the school to allocate spaces and observe WH&S protocols. We are in the home run now. Enjoy your weekend.

*Maureen Hallahan*



Emily. Smithson



We are all born  
in a different way  
How we look  
and what we say

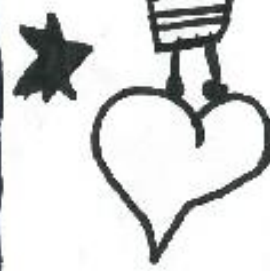
From different countries  
around the world  
of different genders:  
boys and girls

of many sizes  
and colors, too  
The things we like  
and the things we do

We're sure glad  
it works this way  
The world is so colorful  
everyday

If everyone  
were the same, you see  
You wouldn't be you  
and I wouldn't be me!

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# The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP

Member for Vacluse



20 November 2015

Miss Gabrielle Lee  
Vacluse Public School  
Cambridge Avenue  
VAUCLUSE NSW 2030

Dear Gabrielle

I would like to thank you for participating in my 2015 Seasons Greetings card competition and congratulate you on your entry. Your artwork has been selected as one of the two runner's up entries of this year's competition and will be used on the back of my Seasons Greetings Card.

As one of the winners of the competition you receive a book voucher. I look forward to presenting it to you. Once again congratulations and thank you for your beautiful design.

Yours sincerely

Gabrielle Upton MP  
**Member for Vacluse**  
Cc: Ms Maureen Hallahan  
Principal





**Thank  
you**

**with grateful thanks to**

*Friends at Vaocluse Public School*

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from the whole team at Animals Asia for your  
incredible kindness and generosity.

Never doubt that your contribution is making a significant  
difference to the welfare of the moon bears in Asia.



*28 November 2015*

**Jill Robinson**

Founder and CEO  
**Animals Asia Foundation**











### VAUCLUSE PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN'S FESTIVE SEASON CARDS

You may have heard some whispers on the VPS grapevine about the delightful Festive Season Cards designed by all of the children at VPS? At just \$10/pack (with 16 cards per pack) please read on to find out how you can purchase yours ...

Guided by the 2015 Class Teachers, every child in every class has participated in these beautiful works of art. The P&C have printed enough for all families.

We're selling them for just **\$10/pack or 2 packs for \$15.**

Each pack contains 16 cards (there are 16 classes).

So if your child is in KM, KH, KA, 1/2M, 1J, 1W, 2F, 2H, 3M, 3S, 4V, 5B, 6T, K-2J, 3-6K, K-4K you'll want to grab a pack of cards as a wonderful artistic memory of 2015. It's a lovely way to support raising funds for the School - all proceeds go to the School P&C fund.

### HOW TO BUY?

There are several avenues to enable you to make your purchase. Please order now, we don't want anyone to miss out. Choose what's most convenient for you:

1. **TryBooking** <http://www.trybooking.com/JVXS>  
*Purchase your cards online via the above link.*  
Collect at Vauchluse sur L'herbe on Thursday 10 December before 6pm OR  
Collect Monday 7 December at Cambridge Ave Entrance between 8.45am-9.20am.
2. **Cambridge Ave School Gate** from 8.45am - 9.20am  
on Wednesday 2/12, Thursday 3/12 & Friday 4/12, plus Monday 7/12
3. The **Clothing Pool** on Wednesday's & Friday's 8.45am - 9.20am
4. **Vauchluse sur L'herbe**, Thursday 10 December before 6pm.

If you want cards and can't make arrangements with any of the above options, please let Sacha Irvine (Y3-6) [irvinesbuilding@optusnet.com.au](mailto:irvinesbuilding@optusnet.com.au), Sarah Still [sarah@redant.com.au](mailto:sarah@redant.com.au) (Y3-6), or Amanda Ramsay (K-2) [missmandimakeup@gmail.com](mailto:missmandimakeup@gmail.com) know.

We'll find a way to get them to you. **Don't miss out!**





# The Siamese Fighting Fish

The Siamese fighting fish also known as Betta, and in the Gourami family, are very popular as aquarium fish.

If bred in captivity they are normally red, blue, green, pink and even white but in the wild they are not as colourful and are duller colours. They grow up to two inches long and will develop lighter colours as they get older.

Their natural habitat is Thailand, South East Asia, where they are normally found in rice paddies and river basins.

The Siamese fighting fish eat zooplankton, crustaceans and mosquito larvae, and other water bound insects. They also need fibre and they get that from the exoskeletons of insects and plants.

The Siamese fighting fish are quite aggressive to smaller fish that resemble them. If ready to or wanting to breed, the Siamese fighting fish have vertical stripes instead of horizontal stripes, and puff and flare out to intimidate or impress a female.

When breeding the Siamese fighting fish curl their bodies together and align their reproductive organs. Then the eggs incubate inside for twenty four to thirty six hours and the male Siamese fighting fish are very protective of the eggs.



Colourful Siamese fighting fish.

Isabella from 4V.

Augusta and Matilda 4V Snow Leopards

### End of year news from the library

Borrowing from the library has now finished for this year and it is time (again!) to **return all the books** so that they can be counted before the end of the year, ready for borrowing in 2016.

Books can be returned any time before the end of Term 4, the returns box is accessible any time during the day and is located on the library ramp.

You may receive an overdue notice for outstanding books in the coming weeks.

Please contact the library if you have any questions or queries about these.

If just a few children lose even just one book a year, it adds up to hundreds of dollars' worth of books and leaves our collection looking very sorry indeed. Please help keep the library fabulous and take care of the books in your custody!

Lots of love,

The Vacluse Public School Library



Maia from 1W

With her donations



## CLOTHING POOL

Vaucluse Primary School has an in house clothing pool that is run by volunteers. In the past there have been two parent volunteers opening and managing the clothing pool two mornings a week. If the clothing pool is run by parent volunteers the school benefits by receiving any profits made and the parents benefit as the uniform costs are kept at a minimum price.

Next year the clothing pool will be moving to a roster system and we require parents to volunteer.

This is a job for only 45 minutes once a term, month, week or fortnight (and it's surprisingly kinda fun!).

Do you have 45 minutes to spare?

Are you able to help out at the clothing pool ?

This is an important role for the school so please volunteer, even if you only have 45 minutes spare once a year we would be grateful for your help. Not only do you get to meet a great bunch of parents and students, you are also supporting the school to raise much needed funds.

Please email Sacha at [irvinesbuilding@optusnet.com.au](mailto:irvinesbuilding@optusnet.com.au) if you can help.

Thank you



## CLOTHING POOL

### Volunteers needed

*Urgent – the clothing pool needs volunteers for a stocktake and to pack kindy bags on the last day of school.*

This will take place from 8am-12pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

If you can help – even for an hour – you will make a difference (and make life easier for the new kindy parents next year!).

Email Sally at [sallycowper@bigpond.com](mailto:sallycowper@bigpond.com) if you can help.

Thank you





## **Year 6 Initiative**

Dear Parents

Our Vaucluse Public School Year 6 students are organising a School Collection. The Collection will be items that will be delivered to the *Bread of Life Program* at St Michael's Church Hall in Surry Hills on Christmas Day. The *Bread of Life Program* is a breakfast for the homeless people of Surry Hills served each Sunday morning. Over the years we have supported the program and this year our students generously contributed at Easter time. The items can be left at the School Office or with your child's Class teacher. The items will be delivered to the church for distribution to the homeless on Christmas Day. Below are some ideas for contributions.

***Chocolates, tins of biscuits, Christmas treats such as small cakes, puddings and lollies, gift sets of toiletries such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, hand cream etc for men and women, socks, small toiletries bag. Or anything you think a homeless person would enjoy receiving on Christmas Day. They do not need to be wrapped. However if you wish to wrap them please do so in clear cellophane so the gift can be seen.***

The items should be sent to school by Monday 14 December. The Year 6 would like to thank you in anticipation of your support of their project. They look forward to a successful collection.

Yours sincerely

Maureen Hallahan & Vaucluse PS Year 6 students  
Principal  
1 December 2015



Vaucluse Public School  
— est. 1814 —

# Vaucluse sur L'herbe

6.00 - 7.30pm  
Thursday 10 December 2015

Dear Parents

*It gives us much pleasure to invite you to come and share with us an evening of entertainment on Thursday 10 December 2015.*

*Auditions have been underway for all of Term 4. The evening promises much talent, excitement and enthusiasm.*

*Bring a picnic to share on the grass or take advantage of the P&C BBQ or School Canteen.*

*An early arrival is recommended. The show will commence promptly at 6.00pm.*

*All students will be performing and must be accompanied by an adult.*

*We look forward to sharing a wonderful evening with you.*

*Staff and Students of Vaucluse Public School*

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drawings by IW



## VOOSC NEWS

### Enrolments for 2016

We are currently in the process of contacting families about their requested positions or for 2016.

Please ensure that once you have received an emailed letter of confirmation of positions to respond via email.

Thank you to those families who have been prompt with this request.

Please be mindful, that bookings do not roll over from year to year and we have been advising families of this process for well over a term. If you presently hold positions for your children and haven't yet re registered for next year, we only have waiting list positions to offer you.

Once you have returned your completed forms (available from VOOSC) they will be dated and your children's names will be added to the wait list.

### TERM FEES

**All Term fees are due in full please.**

**Thank you to all families that have consistently kept on top of fees this year we really appreciate it!**

There are a number of fees still needing urgent attention please.

If your fees remain outstanding after the school term concludes on the 16/12/15 you will be placing any pre booked positions for 2016 in serious jeopardy of cancellation.

Steps will be taken to retrieve any outstanding fees.

### VOOSC STARS

The following children have been chosen for the VOOSC Wall of Fame for kindness and friendship throughout 2015

Congratulations to

Emily H , Elke N, Appley, Holly R, Olivia G, Freddy S, Harry B, Arabella Charlie K, Elke C, Sina , Ruby T, Eszter, Zara B, Bruno

Warm Regards

VOOSC TEAM

voosc@people.net.au

# Clouded Leopards

The Clouded leopard is a dusky blotched cat found from the Himalayan foothills through to China. They are of the Animalian Felidea family. The clouded leopard has two sub-species consisting of the Sunda and Formosan.

Clouded leopards are found in the tropical rainforests of China, Thailand, Burma and Nepal. They have even been discovered 9000 ft off the ground in the Himalayan Mountains. However their range has shrunk due to severe poaching.

Clouded leopards are carnivores, feeding on a wide range of prey, including; birds, cattle, squirrels, monkeys, goats, wild pigs and small deer.

Clouded leopards are a well-built tawny black cat. They can grow up to 90cm long and weigh up to 12kg. They sport dark cloud markings on their long slim bodies. Like all leopards they are strong and flexible.

Unfortunately not much is known about these beautiful creatures. However it is understood that they are solitary playful animals that enjoy resting in trees and are active day and night.

The female leopards are pregnant for up to 93 days and when born youngsters suckle for 5 months. Males usually develop faster than females.





### FUN FACT

Clouded leopards have the extraordinary ability to hang upside down in trees using their paws. The clouded leopard has the largest canine teeth of any cat relative to their size.

However, the clouded leopard is a highly endangered species and unless something is done to help these magnificent predators they will soon die out.



Young clouded leopard.



Standing Sunda clouded leopard.