

The Vaucluse Weekly

Friday 9 November 2016 Term 4 Week 4

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Learning and
Growing Together



Mielle from 2A with her new electric wheels.
She went from her L plates straight to her green P plates.

Principal's Report

Dear Parents

Last Friday night's Halloween disco was a huge amount of fun for everyone. It is arguable who had a better time, our children or our parents. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the evening. There were lots of donations and lots of parent helpers. Parents also went to a huge amount of trouble to make sure everyone was part of the Halloween culture. It was a wonderful Vacluse night that showed everything we love about our school community.

We were extremely lucky with the weather for the Sculpture By the Sea excursion on Tuesday. This whole school excursion in our local area was a wonderful opportunity for everyone. Teachers and students enjoyed the chance to mix with everyone from different grades and at the same time enjoy the beautiful beach weather. We are extremely fortunate to have this event locally. The previous week all staff had attended an afternoon with some of the artists at Tamarama where they were setting up the installations for the exhibition. This is a wonderful experience which the staff look forward to. We are able to really *pick the brains* of the artists and share some great insights into their work. They discussed a variety of work and delightful anecdotes which the teachers were able to share with our students.

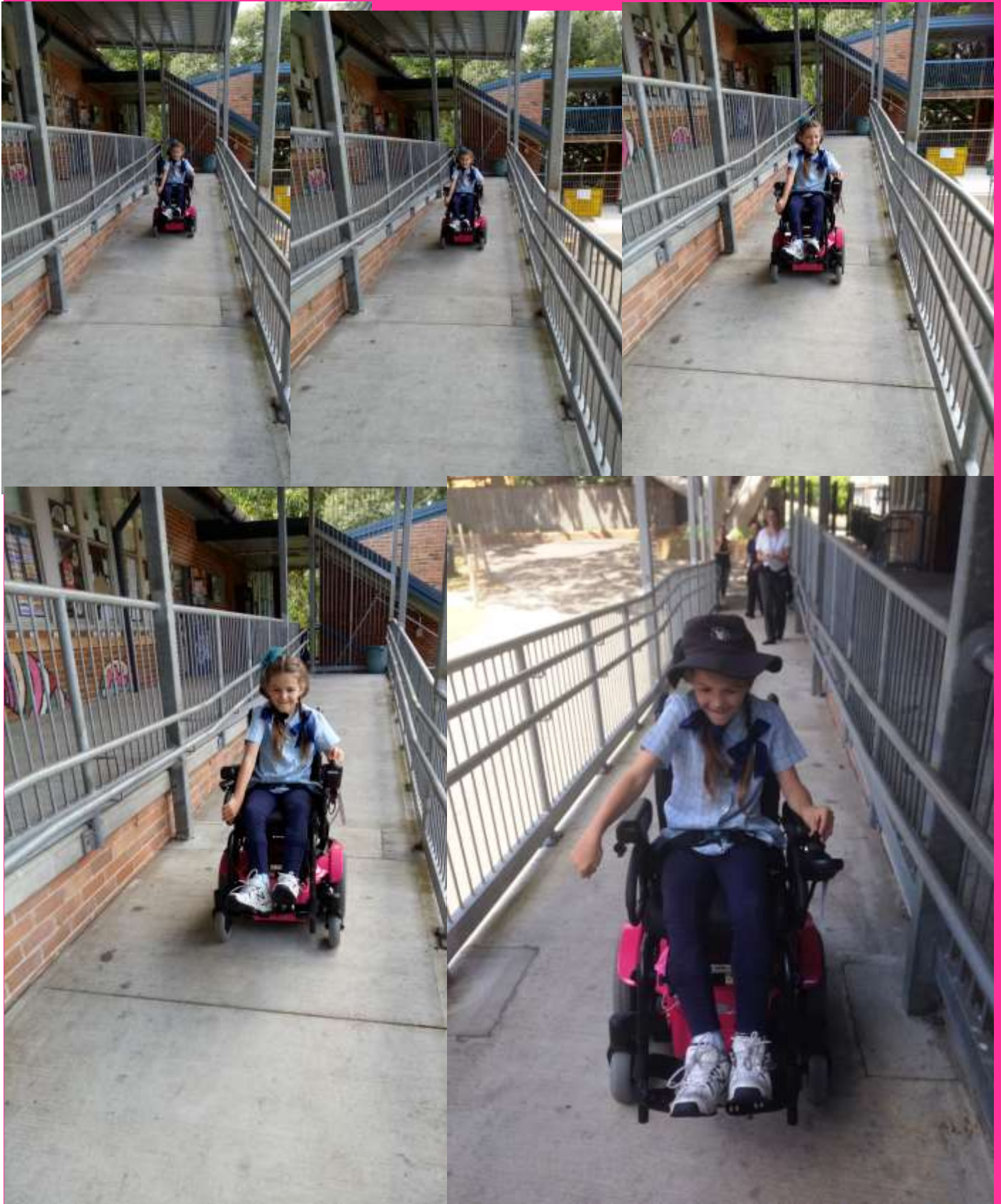
Today all our students along with many other primary, secondary, State and Independent schools in Australia are participating in Music Count Us In. At 12.30 today all members of Vacluse Public School will join a very large community of schools online across Australia and sing a song that they have learnt as part of an extensive online music program for teachers and students. This is a wonderful music experience that has been operating for ten years. Vacluse PS has participated with much enthusiasm and excitement for a number of years. This year we all really love the song and no doubt you have heard it being practised at home.

At present we are beginning to organise 2017 classes. Teachers spend a significant amount of time in fourth term considering your child's class placement. In the body of the newsletter is the school's policy on class formation. Please take the time to read it carefully so that you have a good understanding of how our classes are created. We request that parents do not ask teachers to place their children in specific classes or with specific teachers. The decision making around this process is very complex and is based on

teacher judgement, shared observations, consultative discussion, assessment and many other factors. In order for these decisions to be fair and equitable we cannot consider parent requests unless we give every parent the opportunity to request class placement for their child. Obviously the practicality of meeting with every parent is impossible and being able to action these requests would be completely unachievable, therefore we do not offer the opportunity to any parents. We very much appreciate your support and understanding of this process.

Maureen Hallahan

Mielle from 2A shows her great motoring skills





Vaucluse Public School
- est. 1858 -

Dear Parents

CLASS FORMATION POLICY FOR 2017

The staff of Vaucluse Public School recognise the need for careful consideration to be given to the formation of class groupings. Teachers make decisions regarding the placement of children in classes based on their experience, prior knowledge of individual children and their skills and understandings as professional educators. Our intention is to provide students with a learning environment that suits their individual academic and social needs, learning styles and temperaments in the knowledge that this is the platform for optimum growth. We acknowledge that some children can find the start of the new academic year challenging. It is our firm belief that by supporting children to adjust to new situations within the supportive and familiar environment of a school we are developing resilience and self- management skills for life.

Groupings

- ✓ The number of children in a class will be as follows:

Kindergarten	Average of 20 children
Year 1	Average of 22 children
Year 2	Average of 24 children
Year 3-6	Average of 30 children
- ✓ There will be occasions when it is necessary to form a composite/multi-age class. It is widely acknowledged through a body of international and national research, that there is no evidence to support the belief that composite/multi-age classes have a detrimental effect on children's progress.
- ✓ If at all possible, composite/multi-age classes will be formed to fit within stage groupings. It is recognised that this is not always practical.
- ✓ Composite/multi-age classes will have as even a mix of grades and gender as is practical. When a composite/multi-age class is formed in Kindergarten, Year 1 or 2, the number of children will be on average the same as the average expected in the higher year level.
- ✓ The inclusion of a child in a composite/multi-age class will be based on the child's individual learning needs and the benefits that would be gained from such a placement.
- ✓ Children will be provided with the opportunity to nominate five friends they would like to be with in the following year at the end of the previous year. It is intended that all children will have at least one person they nominate with them.
- ✓ Classes will be formed in mixed ability groups. An even number of boys and girls is desirable. There may be times when staff believes it to be beneficial for gender based groups to be formed for certain teaching and learning activities.



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Time Frame

- ✓ Classes will be formed in the final weeks of term 4, 2016. This gives teachers time to consider the composition of the class and to consult collegially on the appropriate placement of students. At this time the placement of new enrolments if known is also considered. It is acknowledged that there may be times when classes need to be reconfigured in Term 1 to cater to fluctuations in enrolment. Because classes are not final we do not inform parents.
- ✓ Teachers will then have the opportunity to consult with each other to ensure the best possible mix of children.
- ✓ At the commencement of the 2017 school year all students will return to their 2016 class groupings. 2017 classes will be formed in week 2, Term1 2017. This is to ensure school student numbers are definite. Until the school can accurately determine the number of students enrolled for 2017 classes will not be formed.
- ✓ 2017 Classes will be announced and organised in week 2, Term1, 2017 after kindergarten has commenced school and the school population has stabilised.

Parental input

- ✓ It is recognised that parents/caregivers often have reasons for wanting their children in a certain group or with a certain teacher. It is only in **very exceptional** circumstances that children will be moved from one class to another. Consultation will take place between the child's previous teachers as well as the School's Learning Support Team.

Maureen Hallahan

Maureen Hallahan
Principal
20 October 2017



Cupcake Fundraiser

Dear Parents

On Monday 7 November 2016 we will be having a cupcake sale to raise money for costumes for *School Spectacular*.

Our students in the Support Unit are participating in o the Opening and Closing of the concert. We are holding a stall at recess for students in K-2 and a stall at lunch for students in 3-6. *All cupcakes are \$2.*

We are asking for donations of cupcakes. If you are able to contribute cupcakes please leave them in the staffroom on Monday morning. All donations will be generously accepted. Please send \$2 to school with your child on Monday so they are able to purchase a cupcake and help buy the costumes.

Thank you in anticipation of your help.

Maureen Hallahan

Principal

3 November 2016



Vege Garden News

Today's classes started the official campaign to prepare garden beds for summer.

We constructed bean tepees, planted corn and planted a vertical garden for a tomato crop.

All the rain and the hot weather has really brought summer on early this year and I have tomatoes starting to flower and corn plants growing 2-3 cm a day.

Get ready for a hot summer.

We also split our native bee hive (*Tetragonula carbonaria*) and made a new one to put in another section of garden. We also tasted some of their honey which was sweet and wild tasting. The bees play a vital role in pollinating lots of our vegetation and provide a habitat for native bees to exist in.

I have provided a link to a native bee site below.

http://www.aussiebee.com.au/trigona_carbonaria.html



Native bee close up



Native Bee hive cut in half

Cheers Rudi

0423 020 648

rudi.adlmayer@woollahra.nsw.gov.au



Sculpture

by

The

Sea







Private Members Statement

The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP

Private Members Statement

Gone Fishing Day 2016

On Sunday 16 October I celebrated Australia's first ever Gone Fishing Day at Sydney Game Fishing Club in Watsons Bay with over fifty school children from local schools including Vaucluse Public School along with the Minister for Primary Industries, Land and Water the Hon. Niall Blair MLC and South Australian Senator and Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, the Hon. Anne Ruston.

A special thanks to Tournament Coordinator Karen Wright and Club Committee Members for hosting us on the day and pro Al McGlashan who helped me better understand the rules that protect the vast array of fish who make Sydney Harbour their habitat. I was delighted that Sydney Game Fishing Club received a NSW Government grant to help with activities on what was beautiful sunny weather for Gone Fishing Day.

Gone Fishing Day is aimed at getting all Australians out on the water to celebrate our love of fishing. It was great to see our local school children getting involved in one of Australia's favourite pastimes. It didn't matter if they hadn't fished before or if they were the keenest of anglers, Gone Fishing Day was for everyone. Each child was presented with a fishing rod and as they crammed onto local boats to fish their excitement was almost uncontainable. In short it was wonderful to see so many locals down on the water at Watsons Bay enjoying the sunshine and participating in this inaugural event.

Sydney Game Fishing Club was formed in 1952 and is situated at the end of the Watsons Bay ferry wharf. The clubhouse includes its own weigh station which allows temporary mooring of several boats. The members own the Club and number around 400, with some 80 or so registered boats of varying sizes between 17' and 76'. The club fosters a family atmosphere and holds many social functions for members who come from a very diverse cross section of the community.

In December each year the Club also hold a day where they invite patients and their families from the Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick to join them at the Club. During that day the Club takes all the invited guests on a harbour cruise on member's boats, provide lunch and refreshments and instruct them on fishing techniques while also trying to catch the children a fish or two off the wharf. This is a fantastically generous initiative and one that the Club should be very proud of.

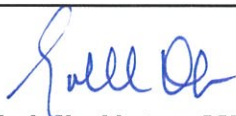
The Club is also a member of the New South Wales Game Fishing Association and competitions are held against other clubs in their "Central Zone" and around the state. The Club regularly sends a team of 40 or more Sydney Game Fishing Club boats to participate in the NSW Interclub Competition held annually in Port Stephens.

The NSW Government is committed to local schools having the opportunity to add fishing to their curriculum through the 'Get Hooked, It's Fun to Fish' program designed to teach students how to fish. As part of the program, primary school students in NSW will have the opportunity to participate in free fishing workshops over the next three months. The workshops involve lessons about rules and regulations, fish identification, catch and release techniques, and practical skills on rods, reels, tying knots and rigging.

Recreational fishing plays an important role in our local communities and this program will provide our young fishers with the practical skills and knowledge to take part in this fun hobby. It is great to hear that almost one hundred schools across NSW have already registered for the 'Get Hooked' program.

It was wonderful to join and celebrate the launch of Gone Fishing Day down at Watsons Bay. I look forward to future events there in times to come.

I commend my Private Members Statement to the House.



Gabrielle Upton MP

Member for Vacluse

Date: 18 October 2016



3B at Sculpture by the Sea







Art work by KB and 2F
With Ms Lord.





Keeping kids safe!

New Upgraded version with bug fixes

FREE Safety App

Available here

Visit our website for more information

DanielMorcombe.com.au/APP



Keeping kids safe!

The 'Help Me' button sends an emergency text with GPS location details to two nominated mobile numbers

FREE Safety App

Available here

- GPS Location
- Safety Tips
- Note Filing
- Safety Videos
- Nearby Safe Locations

Suitable for:

- Medical Emergencies and Conditions
- Personal Accidents
- Schedule or Sleepovers
- Overseas Travel (subject to roaming charges)
- Travelling
- Car Breakdowns
- Shift Workers
- Tourists

DanielMorcombe.com.au/APP







Dear Parents

I am writing to advise you that we suspect that nits/head lice are present in the hair of some students within the school

Please check your child's hair for nits/lice tonight using the methods recommended in information from NSW Health
(<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/environment/headlice/treatment.asp>)

If you find any eggs or lice please commence treatment as recommended.

Further information on head lice is available on the NSW Health website (details above) or through the Department's website at
<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/student-support/studenthealth/conditions/headlice/index.php>.

I appreciate your assistance in this regard.

Maureen Hallahan
Principal
4 November 2016