From The Principal
The Kinder and Year 1 class had a lovely excursion to Paterson Pre School yesterday. For many of them it was a return to a place that was very familiar to them. From all accounts they had a great time learning about Aboriginal culture. We have included a run down of what they participated in later in the newsletter.

K-2 will have an excursion to Gresford Show this Friday. Please ensure you have returned your child’s permission note and remember to send in the gold coin donation on the day. We will be entering paintings into the Show Competition so if you get a chance go and have a look at your child’s art work.

Relay for Life took place this afternoon. Thank you to all the children and their families for supporting this worthy cause. We will let you know next week how much money the children raised. Half the amount will go to The Cancer Council and the other half will be split between Maurin, our Foster Student from Tanzania and Freddo our sponsor Koala.

It is coming up to that time of the year again where we start thinking about our Easter festivities. Further in the newsletter is information regarding our activities and also our raffle. If you could pop an extra Easter Egg into your basket when shopping and get them into school it would be appreciated.

This afternoon the staff will be attending Anaphylaxis training to keep us all up to date and current with the procedures to follow in an emergency. We now have two students at this school who have been identified with having this life threatening form of allergy.

Lots of staff training happening at the moment. I will be at a TENS training course this Thursday and Friday which focuses on helping students in the younger years with their Maths concepts. Mrs Fonti, Ms Corrigan, Ms Graham and Mr Oke will be attending “Focus on Reading” workshops which is to enhance a Primary Students Reading Skills. Mrs Rogers is busy attending training and implementing L3 in her Kinder class, which is an intensive Reading program for Kinder students. It is great that we can access funding to train our staff in these great initiatives that benefit the students at Vacy School.

P&C AGM is tonight at 7pm in the staffroom.
Hope to see you there. If you are new to our school this is a great way to meet other parents and to hear about what is happening at school.
Mr Oke is away this week on Long Service Leave. He will return next Monday.

Regards,
Maree
Canteen News

Our little canteen has been really busy these last few weeks! Thank you to everyone who supports the canteen either by ordering their child’s lunch or recess or even giving their child some money to purchase an ice block at lunch time.

Do you know what a Pizza Rounda is?? We sell them at lunch! Made by Ingham, they are oven baked rolls with a delicious pizza filling. Popular in other school canteens they contain no artificial colours or flavours! Like pies and sausage rolls they are an Amber rated product to which you can add a healthy side salad with your order to green it up while your child gets to munch on something just a little bit different for lunch!

Our hardworking volunteers last week were Jen, Sian, Penny and Heidi! Thank you for giving up your valuable free time to cook for our little people.

Regards,
Emma Maslen

STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS

Kinder
Nate Allison
1/2
Scout Woller
2/3
Isabella Grainger
3/4
Natasha Lutschini
5/6
Max Wysel

CLASS AWARDS

Kinder
Max Palframan for excellent reading.
Year 1
Lars Ulrick for hard work and effort.
Year 2
Gypsy Rocco for following ‘The Golden Rule’
Year 3
Charlotte Rienecker for being caring and a responsible class member.
Year 4
Charlotte Hopkins for being a passionate learner.
Year 5
Kacia Rowles for application and effort in all areas.
Year 6
Amy Magri for excellent research and report writing on WWII.
App Update!  Number Pieces

Cost: Free  Ages: K-4

Number Pieces Basic helps students develop a deeper understanding of place value while building their computation skills with multi-digit numbers. Students can use the number pieces to represent multi-digit numbers, count, regroup, add, and subtract. The drawing tools allow students to label representations and show their understanding.

Easter Festivities 2015

This year Vacy Public School will be celebrating Easter on Thursday 2nd April. We will have a combined Easter Scripture service, Hot Cross bun morning tea, Easter colouring in competition, Easter Raffle and the students will perform Easter Songs.

We are asking each family to donate Easter chocolates for the Easter Raffle. Please bring donations to the office. Raffle tickets will go home next week. More news regarding times will be in next week’s newsletter, parents and friends are welcome to attend.

K/1 Excursion

Yesterday we went to an Aboriginal performance at Paterson Preschool. We learnt about playing the didgeridoo and animal noises you can play with it, we sang songs about picking fruit and fishing and we had our faces and hands painted. It was a great day enjoyed by all, it was lovely for the children to see some familiar faces at the preschool too. Thank you Mrs Greaves for organising our visit.

League-Tag Day

A big congratulations to the students who attended the league-tag day last Friday. They represented Vacy with pride and enthusiasm throughout the whole day. It was fantastic to see students improve as the day went on with many students scoring tries or getting really close as they broke through the defence. Exceptional team work was displayed and as a result, we went undefeated all day. Well done Vacy! Thank you to all parents who assisted with transport on the day.

Parents Cuppa

Parents Cuppa is on Friday 20th March at 8:45am. Come and have a chat and a coffee with other parents from the school in the canteen.

Keeping Gates Closed

Please shut the gates. During the day, the school gates are closed to ensure that all of our students are safe and that risks are minimised. At present, we need to be extra vigilant with closing the gates, including the staff car park gates, to manage the safety of some of our younger students. We do ask that, if the gate was closed when you came upon it, then please close the gate once you have passed through. If in doubt, please close the gate.

Staff Car Park

The school car park is for staff parking between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm each day. This is due to Work Health and Safety policy and the limited access to the car park. During these hours, parents and caregivers are asked to park on the road and enter the grounds through either of the two, safe pedestrian access gates. We thank you for your understanding in this matter.

VACY PUBLIC SCHOOL
PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association will be held on Tuesday 10th March 2015 at 7.00pm in the Vacy Public School staff room. The business of the meeting will be: Election of office bearers: President, Vice President (x2), Secretary, Treasurer. Consideration of changes to the Constitution of the Association

All parents and caregivers are members of the school P&C and are cordially invited to attend.

J Thompson

10/03/2015
NEW App Update!  

**Oz Phonics**

Cost: $2.00 - $4.00  
Ages: K-4

The Oz Phonics app range is being used by teachers, parents and speech pathologists alike. These apps aim to improve phonics recall, reading and spelling skills using a variety of games like memory and find-a-words. There are a range of these apps available, so finding the one that meets your child’s needs is easy.

### Needed

The Before and After School Care committee are still on the lookout for someone to plaster and fit out the old sports shed as it will be used to store the BASC sports equipment. If you know of someone who would be interested, please let them know that the BASC would welcome them quoting for the job.

### Year 6 Expression of Interest Forms

As your Year 6 child’s primary school education is coming to a close at the end of this year, it is now time to think about which secondary school your child will attend in 2016. An information guide and Expression of Interest form was sent home to the parents/carers of Year 6 students.

Please see your child’s class teacher or the office if you require advice about completing the form.

The Expression of Interest will need to be returned by Friday 13th March as we need to process them and have them ready for the high school to collect.

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**Easter Services - Chisholm Pastoral Region 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHRISTMAS MASS</th>
<th>SACRED HEART</th>
<th>CATHEDRAL HAMILTON</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TUESDAY 31st March</strong></td>
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**HOLY THURSDAY**  
2nd April  
**MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**  
St Helen’s Gresford 5.30pm  
St Mary’s Dungog 7.00pm  
St. Joseph’s East Maitland 7.00pm  
Our Lady of Lourdes Beresfield 7.00pm  
Sacred Heart Campbell’s Hill 7.00pm  
**Evening Prayer 10.00pm**

**SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION**

Clarence Town  
Sunday 15th Mar 7.40am (before Mass)  
Dungog  
Tuesday 17th Mar 7.00pm  
Rutherford  
Wednesday 18th Mar 7.00pm  
Beresfield  
Thursday 19th Mar 7.00pm  
Lochinvar  
Tuesday 24th Mar 7.00pm  
Gresford  
Wednesday 25th Mar 9.30am (followed by Mass)  
Largs  
Wednesday 25th Mar 7.00pm  
East Maitland  
Thursday 26th Mar 7.00pm

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
3rd April  
**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
Our Lady of Lourdes Beresfield 10.00am  
St. Columba’s Paterson 10.00am  
Immaculate Conception Morpeth 10.00am  
St Mary’s Dungog 10.00am  
St. Joseph’s East Maitland 10.00am  
St. Paul’s Rutherford 10.00am  
Sacred Heart Campbell’s Hill 10.00am  
St. Patrick’s Clarence Town 10.00am  
St. Helen’s Gresford 10.00am  
# Denote outdoor youth dramatisation

**The Passion of the Lord**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our Lady of Lourdes Beresfield 3.00pm</th>
<th>Immaculate Conception Morpeth 3.00pm</th>
<th>St. Joseph’s East Maitland 3.00pm</th>
<th>St. Paul’s Rutherford 3.00pm</th>
<th>St Mary’s Dungog 3.00pm</th>
<th>Sacred Heart Campbell’s Hill 3.00pm</th>
<th>Holy Family Largs 3.00pm</th>
<th>St Patrick’s Clarence Town 3.00pm</th>
<th>St. Helen’s Gresford 3.00pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- Denotes Clergy In Attendance

**Easter Vigil**

St Joseph’s East Maitland 7.00pm  
Our Lady of Lourdes Beresfield 7.00pm  
Sacred Heart Campbell’s Hill 7.00pm  
St. Mary’s Dungog 7.00pm

**Easter Sunday**

5th April  
Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Services  
Stockdale Hill, East Maitland 6.00am  
Immaculate Conception Morpeth 7.15am  
St Patrick’s Clarence Town 8.00am  
St. Paul’s Rutherford 8.00am  
Holy Family Largs 8.20am  
St. Joseph’s East Maitland 8.30am  
St. Patrick’s Lochinvar 9.30am  
St. Columba’s Paterson 9.30am  
St. Helen’s Gresford 10.00am  

**NO EVENING MASS EAST MAITLAND**

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10/03/2015
An invitation to parents and carers

Q & A Information Forum

Speakers include

- Speech Therapist
- Nutritionist
- Occupational therapist
- Child and Family Workers

What happens in speech therapy?
Why does my child need a speech therapist?
What does an occupational therapist do?
How can I get my child to eat properly?
What supports are out there for my child?

FREE

Date: 11 March 2015
Time: 2 Sessions morning or evening

Session 1 ... 10am to 11.30am
Session 2 ... 6pm to 7.30pm

Location: Clarence Town Public School

Tea and Coffee provided

Contacts: Katrien......0400 273 643 and Tonya.....0438 203 816
Vacy Public School
Parents and Citizens Association
Meeting minutes

Meeting date: 10th February 2015

Meeting opened:
7.10pm

Present:
G. Butler, E. Pereira, J. Thompson, M. Greaves, K. Sanders, A. Nicholson, E. Maslen

Apologies:
P. Parker, G. Oke, K. Grainger, H. Cameron, K. Fonti, H. Cameron

Previous minutes:
Accepted as a true and correct record of the previous meeting.

   Moved: K Sanders   Seconded: E. Pereira   Carried

Business arising from the previous minutes:
• Shade Structure
  o A quote for $3230 has been received for a 6m x 6m timber structure. This price does not include fascias and gutters, downpipes, painting or additional concrete alongside the existing path.
    It was decided that G. Butler is to ask for a revised quote to include all the omissions.

   Moved: K Sanders   Seconded: J. Thompson   Carried

• Coffee and Chat morning
  o Continued promotion in 2015 should attract more parents. M. Greaves and K. Grainger to choose dates for 2015 and promote via the Newsletter and Skoolbag App. E. Pereira has a “Nespresso” machine which she is happy to donate. The P&C thanked her for her generosity.

Correspondence:
• Bank Statement and Cheque book
• LW Reid account
• P&C Journal

Treasurers report:
P. Parker was not present at the meeting, but provided the following current account balances:

   - Canteen Account:
     - Closing Balance: $3951.38
   - P&C General Account:
     - Closing balance: $7842.05

The Treasurers’ report was accepted.

   Moved: G. Butler   Seconded: E. Maslen   Carried

Principals report:
- Provided by G. Oke, presented by M. Greaves
- 2015 is off to a good start, with 114 students
- Class structure presented some challenges for 2015, with the following classes established:
  o 5/6 with K. Fonti
  o 3/4 with J. Corrigan
  o 2/3 with S. Graham
  o 1/2 with M. Greaves
  o Kindergarten with S. Rogers
  o G. Oke covers relief from face to face (RFF), library and 1 day per week in 2/3
  o Learning and Support Teacher (LAST) is Marie Goodwin, part time Tuesday and Wednesday
Assistant Principal role is shared by K. Fonti and M. Greaves

The parent information night went well, with good attendance

The swimming carnival will be held at Kurri Kurri pool next week.

K. Fonti is looking into alternatives to the current athletics carnival arrangements and will report when able.

An excursion timetable has been set out for the year

Student Representative Council has started for the year, with term One candidates selected from yrs 2 – 6.

Positive Behaviour for Learning has commenced for 2015.

A lengthy discussion ensued about the 2014 presentation night; concerns were raised about:

- every child not getting an “award”
- not many boys received awards
- school captain selection process

These issues were discussed with queries satisfied by the explanations from K. Greaves.

Moved: G. Butler  Seconded: J. Thompson  Carried

Canteen report:

Discussion about invoicing BASC for consumables, etc, with resolution for E. Maslen to discuss directly with A. Nicholson, and to P. Parker about preparation of invoices, etc.

New menu arrangements are working well

An initiative to attract more volunteers was discussed, with the possibility of a “prize draw” each term for Flying Duck vouchers or similar.


BASC report:

Procedure and Policy changes continue to be developed and implemented in line with the outcomes of the recent Accreditation

An accreditation Spot Check was conducted on 5th February, with some minor recommendations provided by the assessor. These are being considered by the BASC and acted on.

A fee increase has been implemented: Perm AM: $12, PM $20, Casual AM: $14, PM: $23. The fee increases are directly related to the increased requirements for administration and supervision under the National Quality Framework.

Staffing structure is being reviewed in light of the recommendations from the Accreditation process.

Attendance continues to be good, with an increase in afternoon bookings anticipated when activities such as soccer restart for the year.

Paterson PS students attending the Vacy BASC now arrive earlier, allowing for smoother programming of afternoon sessions.

Moved: E. Pereira  Seconded: M. Greaves  Carried

General business:

The AGM for next month was discussed, with appropriate notice to be given via the Newsletter;

The old garage, to be used as a BASC store, is waiting for lining to be completed. Quotes to be called for via the Newsletter

Tocal Field days arrangements were discussed. Thursday will be serving beef and gravy rolls, Friday, Saturday and Sunday is the craft stall, can this be Sat & Sun only? K. Sanders to follow up with the TFD Committee

Mothers Day and Fathers day stalls to be organised, Nyree Wiseman to be asked.

Vacy Village Country Carnival date is 20/9/15, which is during the Term 3 school holidays. This to be confirmed by K. Sanders.

Next meeting:

Tuesday 10th March 2015 at 7.00pm

Meeting closed:

9.10pm
No safety gear
No ride

GRESFORD BILLYCART DERBY

supported by Dungog Shire Events

Easter Saturday 4 April 2015
Park Street, East Gresford
Races start 9am

An action packed day with all the thrills of the billycart racing,
street stalls, rides, gum boot throwing, Cow Pat Lotto, food, bric-a-brac
AND PRIZES FOR: Fastest times, Best Dressed Cart, Pit Crew & more...
www.gresfordbillycartderby.wordpress.com

Primary Sponsors:

GLENCORE

THE HOTEL BEATTY

Blackwoods