Lachlan and Rachel a couple of our Walkathon Champions
Dear Parents

**CLASS FORMATION POLICY FOR 2016**

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.
**Time Frame**

- Classes will be formed in the final weeks of term 4, 2015. 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 2016 school year all students will return to their 2015 class groupings. 2016 classes will be formed in week 2, Term 1 2016. This is to ensure school student numbers are definite. Until the school can accurately determine the number of students enrolled for 2016 classes will not be formed.

- 2016 Classes will be announced and organised in week 2, Term 1, 2016 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  
Principal  
20 October 2015
Dear Parents

It was with heavy hearts and dragging feet that everyone came to school yesterday. We were all looking forward to attending *Sculpture by the Sea*. On Wednesday afternoon the staff had attended the special orientation for teachers. We met some of the artists and sculptors who shared their back stories and histories to the sculptures that make the program so unique. We collected wonderful stories about the artworks to share with our students. We had been watching the Bureau of Meteorology (the BOM as we fondly call it here), website all week and the presence of thunderstorms was the definite deal breaker. As it turned out it was an excellent decision as it poured raining most of the day. We have rescheduled the buses for Thursday 5 November and will be praying to the weather gods for a balmy, sunny day. Due to Department of Education procedures we will be required to send a new permission note home for the changed date early next week, so please look out for that and return it signed to school as soon as possible.

Yesterday afternoon after school there was an accident on the kindergarten climbing equipment. We have a school rule where all climbing equipment is out of bounds in wet weather. This is due to the slippery and dangerous conditions that occur on the equipment when it is wet. We also continue to ask parents not to linger in the playground and go straight home. We ask our students not to play on the equipment after school. On Tuesday Mr Styles and Miss Aspden had spoken to all students about not playing on the equipment after school and going straight home. We ask that students keep their shoes and socks on until they get home and wheel their scooters, skateboards and bicycles out of the school playground. We would very much appreciate parent support in keeping all our students safe on the school playground. After school commitments prevent staff from supervising the equipment. Through working together we can ensure that every student in this school is able to move around the school safely. We very much appreciate parents who do supervise their children and take them home quickly. Yesterday was a heart stopping experience for all staff who were involved.

This term the whole school is involved in implementing units of work and activities around leadership. We are talking about what makes a good leader and what does a good leader look like. This is in preparation for the election of the 2016 school leaders. In next week’s newsletter I will be sending home the Vaucluse Public School Leadership Policy that outlines the procedures for the election of our 2016 school leaders. We hope that by the time voting takes place our students have a very good understanding and expectation of their leaders. In the body of the newsletter you will see an excellent example of leadership from Holly Ryan in 1/2M. Holly is initiating a fund raiser for the Starlight Foundation. Holly was also one of our outstanding speakers who represented VPS at the Multicultural Speaking Competition at Orange Grove Public School on Wednesday. Congratulations also to Audrey Amland of KM, Monique Bathgate from 5B and Isabella Sheffield from 4V who also joined Holly and did a magnificent job in representing us. Laura Caesar has a full report in the body of the newsletter.

Please note the change of date for the Annual General Meeting for the P&C. We did not realise it was Melbourne Cup Day when we were setting the date. The new date is November 10. Also the P&C are holding a working bee this Sunday and look forward to lots of families helping out.

Maureen Hallahan
Dear Vaucluse Public school.

As a member of the audience at the Seymour today I feel the need to congratulate your school for its outstanding item.

The piece was beautifully and sensitively written and brilliantly presented by your actors.

Thank you for producing this piece which contained such important messages put together in the best possible way.

Congratulations to all involved

Thanks and Best Wishes

Sally Mowbray (Parent Arts Unit Primary Ensemble)

mowit@iprimus.com.au
Goosebumps are great books if you like monsters, mysteries or adventure.

It’s not too scary but it’s not suitable for kindergarten, year 1 or 2. It is suitable for Year 3-6. It has a lot of fun and exciting features and I know that it’s on my favourite list of books. I hope it’s your next book to read.

There are a whole lot of books because it’s a series. It is full of funny and scary bits that will make you jump SO START READING GOOSEBUMPS!!!

BY MAHIRA 5B
This Wednesday 21st October, four students represented our school at the Greater Southern Sydney Primary Schools Public Speaking Competition held at Orange Grove public school.

Audrey Amland (Kindergarten), Holly Ryan (Year 1), Isabella Sheffield (Year 4) and Monique Bathgate (Year 5) all showed incredible maturity and ability, speaking on topics of their choice in front of an audience of students, parents and teachers from schools all across the Port Jackson Network.

Holly, Isabella and Monique also had 5 minutes to prepare an impromptu speech on the topics “my worst day”, “a big problem” and “a star is born”. Thinking and speaking on the fly in that way is a huge challenge but they took it on and did a spectacular job! Well done girls!
Change to … Save The Date…

Vaucluse Public P&C AGM

Tuesday 10 November from 7pm

Find out what the P&C have achieved this year and plans for 2016.

Voting will take place on all P&C Exec Positions

An Agenda and more Information about the Exec Positions will be available in the next few weeks. Keep an eye out in the Newsletter.

All Welcome

REMINDER

Dear parents,

Please send your child’s sponsorship money back to the school as soon as possible. To date, unfortunately, only half the students have returned their sponsorship card and money. There are various ways to do this: cash, cheque or direct transfer in the Vaucluse P& C bank account (all details are on the sponsorship form)!

As soon as we have all forms back we can start reconciling the funds and hopefully pay for the implementation of the Wi-Fi. Fingers crossed!!

We will also then determine which class was able to raise the highest amount of money and organise their reward: a movie afternoon and paddle-pops!

Thank you all in advance,

Sacha Irvine
The teachers do a reconnaissance for Sculpture By The Sea Wednesday afternoon. It was so much fun.
Starlight Foundation

Imagine you were really sick and found an amazing place where people can grant your wishes. Maybe you would wish to meet your favourite movie star. Or maybe for a piece of equipment that would make your life easier. Well, there is a place like that! It’s called the Starlight Foundation.

At Vaucluse Public School, we have the chance to help the Starlight Foundation grant more wishes for sick kids. Please bring a gold coin to school in the first week of November so that we can help the Starlight Foundation grant more wishes for sick kids so that they can forget about all the scary stuff that’s going to happen.

THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Tuesday to Thursday

Big Crunch Sushi – Chicken Teriyaki $4.50
Big Crunch Sushi – Salmon $4.50
Big Crunch Sushi – Tuna $4.50
Big Crunch Sushi – Chicken Schnitzel $4.50
Munch Box 8 pieces – Avocado $5.50
Soy Sauce Gluten Free included
Sushi – 100% gluten free and dairy free

Vanilla Bean with Chocolate
Vanilla Bean with Berry
New Flavour - Mango and Watermelon
Now only $2.50

Save Time!
Order online from the canteen

Any issues email help@munchmonitor.com or call 1300 796 190

1. Go to www.munchmonitor.com
2. Click on LOGIN the REGISTER
School ID: vauduseps Password: munch2030
3. Enter your own username (email address) & password. Click ‘Create your Account’
4. An email will then be sent to you with a link to activate your account.
PLANTING AND PAINTING WORKING BEE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WHEN: Sunday 25 October at 9:30am

Calling all parents to assist with the working bee.

On Sunday 13 September, 2015 we will paint the clothing pool and plant native grasses. Come for an hour or come for longer, anytime you can give is much appreciated. We aim to be completed the planting and painting by 1pm and we can’t do it without you.
“Is media multitasking an important modern-day skill or a disruptive and damaging habit?”

A special opportunity for you to come and learn about Distraction, Multitasking, & Time Management and how it can affect your child.

Tuesday 27th October 2015

6pm - 7pm

Randwick Public School Hall

Please reserve a seat by emailing helen.terata@det.nsw.edu.au

$5 family entry at the door. Places limited.

Host Robyn Treyvaud is an internationally recognised expert in online safety and digital citizenship. She returns to Randwick Public School for this special discussion workshop.

- Explore case studies
- Find out what the professionals say
- Take home practical tools, tips and tricks students can use to stay focused

“...questions about technology’s distracting potential are especially relevant in the context of parenting because we want to make sure we’re doing our part to support effective habits.”
VOOSC NEWS

Voosc Garden
Over the last week at VOOSC we have been very busy attending to our garden.
Our tomatoes have continued to produce for most of the year, which is unbelievable.
Please resist picking them when you see them as they need to grow and ripen before being eaten.

It has been a little sad for the kids at VOOSC to discover anything from our garden picked or uprooted and left discarded on the ground. We wait a long time to see some things grow.
Keeping ahead of the hungry slaters who love to munch on our strawberries is indeed a challenge!
When we are able to win the race and rescue a few for our fruit trays and in smoothies, it is indeed a delicious treat!
We have finally seen our bulbs from last spring making a reappearance and are quite excited to see how our Gladdies will look this year.

Homework at VOOSC
Well done to all of those children who have been making a huge effort to do their homework while at Voosc. We understand how hard it is to fit everything into your day and appreciate that you have all been taking responsibility for the tasks set by your teachers. It has been great to see how enthusiastic you are to do your Mathletics and Reading Eggs!

To further assist our children and support families, Voosc has been able to provide some laptops for the homework program.
This does not mean that all children will be required to do their homework at Voosc, or that Voosc Educators will be responsible for ensuring that your child has completed their weekly homework.
It is still "homework" and will require parental involvement and supervision. This is simply a means to get a head start and lessen some of the pressure in our busy lives.
Computer use will be supervised at all times and evenly shared amongst the children. The Social Media and Homework Policies are available for all families to read. Parent consent is to be received prior to children having use of the laptops.

VOOSC STARS
The following children have been awarded stars this week. Welcome all to the VOOSC Wall of Fame.
Olivia L
A star for a star! Great manners, kind of heart and a wonderful friend to all. Well done Olivia.
Elijah
An excellent effort in doing your homework Elijah, you deserve a place on the wall of fame. Well done.
William R
You have received your star for showing responsibility and having great listening skills. Well done Will, we are very proud of you.
Marcus D
Marcus your star is for excellent sportsmanship both on the field and off. Always great to play games with a fun and happy boy, well done Marcus.
Charlee B
Charlee you are always so patient and kind. You include others in your games and always have time for a chat. Although you are quiet, you have not gone unnoticed. Congratulations Charlee

Dear Parents
Term fees are being issued. Any changes to bookings please put in an email or letter.
Please also be reminded that we are responsible for your children's safety so please advise us when your child will be absent from Voosc or collected by anyone apart from yourself.
There have been a number of families forgetting about Our School Policy of not parking on school grounds to drop off or collect children.
Please note, your choices affect all of us! Please endeavour to do the correct thing regardless.

Warm Regards
VOOSC TEAM
Vaucluse Out of School Care Centre Inc. Ph/fax 02 9337 3031 voosc@people.net.au
Hello,

Today we had a great spring day in the Vegetable Garden. Children focused on harvesting many of our winter and autumn vegetables including carrots, beetroots, broadbeans, parsnips, mulberries and lettuce. See photos. (My apologies to parents and caregivers who wash uniforms.)

We podded about 200 broadbeans and collected about 400 mulberries for cooking in the kitchen.

The children also prepared garden beds for summer by removing our massive crop of broad beans which was cut up for composting.

Other tasks included sifting compost, weeding onion weed and harvesting parsley.

As usual I am always amazed how the children go about the work they are directed to do which they usually do very well. One child asked me today while pulling out masses of weeds if he should leave the small parsley seedlings he found which I had forgotten where there. So hats off to that fella for great plant identification skills.

We now have an early crop of corn, tomatoes and basil in that I hope will fruit before the end of term, after that I will put a larger crop in before the end of school holidays so we have some summer veggies in February. The way this spring is going we should have a bumper summer season, fingers crossed.

A BIG thank you for Saori for helping in the garden with the children, the more parents we have helping out the more our children can learn.

Thank you for your continual help.

If you want to help; ring, email or text me and I can put you on the text message services of when I am working, or set you up with a task you can do in your own time as we have plenty of large and small projects.

I am at the garden from 430pm every Tuesday and 8am till 10 on Saturday.

Cheers

Rudi Kitchen Garden Specialist

0423 020 648

rudi.adlmayer@gmail.com
New gardens beds ready to go

Messy hands post mulberry harvest
Messy hands post mulberry harvest