Mrs Monaghan with Adam and Gisele at this week's assembly.
Dear Parents

Welcome back to Term 3. From the babes’ mouths the holidays were packed full of activities but many people also had time to stay in their PJs for a day. I loved Jasmine and Isabella’s take on the homework the Principal gave to the school for the holidays. They stayed in the PJs for two half days and felt they had really relaxed. Our students have returned to school happy and relaxed. Everyone was delighted to catch up with their friends. There is a lovely atmosphere around the school even if there has been some rain. Everyone is happy to be here.

The first thing our K-2 students noticed when they returned was the refurbishment of the junior toilet block. The multi coloured doors are worth the afternoon I spent at Bunnings choosing colours. I have been overwhelmed with the number of students who have come and told me they love the new toilets. They haven’t quite finished as there are still a few minor things to be done. The contractors pulled out all stops to have everything completed by the end of the holidays. The fact that we do not have to operate with one toilet block while refurbishing is completed is a huge bonus. We have put in a submission to have the toilet block in the primary playground refurbished also. We have yet to hear the outcome of this application.

This week we celebrated NAIDOC Week. Each class has studied a different Aboriginal country. In Australia there are over 500 different clans or ‘nations’ with distinctive languages, cultures and beliefs. Each class selected one country and researched it and presented it at the special NAIDOC Week Assembly yesterday. There are some lovely photos of our students at the Assembly in the body of the newsletter. There was an excellent article in the weekend newspapers. Warwick Thornton an Aboriginal director – cinematographer (Samson & Delilah) was interviewed. He articulated perfectly why we are teaching our students about Country. Warwick said “Each one of these language groups is almost a different culture. You drive 500 kilometres in Europe and you go through 10 languages. Well, you do that in the desert. Each one of them has their own beliefs and ideas on how the place was created. There’s an amazing sustainability. People have lived there for so long and not destroyed anything. All of this is on offer if you open your eyes and ears and allow these people to tell their stories.” Put the Kimberleys and Arnhem Land on your holiday list. Year 6 had a very special treat. David Todd spent a year teaching at a remote community in the Kimberlys. Year 6 was privileged to hear first hand about Ngannarryanga country. David also used his extensive photo collection to create a backdrop for yesterday’s assembly.

We are aware the new safety gate is causing some concern in the morning. The gate was installed for safety reasons and needs to be closed at all times. Each morning from 8.50 am there will be Year 6 Leaders at the gate to assist students to open the gate. From 9.20 am the gate will be unattended and closed. If students are late to school parents need to be aware if they drop students off they may not be able to open the gate. Students who are late to school are required to fill in a late note that needs to be signed by a parent so it is appropriate that a parent escorts a late student into school. We also request that parents who enter the school during school time ensure that they always close the gate. We would really appreciate your support with this.

In this week’s newsletter you will find information in regard to how parents access the school counsellor service. Del De Kantzow is our school counsellor and she is at Vaucluse PS every Tuesday for the day. The Kidsmatter surveys indicated that a large number of parents were not aware of this service. We hope this information makes you aware of this excellent school resource. For your information you will also find the Vaucluse PS 2015 – 2017 School Plan on our website. At the Term 2 P&C meeting I discussed our plans for the next three years. You will find this information in this plan. The school plan was developed as a result of the consultation process that took place in Term 4 2014 and Term 1 2015.

By now you would have received an invitation to next Tuesday night’s Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Information evening. We hope you are able to make it. It will be very useful for parents to gain an understanding of how this outstanding program works in our school. We have also included an invitation to Grandparents Day / Open Day. As you will see we have lots of activities planned and it will be a worthwhile day.

Maureen Hallahan
School Counselling Service

In every school, school counsellors, teachers, year advisers, careers advisers, the principal and senior teachers are available to assist students and their families. In some schools there are also Aboriginal Education Assistants or community liaison officers.

All work to create safe, caring schools, free from violence and discrimination. All can help you or your child in different ways.

School counsellors are experienced teachers who have a degree in psychology and post-graduate qualifications in school counselling. They work with students of all ages, and their families, from pre-school to Year 12.

District guidance officers also provide school counselling services and, in addition, co-ordinate a team of school counsellors. Every government school has access to a school counsellor or district guidance officer.

School Counsellors

School counsellors work with students, parents or carers and teachers in a variety of ways.

Their work includes:

counselling students
assisting parents or carers to make informed decisions about their child's education
assessing students' learning and behaviour
assisting schools to identify and address disabilities that affect students' learning
liaising with other agencies concerned with the well-being of students.

School counsellors are members of schools' student welfare and learning support teams. With the agreement of parents or carers, school counsellors will pass on to teachers, information that will assist them to better meet the needs of their students.

Students may refer themselves to the school counsellor or may seek an interview at the suggestion of a teacher, a parent or carer, or a friend.

A student's reasons for seeing a school counsellor may include worrying about school work, conflict with friends, being in trouble at school or just feeling "down".

Parents or carers may seek advice from school counsellors about their child's school progress, educational options, including access to special education services, behaviour and for information about help available from other agencies.
Except when students refer themselves to the school counsellor, parents or carers will be involved from the outset. Their consent is required before any psychological testing is undertaken.

Whether working with students, parents or carers, or teachers, school counsellors will explain how they work, listen carefully to what is said, help clarify options and encourage informed decision-making.

**Confidentiality**

School counselling is a confidential service and school counsellors will check with students, parents or carers before passing on information (such as the results of tests of learning difficulties) to others. Confidentiality will be maintained unless legal requirements, e.g. child protection legislation, override it. Nor will confidentiality be maintained where someone may suffer serious harm from information being withheld.

**Referral**

School counsellors are not at every school every day. It is necessary for parents or carers to make an appointment by telephoning the school.

Students will be told of the arrangements applying in their school as to how they can see the school counsellor.

Priorities for the school counsellor’s time will be determined, in consultation with the school counsellor, by the principal.
This week's assembly
This week’s assembly. Tess and Eliza show off our very colourful new LOO doors!
Education Week Activities
Grandparents Day and Open Day
Thursday 30 July 2015

Dear Parents and Grandparents

The students and staff of Vaucluse Public School would like to invite you to Education Week Open Day / Grandparents Day on Thursday 30 July 2015. We will be celebrating in a variety of ways. Activities will commence at 12.15 pm.

The program for all classes will be as follows:

- **12.15:** Visit your child / grandchild’s classroom to participate and observe a class in action.
- **1.10:** Picnic lunch in the bottom playground on the grass with your loved ones. Bring a picnic lunch or Sausage Sizzle from the canteen.
- **1.10:** Visit our Library and donate a book to either our fiction collection or non fiction collection.
- **1.30:** Enjoy a guided tour of our school including our garden.
- **2.00:** Enjoy a concert in the middle playground where all members of our school will demonstrate their creative skills.

We look forward to seeing you and entertaining you on Thursday.

Maureen Hallahan and the staff and students of Vaucluse PS

[Signature]

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THE FRIENDSHIP WALK

SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST 2015

Join us for a morning of family fun and community solidarity as we walk hand-in-hand to benefit an organisation that brings joy, cheer, and respite to children with special needs and their families.

Where  Vaucluse Primary School, Cambridge Ave
When   Sunday 16th August 2015
Time   from 9:30am

REGISTRATION IS FREE at www.sydneyfc.org/walk

Presenting Sponsor

Supa Cen ta
moore park

Sponsors
Some of our students from the Guitar Ensemble. The do not usually dress in their pyjamas however it happened to be Stay in Bed Day when this photo was taken.