Brigitte, Thomas and Ethan holding their sun catcher lanterns. 3-6T listened to music from China and created the lanterns for Chinese New Year.

*We wish you a year full of health, happiness and friendship!*
Dear Parents

Classes have settled in well this week. It has been very heart-warming to see how happy the students are with their class placement. Anecdotally we can see that the strategies used by teachers to allocate students have been very positive. A great deal of Term 4 is spent discussing appropriate placement of students, considering friendship groups, social interactions and academic needs. For the last three years these strategies have proven to be very successful.

We are looking forward to meeting with parents on Tuesday evening at Meet the Teacher Evening. Please see the note in the body of the newsletter. Students brought these notes home this week. At this meeting teachers will discuss how their classroom will operate and what is expected of parents. This is not a night for discussing individual student progress. If you wish to do this please make an appointment with your child’s teacher or ring Corinne Montano in the Admin office to organise an appointment.

At this meeting the P&C will also be asking a parent to nominate as the 2016 Class Parent. This role is an important one. The Class Parent acts as a communication tool for the teacher to parents. The Class Parent also works with the P&C to share information. One of the first jobs for the Class Parent is to put together a class email tree. Once the Class Parent is nominated you will be asked for your mobile and email address. It should be noted that the Class Parent is not a vehicle for complaint nor is the email tree to be used for complaint. The Class Parent role is very much like Switzerland, very neutral. The use of the email tree and mobile numbers should be respectful of privacy. These resources are extremely useful for play dates, birthdays and unforeseen emergencies. Please consider nominating as class parent. It is a great way to get to know your school.

Please take the time to read the Community Code of Conduct in the body of the newsletter. This document has been compiled by the P&C.

In the next week the canteen will go out for tender. The canteen committee is planning for a resolution before the end of term. The tendering process has a mandatory timeline and we will be working to resolve the situation as soon as possible.

Those parents who have had children in kindergarten will know that toileting accidents are a common occurrence when school start. School is so exciting that remembering to go to the toilet is very low on the priority list. While we take our students to the toilet regularly we still have a significant number of accidents. Kindergarten parents could you make sure that your child has a spare pair of undies and socks in their bag each day. Parents of older students if you have any spare undies and socks that you feel are cluttering up the house we would love to give them a new home. We never have enough socks and undies.

This week the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Committee met. We have a number of volunteer positions that parents or friends of the school may be interested in. If you are considering becoming involved please contact Corinne Montano in the Admin office and she will forward your interest.
Jobs we need help with are:

- **Worm farming**: This job involves topping up with scraps, making worm tea and tipping excess on the compost.
- **Composting**: This involves turning, watering, and eventually sifting into bins for storage.
- **Sweeping** paths and picking litter up.
- **Weeding** garden beds and under trees.
- **New Scarecrows**: A family may like to consider making a new scarecrow for the garden as home project.
- **Art or Sculpture** for the garden.
- **Social Media Garden Manager** for our Facebook page, School App and Newsletter.

Ange Davids, the *Kitchen Specialist* is also looking for volunteers to assist each week in the cooking lessons. Please consider if you could assist in any way. It may be a one off or a regular commitment. Whatever time you will be able to spare to support our children in the kitchen and garden will be most appreciated.

Enjoy your weekend and the beautiful weather we are having. How fortunate are we.

*Maureen Hallahan*
P&C Meeting

Tuesday 1\textsuperscript{st} March, 2016

Location: School Library

Start time:  6:30pm

This is the first P&C meeting for the year and we would love to see you there.

Sandwiches and refreshments will be served.

\begin{center}
NEW METHOD OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE VPS COMMUNITY
\end{center}

As mentioned at the end of the last school year Vaucluse Public School has its own App by which we can communicate with the school community.

We had hoped to begin using the App at the beginning of Term 1, but we have to wait until the majority of the community has downloaded the App.

Please find attached instructions on how to download the App for:

Smartphones
Androids
Window 8.1 and 10 phones

It would be very much appreciated if our parents/carers could download the App as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Admin office on 9337 2672 if you have any queries

Thank You
3B were busy in the Stephanie Alexander Garden this week.
Hello and Happy New Year to everyone. I hope everyone had a great break.

The garden survived Christmas break with the only losses being our cucurbits (cucumbers and pumpkins) to hail and to fungal disease.
Big thanks to our neighbours who held the fort while I had a weeks break.

We have another big year in garden including constructing new garden bed, moving soil and increasing irrigation.

I have entered Vaucluse Public School into the annual Tomato Festival at the Royal Botanical Gardens on the 20th of February for best in show, passata, and chili jam.

Classes started on 8 of February, 2016 between 9am and 4 pm.
As parents and part of our wonderful community if you wish to get involved please come down to The Stephanie Alexander Garden and see me. You can also send me and email

We have a massive year ahead, so the more help the more productive and beautiful our garden.

This year there are 6 classes attending The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden classes.
This means we need more produce. If your child is between Years 3 and 6 come down with their class and have a dig.

See your class teacher or contact me.

**My dates for term 1 are: Feb 8 & 22 March 7 & 21 April 4**

I look forward to seeing you in the garden.

Cheer's  Rudi Adlmayer
Kitchen Garden Specialist
rudi.adlmayer@gmail.com
0423020648.
Hello Parents

This year Book Club will be operating again. Book Club is a fantastic and well-priced way to buy lovely books for your children or as gifts for others.

This year the first catalogue will be available from around the 29th of February and Scholastic has developed a new online ordering system to make ordering even easier.

Attached is a flyer from Scholastic outlining the instructions to order using LOOP.

More information will be available closer to the time.

Regards

Angela
This week’s assembly

Introducing Some of our VPS Staff

Top left Miss Mac and Miss Wirkerman. Mr Mudie and Mrs Buchanan. Our Wonderful Kindergarten teachers. Followed by (starting from left) Lyn, Vesna, Mrs Murray and Miss Timbs.
Introducing

**SCHOLASTIC**

Book Clubs **LOOP**

for Parents

LOOP is Scholastic Book Clubs Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for Parents.

If you want to pay by credit card for your online Book Club order, LOOP makes it easy! It eliminates the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to the school safe and sound.

Log-in to [www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP) or download our iPhone and iPad app from the App Store or get it on Google Play for Android.

- For a quick start, just click on ORDER in the top menu or REGISTER first to save your details for next time
- Select your school and your child’s class
- Add your child’s first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for)
- Enter the item number from the Book Club catalogue
- You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school
- All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child’s classroom if you order by the close date
- There’s no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to your school!
How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

For iPhone and iPad users:

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "Ok" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

For Android users:

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: Some brands of Android phones need the setting in "Notification Manager" changed to "Allow" instead of "Notify" in order for the push notifications to work. The phone must also be running at least version 4 system software to run the app.

For Windows 81 Phone and Windows 81 or 10 device users:

1. Go to the Windows Store on your 81 Windows Phone or Windows 81/10 Device
2. Search for "Skoolbag" in the keyword app search
3. Install the Skoolbag app
4. Find your school either by using the keyword search or location service.
5. Click the "Pin" icon to pin the school tile to your Windows Phone home screen.
6. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
7. Toggle the Push Categories that are applicable to you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: The Skoolbag Windows App is for 81 version Windows Phones, or Windows 81 and 10 devices.
Meet the Teacher Information Evening  
Tuesday 16 February 2016

Dear Parents

On Tuesday 16 February 2016 we will be holding our Meet the Teacher Information Evening. This is an information night where teachers will be discussing their programs and classroom management. Teachers will be discussing general information for all parents. It is not a night where individual students are discussed. It is a great opportunity to meet your child’s class teacher and other class parents and begin your class relationship. At the end of Term 1 teachers will conduct interviews with parents in a one to one situation to discuss student progress.

At Tuesday evening’s meeting you will receive the Term 1 Class Bulletin. This will outline the program for the term and document other activities such as excursions, individual needs for each class, homework procedures etc. At this meeting there will also be member of the P&C circulating. They will be calling for volunteers for the position of Class Parent. The Class Parent Program is coordinated by Amanda Ramsay. This role involves liaising with the teacher to share information with other parents. The first job of the nominated Class Parent is to collect email addresses and phone numbers of all the parents in your child’s class. Once compiled this very useful document is then shared with parents in your class only. Please consider volunteering for this very worthwhile position.

The following is the timetable for this Information Evening:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class and teacher</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-6 J: Kaylie Johnson</td>
<td>5.00-5.45 pm</td>
<td>3-5T (Jessica Timbs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-2 W: Karen Whiteman</td>
<td>5.00-5.45 pm</td>
<td>3-5T (Jessica Timbs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6 T: Jessica Timbs</td>
<td>5.00-5.45 pm</td>
<td>3-5T (Jessica Timbs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KM: Kara McMenemy</td>
<td>5.00-5.45 pm</td>
<td>KM (Kindergarten Block)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KW: Regina Wirkerman</td>
<td>5.00-5.45 pm</td>
<td>KW (Kindergarten Block)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>KB</td>
<td>Melissa Buchanan</td>
<td>5.00-5.45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KM</td>
<td>Iain Mudie</td>
<td>5.00-5.45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1W</td>
<td>Miriam Weiss</td>
<td>5.00-5.45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1J</td>
<td>Robert Jackson</td>
<td>5.00-5.45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 H</td>
<td>Robyn Head</td>
<td>5.00-5.45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2F</td>
<td>Franchesca Halford</td>
<td>5.00-5.45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>Karla Aspden</td>
<td>5.00-5.45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>Talia Butt</td>
<td>6.00 -6.45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Julia Morgan</td>
<td>6.00 -6.45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A</td>
<td>Philippa Allen</td>
<td>6.00 -6.45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4V</td>
<td>Ella Vial</td>
<td>6.00 -6.45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5C</td>
<td>Leigh Coleman</td>
<td>6.00 -6.45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6T</td>
<td>Tom Styles</td>
<td>6.00 -6.45 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are unable to attend Tuesday night's meeting please see the teacher to obtain the information shared with parents at the meeting. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday evening.

Yours sincerely

Maureen Hallahan  
Principal  
10 February 2016
Community Code

Culture and Values

At VPS we understand that it takes a community to raise a child. In all areas of our interaction with the School we aim to build and strengthen our community.

We support our children in all their school activities. We embrace the values of Learning and Growing Together. We believe that giving your very best is more important than the outcome. Often the process that is experienced is more valuable than the end product. When our children enjoy the journey we impart a love of learning. Always comparing yourself to the capabilities of others is detrimental to this process.

We have an exceptional body of teaching staff with the best interests of our children at heart. They play a vital role in our School community and we support and respect them. Injustices are usually unintentional and it is through resolving these well that we help our children to become independent, capable, confident and resilient individuals.

As parents, we are the most influential role models in our child’s life. Our example and leadership, as a member of the School Community, has a major effect on their social and personal development. We play a formative role in the development of our child’s sense of justice and equity within their School Community. When problems or issues arise we aim to model exceptional conflict resolution skills for our children. Injustices are usually unintentional, and it is through resolving these well, that we help our children to become independent, capable, confident and resilient individuals.

Conflict Resolution Procedure

It is appropriate in times of conflict that correct procedures be followed to allow all parties to be heard and for harmonious solutions to be reached. If conflict centres around a classroom issue, the first approach should always be made with the classroom teacher. If a resolution is not reached then it is appropriate to involve an Assistant Principal or the
School Principal. If you believe that further action is required then you should raise any concerns directly with the P&C committee.

Children’s perception is not the same as an adult’s due to developmental maturity. Sometimes their story conflicts with another’s or the teacher’s perspective may not match what you have been told at home. Children see their world through their own limited experiences, which shape their perceptions. Adult perceptions are balanced with life experiences. Listen to your child as they tell you their ‘reality’, but remember that a different ‘reality’ may possibly exist elsewhere.

It is easy for opinion to be mistaken for fact. An approach to the relevant personnel within the school to verify the factual basis of a story can assist in allaying your fears as to events in question and the intent involved.

We protect our School Community’s good name; and that of all of our fellow Community members. Problems, differences of opinion and personality clashes are not resolved by involving other people in a disagreement or by taking sides in the argument. Attempt to resolve these issues through calm dialogue between the parties directly involved while respecting the dignity of each and every person.

Partnership is never one-way and it is not possible to be in an effective partnership with the School when that partnership is not mutually supportive, both privately and publicly for all parties.

**Community Code**

As members of the School Community, parents and carers show our respect and concern for others by:

- Supporting the respectful ethos of our School by setting a good example in their own speech and behaviour towards all members of the School community, children, parents and staff;

- Working together with teachers for the benefit of children. This includes approaching the School with the goal of resolving any issues of concern constructively and politely, and to discuss and clarify specific events in order to bring about a positive solution;

- Correcting your own child’s behaviour, especially in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict or unsafe behaviour;
☐ Respecting the School environment, including keeping the School tidy by not littering and not bringing animals onto School grounds;

☐ Encouraging persons to be respectful of others and the School; and observe the required behaviour of the code of conduct whilst on the School grounds

☐ Following road safety and parking rules on surrounding streets when delivering and collecting children from School, and at all other times.

A Safe and Respectful Environment

In order to support a respectful and safe School environment, the School and the parent body will not accept or condone parents and carers, or adult visitors to the School undertaking any of the following.

☒ Bullying via abusive or threatening emails, phone or social network messages, to children, parents or staff; and using class email lists for the sending of messages to abuse, or to undermine, or be critical of, staff, parents or children.

☒ Using loud and/or offensive language to either children, other parents or staff;

Threatening harm or the use of physical aggression towards another adult or child;

☒ Issuing physical punishment or verbal abuse of your own, or any, child on School premises;

☒ Bullying has no place within our community and will not be tolerated. This is as true for adult- to- adult interaction as it is for child-to-child. All interactions between members of our community must be in keeping with the values espoused by the School and NSW DET.

☒ All our children have the right to feel safe at School. There may be times when you feel the actions of another child have infringed the rights of your own child. Under no circumstances is a parent or guardian to approach another child while they are in the care of the School to discuss or chastise them because of their actions towards their own child. Such an approach to the child may be seen to be an assault on the child and may have legal consequences.

☒ Abusing, damaging or destroying School property;
 Behaviour that disrupts the operation of a classroom, an office area or any other part of the School grounds;

 Smoking on the School grounds; and

 Unruly behaviour due to the influence of alcohol or drugs.

It is appropriate in times of conflict that correct procedures be followed to allow all parties to be heard and for harmonious solutions to be reached. If conflict centres around a classroom issue, the first approach should always be made with the classroom teacher. If a resolution is not reached then it is appropriate to involve an Assistant Principal or the School Principal. If you believe that further action is required then you should raise any concerns with the School Education Director at Bondi Regional Office.

We Acknowledge that partnership is never one-way, and that it is not possible to be in effective partnership with the school when that partnership is not mutually supportive, both privately and publicly.

Should the P & C, or the Principal, determine that this code of conduct has been unreasonably breached by a parent/carer or visitor in a manner that warrants further action, it is open for the matter to be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Subsequent action by the authorities could result in the parent, carer or visitor being restricted from entering the School grounds in the future.

This document was compiled by a joint team consisting of Vaucluse PS Staff members and Members of the P&C.

Vaucluse Public School Parent Code of Conduct

I / We have read the Vaucluse Public School Parent Code of Conduct and support the guidelines outlined in the document.

Parent name:_____________________________ Students name:__________________________

Signed _______________________________ Date ____________________________