VPS P&C Parent Survey

September 2014
The VPS P&C 2014 Parent Survey

In September 2014 we invited all parents of VPS to complete an online survey to find out their views and priorities of the VPS P&C. We had 70 responses with an even spread of respondents across the different years.
**Extra Curricular Activities**

Our later start at 9.20am and geographical distance from sporting and commercial areas mean that before and after school activities are popular.

They build community across year groups and they are also an important fundraiser for the P&C and school.

We need to do more of this - provided it's commercial to do so.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Ok</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
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<td>Karate</td>
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<td>Drama</td>
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<td>Soccer</td>
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<td>Art</td>
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<td>Big Note Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>VPS Band and Classes</td>
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- An excellent activity
- A good activity
- Ok activity
- A poor experience
- We have not tried it
What other activities would you like to see?

There were many responses to this question. The main ones were:

- Yoga (many many requests)
- Languages - italian
- Chess
- Maths tutoring
- Homework club
- Science
- Stand Up Paddle Board
- Netball
- More soccer
- Cricket

Other comments were to have more information on existing programs like music and art.

High demand for activities that foster wellbeing and academic/intellectual activities.
Where parents did attend a fundraising event they rated it highly. Events where children also went were more highly attended.
**Reviewing spending in 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Spending</th>
<th>Approval</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Readers for K-2</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Very high approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning...</td>
<td>$8,377</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and...</td>
<td>$3,427</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball...</td>
<td>$13,380</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio Visual System...</td>
<td>$10,870</td>
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<td>Interactive...</td>
<td>$17,077</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education...</td>
<td>$6,343</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephanie...</td>
<td>$9,880</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehension...</td>
<td>$12,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soccer field</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Very high approval of all P&C investments in 2014 especially Readers, Netball Courts, and Learning Support Teacher.

Closely followed by Interactive Whiteboards, Comprehension Program and Educational Resources.

Drop off in support of SAKG but more than half the survey completed by parents in K-2 who do not benefit from the program.
Toilets, Learning Resources (science equipment and books) and Playground Repairs are the top priorities for parents.

(Playground repair has been completed since survey !)
Old fashioned class fundraising, working bees and book covering are popular ways parents would like to contribute to VPS.
Should the P&C pay for traffic controls?

Majority of parents believe this is an issue that the P&C need to help solve.

However - the comments reveal that it is a high priority - but the P&C should not be funding road safety. It is a matter for Council and Govt.
I feel that Woollahra Council has an obligation to its Council Electorate and the residents of Vaucluse to fund the above measures. It is a purely a matter of safety.

Ask a local to do traffic duty (or a grandparent/s) like double bay public every morning and afternoon. Check out what they do. A simple stop sign is held up to allow kids to cross the road. It works perfect and it too is a busy street.

can a kiss and drop zone be built into the cambridge st field. i witnessed a near miss today. the area is an accident waiting to happen. i would think this should be the schools and p&cs highest priority given the rapid growth in students. it is terrifying to watch every day.

I think that parents should be approached by other parents to discuss the dangers. I don't believe this is a P&C responsibility. I believe it to be the responsibility of Woolahra Council, Police and the Education Board. It is a safety matter. It is appalling that some parents can be so selfish, careless and just plain rude. If anything I think the school (not the P & C) should hire a traffic controller that approaches people that park illegally.

Name and shame the parents in the weekly school newsletter, to stop the same parents from being lazy.

It would be good to focus a school based activity within the school that the kids do, a play, dance or musical for example through a safety week that all classes perform over the safety week - Through learning the importance of safety the kids will drive the message home to the parents who drop them off to remind them that what they are doing is not safe for other children - We need to create an army of safety back seat drivers by actively getting the kids to engage their own parents in the message!
Overall comments on P&C

Doing a great job. I wish more would donate their time,

As this is a voluntary role, I see first hand the efforts that the P&C have done. However I believe this is some greater work that the P&C can be working towards ie building funds for the longer term

Excellent Committee that has put in endless hours of their time into the P&C. Stephanie Atkinson is a friendly, professional and well-organised President. Proud to be a part of it. Well Done! After all it helps our children.

They're doing a great job. I think there could be more emphasis on technology use in the classroom which would mean more computers and iPads for the school. The smart boards were fantastic!

Great team putting in huge effort. Our little school is beautiful already. Extra seating, shade & stage would be nice for parents but I'd like to see more attention given to actual learning & engaging our children's minds for more hours of the school day.

Maybe the sails could go over the netball courts so all walkways to the classrooms and library are under cover and parents have cover at pickup and drop off when raining..

I hope the bathrooms can get some much needed funding. Their current state and the level of hygiene is appalling. There should be a fundraiser solely for this purpose.

Generally happy. One suggestion would be to use a bit more colour on the school buildings (paint/renovate) and around the playground. Thank you for all your hard work.
More of the school grounds should be available for the community to use free of charge, such as afternoon soccer or basketball. The parents helped build these facilities and I personally don't think the children get to use them that much. My son does before school soccer which is great for the fact that it is inexpensive. I don't want to see it being available for $20 per lesson - given that it was built partially by my family and with the money we helped raise, we strongly feel that our children should be able to use it for next to nothing (like during the morning soccer sessions). I would like to see the activities that are being provided by VPS P&C to be much cheaper than they are at the moment.

Positive changes in the last 3 years, clearly being the work of hardworking dedicated parents. Help reduce danger by offering safe kiss and drop.

I think its good the P&C is asking for feedback. It's not an easy job and it takes a lot of time and energy and every year the school has improved and moved forward, so I think the P&C is doing a good job in supporting the school. In question 7 - not on the list but I think we could refurbish the hall i.e. redesign stage/steps and seating. PS I haven't answered question 8 as I just help out when required.

Doing a good job raising money. Would like all the wish list to come true for our kids. Lets us know what each of the 10 items cost and perhaps have specific fundraising for each item. The more information the better. Get politicians involved. We have 2 liberal governments (state & federal) at the moment. Ask Malcolm Turnbull (ex-student-VPS) and Gabrielle Upton to come to a VPS meeting show them round and explain what we would like for their local school in their electorates.Lets see how they can assist. State elections are due next year so lets apply a bit of pressure.They like their faces in the Wentworth Courier with positive news. Make hay while the sun shines.
Summary

- **Overall high satisfaction and approval** of the P&C. Optimistic and supportive mood.

- **Road safety** is a hot topic and rightly so

- **Maintenance of buildings and toilets** is also high priority

- **Enhanced Learning** is a priority for parents - science and maths tutoring a return to the basics of education. A desire for spending on learning resources.

- **Long term planning** for a rapidly growing school - collaboration with Government is required to upgrade toilets and provide infrastructure such as halls. Technology and learning resources need to match the growth. How can we anticipate needs of growth in younger years and prepare for a bigger school as they progress to higher years.

- **Events** that include children are more highly attended and valued.

- **Before and after school activities** are popular and potential growth area. Intellectual and wellbeing activities (Yoga) important as well as sport. Request for lunchtime activities as well. Greater communication around arts and music programs.

- Specific fundraising around a **central goal** could help raise funds.