Pink Stumps Day was held on the Victoria Park Cricket Oval. A great day was had by all with the students again taking out the title for the second year. With questions being asked about the scoring, the teachers are keen to have a rematch next year to regain the title from the students. Thank you for all your donation we raised more than $600 for the McGrath Foundation supporting cancer.

Rule of the Week: Be Respectful in the playground and the hall
- Play fairly – take turns.
- Invite others to play.
- Take care of equipment and use it correctly.
- Care for the environment.

Social Skill of the Week: Waiting your Turn
- Sit or stand quietly.
- Keep your arms and legs still. Don’t fidget.
- Avoid sighing, whining or begging.
- Engage in the activity when directed by an adult to do so. Thank the person who gives you a turn.

Issue 3
4th March 2015

CAL end OF EVENTS
TERM 1 2015

Friday 6th March
P&C Free Dress Day - for a gold coin (Come in sun smart casual clothing with closed in shoes). 100% money raised goes into school improvements.

Saturday 7th March
(note change of date)
P&C Working Bee from 8am. Please meet at the Queens Park back entrance to the school.

Wednesday 11th March
P&C 2015 AGM at 5.30pm followed by the February P&C meeting at 6pm
Held in the library, everyone is welcome to attend.

Friday 13th March
National Ride Safely to School Day
VPSS Staff “Shave for a Cure” in the undercover area from 1.40pm. All parents are welcome to come along.
Donations can be made on the day.

Wednesday 18th March
Harmony Day—Wear Orange

Wednesday 25th
Proposed day for the Prep photos in the Daily Mercury

Thursday 26th / 27th March
School Photos more information on the SKOOLBAG APP

Tuesday 31st March
Fun Run Day—Cross Country

Thursday 2nd April
Rewards Day and the Last Day of Term 1. Every Day Counts.
**LITERACY CORNER #3**

This week we realise the importance of the backfill paragraph, the one that comes in just after that Sizzling Start and explains who, what and why. This paragraph fills in the reader briefly about the main characters and why they are there. For example, “The Heavenly Holiday Farm was right in the middle of nowhere and I swear only the flies and my parents knew it existed.” From here, the problem is explained, the bad guys are set up and other characters are brought into the story.

**AT HOME**, when reading with your child, ask them who the main character in the story is, what they are up to and why they are in the situation they are in. This reflection will give them a better understanding of the story and will help build valuable comprehension skills.

Mrs Lea ARNOLD (Literacy Coach)

Have you missed the Literacy Corner from the previous two newsletters? Would like to catch up or refresh, please look up the Literacy Section of the SKOOLBAG APP.

---

**PRINCIPAL’S NEWS**

“Persistence and patience have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish.” John Quincy Adams

**Great Results Guarantee**

This year Victoria Park State School will receive substantial funds through the Great Results Guarantee Program. 2015 is the second year of this initiative from the state government to help ensure that as many students as possible meet the National Minimum Standards in literacy and numeracy. Every state school is required to develop a one page guarantee that outlines the strategies that will be used to achieve this goal. Victoria Park SS expects to receive approximately $256,000 in additional funding, which will be used to:

- Purchase additional teacher aide time that will be used to support individual and small groups of students who do not meet the National Minimum Standards with additional intervention
- Purchase resources to support the evidence based reading, writing and numeracy programs being used to support students
- Purchase additional professional development for teachers, teacher aides and community volunteers involved in the school’s literacy and numeracy programs.

The Great Results Guarantee program along with the addition of the Master Teacher allocation to our school provides students and staff with significant additional resources to “Achieve their Personal Best.”

**Practice makes perfect - Homework is Practice**

Homework can often be a difficult time for parents and children alike. Homework should be seen in the same light as the practice we commit to for improving playing musical instruments, performing dance steps, speech and drama and the skills that we learn for our favourite sport. The goal is to perfect the basic skills needed so that the skills become automatic.

Automaticity or fluency of the skills required in reading, writing, spelling and math are as equally important and I would contend more important than those of our leisure pursuits. These are the skills that form the foundation of our future vocations and life pursuits.

By now all students will have settled into the routine of classwork for the year. Children will have homework every night even when they tell you they have no homework. Children should spend time every night practising what they have learnt during the day including number facts, spelling and sight words. Children have home access to digital programs through the school’s subscription to Mathletics, Spell Drome and Reading Eggs.

Parents, you can help your children to practise the skills they learn at school by:

- reading to and listening to your child read before they go to sleep each night
- build children’s oral language through conversation involve children in real life activities such as shopping, cooking and home maintenance

These build children’s world knowledge (general knowledge), their word knowledge (vocabulary), familiarity with money and measures and are great for their social development.

In these activities children are developing their Persistence – stick ability! Perserving on a task until it is completed, remaining focused and not giving up. I have included an interesting article “Teach Children to Persist” from Parenting Ideas which gives some useful ideas to build persistence in children.

As summer temperatures hit, it is important students drink sufficient water during the day. Please remind your children to drink water regularly during the day.
Supporting your child in Prep to Year 3

Numeracy is an essential skill that children need to succeed in their everyday lives. As a parent or carer and your child’s first teacher, you have the opportunity to make a significant contribution to supporting your child’s learning — from the time they are an infant through to adulthood. When your child starts school, it is critical for you to continue to play an active role in helping to develop your child’s numeracy so they can achieve the best possible outcomes.

Your vital role as a parent or carer

You might not realise it, but you are already contributing to your child’s understanding of numeracy from an early age. For example, counting objects like buttons on their clothes and talking about time and shapes can familiarise them with mathematics.

Ensuring that your child feels confident talking to you and their teacher about their school work will enhance their opportunity to thrive in the 21st century.

Ezra is one of our Prep Students. He loves doing his sight words. He follows the rules that Miss H tells him by looking at her and listening. His best friend is Jacob and he loves playing with all the other students at lunchtime.

Meet Ahid from 1A. He likes everything about school especially writing big sentences. He is a regular at Garden Club and loves seeing the chickens and grasshoppers. Playing with blocks and making buildings is one of his favourite things to do along with running and soccer. Ahid speaks two languages, English and Nepalese.

Brodie is in Grade 2. He likes school because he gets to learn lots of things and play with his friends. He also likes playing soccer and visiting the science room. Brodie’s favourite subject is Maths. Brodie was excited about visiting Mr Shepherd’s office this week.

Lani is in Grade 3 and her favourite subject is maths especially number facts. She likes playing on the monkey bars at lunchtime with her friends. She likes that her class gets to swimming every week and thinks that we are very lucky to have our own pool because lots of other schools don’t have that.

Michael is in Grade 2D. He has written a short story that he would like to share.

One holiday I had a horrible day that was more horrible than the whole universe. But then one day last week at school Mrs Jamieson let me have her ZOOB pieces to create a zool cycle. So when I had completed my school work Mrs Dobbie let me make my Zoob cycle with the help of some friends from my class 2D.I got a little bit of help from Mrs O’Donnell and Mrs Hansen. I had to tell them what to do because they weren’t very good. It took 112 pieces to build it. 24 red, 24 grey, 15 yellow, 25 green and 24 blue. It was difficult to build. We had to follow the instructions. Once the Zoom cycle was complete we brought it down to Mrs Jamieson, Mrs Hunt and Mr Shepherd so they could see all our clever work. I was very proud of myself.

By Michael

At Victoria Park State School we choose to use the SKOOLBAG app for up to date communication. Download it today from the App Store or Google Play for FREE.

We acknowledge the Yuwerra people, the traditional owners of the land in which our school is located.
So far this term... Year 5 students have been engaged in discussions and investigations about the structural features and behavioural adaptations that assist living things to survive in their environment. Students have researched various living creatures and investigated adaptations. One investigation took the students around the school finding creatures that were camouflaged in their environment.

In History, the year 5 students have explored the development of British colonies in Australia and how settlement changed the environment. The students have looked at the economic, political and social motivations behind the settlements, particularly the establishment of Van Diemen’s Land. Later this week Mrs Cindy Willet will be visiting us to talk about the impact of the colonisation of Van Diemen’s Land on the Aboriginal peoples.

Year 6 students have been very busy settling into their last year at primary school. As leaders of the school, they have shown exemplary behaviour and have eagerly taken on the extra responsibilities that go with being the seniors. Students have commenced LOTE and have eagerly participated in their Chinese lessons with Miss Shan. Laptops are set-up and students have been using them daily for a range of purposes across all KLA’s. Year 6 was lucky enough to have Cameron Cullen and Lachlan Coutes from the Cowboys visit our classrooms and were given the opportunity to ask some questions regarding their healthy living, achievements and goals. The senior shirt order has been finalised and invoices have been sent home. Please note that shirts will not be given to students until payment is received.

We have made a start to our swimming term. The children are working hard on their stroke development and stroke correction. Our shade sails are to be put up this week, which will be a welcome relief. The school fun run will be held in Week 10 of this term moving the Swimming Carnival to Term 4. The Cross Country Team are now in their 4th week of training and I think are very glad for their pool trainings with the intense heat we have had. If anyone would like to join, they are still able.

We have the following trials coming up:
- Touch: 13th March
- Basketball: 4th March
- AFL: 6th March
- Netball: 6th March
The Victoria Park State School P&C AGM will be held in the School Library next Wednesday the 11th of March. The meeting will start at 5.30pm and be followed by the February Monthly Meeting. We welcome all existing members and new members to the meeting. If you would like to know more details about the P&C this would be a great opportunity to be involved.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Association, the members of the Association must elect the following Officers from its members: a) a President b) at least one Vice-President c) a Secretary d) a Treasurer e) any additional Officers as decided by the Association.

The following describes the key functions of the Association officers:

- The President provides leadership and is the accountable officer of the Association. Their role is to act as a representative of the Association, encourage communication between the Association, School administration and the community and encourage participation in the Association. The President will be the Chair of meetings and conduct them in an efficient and timely fashion, being familiar with the rules, constitution and other documents governing Association operations.

- The Vice-President provides essential support for the President and possibly other members of the Executive Committee. They will chair those meetings from which the President is absent and carry out any duties that have been delegated by the President. They should also be familiar with the rules, constitution and other documents governing Association operations.

- The Secretary collates the agenda papers for each meeting, (including subcommittee reports) and assists the President in preparing an agenda for each meeting. They prepare and present minutes of the Association’s meetings, record and deal with correspondence in/out as directed and generally organise, record and maintain information pertaining to the activities of the Association.

- The Treasurer has the overall responsibility for the financial management of the Association, including all subcommittee accounts. In their role they must comply with the Accounting Manual for P&C Associations in all respects. They prepare an annual budget and Annual Operational Plan for the Association in consultation with the Association’s Executive Committee. It is the Treasurer’s responsibility to keep accurate accounts of receipts and expenditure.

Officers of the Association may only be elected as follows: a) any two members of the Association (the Nominating Members) may nominate another member (the Candidate) to be an Officer b) the nomination may be made: i) in person, by the Nominating Members, at the relevant meeting, or ii) if the Candidate cannot be present at the relevant meeting, by giving the Secretary, before the meeting, a nomination in writing signed by the Nominating Members and the Candidate c) if there is only one nomination for a position the Candidate will be elected to the relevant office if the candidate receives the votes of a majority of the members at the meeting d) if there is more than one nomination for a position the Candidate who receives the majority of the votes will be elected to the relevant office. We also have a number of smaller roles that will demand less time if you wish to be involved in our school community as a parent volunteer. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.