Every Monday
Parade 2.15pm in the Hall

Every Wednesday
- Banking—if you would like more information please contact the office.
- “Let’s Read” group meet in the prep rooms at 9.30 am. Everyone is welcome to come along.

24/7 Bangarra Dance Group Performance in the hall from 1.40pm. We would like to invite parents to also enjoy this performance with us.

25/7 Open Garden 9am – 12Noon. Parents who would like to become more involved in the Kitchen Garden are invited to come along for a morning of activities.

29/7 Year 4 Camp to Action Challenge

12/8 August P&C 5.30pm in the library. All parents are invited to come along. This is a great opportunity to hear first hand what is happening in our school and how your child is effected by the decisions that are made.

Remember to keep up to date by downloading the FREE Skoolbag App from the App Store or Google Play.

Mrs Dobbie went to great lengths to provide her students with an awesome party to celebrate great attendance figures for Term 2. 2D had 95% attendance or better every week except 1 week. They also celebrated being at school 100 days so far in 2015. The activities were enjoyed immensely by the students.

Each term there is a pizza lunch up for grabs for the class with the highest percentage attendance. These percentages are posted on the wall outside the office and kept up to date each week. Please feel free to take a look next time you are walking past.
Annual School Opinion Survey
Each year parents, carers, students and staff are invited to provide feedback about our school through on-line School Opinion Surveys.

The invitation and unique login details were distributed to the eldest child in each family last week. **Families who do not have access to the internet are invited to use the school computers to access this state wide school opinion survey.**

Your responses to the survey questions are **anonymous and confidential.** The results of this survey are used to inform future directions for the school in 2016. Your input is highly valued so please take the time to **complete the survey by Friday 31 July.**

So what has been happening at VPSS?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic</th>
<th>Positive School Climate</th>
<th>Community use of school facilities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Five year 6 &amp; 7 students awarded scholarships to Mackay SHS</td>
<td>94% student attendance and Attendance Cup</td>
<td>Basketball, cultural dance groups, futsal, church groups, Personal Group training, Tennis Courts</td>
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<td>LOTE Speaking &amp; Writing competition</td>
<td>Positive Behaviour Schools program</td>
<td>School Birthday &amp; Garden opening celebrations</td>
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<td>UniFY &amp; Booster extension programs</td>
<td>Parent Meet &amp; Greets</td>
<td>Christmas Fair, Cent Sale</td>
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<td>Appointment of Head of Curriculum, Master Teacher, Literacy and Numeracy Coach positions</td>
<td>Strong acknowledgement of behaviour management practices in the external Discipline Audit</td>
<td>P&amp;C Association, School Council</td>
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<td>Additional Learning Support Teacher time purchased</td>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>Parent representatives as members of Positive Schools Program</td>
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<td>Additional classroom Teacher Aide time purchased</td>
<td>Harmony Day, NAIDOC Week, Under 8s, Closing the Gap Day</td>
<td>Get Set for Prep transition sessions for parents and children entering Prep the following year</td>
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<td>Strong acknowledgement of school practices in the external Teaching &amp; Learning Audit</td>
<td>Student Support</td>
<td>Prep Parent Orientation information sessions</td>
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<td>Excellent Music Program including instrumental music and strings groups.</td>
<td>Chaplaincy program &amp; Breakfast Club</td>
<td>Established school website and smartphone app for improved communication.</td>
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<td><strong>Extra Curricula</strong></td>
<td>Homework Program</td>
<td><strong>Sporting</strong></td>
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<td>Active Afterschool Communities program</td>
<td>Social &amp; emotional skill development including -Strengths, Real Me, RAGE, Social Detective, Emotional Skilling, Transportsers program, You Can Do It social skills, Small group program, Indigenous student support, Special Education program including ECDP</td>
<td>Active Afterschool Communities program</td>
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<td>CQ Sporty Schools program</td>
<td>Student behaviour support</td>
<td>All abilities rugby league,</td>
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<td>Eisteddfod &amp; Choral Festival</td>
<td>Managing Young Children’s Program</td>
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<td>Instrumental Music Camp</td>
<td>Early Years Health and Wellbeing Program</td>
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<td>School Concert</td>
<td>Smith Family</td>
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<td>MacDonald’s Maths competition</td>
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<td>School Gardening Group</td>
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<td>Interschool sport</td>
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<td>Camps &amp; Excursions to Sydney &amp; Canberra, The Caves, Kinchant Dam, Action Challenge &amp; Yr. 3 School Camp Day</td>
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<td><strong>ICT/Technology</strong></td>
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<td>XO laptops in Prep and Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laptop program continued in Year 5 &amp; 6 Interactive panels in Prep and Year 1 classrooms</td>
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<td>Interactive boards &amp; projectors in classrooms</td>
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<td>Computer Lab</td>
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Get Started Voucher program open for applications

The Department of National Parks, Sport and Recreation’s Get Started Voucher program is accepting applications for a voucher of up to $150 to help pay an eligible child’s sport or recreation club membership and/or participation fees. Parents or carers who hold a valid Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card can apply straight away. Children who aren’t eligible under this criterion can apply if they are nominated by two referral agents. The list of referral agents still includes principals, school guidance officers and police officers among other occupations but teachers are unable to nominate a child in this round.

Vouchers are issued on a ‘first-come first-served’ basis and applications will close when all the funds are allocated or on 30th September. So submit your application as soon as possible. More information is available at the school office.

ENROLL FOR PREP 2016 NOW

We are now taking enrolments for Prep in 2016. If you have a child ready to enroll or know of family or friends that do please contact the office to register.

Continued from last newsletter. To see the article in full check the schoolbag app under parent articles.

What teachers want parents to know about Reading Levels

From http://creatingalearningenvironment.com/what-infant-teachers-want-parents-to-know-reading-levels/

6. Do not compare children. Everyone has their own strengths and weaknesses, children are no different. Each child develops their reading skills at their own pace. A parent’s concern about a child’s reading level can be due to the fact that another child in their class is at a reading level much higher than their own child. Most children when they are learning to read have times where they move up levels quickly and other times when they plateau for a while. As long as they are making progress and their teacher is happy with this progress there is nothing to worry about.

7. Do not compare teachers. Another main issue that teachers face daily is the constant comparison of classrooms. As each child is different, each teacher is different as well. A teacher has their own idea of the most effective way of teaching reading, therefore some focus on moving up levels, some want to ensure a child is really secure before moving them up and some want the child to have more exposure of different texts at that level before moving up. Your child will have to work with all different types of people in their life so it is important that your child is given that opportunity with each teacher they have. As a parent you may not be completely happy with how the classroom is run but have faith that the school ensures that all teachers are working to the best of their ability for each child. If you have a real concern about a teacher, always approach them first for some clarification.

8. Comprehension. The most important part of reading is to be able to understand what you have read. So many times I listen to beautiful oral reading from a child who is able to work out unknown words easily and pronounce all words correctly. However, they are unable to answer questions about what they have read. Moving up levels too quickly may cause more harm than good. A lot of children’s comprehension strategies are undeveloped as the focus has always been on how the child sounds. Solution strategies are undeveloped as the focus has always been on how the child sounds. Parents need to ask lots of questions starting with “why” and “how” about the text. Having a discussion about what has come up in the text is invaluable for a student’s comprehension.

9. Children going backwards. Over the school holidays it is very common for a child to go back a few levels in reading. During the school holidays they are not having their targeted reading sessions at school, getting new readers and working on new strategies. Give your child a few weeks to get back into the routine of school before approaching their teacher about reading levels.

10. Assessing Reading Levels. Teachers are constantly assessing reading levels of each child in their class. They observe how the child reads each guided reading session and writes notes about that child for the next reading session. They conduct “running records” regularly to give the appropriate levelled text. A running record is when a child reads a text at a particular level and the teacher records all the mistakes and self-corrections the child makes. Using a few calculations, the teacher will know whether the text is too easy, correct or too hard for the child.

We are very proud to announce that one of our young writers, Brooke C, from 3C, has been awarded Highly Commended in the Years 3-4 category of the Whitsunday Voices Short Story Competition, for her story titled “The Haunted House”. Brooke and her family attended the Whitsunday Voices Festival Launch, held at Whitsunday Anglican School, where Brooke was presented with a certificate recognising her outstanding achievement. Well done, Brooke! We look forward to hearing many more stories from you in the future.

Get Started Voucher program

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Principals Gotcha Award
A student with 50 Gotcha Cards during the year. For following the 4 school rules. The student also receives a Principal Awards Certificate on parade to recognise their achievements.

Having an awesome Term 1 and 2 and receiving their Principal Award is:
3A - Bailee B

Well Done and keep up the good work!!

Gold Gotcha Award Winners
are students who have received 36 Gotcha Cards.

Having a great start to the term and receiving their Gold Certificates in week 2 are:
4C - Zara L
Charlotte M

Silver Gotcha Award Winners
Students who have received 24 Gotcha Cards.

Having an awesome start to the term and receiving their Silver Certificates in week 2 is:
4C - Max M

Bronze Gotcha Award Winners
are students that have received 12 Gotcha Cards.

The following students received a Bronze Award in Week 2 are:
3A - Kurt G
4C - Max M
Sora N
Jordan R
Alicia S
Ciara T
Aprille W
Bayden W
Rowan Y
Nathanial A
Kayne C
India H
Hemi H
Mia H
Bruno I
Katrina L
Sam M
Kearah M

Attendance Cup winners P-3
Week 1: with 99% attendance is 3C

Attendance Cup winners 4-6
Week 1: with 99% attendance is 5B

Tuckshop Voucher Winners
Prep - Iziah B
Year 1 - Holly V
Year 2 - Patrick W
Year 3 - Darby M
Year 4 - Marian S
Year 5 - Daniel P
Year 6 - Disha

Total for week 1 is 270
Total Gotchas for Term 3 so far is 518
Total Gotchas for the whole school so far this year is 5348.
We are now looking for another intake of parents willing to become volunteers to help out in our uniform shop and tuckshop. As the year progresses we see an increase in the demand of these services from parents and need some extra hands please. No experience is necessary as all training is provided. If you have a couple of hours, a morning or an afternoon free please contact Michelle on 0438576784. Come along and meet the fantastic volunteers that already help out every week.

FRESH vegetables supplied to the tuckshop by the Garden Club group. The produce is growing and the tuckshop and the children are benefiting by being able to eat the items in their tuckshop lunches. The garden club crew are also excited to see butterflies, bees and good bugs like lady bugs numbers increasing with the increase in flowers and pollen growing in the garden. Garden club runs every day at 10.50 to 11.20. Please encourage your children to come along, we also invite any parents who are interested to also join us at this time.

Year 6 Buddie Program

Prep students William and Sara enjoy catching butterflies during the buddy program with their year 6 buddies Shakira and Reilly.

This year we will be participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. Through this program we will be able to get new educational resources for our school/early learning centre – and all we need you to do is shop for your groceries at Woolworths.

From Wednesday 15th July to Tuesday 8th September, we are collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers. You will get one Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco and gift cards). Place the Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheet and when it’s complete, the Sticker Sheet can be dropped into the Collection Box here at the school. The box is in the foyer of the office. Sticker charts can be photocopied.

At the end of the promotion, we’ll be able to get some great new equipment. The range is extensive and offers lots of items ideal for our students – including resources for Maths, English, Science and some fantastic fun supplies for Arts & Craft, Sport and for our library.

If you’d like to know more visit woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn Thankyou.