



Term 1 Parent Calendar



Wednesday 20th February 2019

Upcoming Events:

Thursday 21st Feb	Year 6 Smooth Walking to Seven Hills High School
Monday 25th Feb	Homework Starts
Thursday 28th Feb	Scripture Starts
Friday 1st March	P&C Chipmunks Play Centre Fundraiser
	PSSA Summer Starts
Wednesday 6th March	K-6 Assembly, 2:20pm
Thursday 7th March	Zone Swimming Carnival
Wednesday 13th March	Kindergarten Teddy Bears Picnic
Monday 18th March	School Photo Day
Monday 20th March	Stage 2 Rocks Walking Tour

In This Newsletter:

- Principal's Report
- Awards
- School Community Charter
- School Photo Information
- P & C Report
- Meet The Teacher Information Sheets

Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Meet The Teacher Night and Community Engagement

The importance of parent engagement in their children's education cannot be understated. A productive three way partnership between the teacher, student and parent is the cornerstone of a child's education. The Department of Education has reinforced these partnerships by developing a School Community Charter that outlines ways to foster these connections. It also sets expectations of parents and teachers in the ways we can respectfully communicate and collaborate.

The School Community Charter is included in this newsletter.

Many thanks to our school community who once again showed their commitment to their children's learning with high numbers in attendance at the annual Meet the Teacher Night. Every teacher reported that their sessions were filled with supportive and enthusiastic parents and carers.

The most important aim of the night is to ensure we forge a productive partnership between the parents, carers, students and teachers and for those in attendance I am sure that has been achieved. Of course for those who could not attend, we urge you to touch base with your child's teacher and make that all important connection. For your convenience, information sheets that were handed out at Meet the Teacher Night are included at the very end of this newsletter.

The next formal opportunity to discuss your child's progress and learning programs will be in Week 10, when we hold our parent teacher interviews. More information about those will be sent home soon.

Extra Curricula and Parent Information Programs

Our enthusiastic teachers and Learning Teams are once again offering a variety of programs aimed at increasing student engagement and parent support. Increased dance and ukulele groups, the expansion of the technology group and the commencement of the anxiety management parent course, Cool Kids, are all ensuring our parents are supported and our kids are enriched. Many thanks to our Learning Support Team and teachers for establishing these programs.

Uniform and Homework Review

In response to supply availability and specific issues in uniform design related to several uniform lines, the P & C Uniform Sub Committee is conducting a mini uniform review. The focus will be on the girl's long pants, the summer dress and the winter dress.

Following extensive research the sub-committee have found some possible options which the community will have a chance to consider in the coming weeks.

An explanation of the voting process will be included in the next few newsletters along with a voting form. We are looking forward to seeing the outcome of this review.

Another review being conducted this year will focus on student homework.

Our Tell Them from Me Survey results, along with parent and teacher anecdotal data, suggests that our children's engagement with homework needs to be improved. The teachers are in the process of looking at the research behind what types of homework are most effective for primary aged children and this term are trialling some possibilities. A parent forum will be held later this term and feedback will be sought before finally setting new directions.

Positions Available

The P & C Annual General Meeting was held this week and while many of the roles were filled, several of the executive roles remain vacant. Parents who are considering taking on roles such as P & C President, Secretary or Treasurer are encouraged to contact myself or the P & C to discuss what these roles involve.

Being part of the P & C is a great way to support the school as well as joining the discussions around continually improving our programs and community events. I am looking forward to continuing the hard work of the current and previous members with new parents jumping on board.

School Photos

School photographs are scheduled to be taken later this term. Whilst an envelope and flyer will be distributed shortly, if possible it is our preference that ordering be completed online to reduce administration and potential security issues related to the return of cash and envelopes on photo day.

Orders for packages and sibling photographs can be placed securely online at www.advancedlife.com.au using our school's unique 9 digit advancedorder code; WZMCMMW4Z.

Portrait and group package orders are due by photography day.

Should you wish to purchase a sibling photograph online, the order must be placed no later than the day before photography day. Sibling photographs will only be taken if an order has been placed.

Should you have any queries concerning school photographs or online ordering, please direct them via email to enquiries@advancedlife.com.au

Vardys' Victories

Congratulations to Ben G in Year 6 for being successful in reaching a National Level of competition in Motocross. We wish him well in his sporting ventures.

Congratulations is also extended to Miranda M in Year 3 who recently achieved a second place in hurdles, at a regional Little Athletics meet.

Well done to our Vardys victors.

Mascot

The children have been coming up with many ideas for our school mascot. A competition will start this week with an entry form being sent home shortly.

Get your thinking hats on because there are lots of prizes for successful entrants and your idea may eventually become the Vardys Road mascot for years to come.

Arriving Before School

As has been the case for many years, teacher playground supervision doesn't start until 8:30am. It is therefore essential that students plan their arrival to be at, or after, this time. On the rare occasion that children arrive at school early they are requested to sit on the Kindergarten verandah until 8:30am.

Families that have work commitments that necessitate their children arriving at school before 8:30am are asked to contact our wonderful OOSH who can assist in providing the necessary supervision.

To assist students in finding the teacher on duty after 8:30am, from next week the staff will be wearing high visibility vests. This will make seeking teacher support in the playground that much easier.

Ian Short
Principal

Awards

Gold Award 1/2 **Jade** Sophie 3/4 **Crimson** Ibrahim, Sacha 3/4 **Poppy** Fionn 3/4 **Ruby** Lukas
3/4 **Scarlet** Patrick, Kohdi

Early Stage 1

Merit Awards

Valaria, Emily, Elana,
Liam, Braxton, Gemma,
Lexie, Corey

Stage 1

Merit Awards

Emma, Makaylah, Tyler,
Jackson, Gurnoor,
Sianna, Jonathan, Patrick,
Swarnashri, Callum,
Mason, Kalea, Harliv

Stage 2

Merit Awards

Jeremy, Memphis, Grace,
Isabella, Anaisha, Amelia,
Roj, Rylan, Claire, Julian,
Sacha, Ibrahim, Miranda,
Scarlett, Zachary,
Isabella, Amelia

Stage 3

Merit Awards

Daniel, Emily, Zoe, Noah,
Riley, Lacey, David,
Alexus, Kaitlyn, Marcus,
Harini, Brock, Jagath

Canteen

Click icon to view the canteen menu.



CRESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Enrolment Enquiries 9639 - 7422

OPEN NIGHT

26th February

Excellence in Education

Year 10 VALID - First in State	Official Sydney FC Academy school
Hospitality - 2nd in State	Western Front tour ANZAC scholarship
10 students nominated for INTECH	National Bright Award - 1st place
OnStage HSC Drama selection	Duke of Ed - 4 Gold awards
Plain English speaking competition - State Finalist	Vertical Gifted and Talented program
	Outstanding NAPLAN results

Principal's Address at 5pm, tours until 7.30pm

www.crestwood-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

CRESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
VISION AND PROGRESS

School Community Charter

 **Collaborative. Respectful. Communication.**

The following School Community Charter outlines the responsibilities of parents, carers, educators and school staff in NSW public schools to ensure our learning environments are collaborative, supportive and cohesive.

We treat
each other
with
respect

What our schools provide

NSW public schools work to create positive environments for students, staff and the entire school community that support student learning. We strive to ensure that every student is known, valued and cared for.

The best education happens when parents and schools work together.

The School Community Charter aligns with the NSW Department of Education Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022.



Positive environments

It is important that our NSW public schools are positive environments and that parents and carers are kept informed of students' progress and school announcements.

Parents and carers can expect:

- to be welcomed into our schools to work in partnership to promote student learning.
- communication from school staff will be timely, polite and informative.
- professional relationships with school staff are based on transparency, honesty and mutual respect.
- to be treated fairly. Tolerance and understanding are promoted as we respect diversity.

We
prioritise
the wellbeing
of all students
and staff

**Unsafe
behaviour**
is not acceptable
in our schools

We work
together
with the
school

**Ensuring respectful learning environments for all
members of NSW Public Schools communities.**



We create
collaborative
learning
environments

We
all play
a part

We work
in partnership
to promote
student
learning

Communicating with our schools

Our staff will find a time to talk to you when they can give you their full attention. Please remember that while our staff are in class or dealing with other matters, they may not be available to answer your questions immediately.

Our schools and communities will make sure that written communication is appropriate, fair and easy to read. We encourage you to use email and social media appropriately to connect with your school and stay up-to-date with up-coming events in the school community.

Our guide for parents, carers and students provides useful information about the complaints process: education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions/guide-for-parents-carers-and-students

Respectful communication is a right

In all workplaces people have the right to feel respected. Unacceptable and offensive behaviour has no place in our school communities.

To ensure the wellbeing of students, staff and the community in our schools, steps will be taken to address unacceptable behaviour. This may include restricting contact with the school community or, in more serious cases, referral to NSW Police.



Unacceptable behaviour may include but is not limited to:

- Aggressive or intimidating actions, such as violence, threatening gestures or physical proximity.
- Aggressive or intimidating language, including the use of obscenities, making sexist, racist or derogatory comments or using a rude tone.
- Treating members of the school community differently due to aspects such as their religion or disability.
- Inappropriate and time wasting communication.



Collaborative.
Respectful.
Communication.

School Community Charter

education.nsw.gov.au

Vardys Road Public School

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE TAKEN ON:

Monday 18 March 2019 and Thursday 28 March 2019

**ORDER NOW go to www.advancedlife.com.au and enter the code
WZM CMM W4Z**

Dear Parents,

School photographs are scheduled to be taken by **advancedlife**. Whilst an envelope and flyer will be distributed shortly, if possible it is our preference that ordering be completed online to reduce administration and potential security issues related to the return of cash and envelopes on photo day.

Orders for packages and sibling photographs can be placed securely online at **www.advancedlife.com.au** using our school's unique **9 digit advancedorder code**. Portrait and group package orders are due by photography day.

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VRPS Parents & Citizens Association News

**What's
Happening**

Your



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

Chipmunks Play Centre

Friday 1st March
5:30pm - 8:30pm
1 Rowood Road, Prospect

Dr Shoe at VRPS

Tuesday 5th March
2:45pm - 3:30pm
Outside Uniform Shop

P&C General Meeting

Monday 18th March
7:30pm - 9:00pm
School Library

P&C Annual General Meeting Outcomes

Following our AGM on 18th February there are some new faces in the 2019 Parents & Citizens Association Executive Team. However, there are also some vacancies that need to be filled. We encourage you to consider a role on the committee.

Executive Roles:

President _____ *vacant*
Vice President – Uniform & Supplies _____ Stephanie Ernst
Vice President – Fundraising & Event _____ *vacant*
Treasurer _____ Adriana Lurac'
Secretary _____ *vacant*

Non-Executive Roles:

Uniform & Supplies Shop Coordinator _____ Lynne Henry
Uniform & Supplies Shop Secretary _____ Bernie Ernst
Uniform & Supplies Shop Treasurer _____ *vacant*
Sponsorship & Donations Coordinator _____ *vacant*
Grants Coordinator _____ Dana Alderson
Communications Coordinator & Website Administrator _____ Jessica Evans
Recycling Coordinator _____ Julia Child
Facebook Administrator _____ Ashlee Tenberge
Jigsaw Parent Representation _____ Erika Geffroy

P&C Association Uniform & Supplies Shop News

**THANK YOU
Volunteers!**
 We couldn't do it without you

Thank you to the wonderful volunteers that gave up their time during the school holiday to help in the Uniform Shop.

The days were quite warm but teamwork ensured there were no queues.

Dr Shoe will be at the Uniform Shop between 2.45-3.30pm on Tuesday 5th March with his excellent value and great quality school shoes and joggers. Great deals available with fantastic savings.



**TEMPORARILY
OUT OF STOCK**

Due to delays in the sports uniform coming from an overseas supplier, smaller sizes of the sports uniform can be back ordered, and delivered to the classrooms as soon as the delivery arrives at the uniform shop, we apologise for the inconvenience.

Did you know we now stock 'SAFE LACE locks'?

Safe lace provides lace locks to keep your shoe laces tied in school, sports, even at work.

SAFE LACE will allow you to never again have to worry about your shoe laces coming loose or undone.



Clearance
Old Style
Sport Shirts
Sizes 2 & 4
\$5 each



Clearance
Old Style
Sport Shorts
Sizes 14, Adult - S, M, L
\$5 each



P&C Association Event & Fundraising News

Fundraising for 2019

Check out our website for a full list of events that we have planned

<http://www.vrpspc.org.au/pages/calendar-of-events>.

If you would like to help in any way with an event - either helping coordinate the event or helping in a smaller way...

Please contact the Executive Team on vrpspc@outlook.com



We had a wonderful time hosting the **Kindergarten Tears & Cheers** morning tea.

It was great to have a chat to some of the new kindy families and welcome them into our school community. Thank you to all the lovely people who supplied plates of food and to Julia Child & Jessica Kenny for co-ordinating this event.

Thank you also to Priscilla Fragar for putting together lovely little welcome packs to help parents get through their first day of school.



Last chance to buy tickets for our upcoming fundraising social event at

Chipmunks Play Land on Friday 1st March

Online bookings are open until
8pm on Wednesday 27th February

No sales will be available at the door

Chipmunks will be exclusively open to Vardys Road families for the evening which runs from 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Tickets to this event will include entry to the play centre and the choice of a children's meal

CHIPMUNKS FUN NIGHT

CHIPMUNKS
Playland & Café

Friday 1st March 2019
5:30pm - 8:30pm

\$15 per child
includes snack

Adult
Supervision
Required

Remember
your socks!
(NO socks, NO play)

JOIN US AT
1 Rowood Road
Prospect

Book your tickets online at
www.vrpspc.org.au/collections/chipmunks

P&C Team Members:

2019 Executive Team

President:	vacant
Vice President:	Stephanie Ernst
Vice President:	vacant
Treasurer:	Adriana Lurac'
Secretary:	vacant

Non-Executive Team

Grants:	Dana Alderson
Website & Newsletter:	Jessica Evans
Recycling:	Julia Child
Facebook:	Ashlee Tenberge
OOSH Parent Rep.:	Erika Geffroy

Contact us:

Website: www.vrpspc.org.au

Email: vrpspc@outlook.com

Facebook: facebook.com/vrpspc

or contact us via the school office



Useful Links:

Uniform & Supplies Sub-Committee

Vice President:	Stephanie Ernst
Shop Coordinator:	Lynne Henry
Treasurer:	vacant
Secretary:	Bernie Ernst

Event & Fundraising Sub-Committee

Vice President:	vacant
Secretary:	vacant
Sponsorship/Donations:	vacant
Event Coordinators:	
Chipmunks -	Deanne McConnell
Trivia -	Kelly Cantrell & Natalie Cheeson



VARDYS ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL

Quality Education in a Caring Environment

Address: Vardys Road, Kings Langley, NSW 2147
Telephone: (02) 9624 3051
Fax: (02) 9838 7048
Email: vardysroad-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.vardysroad-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

18th February 2019

KINDERGARTEN – 2019 PARENT INFORMATION

A warm welcome to all families. We hope that the following information will be helpful to you.

Your teachers for 2019 are:

K Daffodil	Ms Diana Lloyd	diana.p.lloyd@det.nsw.edu.au
K Marigold	Mr Dave Bartlett	dave.bartlett1@det.nsw.edu.au
K Buttercup	Mrs Brigitte Harrison	brigitte.harrison@det.nsw.edu.au
K Wattle	Miss Nicole Sclavenitis	nicole.sclavenitis@det.nsw.edu.au
K Sunflower	Mrs Claire Sachdev	claire.sachdev@det.nsw.edu.au

Attendance

As directed by the Department of Education, any absences must be accounted for within seven days. You may do this by providing a note to your child's teacher explaining your child's absence upon their return to school. Late arrivals (after 9:00am) must go to the office to collect a late pass before going to class. Early departures also require a note from the office. Only, once this note is obtained, may your child be taken early from school. Kindergarten is an important year of learning so regular attendance and arrival on time each day is vital to ensure continued and sequential learning.

Medication

If your child requires medication during school hours please contact the school office. A 'Request for Administering Medicine' form will need to be completed prior to any medication being administered to your child. All medicines are kept in the office and are not to be left in the child's possession.

Special Days

Wednesday – Newsletter Day (online) Thursday – Scripture Friday – Assembly and Sport

Assemblies

Each class takes turns to lead a K-2 Assembly. You will be invited to the school to watch your child's class lead the assembly and perform an item.

Staff Development Days for 2019 - Students do not attend school on these days.

* Monday 29th April * Monday 22nd July
* Thursday 19th December * Friday 20th December

School Terms for 2019

Term 1 – Tuesday, 29th January – Friday 12th April
Term 2 – Tuesday 30th April – Friday 5th July
Term 3 – Tuesday 22nd July – Friday 27th September
Term 4 – Monday 14th October – Wednesday 18th December

Award Systems

20 PBL Awards	=	1 Merit Award
5 Merit Awards across school years	=	1 Gold Award
3 Gold Awards across school years	=	1 Excellence Badge
Excellence Badge & 3 additional Gold Awards	=	1 Gold Medallion

PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) Awards (yellow cards) are awarded to students who show **respect**, **pride** and **safety**. 20 PBL Awards across a school year may be redeemed for a Merit Award. Students are

responsible for saving the awards. They present them to the school office when they have the required number.

Students who participate in Home Reading will also be rewarded through the merit system. When your child has completed each Home Reading log sheet, (1 entry per day), they receive a Home Reading Award from their teacher. When they have received 3 Home Reading Awards, they then receive a Home Reading Certificate presented at a K-2 Assembly. When they have received 3 Home Reading Certificates they then earn a Merit Award.

2019 Excursion

Calmsley Hill City Farm – 22nd October (Week 2 Term 4). An excursion note will be sent out in Term 3.

SIX KEY LEARNING AREAS

English:

In Kindergarten we begin learning about reading and writing through modelling from the teacher. We read at least one book to the children every day and encourage class discussions to develop their comprehension. Students will participate in shared, guided and independent reading. Students will learn about the alphabet letters and sounds, and that some words need to be memorised and are called 'tricky words', as they aren't sounded out like most words. Group work in Talking, Listening, Independent and Guided Reading is part of our daily reading time at school.

Students develop their fine motor skills and practise writing individual letters and learn the correct formation of the letters. Correct direction and formation is important to allow your child to learn to write fluently as they progress through school. Your child should write his/her name using lower case letters with only the first letter as a capital. Please encourage your child to use lower case letters in words and sentences, with upper case letters used only in the appropriate places.

Your child will learn to write as they learn to read, as the two skills are inseparable. The writing program draws together skills learned through the phonics, handwriting, reading and spelling programs.

Mathematics

The important outcome for all work in Mathematics is the development of mathematical language and the understanding of early mathematical concepts including problem solving. Class lessons and group activities are designed to give children "hands on" experience to achieve Mathematics learning outcomes.

Kindergarten students will also have access to 'Mathletics' from Term 2, which is an Internet based program they can access at school and home. Students will complete whole class activities as well as small group ability based activities designed to develop their individual skills.

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PD/H/PE)

The PE Program is designed to develop agility, flexibility, balance, hand-eye co-ordination and foot-eye co-ordination. Sports day is Friday and children need to wear their sports uniform. The areas of Personal Development and Health programs are: Healthy Habits (nutrition), Communicate & Care (interpersonal relationships), Watching Out For Me (Road & Sun Safety, Drug Ed) & Who Am I? (Child Protection & Personal Growth).

History & Geography (Integrated Units)

These Key Learning Areas have been consolidated into integrated units to provide enhanced learning experiences for our students. They allow students to develop knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes about people and their social and physical environments.

Topics include:

Welcome to Our School - investigates our school environment and explores how we can be happy and safe at school and identifies ways in which built environments suit their uses.

This is Me – investigates who the people in their family are, where they were born and raised and how they are related to each other.

Meeting Needs - develops an understanding of how and why rules, routines and products are developed to meet our needs.

Special Places - investigates places that are special to us at home and school and differentiates between natural and built environments.

STEM – Science Technology Engineering and Maths

This is the area in which students learn about the natural, physical and made environment.

Topics include:

The Gingerbread Man - The made environment, materials and properties.

Changes - How living things change as they grow.

Sense of Direction - How our senses help us discover the world around us.

Creative Arts

This curriculum area includes Arts and Craft, Music, Dance and Drama. Kindergarten students participate in Dance every Monday afternoon and Singing each Friday.

Homework

Homework is designed to reinforce classwork and consolidate basic skills and knowledge. Homework is weekly and students are asked to return their work on Fridays. The Department of Education recommends that Kindergarten students complete ten minutes of homework each day, Monday to Thursday. **Home Reading** is encouraged. This will formally begin in Week 5. Home Reading Folders and Recording sheets will be sent home with a note explaining Home Reading. Parents may read a book each night with their child and return it, or they might like to read the same book for several days. Remember, to be a good, fluent reader one must practise and practise. Daily reading is essential; this includes reading stories to your child that they are not yet able to read by themselves.

Assessment and Reporting

Assessment and reports of student learning are carried out using a variety of tasks and methods. A number of work samples, representative of what is being done in the classroom, are collected from each child.

Interviews

At the end of Term 1, parent/child/teacher interviews are held to discuss the individual progress of each child. However, please contact your child's teacher to make an appointment at any time if there is a matter you wish to discuss. At the end of Semester 1 and Semester 2, a formal report is sent home indicating the level of success that your child has achieved in meeting the various outcomes.

Library

Each child is asked to bring a library bag to school on their library day if they wish to borrow a book. Books will be returned each week during the class library time. Borrowing will commence in Week 4 or 5.

How can you help at home?

- Read all notes and newsletters to be aware of what is happening.
- Log into the Skoolbag app or like the Facebook page to receive notifications and reminders. Go to your app store and search Vardys Rd Public School and the school logo should appear on the Skoolbag icon.
- Help with reading at home. Encourage any type of reading activity and do lots of reading together.
- Encourage writing/drawing and talking about many things you do at home as well as about school.
- Listen to problems with an open mind and help your child to discover ways to overcome personal problems themselves.
- Encourage your child to form and express opinions, to discuss, to explain, to question.
- Always be ready to offer praise – be supportive and positive about your child's work.
- Please encourage children to remember to return all borrowed library books.
- Encourage self-confidence by giving your child more responsibilities. Let them pack their school bag each night, put Home Readers back into their school bag to return, dress themselves or tie shoelaces.

The teachers of Kindergarten look forward to your support this year and trust that the year will be stimulating, challenging, rewarding and enjoyable for your child.

Ian Short
Principal

Diana Lloyd
Assistant Principal – Early Stage 1



VARDYS ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL

Quality Education in a Caring Environment

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Website: www.vardysroad-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

19th February 2019

STAGE 1 – 2019 PARENT INFORMATION

Welcome to another year at Vardys Road. We are greatly looking forward to teaching your children in what will be an exciting, busy and productive year. The Stage 1 staff appreciates the importance of working with you as partners in the education of your child.

This year, Stage 1 has followed a stage based model for its class structure. All NSW Syllabus documents are stage based and every class works through the same content at a rate that is based on student needs, with students working through a cyclical program over two years.

Composite classes have been shown to help both older and younger students with confidence, help develop collaborative learning skills and foster independent working habits. Leadership, tolerance and cooperation are other important skills better developed in composite classes. Our staff believe that the most important factors on student performance and welfare are teacher student relationships, clear success criteria, comprehensive formative and summative assessment and quality explicit teaching. Your child's growth will be maximised if they know where they are on their learning journey, what they are aiming for and how they are going to get there.

Your teachers for this year are:

1/2 Clover	Miss Lisa Tabone	lisa.tabone8@det.nsw.edu.au
1/2 Mint	Mrs Samantha Barker	samantha.stock2@det.nsw.edu.au
1/2 Shamrock	Miss Sarah Dunkley	sarah.dunkley@det.nsw.edu.au
1/2 Fern	Mrs Carolyn King (M-W)	carolyn.r.king@det.nsw.edu.au
	Mrs Jaime Davies (Th-F)	jaime.davies5@det.nsw.edu.au
1/2 Emerald	Mr Brett Murphy	brett.murphy19@det.nsw.edu.au
1/2 Jade	Miss Jenean Hafza	jenean.hafza1@det.nsw.edu.au
1/2 Apple	Miss Lyndall Fuller	lyndall.fuller1@det.nsw.edu.au

Below is a brief overview of this year's work, procedures and expectations.

ENGLISH

The English program consists of *Speaking & Listening, Reading & Viewing, Writing & Representing, Handwriting & Digital Technologies, Spelling & Grammar and Punctuation & Vocabulary*, which is embedded throughout each strand of English.

- *Speaking & Listening* - Developing confidence as oral communicators is our aim. We will achieve this through informal news time, presenting information as part of reading and writing lessons and throughout the Integrated Topics. We will particularly look at asking and answering questions, participating in discussions using an outline such as "I think.... because ..." and in providing an oral retell and response to books and events. Students will present a prepared Topic Talk once each term, which will be linked to the Integrated Unit. It is important that all students prepare and present topic talks, as it is part of the curriculum. It will also assist in developing public speaking skills ready to participate in the Vardys Road Public Speaking Competition at the end of Term 3.

- *Reading and Viewing* – Guided and independent reading lessons are planned during daily reading groups. Children will participate in guided reading groups at their own level, with the purpose of developing accuracy, fluency, expression and comprehension as they move through reading levels. Modelled reading is usually linked to our Integrated Unit and specific reading strategies. Phonics, grammar and punctuation features are also addressed. Many parents like to help within the classroom during reading times. If you are able to help please let your child's class teacher know. We appreciate any time that you can give.

- *Spelling and Grammar* – Stage 1 have a weekly phonics focus for explicit teaching. Students experience sequential phonic activities in class based on the 'phoneme of the week'. Our Scope and Sequence for phonics instruction uses a 'synthetic' phonics approach which places the emphasis on improving phonological and phonemic awareness rather than memorising words.
- *Writing and Representing* - Writing experiences are linked to modelled reading or topics in HSIE or Science. Children will be taught specific ways of writing for various situations with a focus on teaching students that the style of writing should suit the reason/purpose for which they are writing.

MATHEMATICS

- The strands of *Number & Algebra*, *Measurement & Geometry* and *Statistics & Probability* form the basis of our work. Working Mathematically is an important aspect of each strand in thinking through and solving problems related to everyday situations. Daily lessons will involve counting and numeration activities with a mental computation focus. Most activities will have a practical aspect and children will write, draw and explain their calculations in a Maths journal/exercise book. In Stage 1 we will count, read and write to 100 and then progress to 3 digit numerals. We will also count by 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s. We will use ten frames, number lines, arrays and various concrete materials. Doubles, bridging to 10 and using the jump strategy in adding and subtracting is taught in Stage 1. Our school utilises the Mathletics program. It is hoped that your child can access this regularly during the week to complete the set activities.

PDHPE

- Stage 1 has a weekly hour session of PDHPE with Mr McDonald. During this time, Stage 1 students will be instructed on Health and Safety programs as well as fitness activities. Additionally, students will participate in a weekly Stage 1 fitness session. Sport is on Friday mornings from 9am to 10am. At this time, students rotate through various activities, which incorporate skill development and fitness. Parental assistance in this initiative is always appreciated. All students need to bring their hat every day so they can safely participate in Sport and Fitness.
- The K-2 Athletics Carnival will be held in Term 3 within the school grounds. Our Year 2 students will attend a number of Year 2 to 6 carnivals this year: Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country. Please note that only students who are turning 8 during this calendar year may compete competitively at these events.

HSIE (Human Society & Its Environment) AND SCIENCE OVERVIEWS

- By the end of Stage 1, in *History* students identify change and continuity in family and daily life using appropriate historical terms. They relate stories about their families' and communities' past and explore a point of view within an historical context. They identify and describe significant people, events, places and sites in the local community over time. Students describe the effects of changing technology on people's lives over time. Students sequence events in order, using a range of terms related to time. They compare objects from the past and present. Students develop a narrative about the past using a range of texts.
- By the end of Stage 1, in *Geography* students describe the natural features of different places, including the weather and seasons, and recognise that places exist across a range of scales. They describe human features of places, including how spaces can be arranged for different purposes. Students investigate how places are managed and cared for and discuss the connections people have to different places. Students pose questions and collect and record information to answer these questions. They represent data in tables and on maps. They interpret geographical information to draw conclusions
- By the end of Stage 1, in *Science* students engage in the processes of Working Scientifically, and Design and Production. They participate in guided investigations, pose and respond to questions and make predictions. Students collect and represent information using a variety of methods. Students generate and develop design ideas and solutions that they communicate with labelled drawings and models and through the use of digital technologies where appropriate. They provide explanations about what they have done and evaluate their ideas using predetermined criteria. Students describe the external features, changes and growth of living things and how their environments provide for their needs. They identify how plants and animals are produced for food and fibre. Students investigate the characteristics and properties of materials, how they can be changed and combined for a purpose. Students identify heat, light and sound energy and explore how forces and energy can be used. Students identify the components of digital systems and explore how data is represented through pictures, symbols and diagrams.

HOMEWORK & HOME READING

- This year Vardys Road PS will be conducting a homework review, which means we are trialling different formats and programs for Homework and seeking feedback from parents, teachers and students. In Term 1, there will be several different homework options for your child to engage in. More information about opportunities to provide feedback will be provided soon. Homework will begin in Week 5.
- Each student will need a document folder to store their Home Reader, they can use the blue home reading folder they received in Kindergarten. Students are provided a book from their teacher that they should be able to read with minimal support. This enables your child to read **with confidence and greater fluency**. Students may choose to read interest books from their home library or the school library. Read for ten minutes every night. Before reading, tell your child the title and ask them what the story may be about. After reading the story, ask questions about the story and get your child to find some of the words in the book. Please sign the home reading sheet that comes home in the folder when you hear your child read each day. A reading award is given in class when a sheet is completed. This is a vital component of your child's reading development and we would encourage every student to read nightly. Home reading is designed to reinforce class work and is designed to be 'easy' for your child to read so that oral reading fluency is developed and your child is phrasing and using expression when reading aloud. Remember enjoyment is the key to home reading.

EXCURSION

This Year Stage 1 are visiting Taronga Zoo on Tuesday 26th March. This excursion supports our Term 1 Geography unit 'Big things and Backyards'. Further information about the excursion will be sent home soon.

PARENT HELPERS

The Stage 1 teachers would greatly appreciate the assistance of parent helpers. If you have not already notified your class teacher of your availability, please do so. You will need to fill out a form at the front office and obtain a *Working With Children Check* clearance. If you have not already done so, you may apply for this at any Roads & Maritime Service Centre. For more information please visit www.newcheck.kids.nsw.gov.au

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on Tuesday 2nd April. If this date is not suitable, you will have an opportunity to lock in another time during that week. Please utilise this time to meet with your child's teacher. You are always welcome to arrange a meeting with the class teacher and/or Stage Supervisor at any time throughout the year.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AT SCHOOL

If you have any concerns regarding your child's progress or wellbeing, please contact the class teacher or Stage Supervisor, Mrs Belinda Barber. Please be aware that there are a number of support personnel within the school who provide assistance and additional support for students, teachers and parents when needed. These include; Heidi Bennett and Karen Davis as part of the Learning and Support Team, Carolyn Lennon, the School Counsellor and Daniel Tuckwell, the Community Wellbeing Officer.

The Stage 1 teachers are looking forward to working with you this year, to provide a nurturing environment and allow for quality learning experiences for your children.

Belinda Barber
Assistant Principal – Stage 1 belinda.barber2@det.nsw.edu.au



VARDYS ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL

Quality Education in a Caring Environment

Address: Vardys Road, Kings Langley, NSW 2147
Telephone: (02) 9624 3051
Fax: (02) 9838 7048
Email: vardysroad-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.vardysroad-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

19th February 2019

STAGE 2 – 2019 PARENT INFORMATION

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to 2019 at Vardys Road. Each of our 6 Stage 2 classes, caring for 164 students, have bonded and are on track for a year of engaged learning as they strive and thrive together. Our Stage 2 teachers are looking forward to working in partnership with you in their education. Your teachers for 2019 are:

3/4 Scarlet	Mrs Catherine D'Chong (Assistant Principal)	catherine.dchong@det.nsw.edu.au
3/4 Rose	Miss Rachel Bernays	rachel.kearns2@det.nsw.edu.au
3/4 Ruby	Mr Tim Uren	timothy.uren2@det.nsw.edu.au
3/4 Crimson	Miss Alicia Rankine and Mr Tim Bromhead (Thurs-Fri)	alicia.rankine1@det.nsw.edu.au timothy.bromhead2@det.nsw.edu.au
3/4 Cherry	Miss Nasha Kapadia	nasha.kapadia@det.nsw.edu.au
3/4 Poppy	Miss Chantelle Bartolo	chantelle.bartello1@det.nsw.edu.au

This year, Stage 2 has followed a composite model for its class structure. All NSW Syllabus documents are stage based and every class works through the same content at a rate that is based on student needs, with students working through a cyclical program over two years.

Composite classes have been shown to help both older and younger students with confidence, help develop collaborative learning skills and foster independent working habits. Leadership, tolerance and cooperation are other important skills better developed in composite classes. Our Stage 2 staff believe that the most important factors on student performance and welfare are teacher student relationships, clear success criteria, comprehensive formative and summative assessment and quality explicit teaching. Your child's growth will be maximised if they know where they are on their learning journey, what they are aiming for and how they are going to get there.

Below is a brief overview of this year's work, procedures and expectations:

ENGLISH

The English curriculum consists of Speaking & Listening, Reading & Viewing, Writing & Representing, Handwriting & Digital Technologies, Spelling & Grammar, Punctuation & Vocabulary.

- *Speaking & Listening* - Our aim is to develop confidence as oral communicators. Students will prepare talks, and present tasks and projects as part of the History, Geography and STEM units.
- *Reading & Viewing* – Modelled, guided and independent reading activities are planned during Focus on Reading literacy sessions, which will concentrate on comprehension skills and the Super Six reading strategies. In addition, reading will be shared during lessons in other Key Learning Areas.
- *Writing & Representing* - Writing experiences are taught both explicitly and within the History, Geography and STEM units. The children will be taught specific ways of writing for various situations. Equally important, is teaching children that writing has a specific purpose and that the style of writing suits the reason/purpose for which they are writing.
- *Handwriting & Digital Technologies* - In Stage 2, Year 3 will begin using joins and develop foundation cursive writing. Year 4 will continue using cursive writing in their work. A Pen Licence will be given to Year 4 children in Semester 2, when they show proficiency and neatness in cursive writing using a pencil.

Digital Technologies are integrated throughout curriculum areas in addition to a one-hour set time in the computer lab each week.

- *Spelling* – Stage 2 staff will be following our school's new Phonics Scope and Sequence. This will involve the explicit teaching of a synthetic phonics program. Instruction and resources will be differentiated by the teacher to cater for the individual student's learning needs. Our school will once again participate in The Premier's Spelling Bee Challenge later in the year.

MATHEMATICS

The strands of Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry and Statistics & Probability form the basis of our work in Mathematics. Working mathematically is an important element of each strand; it incorporates problem solving related to everyday situations. Daily lessons will involve counting and numeration activities with a mental computation focus. Many learning experiences will be activity based and children will write, draw and explain their calculations as part of the Mathematics lesson.

HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY AND STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS)

	Semester 1		Semester 2	
History and Geography	First Contacts (History)	Australia, You're Standing In It! (Geography)	Living in Communities (History)	Chocolate (Geography)
STEM (Science & Technology)	Plants in Action	Digital Technologies	Night and Day	Heating Up

LIBRARY

Library times for the classes are:

3/4 Poppy – Tuesday	3/4 Rose – Wednesday	3/4 Ruby – Monday
3/4 Crimson – Monday	3/4 Cherry – Tuesday	3/4 Scarlet – Monday

Please send a bag for borrowing books on each of these days. We would also like to encourage all children to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge.

HOMEWORK

Our school is currently conducting a review of Homework within the school. It is important to remember the importance of reading at home. Encouraging and supporting your child to routinely read each night with foster a love of reading and assist them greatly in their learning. Students are also encouraged to complete 15 minutes of online Mathletics activities each night.

EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

- Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held on April 3. Please take advantage of this opportunity to talk individually to your child's teacher.
- NAPLAN Assessment for Year 3 will be held the fortnight commencing May 14 in Term 2.
- OC Test – July 31 (Term 3)
- ICAS University competition information and test dates will be sent home this term. The following tests are available: Mathematics, English, Writing and Spelling. These tests are designed and intended for participation by high achieving students only.
- The Stage 2 excursion – March 20. All 6 classes will participate in The Rocks Walking Tour at Circular Quay. The note providing further information has been distributed.
- Please encourage your child to bring the correct equipment to school each day. Please ensure that all significant items are labelled.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AT SCHOOL

- Please familiarise yourself with the School Conduct Code and the levelled card system, a copy of which will be sent home shortly.
- If you have any concerns regarding your child's progress or wellbeing please contact the class teacher or Assistant Principal.

- Please be aware that the School Counsellor and Wellbeing Officer are available to provide additional support if needed.

The teachers of Stage 2, 2019 are looking forward to a wonderful and exciting year with all that we have to offer our students at Vardy's Road Public School. Our aim is to make sure every child strives for their best, thrives in a supportive environment and engages in their work.

Ian Short
Principal

Catherine D'Chong
Assistant Principal



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18th February 2019

STAGE 3 - 2019 PARENT INFORMATION

Welcome to 2019 at Vardys Road Public School! Stage 3 teachers are looking forward to teaching your children and being partners with you in their education. Your teachers are:

5/6 Aqua	Miss Beck Anderson	rebecca.anderson41@det.nsw.edu.au
5/6 Cobalt	Miss Heather Grosvenor	heather.grosvenor2@det.nsw.edu.au
5/6 Indigo	Mrs Megan Guerrero	megan.guerrero1@det.nsw.edu.au
5/6 Sapphire	Mrs Pam Parkinson	pamela.parkinson1@det.nsw.edu.au

Stage 3 students are spread over four classes. The outcomes for each curriculum area are predominately Stage based and the Stage 3 curriculum therefore, rarely differentiates between Years 5 & 6. Within any classroom, students exhibit a wide range of skills and abilities. Each classroom will cater for individual differences in ability and performance through grouping and other strategies. This will allow remediation for students experiencing difficulty and enrichment initiatives for students requiring extension. Provisions will be made for different learning styles and within each class the students will develop academically whilst gaining independence in their learning habits.

Below is a brief overview of this year's activities, procedures and expectations.

INTEGRATED TOPICS AND SCIENCE UNITS

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Integrated Topic	The Right to Be Human	People of the World	The Lucky Country	Natural Disasters
Writing Focus	Persuasive	Informative	Imaginative	Poetry
Science/STEM	A Fantastic World of Food	Digital Technology	Strength of Forces	Earthquake Explorers

HOMEWORK

The Homework Policy is being reviewed this year across Vardys Road. Homework will not have a main focus on a spelling list and 'look, cover, write, check' activities but rather the strategies behind the words. Research shows homework should be engaging and not just a weekly routine. It should link to classroom studies and include independent activities, needing minimal parental involvement. We will be sending out parent surveys and hold forums for parental input. Students will also be asked for weekly feedback on homework activities. Homework in Stage 3 is particularly important as it helps to prepare students for the workload high school brings. Homework trials will officially begin in Week 5.

CAMP

In Term 3, we will once again have the opportunity to attend a three-day/two-night 'Great Aussie Bush Camp' in Kincumber. There is a huge array of 'challenge by choice' activities each student will get to experience including a mud run, high rope course and canoeing. This excursion is always a time of fun and bonding for the students who benefit greatly from the social interaction with both their peers and teachers. The dates for the camp are Monday 12th August to Wednesday 14th August. This will definitely be the highlight of their school year and should not be missed! More information will be sent home in due course.

SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOLS

Year 6 students who have completed the application forms in 2018 will sit the test on Thursday 14th March 2019. Information regarding the online application process for Year 5 students wishing to sit for the Selective High School test in 2020 will be available in Term 3. No late applications will be accepted.

SMOOTH WALKING

Seven Hills High School offers a 'high school experience' program for Year 6 students in Term 1 and to Year 5 students in Term 4. This one-day event allows our students to get a 'taste' of what to expect from high school and is always an enjoyable day for all involved.

STAGE 3 NOTICEBOARD

The Stage 3 noticeboard, located outside 'N' Block, will have details regarding high school information evenings, open days etc. for various local high schools. This information will also be published in the school newsletter, on the Skoolbag App and on our official Facebook page; however, students should check the noticeboard regularly. Teachers will also showcase student work and photos during the year to celebrate our Stage 3 students.

STUDENT/PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Student/Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on Wednesday 3rd April. Please utilise this time to meet with your child's teacher. You are always welcome to arrange a meeting with the class teacher and/or Stage Supervisor at any time throughout the year.

YEAR 6 PROGRAMS

There are many initiatives unique to Year 6. These include Year 6 T-Shirts, Games Day, Dance Item, High School Transition and Year 6 Farewell. Information about these will be provided throughout the year.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Date	Additional Information
Selective High School Test	14/03/2019	For Year 6 students who applied in 2018 only
School Photo Day 1	18/03/2019	Class/Individual
School Photo Day 2	28/03/2019	Student Leaders and Year 6
Child/Parent/Teacher Interviews	03/04/2019	
NAPLAN	Term 2, Week 3	Year 5 only
Stage 3 Camp	12/08/2019 to 14/08/2019	
Year 6 Games Day	13/11/2019	
High School Orientation Day	03/12/2019	Year 6 only
Year 6 Farewell	16/12/2019	

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AT SCHOOL

- As directed by the Department of Education, all absences must be accounted for within seven days. You may do this by providing a note to your child's teacher explaining your child's absence upon their return to school. Late arrivals (after 9:00am) must go to the office to collect a late slip before going to class.
- Please familiarise yourself with Positive Behaviour for Learning at VRPS, the Awards System and the S.T.A.N.D acronym. The Student Welfare Policy is on the school's website and includes the Level System for behaviour management.
- It is very important that your child always has the correct equipment at school and that ALL equipment is labelled with their name. This also includes their school hat and black school shoes.
- If you have any concerns regarding your child's progress or wellbeing please contact the class teacher or Stage Supervisor. The School Counsellor and School Wellbeing Officer are available to provide additional support if required.
- Please continue to check the school newsletter, term calendars, the Skoolbag App and Facebook regularly for information, updates and additional school events.

The teachers are excited about the wonderful year planned for Stage 3. We have high expectations of all our students and with all that we have to offer at Vardys Road Public School, we believe that your children will participate with enthusiasm and a growing understanding of how they learn and what it means to be successful. We look forward to seeing our students' efforts to achieve their learning goals.

Ian Short
Principal

Beck Anderson
Assistant Principal (Relieving)