



# Vineyard Public School

**Excellence – Opportunity - Success**

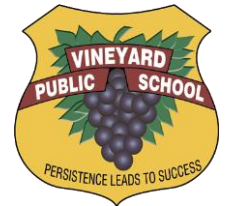
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## **Newsletter 2024**

**Term 1 Week 6**



View our Vineyard calendar in the School Bytes Parent Portal and School Bytes App

Vineyard students, teachers, and our learning is well underway for 2024, with students showing determination to be successful, having high expectations for themselves and each other as well as enjoying being in their new classes.

Our Student Leadership team is currently examining ways to improve our school. They recently presented their first campaign to our P&C and fellow students, outlining how they aim to make a positive impact and serve our school community. This marks the beginning of an exciting leadership journey, as each member of the team is passionate about listening to their fellow students, responding to identified areas of need, and working to make Vineyard Public School the very best it can be.

Our Semester 1 Student Representative Council (SRC) members have been elected by their fellow peers and received their badges at the assembly on Friday. The SRC students themselves have written their own pledge, clearly defining their commitment to this important role. They regularly attend meetings with Miss Lee and will also receive formal leadership training during the semester. Their enthusiasm and dedication to serving the community is evident and inspiring.

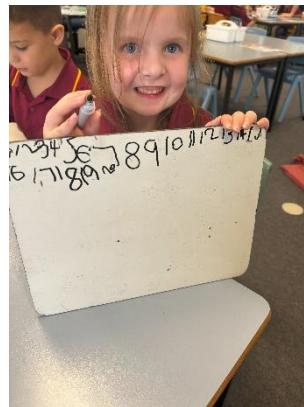


## Phoenix News from Miss Fraser



The students in Kindy Phoenix have settled well into their first term of school. We have focused on developing our classroom routine and forming new friendships through play and learning experiences. Kindy Phoenix focuses on foundational reading and writing skills by exploring initial sounds and learning how to blend and read CVC words. Our phonological program assists in this learning by focusing on syllables and rhyming to further support students emerging reading skills.

During mathematics, Kindy phoenix has explored number concepts such as counting forwards to 100 and back from 100. This has also included developing counting skills of finding the final total of a count and using one to one correspondence. Kindy is further focusing on their number writing skills, ready to use their learning to explore new concepts during mathematics.



## ***Rockets News from Mrs Ritchie***

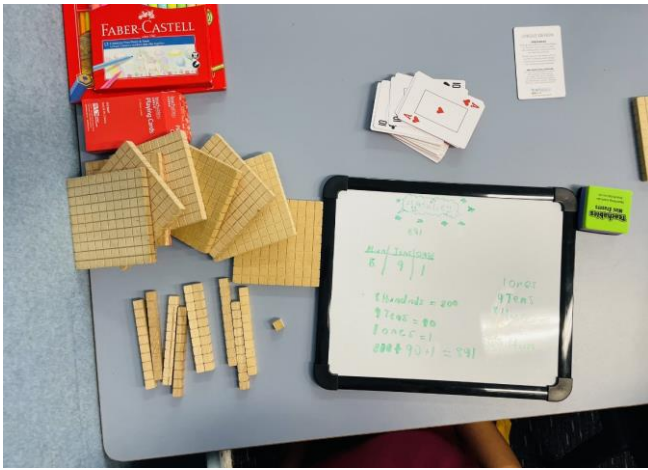


1/2Rockets have blasted off into 2024! We've had a great start to the new school year and spent the first few weeks getting to know each other through games and activities. We played a game called 'Same Here!' The students sat in a circle and each student took turns saying something about themselves. If someone else can say the same thing about themselves, they say, 'Same Here!' The ball of wool is passed to that student and the student who finished speaking keeps hold of a strand of wool. That student then continues to speak about themselves and play continues until all students have spoken. We played this game to learn that 1/2Rockets connected as a class group and this connection is important for how we will work together throughout the year.

1/2Rockets are also well established now in daily routines. The students always start the day and end the day with big smiles on their faces. We love to sing songs in class and enjoy listening to stories. At the moment, I am reading *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl as a nice lead into Easter.

## ***2/3 Lunars News from Miss Lee***

Greetings from the 2/3 Lunar! We've had an exciting time diving into various subjects and expanding our knowledge in different areas. In English, students have honed their reading and spelling skills through collaborative groups, focusing on grapheme-phoneme correspondences. We've also been crafting concise summaries highlighting key elements like characters, setting, conflict and resolution while making personal connections to the text. In mathematics, we've delved into the base-10 place value system, mastering the identification and partitioning of numbers, which has greatly enhanced our calculation fluency and problem-solving abilities. Exploring the measurement of length has been another fascinating journey, where we've embraced both informal and metric units. Our scientific explorations have led us to observe changes in the sky throughout the day, investigating Earth's rotation and its impact on shadows. History lessons have taught us the significance of studying the past through artefacts and understanding how things evolve over time. In Health, we've celebrated our unique traits and strengths as learners, applying strategies to enhance our engagement in learning. Creatively, we've been responding to and creating art using diverse mediums, sparking our imagination. Lastly, on the sports field, we've been perfecting our catching skills and refining our hitting techniques, particularly in the context of tennis. It's been a dynamic and enriching learning journey for all of us here at Vineyard Public School.



### ***Comets News from Mrs Coleman***

The 4/5/6 Comets have blasted off into 2024. There are billions of comets in the solar system, but in 4/5/6, we are lucky to have 18 of the brightest flying close to Earth. In English, our focus is on exploring texts and writing to entertain. Our mathematics is centred around manipulating numbers and place values. We are following the voyages of some early explorers and recreating famous works of art, as well as mastering our tennis skills.

### ***Launch of our Hero App - Connecting Learning at School and Bringing it Home***



We believe in fostering a strong partnership between the classroom and home to empower every child's learning journey. Our parents have expressed a deep desire for better communication that will enhance their child's education. We are committed to making this a reality and creating a seamless interconnection between a child's learning progress and their family life.

Miss Fraser recently presented our solution, which is the Hero App, to our P&C. Together, we will build a strong partnership through a shared knowledge of what your child is learning and how they are achieving their goals. By bridging these two worlds, we can create a shared partnership that fosters understanding and growth. Let's embrace this connection and empower our children, our partnership and the connected role we play in our children's education.

Further information on how to access your child/children's digital portfolio will be provided during the Meet the Teacher evening on Monday, 11th March. Instructions on how to log in have been shared on School Bytes and also sent home as a hard copy.

## ***Our Award System***

As with all effective schools, we are always evaluating the work we do and ensuring we are creating an environment that fosters student agency, efficacy and growth. This has involved doing a major review of our Grape Award system in line with current research and best practices. The questions and areas of discussion with staff, students and parents were:

- Is this system used regularly and consistently by all staff? Why? Why not?
- Is this award/reward achievable by every student? Why? Why not?
- Discussion around the public acknowledgment of the award/reward system. School assembly.
- What is our parent/community's understanding of the current system?

Staff listed additional awards/rewards our school may be able to incorporate into our system. We also discussed what we would like the award system to look like in our school. Motivation plays a crucial role in students' learning process. Instead of solely focusing on achieving a reward, it is important to shift the emphasis towards understanding the reason behind it.

Based on the feedback gathered from students, it was observed that they were not able to explain clearly what they did to receive an award. The awards were mostly given for an action rather than an effort. We aim to establish a learning partnership with students, which involves supporting them in setting their learning goals and helping them understand the rewards, both intrinsic and extrinsic, that come with putting in effort and engaging with learning. We also recognise learner dispositions such as persistence, thinking about their thinking, accepting feedback, and teamwork. By rewarding learners for their accomplishments, we motivate them to keep working towards their goals. In the upcoming assembly, you will notice that the children will not only receive an award, but it will also be clearly outlined what they did to achieve this recognition.

## ***Sandpit Update***

Our school community, including students, teachers, parents, and P&C, collaborated to update our sandpit area and purchase new equipment. We are happy to announce that the new toys have arrived and are being used daily by many of our students. However, the progress has been slowed down due to the lifting of the plastic sheeting at the bottom of the sandpit. We are currently waiting for approval to have the sand removed, the sheeting fixed, and the sand replaced.

## ***Meet the Teacher Night***

On Monday, the 11th of March, we will open our doors for all parents and carers to meet their child/children's teacher. These sessions will provide parents with class-specific information and the opportunity to ask questions and engage in social conversation with the teacher. However, please note that this is not the time for parents to conduct an interview about their child. If you require an interview, please make an appointment with your child's teacher.



**Monday 11 March 2024**

Meet the Teacher information sessions:-

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Miss Fraser and Mrs Ritchie

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm Miss Lee

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm Mrs Coleman

*Find out what is happening @  
Vineyard Public School in 2024*



## ***Assembly Changes***

To ensure we cover the mandatory curriculum time allocation, we need to reduce the number of assemblies. With four classes this year, it is easier to allocate one per term. Our connection between home and school will be stronger with the introduction of Hero, Meet the Teacher and school events.

## **NAPLAN**

### **NAPLAN 2024 Parent and Carer Information**

Each year, the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is undertaken by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Students will participate in tests for writing, reading, and conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

NAPLAN 2024 will take place from Wednesday, 13 March to Monday, 25 March.

NAPLAN is just one part of our school learning assessment program. The tests assess literacy and numeracy skills your child is already learning at school.

In preparation for NAPLAN, our school will undertake activities to help students become familiar with the format and functionality of the online tests. These activities are not an assessment of student ability and will not be marked.

The public demonstration site (<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>) is available to see the types of questions, tools and functions used in the NAPLAN tests.

Further information about NAPLAN is available on the NESA website (<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/k-10/understanding-the-curriculum/naplan/parent-information>).

Please see Mrs Coleman or Mrs De Jager if you have any questions.

## ***We Need Your Help***



Together, we can make a difference! Our school community is growing and we need your help to meet the demands of providing lunches on Mondays and Wednesdays. Your contribution as a volunteer will be a valuable asset to our school. We hope you will consider joining us in this important role.

## ***Important Upcoming Events***

- School photos 14th March
- NAPLAN Week 7 and 8
- Harmony Day Thursday 21st March Everyone wears orange
- Epilepsy Day Tuesday 26th March Everyone wears purple
- Easter Hat Parade Thursday, March 28th 1:45 pm Afternoon Tea  
2 pm the Easter Hat Parade and Performances. Windsor Country Village, parents and carers are invited to attend.
- ANZAC Service on the last day of school. Friday 12th April. We will have visitors from the RSL and the Piper attending. 9:15 am for a 9:30 am start. Everyone is welcome and it will be a formal commemoration.

Have a wonderful week.

Mrs De Jager  
Relieving Principal