Principal, Mr Nash’s corner

SAFETY AROUND THE SCHOOL

Could we all take care this term to be ever vigilant especially when driving around the school. If at all possible, if you live close to the school, walking could save some of the congestion we are experiencing each morning and afternoon. If you see parents parking in the bus zone or no parking areas, across driveways and on neighbours front lawns, as a community member, I feel, (for the safety of your children) you have the right to mention their indiscretions to them.

SECURITY AROUND THE SCHOOL

As part of Australia’s heightened state of alert, a memo was sent at the end of last term for schools to be vigilant, and to look for strangers, packages and to heighten awareness of security arrangements including lock down and evacuation procedures. Many times a day, staff has to close the front gate at Administration as parents open it to enter/exit and leave it open. All gates will be closed as usual each day with the Administration gate the only place for entry and exit throughout the day. I am looking into completing the security fencing at the Admin. Area (Values Garden) which was never completed when originally installed.

If you are visiting the school for any reason you must sign in and out of the school at the Admin. office.

BUSHFIRE SEASON

I attended a Bush Fire Briefing for School Principals at the end of last term at the Woronora Bush Fire Brigade Station. These meetings are always informative and cover topics such as evaluations of last year’s season, this year’s outlook, emergency management arrangements, bush fire behaviour and building loss, fire danger ratings and notification, bush fire alerts, bush fire plans for ‘at risk’ facilities, evacuations and ‘shelter in place’ and school preparedness, and pre-season inspections.

Our school is part of the Sutherland Shire early warning system due to the school being identified by DEC as ‘high risk’ from bushfire. The proximity to Oatley Park and bordering the Sutherland Shire’s high risk areas are a part of this identification.

As part of the preparedness for bush fire season, Oatley West Public School had an annual inspection by the RFS to ensure the external maintenance of vegetation around the school grounds and building maintenance (externally) is appropriate for bush fire protection. This is an extremely important process as it will ensure that the ‘shelter in place’ policy now adopted by the Department up to an Extreme Fire Danger Rating is robust. This process is by no means a new process to the majority of Principals in identified schools and has been occurring for over five years.
The schools identified as at risk from bush fire or that will be impacted by a large scale bush fire event and identified for inspection are:

- Alfrords Point Public School
- Bates Drive School
- Bangor Public School
- Bonnet Bay Public School
- Bundeeana Public School
- Grays Point Public School
- Heathcote East Public School
- Illawong Public School
- Jannali Public School
- Jannali East Public School
- Loftus Public School
- Lucas Heights Community School
- Menai Public School
- Oatley West Public School
- Royal National Park Environmental Ed. Centre
- Tharawal Public School
- Waterfall Public School
- Woronora Public School
- Yarrawarrag Public School

As you can see we have a lot in common environmentally with these schools and the need to have a greater understanding of the emergency management arrangements around large scale bush fire events is imperative.

The Sutherland Bush Fire Management Committee has brought forward the statutory Bush Fire Danger Period to the 1st September 2014.

As any bush fire event whether from Oatley Park or Sutherland Shire boundaries could impact on you and your homes it is timely to revisit your own home Bush Fire Survival Plan. Copies are available on the RFS Website. There is a copy at Administration should you wish to view one.

Our Emergency Management Plans have been inspected and passed as being in preparedness for any bush fire event. Our problems will be trying to implement them. In the event of an ‘incident’ it is imperative that you let us put these plans in action.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE COMMUNITY DOES NOT DRIVE TO THE SCHOOL GRIDLOCKING ROADS ESPECIALLY IMPEDING ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES SUCH AS FIRE ENGINES TO GET INTO THE AREA.

Our plan is to close the school in the event of a catastrophic event. We will have advanced warning and have already an SMS system and now Skoolbag to inform you that the school will be closed. In the event of an extreme warning and we are caught at the school, Kingsgrove Bus Company is on standby to come to evacuate the school with a fleet of buses which will take us to the Georges River College at Oatley. All evacuation and lock down procedures have been practiced and logged with the Department. Let’s hope that we never experience an event such as a bush fire but be assured we are as ready as we can be.

PARENTS AND CITIZENS MEETING

Please note that P&C will be held in the Technology Room tonight at 7.30. Mrs Ross will be reporting on our school’s recent NAPLAN results and Ms Sheehy will be discussing the upcoming ‘Stepping Stones’ Kindergarten Intake Orientation Program. Our school recognises the strong support we have from our parents and the Oatley West community. A strong P&C working on behalf of the students and teachers at the school makes us strong and supportive.

I will be attending a ten week course in the city each Monday this term so unfortunately may miss a couple of the upcoming P&C meetings, however Mrs Ross will represent me and furnish my Principal’s Report and the School Executive will attend the meetings.

STAFF ARRANGEMENTS

Ms Eaton will continue in the role as Relieving Principal at Peakhurst South until the end of the year. This means that Mrs Ross will continue relieving for Ms Eaton in the non-teaching Assistant Principal role, Mrs Laurence will continue to relieve for Mrs Ross as Assistant Principal (teaching) and Mrs Koutodimos will relieve Mrs Ross as Classroom Teacher with 2R.

SCHOOL ORGANISATION FOR 2015

I need to let the department know an estimate of students for 2015 to plan for staffing, programs and accommodation issues for next year. If you are not returning to Oatley West Public School in 2015 could you please let the Administration Office know as soon as possible. If you know of any new residents moving into Oatley West and are within our catchment area please let them know to enrol with the school as soon as possible.
THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

I’m a teacher. A teacher is someone who leads. There is no magic here. I do not walk on water. I do not part the sea. I just love children.
Marva Collins

PHOTO DAY

Tomorrow, Tuesday 14th, is photo day for sports teams and performing arts groups. All students who have been in a sport team this year, or a representative at district and region events, remember sports uniforms.

Band members need to wear performance clothes to school and then change into school or sports uniform. Girls Dance and Boys Hip-hop bring your costumes to school to change at end of lunch time.

Don’t forget your smiles.
PUBLIC SPEAKING NEWS

This coming Wednesday will be an exciting day for four students from Oatley West. The 2014 Sydney School Public Speaking Competition will be held at Penshurst West Public School, and the following students will be representing our school:

- Early stage 1: Lachlan Quinn - Fishing
- Stage 1: Gillian Cottier - Art
- Stage 2: Lara Murphy - Making a difference
- Stage 3: Simone Allen - Bacteria

We wish these students all the very best as they compete against many other schools. It is not an easy job speaking in front of so many people. Good luck!

Miss Hart and Mrs Hatzistergos

SPORTS REPORTS

Boys Basketball Round 3

Last Friday we played Lugarno here at school and once again scored two brilliant wins.

Juniors won 62-0 with top scorers William with 20 points, Tom 13 points and Matthew 11 points. Oliver K. scored 6 points, James and Dean each scored 4 points while Oliver V. and Martin each scored 2 points. Great work boys!

Seniors won 48-18 with Harrison top scoring with 14 points and Lawrence 12 points. Socrates and Connor each scored 8 points, Jayden scored 4 points and Alex 2 points. An excellent game overall.

Many thanks to Gretel Bush for refereeing the game and to the many parents who came to support the boys.

This Friday we play Penshurst at Hurstville Aquatic Centre.

Anne Laurence

Girls Oztag

Last Friday both the senior and junior girls oztag teams played against Penshurst West Public School. The senior team came away with another great win, so far remaining undefeated! The final score was 17-0. The girls, once again, worked brilliantly as a team.

The junior girls played an incredible game. They were down 5-1 at the end of the first half and managed quite the comeback with the final score being 9-7. Unfortunately Penshurst West were victorious on the day. The junior team should be very proud of their efforts and the sportsmanship that was displayed on the day was admirable. I am very proud of you!

A huge thankyou to Mr Sheinwald who came back to help us out and cheer us on! We appreciate all your help and support!

Miss Hart
STAGE 3 NEWS

Gymnastics- Stage 3 will be participating in a Gymnastics program starting next Monday 20th October (Week 3) and running for seven weeks. A permission note will be attached to the Stage 3 Term Note which you will receive this week and the cost will be $22 per student. Sports uniform will be worn by Stage 3 students every Monday from Week 3 - Week 9.

Selective High School Placements Year 7 2016
- This year all applications for selective high school testing for 2016 placements must be done online. Please use the following link:
  www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement

Key Dates for Year 7 2016
14th October, 2014- Applications open online
17th November, 2014 – Applications close. No late applications
12th March, 2015 – Selective High School Placement Test
Early July 2015 – Outcomes advice

Peace Posters- Please remember that all Year 6 Lions Peace Poster Competition entries must be handed to Mrs Laurence no later than this Friday 17th October, 2014.

Anne Laurence- Acting Assistant Principal Stage 3

STAGE 2 NATIONAL PARK EXCURSION
Last term Stage 2 went to the Royal National Park. We met first at the Education Centre and Audley Heights. We then made our way down towards the Basin near the Port Hacking River. We learnt about different animals in the areas, the roles of people who work for the National Parks and even did some bird watching! We then explored the local area, using ochre to paint our faces, built shelters from natural resources and saw some interesting wildlife. We learnt a lot and had a great day. Thank you to all the teachers involved in arranging and attending the excursion.

Miss Cross AP Stage 2

STATE ATHLETICS
Good luck to Charlotte and Lincoln who will be participating in the State athletics carnival this week. Congratulation to Charlotte who broke 2 records at the previous carnivals for the 800m!

Miss Cross
Sports coordinator
GRANDPARENTS' DAY - WEDNESDAY
22ND OCTOBER

All Grandparents and “Grandfriends” of Oatley West Public School students are warmly invited to our school for a special celebration of Grandparents’ Day on Wednesday 22nd October. The timetable of events on the day is as follows:

- **9:45am** Years 3-6 Assembly in our school hall

- **10:15am** K-6 Classroom visits

- **10:45am** Kindergarten – Year 2 Assembly in our school hall

- **11:15am** Morning tea (provided for Grandparents and “Grandfriends”) with students in the playground

- **11:50am** Regular lessons recommence

Parents and caregivers please note that attendance at this special celebration is for Grandparents and “Grandfriends” only.

Grandparents and “Grandfriends” – Please don’t forget to bring your camera with you so that we can capture that special moment for you with your grandchild!

SRC INITIATIVE: LOUD SHIRT AND WACKY HAIR DAY – THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER

There will be a Loud Shirt and Wacky Hair Day on this Thursday 16th October. All students K-6 are asked to come to school in bright coloured mufti and their wackiest hairstyles! Whether you fancy stripes, florals, polka dots or paisley, as long as your clothes have colour and pizzazz, they will be perfect for Loud Shirt and Wacky Hair Day. Coloured hair spray, fun hair styles, wigs and weird hats are just some ideas for wacky hairstyles.

The brightest and most colourful classes from K-2 and 3-6 will win a prize. Students should bring a gold coin donation so that we as a school community can help to give the gift of sound and speech to deaf children.

In addition to the gold coin donation, if students would like to get their hair coloured at school, the SRC will be spraying students' hair with colourful hairspray at a cost of 50c per student.

Wherever you live in Australia, hearing impairment affects 1 in 500 children at birth.

Deafness is the most common childhood disability. Thanks to continued donations and support, Loud Shirt Day was able to raise $386,000 nationwide in 2013. The public’s generous donations opened the door to a wonderful world of sound for deaf children. These children now have opportunities for mainstream education, employment of choice and full integration in the hearing world. This year it is hoped to raise $450,000 nationally.

If you would like further information, please go to the following link


Thank you for your support with this worthwhile fundraising.

Mrs Ross - Assistant Principal
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