Welcome back to Term Four. I certainly hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and are back ready for a great eleven weeks at Oatley West Public School. This will be a busy term as our three year plan comes to an end; we evaluate and begin planning for the 2015-2017 three year plans and beyond. Staff will be busy evaluating their area of the school and busy forming new teams to develop our ongoing aspirations. We will be involving our community in all evaluations and future planning so I hope that if you receive a survey, phone call or asked to participate in a forum that you take this advantage to have input into our wonderful school. This term is also the term to write our Annual School Report, so again if you are asked to participate, please take the opportunity to have your say about how you feel the school has performed over the past three years and where you think it should be heading over the next three years and beyond.

POLICE VISIT
Hurstville Police visited our school during the last week addressing the K-6 Assembly. A very shiny Police car took centre stage on the basketball court. The police spoke about road safety and general personal safety including stranger awareness. Below are some pictures from the visit.
As part of the commemoration of the First World War and the landing of Gallipoli next year, I accompanied a group of select Year 5 students along with Ms Aravanopoulos and Mrs Fitzpatrick to a special display of soldier’s WW1 diaries and history at the State Library and then a very interesting tour of the Art Gallery.

In 2015 as Australia commemorates the centenary of the landing at Gallipoli, our school will be involved in activities relating to this history. This display of diaries was coming to completion and it was a good opportunity to have some students to acknowledge and to have knowledge of this history. I will also be adding some form of commemoration to next year’s St George Performing Arts Festival.

Mental Health Month NSW

Mental Health Month NSW is part of a national mental health promotion campaign held throughout October each year. The timing of the campaign centres on World Mental Health Day, which is marked each year on October 10. The theme for Mental Health Month this year is ‘beYOUnique!’ This theme promotes acceptance and an understanding of the impact that being proud of who we are can have on our wellbeing. Let’s celebrate our strengths and differences and be ourselves! This theme aims to encourage all of us to consider our strengths and challenges and to nurture our own ‘unique worth’.

We should also take the opportunity to support the people in our lives and celebrate their own individual qualities that make them unique.
More information on Mental Health Month can be found at: http://www.mentalhealth.asn.au/programs/mental-health-month-nsw

There is some poetry completed by Stage 3 students further along in S3 report.

**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, as for the rest of the community for strangers, packages and to heighten awareness of security arrangements including lock down and evacuation procedures. We are up to date with our evacuation and lock down procedures and discussed this morning that 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.

I need to let the department know an estimate of students for 2015 to plan for staffing, programs and accommodation issues for 2015. If you are not returning to Oatley West Public School next year 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**
The twenty-first century must be the century of education and the century of the teacher.
Bill Clinton
PHOTO DAY

Photo day for all PSSA sport teams and performing arts groups is **week 2, Tuesday 14th October**. All members of PSSA teams will need to wear sport uniform on that day. Music bands will need to wear their music uniforms to school as music groups will be photographed first. Then they will need to change into either school or sport uniform. Dance groups will need to bring their performance outfits to school and change at school when instructed by your teachers.

A set of photos will be available later for families to view at the office and then order.

Don’t forget to bring your smile as well.

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

There will be a Loud Shirt and Wacky Hair Day on 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.

Loud Shirt Day is a positive nationwide fundraising campaign. Whilst it will be held nationwide on Friday 17th October, our school has decided to celebrate this day on Thursday 16th October due to PSSA and sporting commitments. We have decided to combine it with a Wacky Hair Day as well. 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 [http://www.loudshirtday.com.au](http://www.loudshirtday.com.au) Thankyou for your support with this worthwhile fundraising.

Mrs Ross Assistant Principal

STAGE 3 NEWS

Year 6 Farewell- The Year 6 Farewell dinner/disco will be held at Maso’s on **Wednesday December 10th (Week 10)**. Details are still being finalised and notes will be going out in the next few weeks. I will need to enlist the help of parents for various jobs leading up to the night and will organise a meeting shortly for anyone who is able to assist.

Year 6 PowerPoint-Help Needed! - It has become a tradition at the end of Year 6 to present a special PowerPoint which shows photos of our students "morphing" from Kindergarten to Year 6. All the photos are available here at school and we are seeking someone who has the knowledge and skills to put such a presentation together. Please see either Mrs Hatzistergos or myself if you can assist us in this task- it would be greatly appreciated!

Year 6 Signature Bears- The order was placed last term and these have arrived and are safely stored away ready for the end of the year. Many thanks to parents for sending in the orders promptly.

Peace Posters- Each year the students in Year 6 participate in the annual Lions Club Peace Poster Competition. This year’s theme is “Peace, Love and Understanding”. Year 6 received a note detailing the rules of the competition along with the special paper required for their artwork. These posters are to be returned to me no later than **next Friday 17th October** for school judging. Five posters will then be chosen to move to the next level of the competition.
Stage 3 Poetry Writing

Students in Stage 3 have reason to celebrate their own uniqueness during Mental Health Month. Last term, each of us had the opportunity to explore objects or people who are special to us and celebrate this in poetic form. Many of the students then entered their poems in the Red Room Poetry Object Competition. Follow the link below to read some of our unique poems and those from schools all around Australia.

http://redroomcompany.org/poetry-object/poems/

Anne Laurence- Acting Assistant Principal Stage 3

CHESS CLUB-TERM 4 2014

Chess classes for Term 4 will begin next Monday 13th October, 2014. The cost for this term will be $67.50 and there are still places available.

If you would like your child to join please collect a form from Mrs Laurence or download one from this newsletter and return it with your payment. No more new enrolments will be taken after this Thursday 9th October. Classes are held in 6L classroom on Mondays at lunchtime. Please see me if you have any queries. Anne Laurence
Why Chess?

• Create Brighter Thinkers
• Improve Student Focus
• Achieve Academic Success

Educational Benefits of Chess:
• Improves concentration and focus
• Develops logical thinking and problem solving skills
• Enhances memory
• Encourages creative and lateral thinking
• Promotes discipline
• Accelerates emotional development
• Expands visualisation and spatial awareness
• Demonstrates actions and consequences
• Rewards correct decision making
• Increases self-confidence
• Provides opportunities to make new friends from diverse backgrounds

Combine learning with fun!

Oatley West Public School Chess Classes, 2014
[Mondays 1:20PM - 2:10PM in Mrs Laurence’s classroom]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>$52.50</td>
<td>24th Feb - 7th Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>$52.50</td>
<td>5th May - 23rd Jun*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>$67.50</td>
<td>21st Jul - 15th Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>$67.50</td>
<td>13th Oct - 8th Dec</td>
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*No chess on 9th Jun (Public Holiday)

To Enrol:
Please collect a form from Mrs Laurence.
Oatley West Public School Chess Classes – 2014

Classes will take place on Mondays from 1:20PM – 2:10PM in Mrs Laurence’s classroom.

To enrol, please tick the appropriate boxes below:

Term 1 – Cost: $52.50  [24th Feb - 7th Apr]
Term 2 – Cost: $52.50  [5th May - 23rd Jun*]
Term 3 – Cost: $67.50  [21st Jul - 15th Sep]
Term 4 – Cost: $67.50  [13th Oct - 8th Dec]

Workbook 1 – Cost: $22  [Beginner / Rookie]
Workbook 2 – Cost: $22  [Intermediate]
Workbooks 1&2 – Cost: $35  [SPECIAL OFFER]
Chess clock – Cost: $65  [DGT Easy Gametimer]
Chess set – Cost: $22  [Roll-up chess board + pieces]
NEW Advanced Book – Cost: $33  [Exploration in Chess Beauty]

(Cheques should be made payable to Oatley West Public School)

Total amount paid: $________________

If your payment is not received by the day of the first lesson, your child cannot take part in the class. There will be no refunds for students who miss classes during the term.

Grading of Students
To give our chess coach an idea of the skill level of the group, please indicate your child’s approximate playing ability in the boxes below. If numbers are sufficient, students will be divided into groups according to their level. If you are unsure, here is a brief explanation of each level.

Beginner: Children who can’t play or only know a few of the rules of chess
Rookie: Children who know the rules of chess, movements, special rules, check, checkmate, stalemate and can play a game of chess
Intermediate: Children who understand opening principles, how to finish off the game, positional elements and tactics, and compete in tournaments.

□ Beginner Level □ Rookie Level □ Intermediate Level

If you are interested in your child taking part in this activity, please fill in this form and return it to the school office, along with payment for the appropriate term. Please ensure that you place the permission slip and payment inside a sealed envelope with your child’s name and class clearly written on the front.

Student’s Name: ___________________________________________ Date of Birth: _ _ / _ _ / _ _ _

Class: _________ Parent’s Name: _____________________________

Contact Numbers: (Home) ____________ (Work) ____________ (Mobile) ____________

Email: ________________________________

Relevant medical conditions / allergies: ___________________________

Signed: ___________________________________________ Date: _ _ / _ _ / _ _ _