PRINCIPAL NASH’S CORNER

WORLD TEACHERS’ DAY

Our school celebrated World Teachers’ Day last Thursday. It was a lovely day with teachers receiving positive messages all day from students across the school. There was a very warm feeling throughout the school for the whole day. Thanks to all our wonderful students for their thoughts and cards. Apologies for Mr Bs thumb in our photo as I was presented with a thoughtful card for World Teachers Day from KB.
SCHOOL DISCO
What a great night we had dressing up, dancing and having a lot of fun. We had our very own DJ this year (Ms Warren) who did a great job and kept both K-2 and 3-6 discos rocking along! I certainly enjoyed both discos especially the energy of our kids put in and their moves beyond belief. The all had a ball. Thanks to Ms Aravanopoulos and staff for their organisation and attendance on the night. I’m not sure who enjoyed themselves the most – teachers or kids?

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL POSITION
Last Wednesday a panel met to access the applications and to organise candidates for the new Deputy Principal position at the school. Interviews are to be held on Thursday after approval has been granted from the department of the short list presented by the panel. The new Deputy Principal will take up their position from the beginning of the school year in 2015.

STUDENT NUMBERS FOR 2015
I would really appreciate knowing if you will not be returning to Oatley West Public School in 2015. It is important for me to be able to plan for accommodation and staffing numbers. If you know you will not be returning to school next year please drop me a note or let your classroom teacher know. If you know of anyone looking for a school next year, please let them know what a great school they have right here at Oatley West.

SCHOOL CLUB COOK BOOK
The new Cook Book is on its way to the printers and the final copy I viewed last week is nothing short of outstanding. This is a great initiative by the School Club and depending on the number sold, will this year take the place of their usual fund-raiser either Spell-A-Thon or Sponsorship for the Oatley Park Walk-A-Thon. Please support School Club, as all money raised goes directly back into the hands of our students. Brochures and information have been sent home so please get your orders in. What a great Christmas present this would make for Grandparents or a special Aunty or Uncle!

THE BOOK WITH NO PICTURES
Mr Ballantyne was coerced into reading a rather unique book last week that had no pictures. We all enjoyed his enthusiasm as he read out some very descriptive words. We had to conjure up the pictures in our head!
JUNIOR TOILET BLOCK

The department has approved the removal of the two trees in the lower playground causing the junior toilet block to be closed and entrance to J Block being closed. The Arborist has recommended their removal. One is dying and the other is dangerous. We don’t do anything to our trees at Oatley West Public School unless they are DEAD, DYING or DANGEROUS. These are all three! Hopefully something will be done this week to allow for safe play in this area and for the toilet block and J Block steps to be reopened.

I have four other trees that have died and need removal. This will be at school expense. If anyone has contact with TAFE, Council or similar organisation they would be welcome to train their students in our playground any time.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

When students work with adults who continue to view themselves as learners who ask questions with which they themselves still grapple... students are more likely to demonstrate this characteristic themselves.

-Barzun

Sports Report

Boys Basketball Round 6

Our boys scored two more victories last Friday. This time it was against Peakhurst South on their home courts.

Juniors had an amazing win of 110-4 with top scorer Matthew with a massive 30 points, followed by William who scored an equally impressive 22 points, James scored 14 points, Oliver K. 10 points, Tom 8 points, Aidan, Dean and Oliver V each scored 6 points, Martin 4 points and Ashton and Louis 2 points each. Every player in the team scored points. Congratulations!! Seniors had a more challenging game and won 42-14 with top scorer Jayden on 12 points, followed closely by Harrison with 10 points, Lawrence scored 6 points, Jonathon and Alex scored 4 points each, Socrates and Daniel each scored 2 points. Well done boys! Special thanks to Gretel Bush for refereeing the games.

This Friday we play away at the Morris Iemma Indoor Sports Centre at Riverwood against Hannons Road.

Anne Laurence

Stage 3 News

Red Room Poetry Competition- Our five shortlisted poetry competition winners Kennice, Dominic, Bronte, Mrs McDonald and Mrs Laurence will attend the poetry launch at Liverpool Library this Thursday at 11am. We are all very excited!!

Year 6 Farewell Parent Dinner- Thankyou to all those parents who have returned the notes indicating numbers attending the parent dinner at Maso’s. I would appreciate all notes being handed in by the end of this week please so that I can then send out menus to all those attending.

Year 6 Fundraising- Many thanks to Mrs Leonie Eivers who was able to organise a taste testing fundraiser to pay for the Year 6 gift to the school. Notes went home today re a noodle tasting for children aged 8-12. Forms and questionnaires must be back by today to allow the company to choose the most suitable 45 applicants. The school can make up to $1900 for participating in this survey and tasting.

Anne Laurence- Acting Assistant Principal Stage 3
**Percussion Workshop**
The Percussion Workshop was a ‘banging’ success on Sunday. A big thanks to Ms Knott and Mrs Fitzpatrick who bravely put up with our noise and thanks to Mrs Lawrence for lending us her basketballs. The day was very successful and the program will be expanding to two days next year. Applications forms will be available during the week.

Michelle Schafer
Percussion Power Coordinator

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**Uniform Shop**
Acting Manager – Sia Coelho
E-mail: scoelho@iinet.net.au

The Uniform Shop is open every Thursday from 9-10am outside the KW classroom in C Block.

**Kindergarten Orientation Thank You** – Many thanks to our wonderful parent volunteers, Carmel Sharples, Rowena Shek, Natalie Hanlen, Liz Lomas, Kym Coleman, Renee Pont, Kelly Baker and Vinh Lien who have given up their time to assist at the second Kindergarten Orientation. We have received a lot of positive feedback on how well run Uniform Shop has been, this would not be possible without your help. Thank you also to Charlotte P for helping with packing up, it was very much appreciated.

There is one final date remaining for Kindy Orientation coming up on Wednesday 12th November. Again, if you are able to volunteer approximately two hours of your time on this day to help with Uniform sales, please contact Sia Coelho at scoelho@iinet.net.au

**Swimming Caps:** Swimming Caps are available for sale at the Uniform Shop for $5.00. The caps are available in the Sports House colours with OWPS and the House Name (e.g. Bass, Flinders etc.) printed on them. The caps are a great way of allowing students to identify who they are barracking for.

The school Swimming Carnival is usually held in the second week of Term 1. All students in Years 3-6 attend and any student in Year 2 who is turning eight in 2015 and is a proficient swimmer is also able to attend.

**Summer Uniform:** All students should now be wearing their summer Uniform. All uniform requirements are outlined in the School Website and P & C Website.

**Uniform Orders:** If you are unable to get to the Uniform Shop, an order form can be completed and dropped in to the school office. Please note the preferred payment method for orders is by Credit Card or Cheque. All orders will be delivered to your child’s classroom on Thursday when the shop is open.

**Parent Volunteers:** Uniform Shop is run by volunteers. If you have an hour to spare weekly, fortnightly, monthly or even just once or twice a Term, your help will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Sia Coelho at scoelho@iinet.net.au

**Noodle Surveys**
The Advertising Company have extended the deadline to return completed/signed surveys to: 10.30am Tuesday 4 November. They will pay for more qualifying survey participants, towards our Year 6 Soccer Goal Fundraiser. The more we get – the more we earn! Come on OWPS! Please participate!
Questions Parents Ask

Over the next few weeks I would like to share these references from http://www.read4success.com.au

“As simple as it sounds, ten minutes a day of quality time having fun with a book can make the difference between someone who struggles with reading and someone who discovers the love and joy of reading. It is not about reading today but about coming back to read again tomorrow and the day after. When the stress and angst of reading at home disappears, readers are advantaged.” Associate Professor Kaye Lowe  University of Canberra

1. How can I help David figure out the word?
Firstly, avoid fixating on the word! Give David time to look for the clues in the rest of the sentence, in the illustrations, or simply encourage him to go back to the beginning of the sentence. Relax and trust... he needs time to piece it together.
We want David to be independent so don’t jump in to rescue him. Avoid eye contact because the clue is in the book and not on your face. You will not be sitting next to him in the classroom when he next comes to a word he does not know.
Ask David to read ahead to collect more information. If he can’t read ahead, it is ok for you to finish the sentence and then ask: “What word do you think would fit here and make sense?” Encourage David to reread, skip the word, or guess a word that would make sense. These are the strategies he will use as an independent reader.

2. I’ve sounded the word out, but Sally still doesn’t know what the word is! What can I do?
Sounding out a word is the least effective strategy. Most words can’t be sounded out. Children often look like they are sounding out a word when, in fact, they are looking ahead and taking some time to piece the sentence together. Encourage Sally to read for meaning – ask, “What word would fit here and make sense?” Or simply say: “Read on, reread, look for clues in the text such as the illustration, or skip the word”.
Struggling readers often try to sound a word out and they become frustrated when it does not work. Avoid the frustration. Reading is not a test. Set Sally up for success. Complete an orientation to the book prior to the reading. Introduce her to unfamiliar words and talk about the book. By spending the first few minutes doing an orientation, you can avoid interrupting the reading and Sally can build confidence and fluency because she comprehends what she reads.
Next week’s questions:

3. How do I make Jordan read faster?
4. Sam only ever wants to read the same book over and over. How do I get him to read others?

Happy reading,
June Playford  (LaST)
Term 4, Week 5 highlights:

**OWPS P&C AGM (Annual General Meeting)** is tonight **Monday 3rd Nov** in the Multi-purpose Room at 7.30pm. New faces are very welcome – please bring 50c to pay 2015 P&C Membership and gain voting rights. All executive positions will be declared vacant. New President and Secretary for 2015 required. For more information on ‘Roles’ go to: pandc.org.au.

**Training Band 2015** - children currently in Years 2 - 5 may apply to join Training Band next year. Year 2 children have been given a Parent Information package. Children currently in years 3, 4 and 5 may apply using the form on the Music Council page of the P&C website. A **Parent Information Night** will be held on **Wednesday 5th November at 7.30pm** in the school hall which will be informative and entertaining! Please return Training Band audition forms to the Band Box in the office by Friday 7th November.

**Training Band** will perform at Minooka pre-school today **Monday 3rd November**. Thank you to the parents who are accompanying the children.

**Intermediate Band** will perform at Minooka pre-school on **Thursday 6th November**. Please return permission notes ASAP to Band Box in the school office.

**OWPS Cookbook orders** are still being taken. Complete the order form found on the P&C website and return with payment to receive your cookbooks before Christmas.

**Canteen daily specials** - Helpers always needed. Please contact Laronne on 0438422 179 if you can assist.