PRINCIPAL NASH’S CORNER

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL APPOINTED

We welcome Mrs Neralie Chappell to the new position of Deputy Principal at Oatley West Public School. This new Executive position was won on merit by Mrs Chappell under the Department of Education & Communities Merit Selection system. The role has been created due to student numbers at the school over the last two years. Mrs Chappell is currently the Assistant Principal at Beverly Hills Public School and is looking forward to taking up the position in 2015. She was in attendance at the school on Thursday to undertake training on the New School Planning Model with our Assistant Principals and Aspiring teachers. I am personally looking forward to working with Mrs Chappell and offer her a very warm welcome to our school.

COCKATOO ISLAND EXCURSION

I enjoyed a great time with our Y5 students at Cockatoo Island on Friday. I try to get out with Stage 3 students at the end of the year but unfortunately missed the Year 6 day due to training for the new school planning model on Thursday. I appreciate being welcomed by teachers and students when I join them in out of school activities and felt very much part of their learning. Cockatoo Island certainly has a varied history starting from Aboriginal settlement, early convict days, to a girls reformatory and as a ship building area. Today it is a space for the public to enjoy with camping and accommodation on the island and hosts art shows and concerts. Certainly a great experience.
COMBINED SCRIPTURE ASSEMBLY

Combined Scripture was held last week in the hall. This is a very special part of our year when all the various religious instruction teachers combine to celebrate Christmas.

FAREWELL TO YEAR SIX

I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to our year sixes. They have been a special group to me. These students have been with me for the entire 7 years starting in Kindergarten the same year as I arrived at Oatley West, so we share something quite special. They are the first group to go right through under my leadership. There are certainly some characters among them and it has been a pleasure to watch their growth from Kinder right through to Year 6. I hope they take all we had to offer them to high school and of course the wider world after that. Good luck in all your endeavours and pursue your dreams. Take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way!

JUNIOR SCHOOL ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY

It was great to see so many family and friends at school today to help celebrate the academic achievements of our students from Kindergarten to Year Two. This is a first for Oatley West and a great initiative from Mrs Ross and the teachers. Thanks to Mr David Coleman MP (Federal Member for Banks) for being in attendance and presenting the Commonwealth Parliamentarian Awards for Citizenship. Our Intermediate Band and Training Band performed beautifully and I thank Mr Mark Pinner for conducting them today. All K-2 students were beautifully behaved and it was obvious to me looking down from the stage that they were all happy for the students receiving their awards.

CHESS TOURNAMENT

Chess has become a very popular activity at our school over the past couple of years. Mrs Laurence’s enthusiasm, I’m sure has had a lot to do with the popularity. Mrs Laurence puts her own time into supervising chess club during lunch times and students really appreciate the opportunity to learn from the experts at The Sydney Academy of Chess. The end of year chess tournament is an annual event at the school. Tournament outcomes are further along in this newsletter.

LIBRARY REFIT

Great things are happening in our Resource Centre (Library Building). Amongst the mayhem of the annual stocktake, all the old shelving is being removed to be replaced with a new configuration of shelving and furniture which will allow more open plan use of this fabulous space.

Enquiry based learning has been taking place during lessons in the library over the past few years and it has become obvious, especially since the introduction of the iPad fleet that more physical space is needed.
The school has been lucky to have Nathan, Daniel and Nicholas here on work experience and they were certainly put to good use during the transition. They had no escape. Who wouldn’t do what both mums told them to do!! Many thanks boys for your efforts.

The new configuration of the Library will allow for two classes to use the space at one time. Timetables are being looked at to reflect this for next year. The long range plan is to build out the Library in two areas. The first is to build an Annex on the pergola side of the Library (Oatley Park Avenue) the second being to fill in the verandas on the playground side to give space for a bank of computers and room for Library resources. An ambitious plan but achievable!

**PLAYGROUND MARKINGS**

The School Club has commissioned Lex James to draw educational playground markings across the school in various areas. This has been some time coming as Lex is a much sought after artist and very popular with schools. We have been waiting for our school to creep up the list and last week it was our turn to have the work done. As you know the weather hasn’t turned out too well for drawing and painting. Lex did come down from Newcastle last Tuesday but had to return home. We are next on his list but this week isn’t shaping up to be any better.

Lex is a talented artist and is also a published author/illustrator. He has recently had a children’s book published, along with co-author/illustrator Geoff Trescott. The book is called NAUTICAL NONSENSE, and is beautifully illustrated and a vividly coloured hard-covered book that has explored the weird and wacky names that are given to sea creatures in and around our seas, personifying and animating them so they look literally as their names suggest. It has hidden creatures on each page, explanations and fun facts about the sea creatures and fun rhyming verses aimed directly at the ages of primary aged children. If your kids would like to get a personally signed copy of this book while Lex is here, please drop your money in an envelope.

The envelope can be dropped into the box at the office by the end of next week. Cost per book is $19.99. A great gift for Christmas.
**MRS INNES**

Mrs Innes will not be back this year. After her recent illness, she thought she would be well enough to return, not wanting to let anyone down. Most of all was her concern for the class and the end of the year.

Ms Piniros was on the class today and Mr Poullos will be able to stay with the class until the end of the year. We wish Mrs Innes well and hope she has a good recovery over the holidays. Merry Christmas to all the Innes family.

**TREE MAINTENANCE**

Our tree man Troy was to finish today but unfortunately the weather has not permitted this to happen. He has done a great job trimming all the dead wood from the canopy especially in the Caterpillar playground and in front of H Block Kindergartens rooms. He also removed some dead trees from both areas. There is still some dead wood in the Lower Playground that will finish the work for this year.

**A BIG THANK YOU**

I would like to finish this week’s newsletter with a big thanks to two special people around our school who go far above and beyond the call of duty. Both Suzana and Krishna are our two cleaners that ensure our school is clean and tidy every day and that the yard is clear of debris from trees and rubbish daily. I took the time to talk with them during the week.

Suzana is from Macedonia and came to Australia eight years ago with her husband and children. She has a son and a daughter. Suzana has been working seven and a half years at Oatley West Public School and says she is very happy with all the staff especially with the principal! English is her second language and she feels very thankful to everyone for their patience.

Krishna Prasad Nepal comes from a small town called Gorkha which is at the footsteps of the majestic Himalayas in Nepal. He came to Australia in 2009 to further study and to help himself and his family to have a better future. In the beginning he had difficulty adjusting to the western lifestyle and had language problems too. He started by doing menial jobs like fruit picking, cleaning and storekeeping which is considered to be a low grade job back in his country.

In Australia everyone looks down with equal rights and respect he said. The Australian lifestyle has taught him to have a positive approach towards all and to respect and honour each and everyone irrespective of their caste, religion or their professional life. Krishna has one daughter, his mother, his wife and four sisters. He has been working at Oatley West Public School for nearly a year now. He is very happy to work at the school with a beautiful staff and especially a great principal!

**GENERAL THANKS**

I would like to take this opportunity to send my thanks to everyone that has had input into our school throughout 2014. The list is too large and the people too numerous to mention however, know you are appreciated and well thought of in the capacity you have given.

I think about the classroom helpers; mums and dads that come up to class for reading groups and class activities, scripture teachers that come and go every week, ethics teachers, Barbara Westbury and her small band of ex teachers that attend every week to work with kids, banking, school...
club, library, uniform shop, canteen, band, parents and citizens, school council. I hope I haven’t missed any? We couldn’t do without you and your efforts no matter how small. Thank you from all of us.

CONGRATULATIONS MISS BENITA
Congratulations to Benita Clark our School Chaplain for recently completing her religious studies and attaining the status of Reverend. Benita has become an integral part of our school working with students, parents and teachers, especially in the classroom and playground. We wish her well and will have to get used to calling her Reverend Benita!

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK
Anonymous
*Leading a child to learning’s treasures, gives a teacher untold pleasures.*

Anonymous
*Teachers don’t impact for a year, but for a lifetime.*

END OF YEAR ASSEMBLIES

Sports Presentation Assembly
Our annual Sports Presentation Assembly will be held in the school hall on **Tuesday 9th December, 2014** beginning at **10am**. All students in Years 3-6 will be attending along with any Year 2 students who are 8 years old and attended the carnivals this year. Our new House Captains will also be inducted at this assembly. All students are to wear sports uniform on Tuesday. We hope you can join us for this special occasion.

Academic Presentation Assembly/Year 6 Graduation
This annual assembly will be held in the school hall on **Wednesday 10th December, 2014** starting at **10am**. All students in Years 3-6 will be attending and full school uniform is to be worn. Our new SRC leaders will be inducted along with the graduation of Year 6 students. We hope to see you there!

STAGE 3 NEWS

Year 6 Farewell – All is in readiness for our Year 6 Farewell Dinner/Disco to be held at St George Maso’s this Wednesday 10th December starting at 6pm. Students can begin arriving from 5.30pm to allow time to take photos on the grass area at the back of the car park. We are all looking forward to a great evening.

Year 6 Farewell Parent Meeting – A big thank you to all those parents who came to the meeting last Thursday and who have offered their assistance. Setting up will take place from 1pm on Wednesday.

Year 6 Collage – These are due today and will be collected from my room after school ready to taken to the venue on Wednesday.

Year 6 Fete - We managed to raise an amazing $3800 from this year’s fete. Congratulations Year 6!

Year 6 Fun Day - Our Fun Day to Cronulla was a huge success. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the movie and the students’ behaviour at Shelley Park afterwards was exemplary. We all had a wonderful day.

Anne Laurence- Acting Assistant Principal Stage 3
YEAR 5 EXCURSION TO COCKATOO ISLAND

Last Friday Year 5 students, teachers and Mr Nash enjoyed a wonderful day out on the harbour with a visit to Cockatoo Island.

The trip was a worthwhile culmination to our work on the levels of government and the role of the public in making change in our society.

We toured the island and learnt about how it has played such a varied role in our city and its history.

Many students are keen to revisit the island over the holidays and act as personal tour guides for their families!

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish all our students and their families a safe and relaxing holiday and to thank them for their effort and support throughout the year.

Year 5 Teachers.

LIBRARY NEWS

New Shelving
The new shelving has arrived and was installed on Thursday. We now begin the process of putting the books back on the shelves and continuing with the stock take. Many thanks to Mrs Fulker, Mrs Graham, Mr Barry, Mr Carl, Nathan Fitzpatrick and Daniel and Nicholas Morris, who worked tirelessly in assisting us to empty and take down the existing shelving. Next year we hope to purchase Bay Ends for the shelving and relevant signage.

Overdue Loans
Thank you to all those students who have returned their Library books. If you have any books at home, please return them ASAP. Overdue notices will be sent home on Tuesday.

Rita Fitzpatrick and Virginia Morris

OATLEY WEST CHESS TOURNAMENT

Last Friday, Per, from The Sydney Academy of Chess, ran a very successful chess competition for Oatley West students in the school hall. There were 31 competitors and results at the end were extremely close. Congratulations to all players on your skill and sportsmanship.

Here are the prize winners from the event:

Trophy Winners
1st Place - Rohan
2nd Place - Luke
3rd Place - William

Medal Winners
Kindergarten- James
Year 1 - Matthias
Year 2 - Coby
Year 3 - Zachary
Year 4 – Maya

Chess Club finishes for 2014 today. We look forward to another successful year in 2015.

Anne Laurence
TREE PLANTING AT LILM KILN BAY
On Monday 1st December 3B went to Lime Kiln Bay to plant some native plants. It was just down the road from our school.

First a lady called Mrs Vella came into our class to tell us what we were going to be doing and gave us some safety rules. After that we started heading down. When we were walking we stopped at her car, and she showed us a Moor hen and a Teale duck. We were so interested that the ladies from Hurstville Council snuck up on us!

Next we walked down a steep hill. Alison lead us to a pile of shells but it’s actually called a midden. Then we went over to a table, to see what pollution does to our waterways. After that we had muffins, cupcakes and fruit for morning tea.

After that, a Council worker called Jason showed us where to put the plants. We started planting. Then we fed the new native plants with water and Seasol. The Leader’s photographer took a photo of all of us, and then took James and Anabelle for a photo.

Finally, we got our drink bottles and started walking up the hill again. When we were walking back we saw an Eastern water dragon.

That was an exciting excursion. I hope we can go again.

Kai Robertson 3B

GARDEN CLUB
GARDEN CLUB - Rosemary Sale
On Tuesday this week the garden Club will be selling Rosemary plants and bunches of dried organic Rosemary. Plants are $2 and dried Rosemary bundles are $1. Money raised will go towards seed stock for 2015.

Mr Burr
Garden Club

CANTEEN NEWS
The Canteen will be closed this Wednesday 10 December.

Please note the Last day for Canteen in 2014 is FRIDAY DEC 12th

Thank you.
Meet Hairy Maclary and his posse of pooches at the State Library of NSW

24/10/2014

When a scruffy black dog by the name of Hairy Maclary leapt off the page and out of the gate 35 years ago, little did its owner know what a huge sensation he would cause even to this day!

Inspired by the madcap humour of Dr Seuss, Lynley Dodd’s popular rhyming picture books about dogs and cats have sold in the millions and catapulted Hairy Maclary from Donaldson’s Dairy to an international star in the eyes of children and grown-ups alike.

From 1 November 2014 the magic of Hairy Maclary, Slinky Malinki, Scarface Claw and friends come to life in a major exhibition at the State Library of NSW featuring 50 original drawings of beloved characters by the award-winning children’s book author.

Lynley Dodd: A Retrospective is more than an exhibition about cats and dogs, it is the story of the talented New Zealand-born artist, her education and rise to being one of the world’s most popular children’s writers and illustrators.

Lynley worked as an art teacher for five years before taking up freelance illustrating, including cartooning for newspapers in the 1970s. During this time she illustrated My Cat Likes to Hide in Boxes, co-created with her relative Eve Sutton, and remarkably it is still in print today.

The first of her own picture books was The Nickle Nackle Tree (1976), and more than 30 books have since followed including the enormously popular Hairy Maclary series. In 1979, while living in Lower Hutt, Lynley made a small sketch of a rather unkempt dog and Hairy Maclary was born, changing her life forever and bringing joy to bedtime reading for so many.

“i will always have a soft spot for Hairy Maclary though at times he needs reigning in as he gets ever so slightly out of control,” says Lynley, who loves to spoil her fiendish Burmese cat Suu Kyi, but wouldn’t say no if a dog came into her life.

Lynley Dodd: A Retrospective will appeal to people of all ages, with drawings from her first work dating back to school days, through to her latest book, Slinky Malinky, Early Bird, 2012. Younger visitors can get comfy in the exhibition reading room for storytime and a craft activity at 10.30am every Wednesday, or watch their favourite Hairy Maclary animated tale.

Dame Lynley Dodd is visiting Sydney in November to guest star at the State Library’s free family fun day. Join in the fun with storytelling, face painting, craft activities and
film screenings. Come dressed as your favourite Lynley Dodd character and join in the dress up parade. **Details: Saturday 22 November, 10am to 4pm, State Library of NSW.**

*Lynley Dodd: A Retrospective* is a touring exhibition from Tauranga Art Gallery, New Zealand and is on show at the State Library of NSW from 22 November 2015 to 15 March 2015.

**For more information, interviews and images, please contact:**
Vanessa Bond, Manager, Media & Communications Branch, State Library of NSW
(02) 9273 1566, 0411 259 898, vanessa.bond@sl.nsw.gov.au
Would like to invite you to the **K-2 Christmas Concert**

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014

**Time:** 10am

**Where:** OWPS School Hall

All K-2 classes performing

+ Junior & Year 1 Choir

Please stay for recess afterwards

*(tea, coffee and cake provided for parents)*
By the Oatley West P.S Drama Group with the Senior Dance Group and Senior Choir

Performing on Thursday December 11
6pm at Oatley West Public School

Entry by donation towards the OWPS Performing Arts Program