Principal, Mr Nash’s corner

LIFE EDUCATION
This is our second week of the Life Education Program and Happy Harold.

All students that I have spoken to about the lessons in the van were positive and reported that they enjoyed the program, especially Harold. This comment was not exclusive to the junior school!

Please take note that a special Parent Information Session is to be held Tuesday 26th at 9.30am. Traditionally this session does not receive good support so if you have some spare time this Tuesday, come along and see what your children are learning.
SCHOOL UNIFORM
There has been some discussion amongst the community about the relaxing of uniform standards across the school. Positive reinforcement and encouraging responsible behaviour where possible is our way to encourage students about the school uniform requirements. This is especially important when it comes to wearing the school sun hat. I explain regularly to students that peak caps, whether plain or with an advertisement or slogan on it are not deemed as school uniform. They do not offer the correct protection from the sun, especially the ears and neck.

By now I thought we would have had fair use of the bright new colourful joggers and multi-coloured laces that students came to school with in January, however, these are still appearing at the end of August. Black leather is the uniform shoe. Some time ago the ‘rules’ were relaxed to allow black joggers to be worn (no colours). Black joggers serve the purpose of a good fitting shoe for fitness and class based sport as well as complying with the colour of shoe in the uniform code. At no time were brightly coloured fluorescent shoes made part of the school uniform code.

‘The Uniform Policy is the result of formal consultation with the School Community. This includes students, teachers, parents and carers, including the Parents and Citizens’ Association, local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group and School Council. The consultation is conducted in a manner appropriate to the school and based on participatory decision-making principles. The school’s uniform policy and uniform requirements should be formally endorsed by the school community before implementation.’
DEC School Uniform Policy 1.4

‘The school’s uniform policy and school uniform requirements should be viewed at least every five years and amended where necessary. Groups within the school community may also seek a review when circumstances change significantly or issues arise.’
DEC School Uniform Policy 1.6

‘The Department of Education and Communities supports the wearing of school uniforms by students and the upholding of high standards of dress by students and staff. The department recognises that NSW has a long history of school uniforms or dress codes being decided by the local community.’
DEC School Uniform Policy 3.1

‘When a school community agrees on a school uniform, the principal oversees the shared responsibility for ensuring that students are encouraged to wear school uniforms that meet agreed community standards and adhere to legislative requirements’
DEC School Uniform Policy 4.2

‘Principals who operate within the policy framework will be supported by the department in the implementation of this policy.’
DEC School Uniform Policy 4.4

BENEFITS OF SCHOOL UNIFORMS
School Uniforms in New South Wales Government Schools – Guidelines
The wearing of school uniforms by students will assist school communities in:

- Defining an identity for the school within its community
- Developing students’ sense of belonging to the school community
- Providing an opportunity to build school spirit
- Enhancing the health and safety of students when involved in school activities
- Promoting a sense of inclusiveness, non-discrimination and equal opportunity
- Reinforcing the perception of the school as an ordered and safe environment
- Increasing the personal safety of students and staff by allowing easier recognition of visitors and potential intruders in the school
- Promoting positive community perceptions of public education
- Making school clothing more affordable for families by eliminating the risk of peer pressure to wear transiently fashionable and expensive clothes.

The NSW Department of Education & Training School Uniform Policy and Support Document are on the department website. I have a copy in my office should you need to look at a hard copy.

I hope we can all be encouraged to continue our strong tradition, ethos and spirit at Oatley West Public School to be very proud of its uniform.
LOST PROPERTY
Always a problem in any school.
Whenever an article of clothing, drink bottle or lunch box is left in the playground, it is returned to the student concerned. *This is only possible of course if the article has a name on it.*
Ms Sheehy has implemented a system where lost articles without a name are sent to a hamper in the ‘Quiet Area’, one for uniforms and one for lunch boxes and drink bottles. They will left there for one week and then disposed of. Drink bottles and lunch boxes will be binned and uniforms will be washed and put in the clothing pool at the back of the hall.
All clothing, lunch boxes and drink bottles are the responsibility of your child.
We foster independence and as we are a school of some 520 students it is becoming a big issue to get unmarked items back to everyone.

THOUGHT JOKE FOR THE WEEK
Teacher: I think you have your shoes on the wrong feet?
Student: No I don’t teacher. These are the only feet I have!

As opposed to all the above regulation about school uniform, I would like to share a poem written by a student in 5A that he wrote and read to me last week.

INDIVIDUALITY
We are all unique
In our own special ways
We are all different
For a good cause
For we are all individuals

Kale from 2R helping Dylan from AFL as he speaks to our students.

Library News

National Literacy and Numeracy Week 25th – 31st August.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week aims to raise community awareness of the importance of literacy and numeracy skills for all Australian students.
There are many things you can do at home to promote a love of learning. Click on the following link for a parent/caregiver information sheet.

Alison Lester (author of *Are We There Yet?*) is the 2014 Literacy Ambassador.
Click on the following link to view a short video by her outlining the importance of literacy.

National Literacy/Book Week Event
After Peer Support on Thursday afternoon, our students will be retiring to the hall in their peer support groups to listen to a bedtime story read by Mr Nash. As part of the Read for Australia event, we will also watch the video of “Sunday Chutney” by Aaron Blabey.
Generations Read
Thank you to all the families that have returned their Generations Read sheet. If you haven’t done so, please send them in this week. The students have been very excited telling us about their family’s favourite books.

Book Covering
Many thanks to the parents that have come into the library and taken books home to cover. We appreciate your time and contribution to our school library and community.

Rita Fitzpatrick and Virginia Morris

Premier’s Reading Challenge 2014

Last days for Printed Reading Records to be handed into the Library!

The Premier’s Reading Challenge is drawing to a finish. PRC finishes 29th August 2014 but due to changes this year all student on-line records had to be completed by the 22nd August. I can still accept printed reading record lists up until Friday 29th August. I will enter these on as a co-ordinator. After that I will validate their reading record so that they receive a PRC certificate.

Congratulations K-2
Congratulations to all K- 2 Students as you have all completed the PRC in class, in the Library and with your weekly borrowing. Well done! Your names will be published in the school newsletter soon.

Extra PRC permission notes have been sent out to K-2. They must be returned by 29th August so that the student receives an official PRC certificate.


Mrs V Morris and Mrs R Fitzpatrick

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Charlotte from 6R for representing Sydney East region at the NSW PSSA Touch Football trials last week. It is always lovely to see our students acknowledged for their endeavours. Last Friday we received this email from the Sydney East Touch Football Convener.

To the school principal,

This is just a brief note about Charlotte’s performance at the NSW PSSA Touch Football trials in Wagga, 19-21 August. Her behaviour was exemplary and she was a true team player who inspired players around her. She made noticeable improvements as the competition went on. It was an absolute pleasure taking her away to represent the Sydney East region and I wish her all the best in her future sporting and academic endeavours.

Alex Gollan
President Western Suburbs PSSA
Sydney East Touch Football Convener

Well done Charlotte!

Stage 2 Public Speaking

Tue 26 August - Public Speaking Grade Finals – Yr 3 & 4
Tue 2 September. - Public Speaking Stage Finals – Yr 3 & 4

Stage 3 News
Public Speaking - Stage 3 students have been working very hard this term preparing and presenting speeches to their classes. Class speeches have now concluded and we are now ready to start the Grade and Stage finals. The dates for each series of finals, to be held in the school hall, are detailed below and parents are very welcome to attend.

Year 6 Grade Final will be held in the hall this Wednesday 27/8/14 at 12 noon. (Three students to be chosen for Stage 3 final)

Year 5 Grade Final will be held in the hall this Friday 29/8/14 at 9.30am. (Three students to be chosen for Stage 3 final)

Stage 3 Final will be held in the hall on Friday 5th September at 12 noon. (One student to be chosen to represent Stage 3 Oatley West at the District Public Speaking final) Good luck to all students moving onto the final rounds.
**Electronic Devices**

The importance of setting healthy limits for electronic devices.
"That's not fair, all my friends are allowed" It's a commonly-used phrase when children are unhappy with a rule or restriction set by their parents. I encourage you to read the article below (posted on the Generation Next blog). The decisions you make about what your child should and should not be exposed to, can have a huge effect upon them.


Jennifer McDonald

**Year 6 Yearbook Photos**

Year 6 students received a note a few weeks ago regarding photos for their Yearbook. Mrs Hatzistergos is overseeing the compilation of this important memorabilia and it is a huge undertaking. Students need to download their photos onto a USB and give it to Mrs Hatzistergos ASAP please so that the yearbook can be completed on time.

**Year 6 Signature Bear /Soccer ball**

These are being ordered at the end of term and a note has gone home. The cost is $20 each and all notes and order forms are to be given to Mrs Laurence by Friday 12th September (Week 9) please.

Anne Laurence- Acting Assistant Principal Stage 3

**Peer Support**

Year 6 students have now completed their second and third session of Peer Support leadership and Oatley West students are benefiting greatly from the experience. The following is an outline of the sessions completed in Weeks 5 and 6.

**Session 2** - The children shared the things they enjoy in life and had an opportunity to discuss their favourite activity. This session enabled children to recognise what makes them happy. Discuss with your child their favourite activity.

**Session 3** - The children identified their strengths and explored the following important strengths - curiosity, kindness and teamwork. Through the activities, children were able to recognise which strengths they possess and realise how important it is to use their strengths in different situations. Please encourage your child to share their strengths with you.

Annalise Farah

**RSPCA Onesie/Pjama Day**

*Thursday 28th August*

Oatley West Public School will be showing their support for the RSPCA by holding a Onesie/Pjamas Day on Thursday 28/8/14. Please ensure your child has a gold coin donation on this day.

If your child has a onesie, they may wear this to school on the day. If your child doesn't have a onesie, they may wear pjamamas to school instead.

They may also like to bring in their favourite animal soft toy.

SRC 2014 - Miss Aravanopoulos and Miss Chalkiotis

**"The RSPCA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) is the voice for the animals of Australia. We defend their dignity and fight to stop cruelty. We offer shelter, education, medical attention and love. We are animal protectors, carers and guardians. We bring solace to the abandoned, surrendered and injured. We prosecute those who would harm them. And we fight for the humane treatment of all living things. Our job does not stop at animals. We believe behind every animal is a human being who is in need of guidance, encouragement and help."**

Sports News

The Junior and Senior Boys PSSA Soccer Team had an outstanding season this term. Both teams played exceptionally well, demonstrating all the school values, particularly participation, excellence and respect. Going into the finals, the junior team were in second place and the senior team was in first place. I congratulate all the boys on their fantastic effort and attitude on and off the field during the entire season. Both teams would have been a force to be reckoned with in the finals.
Well done boys!
Miss Ross
Dear Parents,

Life Education NSW is a not for profit community-based organisation that relies heavily on the raising of funds within the community to assist in meeting the shortfall left after receiving minimal assistance from Government funding.

The sale of Harold merchandise to the children whilst the program is visiting each school supports the fundraising activities of local committees and all proceeds support Life Education within each local area. These products help to remind children about the messages delivered to them during their Life Education session and have either a picture of Harold or the Life Education logo on them.

The educator will provide the opportunity for children to purchase these products during the school visit. Please provide the correct money in an envelope with the item written on the face of the envelope along with your child’s name and class. This allows the educator to process orders efficiently and accurately. Orders will be returned by the conclusion of the visit.

<table>
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<th>Price Incl. GST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tattoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harold Sticky Note Pad</td>
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<td>Harold Activity Bag</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product description</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Harold Stationery Set</td>
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<td>Small Harold Soft Toy</td>
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NB Harold Products are subject to availability
Life Education NSW thanks you for your support.

☐ I would like to donate __________ to Life Education NSW.
Gifts of $2.00 or over are tax deductible.

Name: ___________________________ Phone (optional): ___________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________________
Suburb: ___________________________ Postcode: ___________________________
Email (optional) ___________________________ Child’s Class: __________________

Visit Life Education at www.lifedducation.org.au or www.healthyharold.org.au
Visit the P&C Website for what's on this week.

**Term 3, Week 7 highlights:**

**Last week to submit recipes:** Recipes are due **by this Sun 31st August**. Go to http://www.createacookbook.com.au/, select 'submit a recipe' and choose Oatley West Public School from the drop-down menu. Why not make your favourite recipe this week, take a photo of the finished product and include it with your submission. Enter a recipe and you could win one of 5 $20 iTunes gift cards.

**Cake Day Wed 27th August:** 1J and 4G to bring cakes please. Don't forget to send your child with 50c to buy a cake!

**RSPCA Onesie/PJ day** on Thur 28th August. Children to bring a gold coin donation.

**Fathers Day stall** to be held on Wed 3rd September. Notes going home this week and need to be returned with payment by Tue 2nd September. All gifts $10.

**Uniform Shop** is open every Thursday from 9-10am outside KW’s classroom in C Block. 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 on scoelho@iinet.net.au

**Music Council News:** Intermediate Band and Concert Band will be performing at Georges River College, Peakhurst Campus on Saturday 30th August. Intermediate Band arrive at 12.45pm for 1.00pm performance in Hall and Concert Band arrive at 1.15pm for 1.30pm performance on the Outdoor stage. Please wear full band uniform and bring instruments and music folders. Further details will be provided by co-ordinators.

**Canteen helpers** needed for this Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th August. Please contact Laronne on 0438 422 179 if you can assist, even if for an hour or so during the busy period.

Visit the P&C Website for more information.