Principal, Mr Nash’s corner

On Friday afternoon I was wondering why there were no cars parking in the bus zone to pick up children until I noticed this scene from the office window. Either Police or Council Parking Rangers are never far from sight and can be sitting anywhere around the school in unmarked vehicles. It is not worth the fine or compromising the safety of our children by parking illegally in the bus zone, across neighbours’ driveways or on the neighbours’ verge in front of their home. Please be mindful of driving safely around the school especially during the peak times of children walking to school in the morning and from school in the afternoon. This peak time also brings an increase in traffic flow and we must always remember the school sits on a major road to the entrance of Oatley Park, a major attraction in Oatley West. I have noticed the increase of traffic along Oatley Park Avenue over the last few years increasing the danger to everyone in the area. Please take care when driving around the school environs especially during the morning and peak times.

STUDENT SAFETY - WHITE VAN

It has been reported that some students from our school were approached and enticed to get into a white van on their way home from school on Friday afternoon. Unfortunately we need to be ever vigilant when it comes to these types of incidents. I will discuss Stranger Danger on assembly today as will teachers refresh what to do in their classrooms. Please talk with your children, doesn’t matter what age, about safety on the way home, possible safe places if they are in trouble and the prospect of being approached by someone in a white van. I would even go so far as to walk the trip with your child from home to school.

Dates for the Diary

Mon 8 Sept. - Year 4 Nat. Park Excursion
Swim School Starts

Wed 10 Sept. – Year 3 Nat. Park Excursion

Fri 12 Sept. - New PSSA Season Starts
to discuss possible safe places should they be approached. Remind them to let someone know as soon as possible.

Some strategies may include:
- Avoid walking alone. Make sure you walk in pairs or in groups.
- Know your home address and phone number. If possible remember an important mobile number such as mum, dad, grandparents or neighbour if mum and dad are working.
- If a stranger approaches you, you do not have to speak to them.
- Never approach a stranger in a car. Just keep walking.

- Do not accept lollies or drink or other items from a stranger.
- Never walk off with a stranger no matter what they tell you.
- If someone is following you, try to remember the car licence plate number of the car/van and tell a trusted adult immediately.
- If you are grabbed by a stranger, do anything to stop them from pulling you away or dragging you into a car. Drop to the ground, kick, hit, bite and scream HELP! Do whatever it takes to attract the attention of others who can help you. If someone is trying to drag you away, SCREAM “this is not my dad,” or “this is not my mum.”

There are many sites on the internet. I googled Child Protection Strategies and a myriad of great information that you can share with your children is available.

Many of the sites recommend that the best way to teach stranger danger is by role-playing scenarios.

It’s a sad world when we have to teach our children this type of safety however this is nothing new. I remember being told the same things when I was at primary school all those years ago!

This Thursday is RUOK? Day. We will be marking the day at Oatley West by encouraging students to take more notice of people around them and how they may be feeling. We will be talking about people in the community who often receive little thanks or recognition and challenging each other to perform random acts of kindness. Stage 3 students will also be selling cakes to raise money for the RUOK? Organisation.

Thanks to the Kids Matter Team for their efforts in this important initiative.

Why don’t you think about a random act of kindness at your place of work, home or with someone in the community on Thursday?
STUDENT NUMBERS FOR 2015
I am working on accommodation details and staffing for next year and would like to know any information that you may have. If you will not be returning to Oatley West Public School in 2015 could you please let me know as soon as possible. If you know of any Oatley West residents that have children that will be attending in 2015 or are moving into the area, please let them know we are organising Kindergarten intake for 2015.

SCHOOL UNIFORM / LOST PROPERTY
There has been a vast improvement in the wearing of school uniform since we introduced the encouragement of a canteen voucher when a student’s name is called, and they are wearing the correct uniform. Many parents have commented that they are pleased with our efforts to encourage the wearing of the school uniform as per the community policy. They say it saves on the purchase of ‘trendy’ clothing and the purchases of expensive bright coloured joggers with are much dearer than the purchase of an all-black jogger or leather shoe.

Many thanks to all of the positive parents that have responded to our efforts.

Lost property has reduced due to the fact that we have a central place for it to be housed and where parents can easily find their child’s belongings. Most of the lost property now has the student name on it which makes it far easier to return to the classroom.

With lots of reminders and continual follow up of lost belongings I think we have finally found the right solution.

The containers for lost property can be found in the quiet area under the awning attached to the administration building (right next to the unused cappuccino machine).

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
We are constantly bombarded with all the negatives of life.
Crime … catastrophe … misery!
Counterbalance these with the positives.
There are so many good people doing good deeds, every day. Make a point to find out about all the good that is around you.

Sarah Henderson (Outback Wisdom)

Chess Club – Term 4 2014 – Important Information
Chess classes for Term 4 will begin on Monday 13th October, 2014 which is the second week back next term. Enrolment and payment for these classes will need to be made by the first week back in Term 4.

The cost for Term 4 will be $67.50. If you would like your child to continue classes or become a new member, please complete the enrolment form in this newsletter or the one given to your child and return it, preferably to me, or to the school office, along with money, by Thursday 9th October, 2014 (Week1, Term 4). Parents who have paid fees for the whole year need not fill out a form as your child is already enrolled.

It is very important that enrolment is paid for by the above date so that I can advise the Sydney Academy of Chess of numbers and they can finalise tutors for next term. Classes are held in my classroom during lunchtime. Please see me if you have any queries. At the end of Term 4, the chess academy will also be holding a chess tournament here at the school for students who can play chess. More details will be given closer to the time.

Anne Laurence.
Stage 3 News

Public Speaking
The Stage 3 finals were held last Friday. Congratulations to Simone A, Connor S and Layla P from Year 5 and to Charlotte R, Thomas I and Sophie W from Year 6 who presented excellent prepared and impromptu speeches to a hall full of their peers and parents. It was a very hard decision for the judges but the final winner was Simone A who will represent Stage 3 Oatley West at the District public Speaking next term. Congratulations Simone and good luck next term.

Year 6 Yearbook Photos
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, or bring in original photos to give to Mrs Hatzistergos ASAP please so that the yearbook can be completed on time.

Year 6 Signature Bear/Soccer Ball
Thank you for all the orders that have already come in. There are only a few remaining and these need to be given to me no later than this Friday please.

School Club Cookbook
Stage 3 has been asked to make a contribution to this cookbook. Year 6 students will each be submitting a recipe over the next two weeks as well as creating their own class cookbook. Year 5 will be submitting a class recipe.

RUOK Day Stage 3 Cake Stall
As part of our RUOK day this Thursday, Stage 3 students will be holding a cake day to raise money for this worthy cause. It would be appreciated if each student can bring along a contribution of cakes or similar on this day.

Anne Laurence- Acting Assistant Principal Stage 3

Peer Support
Year 6 students have now completed their third and fourth session of Peer Support leadership and Oatley West students are continuing to benefit greatly from the experience. The following is an outline of the sessions completed in Weeks 7 and 8.

Session 4- The students practised developing their strengths to help them become more resilient and optimistic.

Session 5 – This session focused on positive self-talk and the need to practise talking positively to ourselves. The students also learnt the importance of perseverance when dealing with challenging situations. Please encourage your child to use positive self-talk.

This Thursday in Session 6, the students will learn the importance of taking small steps to achieve goals. A range of strategies will be discussed to help them stay optimistic. Ask your child to share their goal and discuss ways you can provide encouragement.

Annalise Farah

Garden Club Fundraiser
The Garden Club will be selling small lettuces in pots outside Mr Burr’s Room, on Thursday 11 September at lunchtime. The pots will be sold for $1 each as a Gardening club fundraiser. Thank you.

Mr Burr

This Thursday is RUOK? Day. We will be marking the day at Oatley West by encouraging students to take more notice of people around them and how they may be feeling. We will be talking about people in the community who often receive little thanks or recognition and challenging each other to perform random acts of kindness.

Stage 3 students will also be selling cakes to raise money for the RUOK Organisation.

Kids Matter Team.
**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.

**Price Increase:** Our prices have been increased in order to cover our costs for the supply of Uniform. Prices from our suppliers have progressively increased over a long period of time and we have now adjusted our prices in order to cover those costs. New price lists will be available at the Uniform Shop, School Office and P&C Website.

**Kindergarten Orientation Parent Volunteers:**
We will be selling the School Uniform to new parents at the Kindergarten Orientation **on Tuesday 14th October, Tuesday 28th October** and **Wednesday 12th November @ 10am** for approximately two hours. This is a very busy time for Uniform Shop and any help will be greatly appreciated. If you are available on any of the abovementioned dates, please contact Sia Coelho at scoelho@iinet.net.au
Learn to say **NO**!

Tell a trusted adult
NAPLAN results out soon: it shouldn’t be a testing time

If you have school-age children in Year 3, 5, 7 or 9, you’d be aware that they took the NAPLAN tests (the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) in May this year.

Testing children at school is not new. It happens every week in most schools. However, NAPLAN is a national test that is specifically designed to provide a snapshot of your child’s learning in literacy and numeracy.

Reading, writing and maths are basic skills that help us all get on in this world. School, work and life become hard if you can’t read, write and understand how numbers work. As a parent, I want my children to be able to read the bus timetable to catch the bus home, or know how much change they should get after buying food at the school canteen. These simple activities rely on literacy and numeracy. Like all parents, I want to know if my children can do better and I want to know that as early as possible.

The results for this year’s tests will be with you over the coming weeks, earlier than in previous years. Sometime in August or September – the exact timing varies from state to state – you will receive your child’s NAPLAN report.

In the NAPLAN report, your child’s results will be shown against six levels of achievement. The black dot is your child’s result. The black triangle is the average results for all Australian children in that year level.

If your child’s black dot is close to the black triangle, it means your child is performing at a similar level to other children of a like age. If your child’s black dot is well above the black triangle, they are doing better than children in their year level across Australia; and if it is much lower, they aren’t doing as well as children in their year level across Australia.

If you are happy with what you see in your child’s NAPLAN student report, take the time to explain the results to them and encourage them in their areas of strength.

If you aren’t so happy with what you see in your child’s NAPLAN student report, here’re a few things to consider:

- NAPLAN takes place every second year. So, you could go back and look at your child’s previous school reports. Is NAPLAN showing you the same thing you see in them? Or is NAPLAN not reflecting what you know about your child? NAPLAN is a snapshot of your child’s abilities in literacy and numeracy, so it’s good to compare what you are seeing in the NAPLAN report against other school reports before reaching any conclusions.
Think about how your child deals with tests. For some children, tests are a breeze, while others may struggle. Although NAPLAN isn’t a pass or fail test, it’s still a test. Perhaps your child is normally good at reading, but for some reason their NAPLAN results show the opposite.

Maybe your child was unwell or distracted on the day of NAPLAN?

After you’ve considered these things, you might make a time to have a talk with your child’s teacher. Talking to your child’s teacher will help you to put the NAPLAN results into context and understand what you and the school can do with the results, and how to assist your child in the areas that they may need help in.

Remember that NAPLAN is only a snapshot of how your child was going in literacy and numeracy at that point in time.

Whatever you do, don’t stop any activities your child enjoys and don’t focus your child only on reading, writing and maths. All activities are crucial to the school program and contribute to developing informed, happy children who are confident in their own abilities.

Robert Randall
Chief Executive Officer, ACARA

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is responsible for the national assessment program, including NAPLAN, and the My School website. ACARA works to improve the learning for all young Australians through world-class school curriculum, assessment and reporting.
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

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

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<th>Term</th>
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<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.

Sydney Academy of Chess Pty Ltd
Sydney Chess Centre, Level 1, 30A George Street Burwood, NSW
P: 9745 1170  F: 9745 1176  PO Box 1325, Burwood, NSW 1805
E: info@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au  W: sydneyacademyofchess.com.au
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:

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Workbooks:

- 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: __ / __ / __
Visit the P&C Website for what's on this week.

**Term 3, Week 9 highlights:**

**Cookbook - extension to the end of term:** Go to [http://www.createacookbook.com.au/](http://www.createacookbook.com.au/), select 'submit a recipe' and choose Oatley West Public School from the drop-down menu. Why not include tonight's dinner? Take a photo of your kids with the finished product and include it with your submission.

**Thank you to School Club** and the many parent volunteers who organised another successful Father's Day stall. We trust that all the Dads enjoyed their day and their gifts.

**Concert Band** have been selected to perform in the Primary Proms at the Sydney Town Hall on Monday 15th September. This will be a great experience for them. Please return the 2 permission notes (one for rehearsal and one for concert) and $3.50 train fare to the Band Box in office ASAP please.

**Canteen treasurer urgently required.** Can you spare some time to take on this vital role to keep our canteen running smoothly? For more information please email P&C President John Sharples at carmelsharples1@optusnet.com.au

**Uniform price increases:** Prices have been increased in order to cover costs for the supply of Uniform. Prices from our suppliers have progressively increased over a long period of time and we have now adjusted prices in order to cover those costs. The new price list will be available at the Uniform Shop, School Office and from the P&C Website. Uniform Shop is open every Thursday from 9-10am outside the KW classroom in C Block.

**Kindergarten Orientation parent volunteers to sell uniform:** Uniform shop will be open for Kindergarten Orientation on Tuesday 14th October, Tuesday 28th October and Wednesday 12th November at 10am for approximately two hours. This is a very busy time for Uniform Shop and any help will be greatly appreciated. If you are available on any of the above mentioned dates, please contact Sia Coelho, Acting Manager, email: scoelho@iinet.net.au.

**Canteen helpers** needed for this Tuesday 9th and Thursday 11th September. If more volunteers do not come forward daily specials will no longer be on offer. Please contact Laronne on 0438422 179 if you can assist, even if for an hour or so during the busy period.

**Cake Day** next Wed 17th September. KS (Mrs Sheehy) and 4K (Ms Knott) to provide cakes.