Do You Really Know Enough About Digital Technology To Protect Your Child?

Recent studies show that 70% of students are hiding their online behaviour from their parents. This is why most parents feel their children are safe online. But are they?

How Cyber Smart Are You?

Quick quiz.
1. Which apps are the worst for cyber bullying and most used by predators?
2. What is the most popular way to cyber bully?
3. Do your children know how to avoid being cyber bullied?

4. What important steps should you take if your child has been bullied online?
5. Why is hiding your friends list on Facebook essential, & how do you do that?
6. What setting shows you what strangers see about your child on Facebook?
7. What are “In App Purchases” & the 15min window on iTunes why should you turn them off?
8. Where are the settings to filter out adult content on Google/YouTube Devices?
9. Best way to supervise your child online without spying?
10. What is the most effective way to get children to switch off?
11. How do you tell if an app is safe or not?
12. What are “Whisper” “Yik Yak” “Secret” “Snapchat” and “MeowChat”?
13. What is a #hashtag and why do you need to know?
If you can’t answer these questions correctly you don’t know enough about cyber safety to protect your child’s digital future.

To find out the answers to these important questions you need to attend this “one of a kind” Cyber Safety talk. Leonie Smith “The Cyber Safety Lady” helps parents navigate through the digital minefield with up to date information on the latest online trends and apps. Leonie gives parents practical tips on how to parent in the digital age.

Leonie will be visiting Oatley West Public School for a Cyber Safety Presentation for parents on Tuesday 3rd March at 7pm in our school hall. I deem this electronic communication age important and understand that we need to ensure our kids are safe online. Working together at school and at home I hope to make Oatley West Public School an eSafe school so that all the community can be assured of the very best that the internet has to offer.

The school will be paying for the cost of the evening for Leonie Smith to present her Cyber Safety message. Please send at least one adult member from each family to the night. I hope there will be only standing room left in the hall on Tuesday 3 March at 7 pm.

Meet the Teacher Evenings
It was great to see so many parents at the school last Tuesday and Thursday evenings to meet the teachers and their stage/grade colleagues. The meetings seemed mostly positive and I thank parents for their thoughtful questioning. A big thank you also to our teachers who put aside their time to be at the school after hours after a busy day. Please be reminded that if you have any issues about your child or teachers approach to their class, please make an appointment to talk with your child’s teacher in the first instance. The teacher is the one person that will know your child well and answer any questions that you may have.

Art & Craft Show
No doubt you have been following the Art & Craft Show communications that have been sent home. The Art & Craft Show is the one main fund raiser for the school each year for the P&C. Funds raised go back into the school to finance the long standing program such as the employment of a learning support teacher, to cover costs of P&C insurance and to support the school (your children). Each year I meet with the teachers and discuss what the school requirements will be and any special programs that will need funding. A ‘wish list’ is presented to the P&C Executive. From this list P&C vote on where the funds need to be spent taking into consideration the school programs for that year. If you would like to be a part of this decision making then you need to be a member of the P&C and have a vote when these decisions are being made.

Approaching students at school
We have strict protocols in place for parents approaching students while they are under our care and supervision at school. Please do not approach a student or students on your own, ever, within the confines of the school grounds or even when they are on the way home. Your approach could be misconstrued with the child feeling they are in danger or being assaulted in some way. This has happened in the past. Please be mindful of this and approach a teacher or the office with your concerns and leave the school to investigate. I’m sure you would feel the same if you had a parent confront your child at school or on the way home. School needs to be a safe place for our children. To do this they need to feel protected and treated justly and fairly while they are with us.

Training kids for bio-box
We had a great morning last Monday with an expert technician training us in the use of our lighting board and sound board. First he worked with Mr Ballantyne, Ms Aravanopoulos and Ms Warren then with me and the eight new bio-box student technicians for 2015. I was impressed with the knowledge and expertise our students gained from this training session and the results were immediately evident at our first combined assembly last week. I will be granting each of our students and teachers a Technicians Operating Licence (TOL) to show that they have qualified in the use of the equipment. I’ll now watch with interest to see the creativity of lighting and expertise in using the sound board throughout the year.

First K-6 Assembly
Our first combined assembly was held last week with all classes in the hall, and the SRC Seniors conducting the assembly. I must congratulate our new Kindergarten students for their attention throughout the assembly and also each day on our morning recess assemblies. They have really come a long way in a short time. Most schools I have been in prior to Oatley West, Kinders usually stayed away from assemblies and formal meetings until at least the end of term one. Congratulations to all of our Kindergarten teachers for their great start to the year.

Our new school song is now to be known as The School Song as it is no longer new! I had visions of it being called The New School Song in ten years’ time so we have dropped the ‘new’. At all formal assemblies we will sing The School Song to open the assembly; I Am Australian part way through the assembly to stand and have a stretch – and because I don’t want us to lose this as a school identity and finish with Advance Australia Fair the national anthem.
We really have a great lot of singers here at OWPS. They sound like a massed choir when they are in full form!

School Council tonight
School Council meets tonight for the first time in 2015. School Council is the governing body working directly with the principal to assist with overall governance of the school. The council is made up of community members, teacher members and parent members. The P&C President and Principal are automatic members of the school council. If you wish to have anything discussed at School Council you will need to have a written request signed by yourself and two other parents. This can be given to any Council member or placed in the School Council mail box in the foyer of the school. A list of council meeting dates will be sent home after the meeting tonight. Any requests for discussion at council will need to be in at least two weeks prior to the next meeting so that members have a chance to read and form an opinion for their discussion.

Conferences K-12 Cultural Innovation in Australian Schools; National Leadership in Schools Conference.
I will be at two conferences this week. Both are to be held in the city. The first conference is Monday and Tuesday. It just happened that they both fell in the one week. Mrs Chappell will be attending the second conference with me on Thursday and Friday.

WWCC
I am requesting that all parents working with children within the confines of the school grounds obtain a Working with Children Check. I’m sure we all feel better knowing that anyone working with your child has bothered to have this check done.

It is a simple process and costs nothing but a bit of your time.

Music Council; Expression of interest.
The Music council would like to invite expressions of interest regarding starting a school string ensemble. School parent Nyree Hobson is a cellist and graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and would be pleased to organise an ensemble and tutor any budding violinists, violas or cellists. (even Double Bassists!).

Ensemble music is a very important part of learning a string instrument, and string groups are unfortunately rare for the beginning levels. If your child plays a string instrument and you are interested in forming an ensemble, please contact Nyree via email. nyree.hobson@gmail.com

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
When you arrive at your job in the morning, let the first thing you say brighten everyone’s day.

From Life’s little instruction book.

OWPS Clean Up Australia Day

Our school is a registered site for Clean Up Australia Day. We will be cleaning up the playground on Friday, 27th February. Each student will need to bring a pair of gloves.

As well, I have registered to clean up Oatley Park on the Sunday. Any interested parties are welcome to join me. I will be having a meeting on Tuesday lunchtime of the interested students. I would like to meet at 3pm on the oval on the Sunday. This is an activity for families so that parents must remain to help with the clean up.

Ms J. Knott
Final Summer Harvest – Garden Club
A few weeks ago, the Earthworms did their final Summer Harvest, which included beans, capsicums, passionfruit, basil, tomatoes and cucumbers. Big things are afoot in the Garden this year with a planned working bee and installation of plumbing and irrigation for our rainwater tank. The Australian Organic Schools program will also be introduced this year. Stay tuned for further announcements!

Mr Burr
Earthworms Co-ordinator

GIRLS BASKETBALL-ROUND 1

Our first game, last Friday, was against Oatley here at home. Unfortunately, despite some great defensive play by our Juniors, they were too strong for us and won 16-5. Congratulations to Marissa, Sophia and Lauren for scoring our first points for the season.

The Seniors game was very exciting with our girls fighting back hard in the second half. However Oatley won this game 26-10. Our point scorers were Antonia, Jenica and Vicki.

Many thanks to Gretel Bush for refereeing the games.

Parents please note that your daughter has been given a draw which shows that most of our games are home games. Junior games start at 1pm and Seniors at 2pm. Parents are very welcome to attend and support the girls. Please ensure that your daughter wears her basketball singlet each Friday underneath her sports shirt. Training is on Monday afternoons at 3.30-4.30pm.

Thank you for your support

Anne Laurence

DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The Georges River District Swimming Carnival will be held this Thursday 26th February at Roselands Swimming Centre. Students who have been selected should already have returned their permission notes and money and will need to be at school no later than 8.10am on the day for an 8.30 departure. The carnival will start at 9am and be finished by 3pm. If your child swam in this carnival last year, they should have received an Oatley West swimming cap. Could you please ensure your child brings this cap with them to the carnival. Newcomers will receive one from me before we leave.

Please see me if you have any questions.

Anne Laurence- Sports Coordinator

School Club

School Club would like to invite all parents to join us for our Annual General Meeting & Welcome morning tea next Wednesday the 25th of February at 930am in the Annex to the school Hall (facing Short Street). Following the meeting will be the first Cake Stall of the year. We thank the parents of 2T and 6R for supplying cakes for the stall and ask that anyone available come and assist with serving the children from 11:20 am to 12pm, if you do not wish to attend the meeting but are available to help at the stall you are still more than welcome. Your children would love to see you there.

Jacqui Short
You are invited to
The Oatley West Public School

**Teddy Bear’s Picnic**

Tuesday, 10th March 2015
8.00-9.15am

Hosted by the SRC to celebrate coming back to school and to raise money for Bandage Bear Day.

Bring a picnic blanket and breakfast to eat on the astroturf. Coffee, merchandise and a sausage sizzle will be available for purchase. A sausage sizzle order form will be sent home closer to the picnic.

Parents, friends, grandparents and especially teddy bears are all welcome!

Come down for a relaxing morning to get to know the Oatley West community!