Dates for the Diary

Mon 27 July – Education Week
Mon 27 July – 800m Race
Tue 28 July – Parent Info Afternoon (K2016)
Tue 28 July – GRC Hurstville Boys Primary Links
Thu 30 July – Open Day 9.25-12.00
Thu 30 July – Music Council Meeting 7pm
Mon 3 August – SPAF Week

PRINCIPAL NASH’S CORNER

- Encourage parent and community participation in curriculum and other educational issues in the school;
- Assist and cooperate with teaching staff at public functions associated with the school;
- Assist in any other matters in which the Minister for Education may seek the cooperation of the Association.

I believe in a strong ties between community and the school and work hard to foster a close relationship at all times. Our P&C has always supported the school’s endeavours to provide the best quality education for our students.

This has been firmly entrenched since the beginning of the school in 1947 where the parent body lobbied government to provide a school for the residents of Oatley West.

SUPPORT FOR THE PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

The Parents &Citizens Association is a school-based organisation with membership open to parents, caregivers, citizens and teachers. P&C Associations are established to:

- Promote the interest of the school by bringing parents, citizens and teaching staff into close cooperation;
- Assist in providing facilities and equipment for the school and promoting the recreation and welfare of the students at the school;

This has been firmly entrenched since the beginning of the school in 1947 where the parent body lobbied government to provide a school for the residents of Oatley West.
Over the years P&C have worked hard to provide some major projects, working with government to provide dollar for dollar, the school assembly hall, library, large covered outdoor learning area (COLA), and in my time the Multi-Purpose building that houses the computer network for students. The community has been very supportive in assisting me with issues to provide the best education for our students and particularly projects that have involved huge expense such as cabling the school for computer access, provision of technology, and classroom infrastructure that enhance teaching and learning.

The major fund raising for the school comes from the Art & Craft Show but we can't forget the input from School Club which raises funds to provide resources to support teachers with their day to day life in the classroom.

P&C also have a strong band of parent volunteers in the form of Canteen, Uniform Shop, School Banking and Music Council. Without parent and community input we would not be able to provide our students with such a well-rounded education and the additional resources to support what we are doing.

If you haven’t thought about being involved in P&C, please think about one of the areas above that may interest you and come along to the next meeting to have some input into the school.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Good school attendance leads to improved school results, better life results and stronger peer relationships. It is important for parents to value education and support their children’s success at school by encouraging regular school attendance.

If students miss as little as eight days per term by the end of Primary School they have missed a year of school.

Children with excessive absences in the early school years often experience difficulty in high school because they have missed the basics.

A reminder that New South Wales Department of Education requires parents and guardians to provide a written explanation for every absence from school on a day when the school is open. This includes swimming carnivals, athletics carnivals and all excursions. The Education Reform Act requires a written explanation for each whole day and partial day absence. If an explanation has not been received within seven days, the absence is recorded as unexplained. This may then be brought to the attention of the school’s Home School Liaison Officer. It is their job to monitor school attendance and to provide the school and parents with a service to help encourage children between the ages of 6 and 15 to attend school.

At various times throughout the year, a member of school staff in charge of attendance and/or a Home School Liaison Officer, will interview students identified by the school’s attendance records who have:

- An attendance rate lower than 85% and
- More than 3 unexplained absences or
- Extended periods of illness

Parents will be informed by letter when this has happened. The Home School Liaison Officer regularly monitors the school attendance register.
VISIT FROM MR COLEMAN

David Coleman MP (Federal Member for Banks) visited our school last Wednesday to present our SRC Leaders with their Certificate of Appreciation from the National Young Leaders Day held earlier this year. Mr Coleman also presented a poster of our School Song and has promised to provide the school with a larger sign so that the words are up in the assembly hall for all to see, read and to sing along.

Learning to Live – School Song

Burr / Nash (2014)

In 1947 – there was planted a seed
Education and harmony
Grew into a tree of knowledge leading
To learning to live and it’s a wonderful feeling

Long before the original keepers
Taught their children under canopies
The railway came, the soldier’s pedigree
Learning to live and it’s a wonderful feeling

Did you know – the mighty river flows?
Did you know – the great red gum grows?
Did you know?

Did you know – the mighty river flows?
Did you know – the great red gum grows?
Did you know?

The school has grown each generation
Due to quality education
Leaving here with a firm foundation
We’re learning to live and it’s a wonderful feeling

Working hard, so very tenacious
A second to none education
Each and every outlook is surrounded by nature
Learning to live and it’s a wonderful feeling

Did you know – the mighty river flows?
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The St George Performing Arts Festival commences next week with performances Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Tickets for the festival can be ordered on-line from the following link:


Oatley West students are involved in the following performances:

Tuesday 4th August
Junior Choir
Percussion Power

Wednesday 5th August
Stage 1 Choir

Thursday 6th August
Senior Choir Band – Anthem and Shout
Junior Dance Group – Shake It Off
Senior Girls Dance Group – Aladdin

Our students will be attending the matinee performance on Thursday as a school excursion.

All three concerts have a matinee performance which allows for schools to attend, to support their school and the festival, as well as allowing for parents and grandparents an alternative to the night performances.

It would be great to have as many people in the audience at the matinees to support the concerts this year.
Mrs MacDonald, Ms Benita and I attended the Generation Next Conference held at the Sydney Town Hall on Friday. It was an informative conference dealing with the mental health and wellbeing of young people. It is very pleasing to be amongst like people from all over NSW and to learn that our school is so far ahead in this area but still leaving room for a lot more work to come under the umbrella of our Kids Matter program.

**BAND SUCCESS**

Oatley West performed extremely well on Saturday at the NSW School Band Festival held at NSW University. Intermediate band came away winning Silver and Concert band gold. Congratulations to all our performers!
**PAPER PLANES**

Anyone would have been forgiven if they thought they were in the flight path of Bankstown airport here at school last week. Our visit from James Norton and Dylan Parker ‘The Paper Pilots’ took over Oatley West workshopping paper aeroplanes and their dynamics. All accounts from teachers and students were, that they not only had an enjoyable time with these two fellows but they learnt ‘heaps’.

Their visit follows on from the SRC Seniors attendance at the National Young Leaders Day where 8 000 students all went through the same exciting paper aeroplane making and throwing in the Entertainment Centre in Sydney. What a great incursion!
THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there,
The clay they used was a young child’s mind
And they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher; the tools being used
Were books and music and art,
One a parent with a guiding hand
And a gentle, loving heart.
Day after day the teacher toiled
With touch that was deft and sure,
While the parent labored just as hard
And polished and smoothed it o’er.
When at last their task was done
They were proud of what they had wrought,
For the things they had moulded into the child
Could neither be sold nor bought.
And both agreed they would have failed
If they had worked alone;
For behind the parent stood the school
And behind the teacher, the home.
David Bowen

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REMINDER ABOUT BUS ZONES
[Image of a sign warning about stoppings in a bus zone is illegal]

MindQuest
St George Girls HS
Victoria St Kogarah

On Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 September 2015 the 76th NSW Talent Enrichment Weekend MindQuest will be held for primary students from Year 1-6 at St George Girls HS. These include gifted and talented students, gifted underachievers and students with above average ability with a special interest. Students will have an opportunity to participate in over 38 exciting, fast paced courses in the two day program. They include courses in chemistry, earth sciences, drama, lego robotics, art and much, much more. Many of these highly successful courses have been run in the past and students’ evaluations suggest that they have been challenged and enriched by the experience. The cost of the weekend is $180 (including GST).

Contact the front office for a brochure or Shelagh Poray 02 4232 2494
Closing Date: Monday 17 August 2015

Peer Support - Week 1
Our whole school will be starting Peer Support sessions this week. The children will be participating in a new module, Moving Forward which focuses on resilience. The experiences in the module help children to identify their qualities and strengths, develop skills, respond with a range of strategies and seek support when faced with challenges. In this week’s session, the children will establish connections with the other members of their group and develop their group agreement to enable them to work well together. You might like to discuss with your child what they can do to help them take an active role in Peer Support.

I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate Year 6 on completing two Peer Support leadership days last week. They showed great enthusiasm for the program, and built on a range of leadership skills which will not only be beneficial throughout the program, but also their entire lives. Thank you also to all staff involved, for making it possible to run this program.

Miss Ross and Miss Farah (Year 6 teachers)
Oatley West Public School

Education Week

Come visit your child’s classroom and learn about what we’ve been doing in Science this year!

Open Day: Thursday July 30
from 9.25 - 12.00

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