PRINCIPAL NASH’S CORNER

Our school motto of **Learning to Live** and **Living to Learn** coupled with our strong Values approach ensure that every student has the opportunity to flourish in whatever they wish to accomplish in life, their primary school life and beyond. Our school offers many opportunities to explore options and to be involved in programs of learning, separate to a strong academic and sporting focus. The **Life Skills program** is a microcosm of the real world where students have the opportunity to work within a closed currency, build a business, take a position in management, sell, make, attend an auction and learn all about money and finance. The **Organic Diggers** Gardeners program is also going from strength to strength with around 60 students involved. The garden has a strong emphasis on sustainability. The produce from the garden also feeds into the Life Skills program.

The **Chess Club** runs each week and has grown in numbers needing two classrooms during the lunchtime session. Lunchtime activities also include opportunities for students to access the computers in the multipurpose room and a **Coding** group meet once a week and use various programs on the computer, iPad as well as robots called Bee-Bots.

Our involvement in the **St George Performing Arts Festival (SPAF)** allows for students to explore their talents in singing, dancing and drama and our assembly hall is slowly evolving into a mini theatre where students can learn the art of lighting, sound, projection and staging. There is a

**Dates for the Diary**

- **Mon 24 Aug – Wed 26 Aug** – Stg 3 Excursion Canberra
- **Tue 1 Sept** – Area Athletics Carnival
- **Wed 2 Sept** – Father’s Day Stall
Recorder Ensemble that performed at the Opera House a few weeks ago as well as the P&C run School Band and Percussion Band. PSSA sport (Primary Schools Sporting Association) allows students wishing to explore the life of competitive sport within the St George schools region and School Sport provides the student with a range of sports to try. Public Speaking and Debating are strong programs across the school with a whole school program in public speaking run K-6 and the opportunity for debating within the St George Schools District competition. Our senior students receive a strong Year 6 Transition Program before they enter high school so that they are fully prepared before the big step into their secondary education journey.

All students receive the opportunity to attend Outside Excursions and Internal Incursions to complement their work being done in class. Stage 3 (Years 5/6) are offered a Senior School Major Excursion alternating between Canberra one year and a camp on the alternate year. This is often the first time children have been away from home and without parents. A great learning experience! Our Library presents programs that are in keeping with current research offering students the latest in technology and training in the use of new technologies. Our school has a dedicated Technology Room that houses an interactive whiteboard to connect to the world and thirty computers for student use. Each class rotates through this room each week with a specialist teacher. Each classroom has an electronic whiteboard and computers for use during class time. After school Chinese Language is available as is Tai Kwon Do. The school environment that our students live and grow each day has been explained as ‘a country school in the city’. The school sits just outside Oatley Park and has remnants of the original flora in the playgrounds.

I have probably forgotten a few areas but from this impressive list you can see that we aim high and strive to achieve the very best in all areas for our students.

PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

As part of the Department of Education reforms, staff is working on a new Performance and Development Framework. This term all staff has had to set no less than three goals, one being a personal goal. These goals are discussed with their supervisor and a plan put in place to assist with the achievement of these goals before the end of the year. Coupled with the goal setting process is the introduction of classroom observations. For this year negotiated classroom visits will take place. Staff will be working over the next few weeks on how to give positive feedback and reporting on the observation. This is a very powerful process and done well, will enhance teaching and learning across the school.

I will be away on the Canberra excursion until Wednesday and Thursday I will be attending mandatory training at Mittagong. I am really looking forward to spending some quality time with our seniors and enjoying learning with them.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Make your life a masterpiece, imagine no limitations on what you can be, have or do.

Brian Tracy

Bear Program - Thanks

For the last 10 weeks we have run the BEAR program with the assistance of parent helpers who have acted as reading tutors. All the children on the program have made significant gains not only in reading but also writing and comprehension. Their new found confidence is also making an impact on their learning. We would like to thank these dedicated parents that include Amanda Harper, Belinda Pekert, Karen Branch, Cindy Wong, Leah Rule and Danielle Kulhan. Without their dedication, programs like this wouldn’t have such success. We look forward to the next round of students having a similar experience.

Neralie Chappell & Kat Colbert

Father’s Day Stall

Father’s Day is September 6th this year and School Club will be holding it’s annual Father’s Day Stall on Wednesday September 2nd. Please see attached to the newsletter the order form, these will also be distributed to children’s classrooms so keep a look out for the forms in your children’s bags. This year we ask that you complete an order form for each child, it’s fine to make a single payment but please try to submit all your order forms together, and reference payment information on all your forms, remember that we process around 300 orders and we don’t want yours to get lost.
School Swimming Scheme 2015

This week is the last chance for Year 2 and Year 3 students to express interest in participating in the School Swimming Scheme. The program develops water confidence and provides students with basic skills in water safety and survival. The scheme operates daily during weeks 9 and 10 of Term 3, during school time, at Roselands Pool. It costs $80. This fee includes daily entry to the pool and daily bus fare. There is no charge for instruction. A note went home with your child earlier in the term but if you require another form please collect one from the office. Please complete the expression of interest form and return to Mrs O’Reilly by Friday 28th August. Please note, there are limited spaces in this program.

Micaela O’Reilly

Sports Report

Netball Round 10 – Finals

Last Friday our Junior girls played in the netball finals. The semi-final was against Kingsgrove, a very strong opponent who we hadn’t played during the season due to washed out games. Unfortunately we lost 21-8 despite some very strong play. Kingsgrove then moved to the grand final against Peakhurst West and we played Oatley for third and fourth places. This time we were successful winning 6-3 in a very evenly matched game and came third in the competition. Congratulations to both teams on a wonderful season – you made everyone very proud. Thanks also to Angela Corney – netball wouldn’t have run without her commitment and expertise.

Anne Laurence

Library News

New Library Database: Oliver

On 3rd Sept, the Library is migrating to a new Database called Oliver. Oliver is a Web based learning, teaching, information and library management tool. It provides users with an interactive experience and a vastly improved search capability. The Library will be closed on Wed, 26th August and the morning of Sept 3rd. Library classes will be held in classrooms on these days.

Overdue Loans

Overdue notices have been sent home. Please help your child to find any overdue Library books. Students are reminded in Library lessons that they have outstanding loans before a notice is sent home.

Rita Fitzpatrick and Virginia Morris

NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge


The PRC Challenge finishes on 28th August for PRC coordinators so 3-6 pupils please hand in your Reading Logs by then and we will add your entry as students will not be able to enter them online anymore. K-2 students will receive a Reading Challenge Certificate if they handed in a Permission note. Extra permission notes have been handed out to students, who hadn’t completed them previously. Please see Mrs Morris or Mrs Fitzpatrick in the Library if you need any assistance.

Keep up the great reading and remember the motto.

Get Caught Reading!
Organic Diggers Report

The Diggers had a highly successful Market Day stall last week, selling over 30 bags of fresh organic produce and a dozen plants! We are continuing to harvest spinach, lettuce and kale (some for the 3rd time) and our cauliflowers and beans are looking just about ready to come in. Additionally, we have tried planting some linseed in our garden and are excited to see the results. Happy gardening!
Mr Burr
PAPER PLANES LIFT OFF!!!

2015 has been a big year for Science at Oatley West Public School. As part of the introduction of the new Australian curriculum Science Syllabus we have introduced new Science units of work across K-6 to study in class, led professional development for the staff, showcased our scientific investigations at Open Day in Education Week and, most excitingly, held our first Paper Planes Competition as part of the NSW Young Scientist Awards.

Last week the school gathered on the astroturf with great anticipation and excitement to see each class’ Class Champion compete to build and create planes that could either fly the furthest or remain airborne the longest. The students had learnt from the best when we brought The Paper Pilots Dylan and James to visit our school this term, so the competition was fierce with some truly spectacular designs.

In the Distance Competition, the K-2 Champion Oliver W of Year 2 was able to throw his paper plane an impressive 16.03m. This throw even outclassed some of the Years 3-6 competitors! Each student from Kindergarten to Year 6 had two attempts with the longest distances overall crowned the School Champions.

There were many impressive and nail-biting moments with some distances coming in within a centimetre of each other. After two throws and much excitement, the School Champions for Distance were announced:

1st: Lachlan P (Yr 5) – 28.98m
2nd: Terry S (Yr 6) – 28.00m
3rd: Aidan K (Yr 5) – 24.49m

In the Airtime Competition, Calvin of Year 2 was the K-2 Champion when his plane remained in the air for 4.13s. He could hardly contain his excitement!

In Years 3-6, the gliders had a few close calls swooping in close to both the audience and the teachers timing each throw! It was great to see how students thought carefully about their plane design to adapt it to the different criteria of the airtime competition. The School Champions for Airtime were:

1st: Luke L (Year 4) – 6.78s
2nd: Lachlan W (Year 3) – 6.22s
3rd: Terry S (Year 6) – 5.94s

A big CONGRATULATIONS to our school champions! These students are now eligible to compete at the Paper Plane Challenge at the University of Sydney this Saturday. They’ll be competing against students from all over the state and we wish them the best of luck! Paper planes have been a wonderful way for the students to expand their knowledge of physics and their creativity. It has been great to see the passion, joy and excitement this competition has brought to students of all ages across the school. Watch this space for news of our School Champions’ performances at the University of Sydney Paper Plane Challenge!

-Miss Aravanopoulos and Miss Warren, Science Coordinators
PAPER PLANES CHALLENGE 2015!
It’s time to let Dad know just how much you appreciate him!

On Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, School Club will be holding the annual OWPS Father’s day stall. This is a much beloved event for the children & an opportunity for them to choose their own special gift for Dad.

Gifts are $15 each and come in a beautiful gift bag or bucket.
Gifts MUST be ordered & pre-paid (by cash, cheque or EFT)
Please complete the below order form and return it to the School Club mail box in the office NO LATER THAN Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup>.

A limited number of Grandfather’s gifts are also available this year: $15 each.
There is a selection of gifts available to choose from for Father’s Day gifts however there is only 1 type of gift for Grandfathers.

Volunteers are always welcome & very much appreciated from 930am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September.

Child’s Name: ___________________________________________ Class: _______

Father’s Day Gifts: Qty: _____@$15 each Total $: _______

Grandfather’s Gifts: Qty: _____@$15 each Total $: _______

Please use one form per child, spare order forms will be available in the office, or will be attached to the newsletter and available on facebook OWPS parents page.

Please make cheques payable to OWPS School Club,
if paying by EFT please reference your child’s name and provide a receipt number:

  EFT Receipt No: __________________________

BSB: 062218 Account Number: 00902102 Quote Ref: Child’s Name and pay by August 30

School Club acknowledges that this is a price rise (the first increase in 6 years) however please know that the quality of the gifts has also improved and the wholesale cost of gifts has increased, which has necessitated the rise.
We appreciate your continued support of this important fundraising event.
There's now even more reasons to start Banking in Term 3!

This term, the Glow-in-the-dark Solar System and Cosmic Light Beam Torch are available to order with the redemption of 10 silver tokens. The E.T dvd and Intergalactic Rocket are also still available however the Planet Handballs are on backorder and Invisible Ink Pens are quickly selling out.

The Commonwealth Bank has also launched a new competition for this term. Simply make 3 or more deposits during the Term to automatically be entered into the competition for a chance to win! Prizes include 75x iPad minis Wi-Fi 16GB, 125x Beats by Dr Dre Solo Headphones and 200x $30 Booktopia Gift Certificates. To double your chances, students can complete a Money Mission at commbank.com.au/prizeportal For each participating student, the school will automatically be entered into the draw to win one of 75 sets of children’s books for their school library, valued at $200.

Don’t forget the Disneyland Competition is still running until the end of the year. This prize includes return economy airfares to Los Angeles for 2 adults and 2 children with 5 nights accommodation at Disney’s Paradise Pier Hotel, 3 day Theme Park Hopper Ticket, a Disney Family Breakfast Experience and AUD$2000 Spending Money simply by making 25 deposits in 2015.

How does School Banking work?

Step 1 – Open a Dollarmites Youth Saver account at any Commonwealth Branch or through the school Banking Coordinators. If your child already has a Dollarmites account, you do not need to open a second.

Step 2 – Each Thursday, your child needs to bring their yellow Deposit Book with completed deposit slip and money and place into a grey pencil case in their classroom for the coordinators and volunteers.

Step 3 – With each deposit, students receive a silver token. Once they have accumulated 10 tokens, they can redeem these for one of the selected prizes, which currently include ET on DVD, a Planet Handball, Intergalactic Rocket (vortex), Invisible Ink Pens, the Glow-in-the-dark Solar System and Cosmic Light Beam Torch. To redeem, students need to include their 10 tokens and rewards slip in their bank book on Thursdays.

Step 4 – School Banking Coordinators collect these rewards slips and process your child’s request online which will then be posted to the school from Commonwealth Bank. These items are then delivered to your child’s classroom on a Monday however please allow 2 weeks for delays in postage for popular items.