DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wed 23 March – Harmony Day
Thu 24 March – Easter Hat Parade & Year 6 Fundraiser
Fri 25 Apr / Mon 28 Apr – Easter Public Holidays
Thu 24 March & Tue 29 March – CANTEEN CLOSED
Tue 29 March – Thu 31 March – Yr 1-6 Parent /Teacher interviews

PRINCIPAL NASH’S CORNER

Our P&C meeting last week attracted an interested twelve parents including six new parents to the school with children in Kindergarten. It is always nice to see as many parents at these meetings that can make them to have input in the school and to hear how we are progressing throughout the term.

At a meeting this morning with the P&C Executive, the submission to Hurstville Council for the Dame Mary Gilmour upgrade for parking, crossing, lighting and pathway into the park was discussed as well as the ongoing traffic issues (driver issues) in and around the school during the busy morning drop off and afternoon pick up times. We had another near miss reported by a very shaky local resident last Friday when one of our students was close to being knocked down by a car in Oatley Park Avenue by a driver doing the wrong thing. It was suggested that I put in a traffic movement plan that was put to the community some years ago in the newsletter. This can only be an unofficial agreement within the Oatley West Public School Community to administer. This is a plan Council uses when there is an official function in Oatley Park. It would be up to us to use the plan during these busy morning and afternoon periods.
Again this can only be an unwritten law for our community. It makes sense not to try and turn in the bus zone, in neighbours’ driveways and grass verges only to proceed out of the precinct against all the incoming traffic driving to the school. Could we all please be mindful of our most precious children during these busy times? We won’t get a second go if one of our children is run down and killed. Please be careful when driving in and around the school precinct at any time, but especially during the busy morning drop off and afternoon pick up times.

**What can you do?**

**Supervise children in or near traffic.**
The best way for children to learn to be safe on the roads is under your guidance, in real traffic, in everyday situations. Until children are about 10 or 11 years of age they do not have the necessary skills and physical abilities to be safe on their own, so providing supervised practice is important.

**Walk or cycle to school with your child.**
Take the healthy option. If you can’t walk the whole way, consider parking a few streets away and walking the rest of the way. This would also alleviate some congestion around the school.

**Respect the road rules and parking signs.**
It is important that parents park legally to provide a safer environment for children.
Double parking restricts the view of drivers, forces children onto the road and obstructs the flow of traffic. Regular patrols of Council Rangers and Unmarked Police are carried out in and around schools. It is not worth the fine or the possible life of a child!

**Wait on the same side of the road as your child.**
Meet your child at the school gate to avoid your child dashing across the road. Never call your child across the road from the seat of your car. If picking up your child from the bus stop, wait on the same side as the bus.

If you need to drive to school, get your child into the habit of using the car’s kerbside doors and ensure your child is using a booster seat or correctly adjusted seatbelt.
The safest doors are kerbside doors, away from traffic.
Better, consider not using your car to drive to school. If you live within a couple of blocks of the school put the short walk into your daily fitness regime. Enjoy the time with your children, the fresh air and exercise 😊.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**
‘I must do something’ always solves more problems than ‘Something must be done.’” - Author Unknown

An early photo prior to the four classrooms (M Block) being built. Note the new Multi-Purpose Room and single demountable.

**VALUE FOR THE WEEK - RESPONSIBILITY**
Take responsibility for your choices
Provide a good example for others
Take care of school and personal property
Be in the right place at the right time
PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEW YRS 1 - 6
Years 1-6 parent / teacher interviews are on from Tuesday 29 - Thursday 31 March. Interview bookings are made online and are outlined at the end of this newsletter. The website opens at 6pm today.

Kindergarten parent / teacher interviews will be held early Term 2.

Neralie Chappell
Deputy Principal

CANTEEN CLOSED
The Canteen will be closed on Thursday 24 March and Tuesday 29 March. Please remember to bring your snacks and lunch from home as there will be NO CANTEEN.

Thank you.

Wed 23 MARCH – HARMONY DAY

Harmony Day is an annual celebration of Australia’s cultural diversity. The theme *everyone belongs* encourages inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for all people in our Australian and school community. We are acknowledging Harmony Day all week with in-class activities. Our official celebration will take place on Wednesday 23rd March. Students are expected to wear school uniform on the day but are encouraged to add a splash of orange (the Harmony Day colour) to their outfit such as a hat, headband, shoelaces etc. We look forward to a special Harmony Day assembly on Wednesday. To help your child get into the spirit of Harmony Day we encourage you to start a conversation with your child about cultural diversity and your own cultural heritage.

*Mrs O’Reilly and Miss Benita*

K – 2 FANCY HAT PARADE
K-2 are participating in a Fancy Hat Parade this Thursday!

Date: Thursday 24th March

Time: 10:00am – 11:00am

Venue: Lower playground (under the COLA)

Parents, grandparents, friends and relatives are most welcome to watch the parade. Please be aware though that there will be limited audience space, as all of the K-6 students will be seated under the COLA and a walking path for the K-2 children will be marked out. We look forward to sharing a wonderful parade with you!

Stage One Teachers and Miss Morgan (rel. Assistant Principal)

YEAR 6 FUNDRAISER AFTER FANCY HAT PARADE

Please join us on Thursday 24 March, after the Fancy Hat parade! Year 6 will be selling hot cross buns, tea and coffee to raise money for the Year 6 gift to the school. Students can also purchase their own hot cross buns in yummy flavours such as chocolate, plain and fruit! Tea and coffee will be sold at the old canteen outside the hall.

Hot Cross Buns for all $1.00
Tea and coffee for adults $1.00

Please support year 6 in buying a great gift for our school

ORGANIC DIGGERS REPORT

Many thanks to all community members who attended Saturday’s working bee. As planned, all plants were removed from the produce beds and relocated to the front of the 3F classroom. Compost was turned and amended, as was soil. The last job remaining to be done is to mulch the small hillside near the 3F classroom. We were hoping to do this with the Diggers today, but rain has made the likelihood low.
Anyone with 1/2 hour to spare this Wednesday after school is very welcome to help the teachers finish this job! Biointensive garden production will proceed at the start of term 2.

Happy gardening!

Mr Burr

**LIBRARY NEWS**

Today is World Poetry Day. Share a poem, rhyme or limerick with your children today.

Excerpt from MY LIBRARY by Varda One

It's only a room with shelves and books, but it's far more magical than it looks

It's a jet on which I soar to lands that exist no more.
Or a key with which I find answers to questions crowding my mind.
Building my habit of learning and growing, asking and researching till I reach knowing.
Here, I've been a mermaid and an elf. I've even learned to be more myself.
I think that I shall never see a place that's been more useful to me.
Rita Fitzpatrick and Virginia Morris

Premier's Reading Challenge 2016

Don’t miss out on this great opportunity to widen your reading choices with high quality literature!

**A BIG Thank You**

A big thank you to all the wonderful Parent Helpers who visit the Library after school on Wednesdays and Fridays to shelve books and order our print resources. Your help is very much appreciated,

Virginia Morris and Rita Fitzpatrick

The Premier’s Reading Challenge is under way and all Oatley West students are invited to participate. There are fantastic books to read! The PRC aims to encourage in students a love of reading for leisure and pleasure and enables them to read a wide variety of quality literature.

Permission notes have been sent home already but spare ones are available in the Library. There is also one below to print and fill out if you have not received one.
**UNIFORM SHOP**

Acting Manager – Sia Coelho

E-mail: scoelho@iinet.net.au

The Uniform Shop will not be open this Thursday due to the Easter Hat Parade. If you require uniform this week, please place an order in Box 8 at the office prior to Wednesday afternoon. Orders received after Wednesday will not be processed until the following Thursday.

**Kindy & Year 1 Parents:** Your pre-order for winter uniform should have been placed by now. If you have not yet placed your order, please do so as soon as possible. Stock being ordered is based on your requirements and although additional stock will be available, it will be limited.

**NB:** Winter Uniform is not worn until the day after Mother’s Day in May and is not yet readily available for “over the counter” sales.

**Year 2 – Year 6 Parents:** Please consider pre-ordering winter uniform for your children. Ideally, orders should have already been placed to assist with stock numbers needed.

**NB:** All uniform requirements are outlined in the School Website.

**Delivery and Payment of Pre-Ordered Winter Uniform** - Some winter stock has now arrived and we will endeavour to have it delivered to your child’s class over the next few weeks (pre-orders only). If you have paid by Credit Card, your account will be debited and if you have paid by Cheque, your cheque will be presented. Please ensure your account has sufficient funds to allow payment to be made. Winter Uniform will not be available for over the counter sales for a few weeks. To ensure we have sufficient stock over the coming weeks, please place an order in Box 8 at the office if you haven’t already done so.

** Helpers Needed (Thursday)** – We need help packing pre-ordered winter uniform. If you are able to spare an hour or two after the Easter Hat Parade please meet me at the back of the hall.

**Thank You** – Many thanks to our parent volunteers over the past two weeks: Belinda Lien, Rowena Shek and Peggy Chandler who gave up their time to assist at the Uniform Shop.

**Parent Volunteers:** 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 at scoelho@iinet.net.au

**Uniform Orders:** If you are unable to get to the Uniform Shop on Thursday or do not wish to wait in line, an order form can be completed and dropped in to the school office (Box 8). Please note the preferred payment method for orders is by Credit Card or Cheque as we cannot be held accountable for lost cash/orders. All orders will be delivered to your child’s classroom on Thursday when the shop is open.

**OWPS Community Prayer Group**

Prayer group meeting is coming up again on Tuesday of this week – 22nd March. As an Easter celebration we will be meeting off-site at Edmunds & Greer. We have booked one of the back rooms. Feel free to arrive any time from 1:45 pm onwards although we will not start the meeting until 2pm. We will finish at 3:00 pm in time to collect children from school.

Come and have a cup of tea or coffee (and maybe cake!), meet some new people and join in prayer with us for our school and its community.

All welcome.

Any questions please contact: Jill Allen (9594 4821) or Rita Liew (9570 3943)
Dear Parents and Caregivers,

2016 Parent/Teacher interviews for Years 1-6 will be held in week 10 of Term 1. Tuesday 29th, Wednesday 30th, Thursday 31st March. Teachers have different availability, so refer to the website to see what times are available.

From Monday 21st March at 6:00pm, you can book school interviews for the times that suit your family.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.

1. Enter your details
2. Select the teachers you wish to see
3. Select the appointment times that suit your family best

Simply enter the code Go

When you click Finish, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically. If you do not receive your email immediately – Check your junk mail folder AND make sure you have spelt your email address correctly.

You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until the day before the interview.

If you cannot obtain internet access, please contact your child’s teacher directly to make alternative arrangements. Interviews are strictly 10 minutes and only one time slot with the same teacher is available.

Please be considerate of others who also have interviews. If you require more time, please make an alternative appointment with the teacher.

You may change your bookings any time prior to the date of the interview by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times on the day should contact the teacher directly.
Climate Change and The Greenhouse Effect

Fact Sheet

Did you know?

Butterflies, dragonflies, moths, beetles and other insects are now moving around the world where once it was too cold to survive.

The 11 warmest years on record have all occurred in the last 13 years, with 2005 the hottest yet.

Warming temperatures are causing the retreat of glaciers and sea-ice.

Snow depths in the Austrian Alps has declined 40 percent in the last 40 years.

The polar bear is now listed as a vulnerable species by the IUNC mainly due to expected decline in sea ice.

By Isabella 3H/B
EARTH HOUR

What is Earth Hour?

Earth hour is a worldwide group movement which brings people together to protect Earth, it is organised by World Wildlife fund. It was started as a lights out event in Sydney in 2007. Since then, it has grown to include more than 7000 cities and towns around the world, and the one hour event continues to remain the key in the encouragement of environmental awareness.

When is Earth Hour?

Earth hour 2016 is being held on Saturday 19 of March between 8:30 and 9:30 pm. It is held annually encouraging individuals, communities, households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour as a symbol for their commitment to the planet.

How long has Earth Hour been going on for?

The first Earth hour event was on the 31st of March 2007. WWF – Australia inspired Sydney inhabitants to show their support for climate change action. More than 2.2 million individuals and 2000 businesses turned their lights out for one hour during the first earth hour event.

Written by Emma Agayby, Natalie Sidoti and Lara Murphy.
INTERVIEWS ABOUT EARTH HOUR

These are the questions we asked people about earth hour

1. What do you think earth hour is?
2. What is the purpose of earth hour?
3. What do you think we can do to stop global warming?

Here are the answers we received

Oliver (Year 3):

1. When you clean up your environment to stop littering.
2. To make the plants grow more and more.
3. Stop making the carbon dioxide come out of the factories.

Montana (Year 4):

1. When you save electricity.
2. So people don`t waste our important resources.
3. Leave nature alone and let it grow naturally.
Maya (Year 6):

1. Earth hour is when you turn off all the lights and be in darkness for an hour.
2. I think the purpose of Earth hour is to preserve all of the Earth’s energy.
3. To stop global warming we can use Earth hour. So take care of the environment more by picking up rubbish and lets grow more trees.

Mrs Colbert (Teacher):

1. Awareness of overuse of power.
2. To make people think about not using power unnecessarily that you can do without.
3. Stop chopping down trees and educate the next generation with science.

How did you celebrate earth hour?
Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we officially launch the 2016 Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC 2016) at Oatley West Public School. The 2016 PRC will continue until 19th August (11.59 pm) 2016.

This letter has a permission note attached which needs to be completed and returned to Mrs Morris and Mrs Fitzpatrick in the library as soon as possible. More details to follow in the Newsletter.

Mrs V Morris and Mrs R Fitzpatrick

Permission Note for the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) 2016

I give permission for my child ______________________ in class ______ to participate in the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge 2016.

I agree to have my child’s name appear in the school newsletter. YES / NO

I agree to have my child’s name published on the PRC website YES / NO

(If you do not want your child’s name appearing on the PRC website, your child can still complete the PRC but will not receive a Premier’s Certificate.)

Signed ______________________________ Date _________________________

( Parent / Caregiver )

* Privacy Information: Please be aware that all students who successfully complete a validated online reading record qualify for a PRC certificate and will appear in the PRC Honour Roll, which will be published online. The certificate shows the student’s name and school. Only the student’s name will appear in the Honour Roll with no other identifying factors.
April 2016 Vacation Care Program

Week 1

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<tr>
<th>Monday 11th April</th>
<th>Tuesday 12th April</th>
<th>Wednesday 13th April</th>
<th>Thursday 14th April</th>
<th>Friday 15th April</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kids Yoga (incursion)</td>
<td>Let’s Explore Music</td>
<td>Mortdale Tennis Camp (excursion)</td>
<td>Kids Bingo</td>
<td>Cartoonist (incursion)</td>
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<td>(incursion)</td>
<td>A day of making musical instruments, learning new interactive songs and creating our own Oatley West OOSH dance.</td>
<td>(excursion)</td>
<td>Number 3, cup of tea! Get your concentrating caps on and be a winner with plenty of bingo rounds today.</td>
<td>(incursion)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>Transport: bus</td>
<td>Number 51, I love my mum!</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
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<td>Start off the holidays with some relaxation kids yoga.</td>
<td>Spend the morning with qualified tennis instructors who will teach you ball skills and have organised team orientated tennis games.</td>
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<td>Get your concentrating caps on and be a winner with plenty of bingo rounds today.</td>
<td>Bring out the artist in yourself today and join in this cartooning workshop.</td>
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Week 2

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<th>Monday 18th April</th>
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<th>Wednesday 20th April</th>
<th>Thursday 21st April</th>
<th>Friday 22nd April</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hurstville Movies (excursion)</td>
<td>Wool Creations</td>
<td>Miniature Tree Houses Creation Day</td>
<td>Gym Bus (incursion)</td>
<td>Circus Workshop (incursion)</td>
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<td>(excursion)</td>
<td>It’s all about the wool today! Enjoy many activities on offer: friendship beads, twist bands, butterflies, wool tulips, octopus, teepees as well as pencil holders.</td>
<td>A fun filled day creating mini tree houses.</td>
<td>(incursion)</td>
<td>Be a part of the circus today. Circus workshop includes juggling balls, clubs, rings, spinning plates, hula hoops and much more!</td>
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<td>An oldie but a goodie! Bring some extra snacks to enjoy while watching a movie.</td>
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<td>With its tunnels, ladders, fireman’s pole, foam pits and funky music, this will be great fun! Don’t miss it!</td>
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Week 3

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<th>Tuesday 26th April</th>
<th>Wednesday 27th April</th>
<th>Thursday 28th April</th>
<th>Friday 29th April</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wheels Day</td>
<td>More Craft</td>
<td>Afternoon Star Wars</td>
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<td>Bring your bike, scooter, rollerblades, skates (don’t forget your helmets) and race against your friends!</td>
<td>Cat/dog necklaces, funky glasses, fold paper bracelets</td>
<td>Star wars shadow puppets, pendulum painting, tower cups</td>
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<td>Afternoon clay hands &amp; card games</td>
<td>Creative Art Afternoon</td>
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<td>Modern painting, bridge building, colourful spinners</td>
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Please be advised that our Centre is a NUT FREE environment.

Do not send nut products in your child’s lunch.

Hours: 7:30am to 6:00pm

Excursion hours: 9:00am to 2.30pm

Cost: $50/day plus excursion cost

50% CCR applicable to fees

Ratio for all excursions is 1 educator/adult to 10 children

Children must be at the Centre 9:00am on excursion days.

We are unable to wait for late arrivals.

Please ensure your child brings a hat each day to ensure participation in all areas of our program. All children are also required to wear closed in shoes and socks on all excursion days.

Excursion risk assessments have been prepared and are available at the Centre.
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**Child Details**

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**Parent/Guardian Details**

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**Emergency Contacts**

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**Authority to collect:**

YES [ ] / NO [ ]

**Allergies/ Dietary Restrictions and Special Needs**

Does your child have any allergic reactions, or special needs?

YES [ ] / NO [ ]

If yes, please provide indicators and full details and action plan for dealing with allergies reactions:

---

**Permission**

Consent to administer sunscreen

YES [ ] / NO [ ]

We provide permission for educators to administer/apply first aid

YES [ ] / NO [ ]

We provide permission for Vacation Care educators to remove my child from the premises in the case of an emergency arising (such as fire) and relocate them to designated safe locations and for my child to participate in organised fire drills.

YES [ ] / NO [ ]

We give permission for my child to be walked or use other forms of transport on excursion outings and to and from the Centre

YES [ ] / NO [ ]

We give permission for my child/ren to participate in all activities organised for the day my child will be attending

YES [ ] / NO [ ]

We understand that if my child continuously misbehaves after guidance procedures have been followed, I will be notified and my child may be removed from the Centre

YES [ ] / NO [ ]

We agree that the information I/We have provided on this form is correct

YES [ ] / NO [ ]

Full payment is due 1 week prior to commencement of Vacation Care and fees are processed via Ezidebit. Days are not transferable once a booking has been made.

If your child is away fees still apply.

Please return your form by Monday 4th April 2016

I understand that my child/ren will not be accepted at the Centre or participate in any activity until the weeks fees have been paid.

Parent/Guardian Signature: __________________________ Date: ____________

I/We give permission for my/our child/ren to leave the Oatley West OOSH premises for excursions during the Vacation Care period accompanied and supervised by an Educator.

Excursion: Wednesday 13th April. Destination: Mortdale Tennis Courts. Description: Playing tennis

Excursion: Monday 18th April. Destination: Hurstville Cinemas. Description: Watching a movie

Parent/Guardian Signature: __________________________ Date: ____________
BRAVE Self-Help is an online program for the prevention, early intervention, and treatment of youth anxiety. It was developed at The University of Queensland by experts in youth anxiety and has now been running for over 14 years throughout Australia. The program is fun, interactive, based on cognitive-behavioural principles and has been found to be effective in reducing anxiety in children and adolescents. It has helped hundreds of children experiencing social anxiety, shyness, separation anxiety, phobias and general worries. **BRAVE Self-Help is now available to use at home for free** due to the support of beyondblue. Any Australian young people who would like help with anxiety can access the self-help program via [https://brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au/](https://brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au/) The program can be accessed through any computer or tablet device, at any time and includes up to 10 sessions for youth. Parents can also take part in a separate parent program to learn ways of helping their child or teenagers manage anxiety. Teachers, young people and parents can also find out more about the program or take a trial or any of the programs through the BRAVE website.