Welcome Back

Welcome back to school, we are looking forward to another busy and productive term. Did you know you can keep track of events of each Term and help your family stay on top of all of the things happening this time of year with School A to Z’s monthly planners? They’re easy to print out and pop up on the fridge for all to see. You might even want to print a spare copy for each child’s bedroom so there are no excuses for them to forget homework, chores and other weekly activities. http://bit.ly/UbmQz8

NAPLAN results

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the 2014 NAPLAN results were released late last term and Oatlands Public School performed extremely well. Congratulations to students, teachers and parents on a great team effort! Take a look at the highlights listed below.

- **52% of Year 5 Students** were placed in Band 8 for Grammar and Punctuation, **30% greater** than state average
- **43% of Year 5 Students** were placed in Band 8 for Numeracy, **30% greater** than state average
- **43% of Year 5 Students** were placed in Band 8 for Reading, **26% greater** than state average
- **21% of Year 5 Students** were placed in Band 8 for Writing, **15% greater** than state average
- **73% of Year 3 Students** were placed in Bands 5 and 6 for Spelling, **22% greater** than state average
- **55% of Year 3 Students** were placed in Bands 5 and 6 for Numeracy, **13% greater** than state average
- Year 5 growth (student improvement from Year 3 to Year 5) was **20% or more greater** than state average in Reading, Writing, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy.

Selective High School

We continue to have a number of our students qualify for Selective High Schools each year. Are you thinking about your child’s Year 7 placement in a selective school in 2016? Selective high schools are government high schools that cater for highly-achieving, academically talented students by offering an educationally enriched environment. Applications for 2016 will be online only and can be made between 14 October 2014 and 17 November 2014. All applicants are required to sit the Selective High School Placement Test to be held on Thursday 12 March 2015. To apply please go to www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement. A note with more information will be sent home to all Year 5 parents this week and information booklets are available from the front office.

P&C Cheese and Bikkies Night and P&C Meeting

A reminder about the P&C Cheese and Bikkies Night tonight at 6.30pm in the hall, followed by the P&C meeting at 7.30pm. During my Principal’s report tonight I will be sharing news about our new school website with you as well as conducting the second half of my South Korea Principal’s Tour presentation.
**Kindergarten 2015**
Our Kindergarten 2015 places are filling up fast. If you are in our catchment area and have a child who will be starting school next year please contact the office asap. We will be holding our information night for Kindergarten 2015 students on Monday 27 October at 7.30pm in the computer room.

**2015 Organisation**
In order to assist with 2015 planning, parents are asked to complete the Not Returning in 2015 or 2015 Late Return notes sent home with your child today by 7 November 2014.

**New Website**
Oatlands Public School has a new website! Our school app is also now linked to the new website. You can also access our new and improved website by using our current web address. Please note that it will take a couple of weeks for Google to remove the link to the old website from it’s system.

**School Canteen**
As you are aware, our school canteen is open on Monday and Fridays at lunchtime for snacks and lunch orders. Thank you to Monique Lee and all of the wonderful parent helpers for all of your hard work in running the canteen. If you are able to help in the canteen please put your name down at the office. Some students have been trying to pay for their lunch and snacks with foreign coins of late, please ensure you send in Australian currency with your child.

**Lunch box ideas**
Are your children tired of the same old sandwiches for lunch each day? School A to Z’s Lunchbox section has some fresh ideas to help busy parents add some healthy, fresh variety to school lunches. [http://bit.ly/qsfDOE](http://bit.ly/qsfDOE)

**OOSH Update**
As you are aware, Oatlands Public School will be having it’s own before and after school care and vacation care here on site in 2015. It is now planned for the service to commence in January 2015. As soon as we receive the final documentation required the application process will be complete and I will be able to announce the successful company and roll out the enrolment packs and other key information to our school community. The OOSH staff will be holding meet and greet sessions to answer any questions and to speak to parents and the school community. Thank you for your patience with this process.

**Surf Education**
We are lucky to have secured a spot at the Surf Awareness Course through Surf Educate Australia. This excursion supports outcomes in the PDHPE Syllabus and teaches essential life skills suited to the Australian lifestyle and beach culture. This excursion will take place on Wednesday 26 November 2014 at Manly Beach. A note about this important excursion will be sent home early next week. Programs are geared to students needs and are dependent on the students’ age, swimming ability and participation in this course in previous years. This program is fully endorsed by the State Association of the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia and has the support of the NSW Department of Education and Communities. Each group of students will be under the supervision of an instructor, a water safety lifeguard and a teacher at all times. Please complete and return the permission note with payment of $46.00 to the school by Monday 24 November to ensure a place on this very popular excursion.

**Public speaking made easier**
Many people rate speaking in public as one of their worst fears. But it’s an important skill for children to master, which is part of the reason why we start them off with News in Kindergarten and progress to other presentation skills from an early age. Helping your child prepare their speeches and presentations at home will really boost their confidence. Here are practical tips any parent can use: [http://bit.ly/Kr3ukB](http://bit.ly/Kr3ukB)

**Motivating “laid-back” children**
Why do some children prefer to lead a lazybones life, while others love to tear around the sports field? Is it a hereditary trait? And what can parents do to encourage those children to get up off the sofa, or switch off the computer, and get a little physical? Find out more: [http://bit.ly/1s5TN5Z](http://bit.ly/1s5TN5Z)

Mr D’Amore
Principal
INTERNET TIPS FOR PARENTS

In this age of technology into which our children have been born they are often more knowledgeable and skillful in using computers than we adults are.

There are many things parents can do to help and guide their children in safely using the Internet even though they may be less knowledgeable about how to actually access and use the Internet themselves.

Parents need to talk to their children about a number of things:

1. The house rules – establishing rules about the amount of time they are permitted to spend online and when they can do it e.g. after homework, when chores are done, after some outside activity etc.
2. Stranger Alert - your children already know about not talking to strangers. You need to remind them that people on the Internet that they don’t know are strangers and they must not give out any personal information. Ensure their email address doesn’t give their name- have them use a “pen” name or their pet’s name etc. instead.
3. Place the computer in a central place where there is plenty of family activity and you can monitor your child’s work. A computer in a child’s bedroom is out of sight.
4. Surf the net together so you can explore and assess the sites visited together.
5. Teach your children what to do if someone says something inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable on line. Encourage your children to tell you about anything inappropriate they come across.
6. Blocking and filtering software is readily available to help prevent undesirable material entering your home via the Internet.
7. Do not let your child give out his email address without your permission. Much unsolicited material can come into your home as junk mail. Often this junk mail is very inappropriate. Complain to your Internet Service Provider if you continue to receive inappropriate junk mail.
8. Never let your child use a credit card online without your direct supervision and you are confident that it is a safe site.

Enjoy together the enrichment that the Internet can bring to your children’s learning in a safe, positive, educational and fun way.

MESSAGE FROM THE CROSSING SUPERVISOR (LOLLYPOP LADY)

Dear Parents and Children,

I will be taking Long Service Leave from Tuesday 4 November until Friday 14 November 2014. I am going to Churchill, Canada, where I am hoping to see many polar bears in their natural habitat with temperatures of around minus 10 degrees Celsius. On the way home I am stopping in South Korea to thaw out before arriving home. I will be back at work on Monday 17 November 2014.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all the parents and children who are now using the pedestrian crossing more frequently. It is great to see. As 70% of the traffic exceeds the school zone limit both in the mornings and afternoons, it is certainly much safer to cross at the crossing. I also enjoy chatting and saying “Hello” to many of you as well.

Regards,

Margaret
From Our Assistant Principals

**Kidsmatter**

As part of the Peer Support program this year students are learning all about optimism. Below is some helpful information to support your child in dealing with difficulties and thinking positively.

**How parents and carers can help develop optimistic thinking**

Confidence and optimistic thinking improves through building on small successes. Parents and carers can help by:

- explaining to children that skills develop with practice
- encouraging children to persist when they don’t succeed straight away
- praising effort, persistence and improvement
- making sure that goals are achievable by breaking down large tasks or responsibilities into small steps
- being ready to help when necessary, without taking over.

**How to help children deal with disappointment**

Everybody fails to achieve their goals sometimes. Parents and carers (and school staff) can help by:

- responding sympathetically and with encouragement (eg “That was disappointing, but at least you had a go.”)
- helping children focus on what they can change to make things better, rather than thinking that the situation is unchangeable or that there is something wrong with them (eg “What can you try that might make that work better next time?”)
- challenging ‘I can’t’ thinking by showing and saying you believe in them and reminding them of what they have achieved.

Optimistic thinking recognises what has been achieved more than what is lacking. It looks at the glass as half-full rather than half-empty. Parents and carers can help children focus on their own effort and on achieving personal goals as the best way to measure success.
**PBL**
This week students are learning to stay safe before school. Socialising with peers before school can be a valuable experience for our students and a great way to start the day. However, please remember teacher supervision does not begin until 8.25am. Students should not arrive at school before this time. We are also asking ball games to stop at 8.40am. Handball may still be played on the strip next to the classrooms under the COLA. It is lovely to see so many of our parents playing handball with their children before school begins! All parents are welcome to wait with their child/ren until the bell goes and to join us for our morning assemblies. I am looking forward to another term of exceptional behaviour at Oatlands Public School!

Miss Gould

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**Peer Support**
Last week in Peer Support the children will discuss the concept of perseverance. An important part of learning is striving to improve and achieve our goals. Children need practice in talking positively to themselves when dealing with difficult situations. When children are supported and praised it encourages them to persevere. Encourage your child this week to persevere in learning something new.

**Fundraising**
This term the Year 6 students will be involved in a variety of fundraising events. We have already held our Footy Jersey mufti day. Next week our guessing competition will commence and run for two weeks. For 50c students will be able to guess the number of marbles or stones in different sized jars with the chance to win a sports ball. During Weeks 2-8 students will be selling ice blocks at recess and lunch also for 50c. On Wednesday 12 November we will be holding a hot dog day as well as a cake stall on 19 November. Money raised will contribute to the costs of the Year 6 end of year events and celebrations, including a gift for the school. We thank you ahead of time for your support with our fundraising efforts.

Ms Dayhew
2/3 Triathlon has sprung back into school work this term. Check out their outstanding spring inspired poems and floral artworks!
Oatlands Awards Week 10 – “Gathering Data Through All Senses”

K Swimming        Joshua K.
K/1 Hockey         Lilly
1/2 Gymnastics    Michael
2/3 Triathlon      Herman
3/4 Marathon       Samuel
4/5 Athletics      Tenaesha
5/6 Heptathlon     Joshua

Class Awards:
K Swimming         Thevindu
                        Sarah
                        Lachlan P.
K/1 Hockey         Alanah
                        Oliver
                        Joyce
1/2 Gymnastics    Joshua
                        Juney
                        Yasmin
2/3 Triathlon      Caitlyn
                        Rongo
                        Jacinta
3/4 Marathon       Mitchell
                        Alex
                        Madison
4/5 Athletics      Gabriel
                        Rohan
                        Daniel
5/6 Heptathlon     Connor
                        Kristine
                        Lara

The Major Bear Ticket winner is Farnia from 5/6H