Welcome Back

On behalf of the dedicated teaching staff at our school it is my pleasure to wish you all a very Happy New Year. We are all looking forward to working with you and your wonderful children in 2015. What a productive first couple of weeks it has been at our busy school. The students have all settled in well to their new classes and are working hard.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our new Kindergarten families who started their first week of primary school last week. The Kindergarten teachers and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting you and your children and look forward to catching up with you at our Kindergarten afternoon tea on Thursday 12 February on the Kindergarten verandah from 5:15pm. Following the afternoon tea will be an information evening in your child’s classroom for KK and KA parents.

Information evenings for 1/2P, 2/3M, 3/4C, 3/4K, 5/6H and 5/6W will be held on Monday 16 February. These meetings will provide parents with an opportunity to hear about each teacher’s plans for the class and find out about homework routines, assessment procedures, excursions and units of work that will be covered throughout the year. I look forward to seeing you there.

School Canteen

Our school canteen reopened last week. The canteen is open on Mondays and Fridays at lunchtime. Students will be able to order their lunch all year round on Mondays and Fridays, commencing on Monday 23 February. The 2015 canteen menu is attached to this newsletter. Please note, there will be no canteen service on Friday 20 February due to the 3-6 Swimming Carnival.

Thank you Moniq for volunteering to be canteen co-ordinator again this year. We are looking for parent helpers for the canteen. If you are able to help, please put your name down at the office.

Oatlands Public School P&C

Oatlands P&C meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm in the hall. We welcome all parents to join us for these important meetings. If you are unable to attend but would like a copy of the minutes, including the Principal’s Report, please email the school or drop your email address in at the office.

School Banking

School Banking will resume on Tuesday 17 February 2015.

Active School App

Our school has a mobile phone app. What’s that you may ask? It is a little application that sits on your phone and gives you instant access to our school information when you click on it. The app gives parents the ability to instantly access newsletters without going to the website, or to send in a sick note while you stand outside the school because you forgot to write a paper note! The school calendar is also there with information on upcoming events and you will also receive message reminders about current school happenings on a regular basis. Download it to your smartphone by going to either the Apple App Store or Android Google Play Market and search for our school name. Once you have found it press install or download.
**Parent Tips**

**Summer food safety**  
You can greatly reduce the risk of food poisoning during the summer period by chilling food in the fridge before packing your child's lunch and then putting a frozen drink into their lunchbox. The food will stay about 12 degrees cooler.


**Jargon buster**  
Wondering why your children talk about playing under the school COLA? Baffled at parent-teacher discussions about KLA's? This list of common abbreviations or terms will help you to become familiar with the world inside school.


**Avoiding injuries**  
Have you ever wondered if your child may be suffering physically from using a computer for schoolwork? Or if carrying their school bag may be causing them pain?


**Maths questions**  
Are you in search of an educational game to sharpen your child's maths skills and recall? Maths Monkey's Quest features maths questions on topics ranging from addition and subtraction to ratios and percentages. It's aimed at children from Years 3 to 8.


**Helping your child with homework**  
How do you help your child while allowing them to develop independence? Teachers talk about how parents can help kids take responsibility for their homework and avoid Thursday night meltdowns.


Have a great week

Mr D'Amore  
Principal
NEWS FROM OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Kidsmatter

**How to help your child settle into a new class**
In 13 plus years of education, your child will eventually find themselves in a class without their close friends. It's normal for them to initially feel a little anxious about this, so how should you handle it?

*Don't rob your child of this opportunity to develop social skills.*

School is a place where our children learn important social skills as well as academic ones. Finding their place and making friends in a new group is a vital skill to develop and one they'll rely on their entire lives. The classroom is one of the gentlest places to start learning this because:

*Teachers turn a "bunch of kids" into a team every year.*

They keep an eye out for students who aren't mixing in, and create opportunities to pair them up with different children.

*There's still lunch and recess to play with their mates.*

It's also a great opportunity for them to learn about separating social time and work time.

*Lots of their classmates are in the same boat.*

Everyone is starting a new year, with a new teacher and a new classroom and many will be looking for new friendships too. Some children choose a new "best friend" in every class they have, which builds a rich network of friendships over the years.

*Children learn different skills from different classmates.*

These days there are lots of opportunities for group work in class, when students team up and work through tasks together. Unlikely pairings can produce excellent workmates, who share a common language of learning and help each other along.

*You can gently help them make new friends.*

If you are able to spend some time in your child's classroom (for example, by helping out with reading or maths groups) you'll meet the other children and be able to suggest possible friends to your child. Your child will be thrilled to see you in their classroom and it also seems to fast track their sense of 'belonging'. Encourage play dates with classmates.


**PBL**

Over this fortnight students are reviewing the three school expectations of being safe, respectful and a learner. Bear tickets will be given to students who follow these rules and at next week's assembly the student from each class who best remembers or articulates the meaning of these rules will receive the Oatlands Award. Please discuss these expectations at home with your child.

Miss Gould
Ice block Fundraiser and Raffle
During Term 1, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, Year 6 will be selling ice blocks at recess and lunch for 50c. Please support the Year 6 in their fundraising efforts. They are raising money for an end of year gift to the school and for their end of year festivities. Also, next week each family will receive a book of ten raffle tickets to sell. The major prize is a girls bike, second and third prize is a netball or football and there will also be five consolation prizes of handballs. Tickets are one dollar each or three for two dollars. Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts.

Debating Team Trials
This week I am holding try-outs for the school debating team. There will be two teams: a competitive team and a training team. The training team will be open to talented public speakers in Years 3-5 and the competitive team will be open to students in Years 5-6. Both teams will meet throughout the year to develop their debating and public speaking skills, learn the art of debating and participate in actual debates. The competitive team will compete against other schools in the Parramatta Learning Community. Students who wish to participate are required to prepare a one-minute speech on “Homework Should Be Banned”. They will have to present their speech this Friday to Ms Dayhew.

Ms Dayhew

OATLANDS PS AFL AUSKICK CENTRE AFTER SCHOOL
Each Wednesday starting 18th February until 11th March from 3.15pm to 4.15pm on the school oval
Each child will receive-

- 4 COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS to; GWS GIANTS v HAWTHORN AT SPOTLESS STADIUM SATURDAY 9th MAY 4.35PM (include your address when registering so these can be mailed to you)
- AN AUSKICK DRAWSTRING BAG WHICH INCLUDES:
  - AFL football
  - Footy cards
  - Giants stickers
  - AFL activity book
  - .... and much more

For only $40, you will enjoy a safe, fun, action packed 4 week program of games and skill development, ideal for boys and girls aged 4-9.

Register now by going to www.AFLAUSKICK.com.au and enter your postcode then click on “Oatlands PS AFL Auskick Centre- After School”

Or register in person at the first session. Payment via cash or cheque is also accepted.

For more information contact Mike O’Grady on 88677403, Email: mikeogrady@aflnswact.com.au
PSSA Zone Team Trials
Starting in Weeks 3 and 4, students in Years 3 – 6 have the opportunity to trial for a Merrylands Parramatta PSSA sporting team. The sports are as follows: Rugby League, Soccer, AFL, Netball, Basketball, Softball and Cricket. Not all sports may have both junior and senior teams.

The trials will be held on various days throughout the week. Students will be notified about dates for specific sporting team trials during morning assemblies over the next two weeks. They will be given permission notes to take home.

Parents will need to transport their child to the trials.

Parents can also refer to the Merrylands Parramatta PSSA website for further information:
www.mlandsparrapssa.schools.nsw.edu.au

There will be other opportunities throughout the year for other Zone and PSSA teams. Information will be sent home regarding these teams over the course of the year.

Miss Dalli
PSSA Coordinator

Wow
Working on Writing

Students in class 5/6 Hill are busy working on writing. Mayra completed this great piece of writing in a short period of time. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Dogs! I am petrified every time I see one. But our street is home for every living dog from the cutest and cuddliest to the blood thirsty and vicious ones. Luckily, I haven’t had any bad experiences yet! However, there is a new dog in my street……

I was doing my morning walk when I saw it. A big vicious, blood thirsty Rottweiler! It turned around and started growling and bolted towards me. I screamed and ran hysterically the other way. Up past my house, around Mrs Umins (the grumpy old lady in number 5) twice and up the hill through the chiming of the church choir and down the hill. Until I realised it was catching up. I couldn’t make it home in time! It is going to eat me!

I turned into the street where my friend lived in an apartment and started madly tapping at the security intercom. “Hello. It’s Ellie” I heard.

“Let me in. Let me in. PLEASE Ellie!” I screamed in panic.

“Ok Ok settle your petals!”

The door unlocked and I ran in. The dog just squeezed in through the gap. I ran to the elevator and jumped in. The dog didn’t make it this time. However, he was smart and went up the stairs. I got to the top of the apartment and ran to Ellie’s door, opened it and ran in slamming the door shut behind me. I turned and saw Ellie opening the door again. I see the blood thirsty Rottweiler. “Close the door Ellie!” I screamed.

“What? Why? This is fluffy by the way”. I looked at her confused. “I got him yesterday. He was just running home for dinner. He must have been hungry!”

By Mayra 5/6 Hill