coming up…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 10th March</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 7.30pm in the Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 11th March</td>
<td>Playgroup 9.15-10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 12th March</td>
<td>Selective HS Test Stage 3 Soccer Knockout training 3-4.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 13th March</td>
<td>Gymnastics Year 6 Raffle drawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 16th March</td>
<td>Stewart House Collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 18th March</td>
<td>Playgroup 9.15-10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 19th March</td>
<td>Harmony Day Celebrations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 20th March</td>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 23rd March</td>
<td>Young Leaders Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24th March</td>
<td>Newsletter out</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25th March</td>
<td>Playgroup 9.15-10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 27th March</td>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 28th March</td>
<td>Election Day P&amp;C Barbecue and Car Boot Sale</td>
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**My School Website**

The My School Website has been updated with 2014 Naplan data and I am pleased to announce that Oatlands Public School performed very well compared to ‘similar schools’, especially Year 5 students. To have a look, go to [http://www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au), search for Oatlands Public School, click on Naplan and then chose similar schools, Year 5.

**Road Safety – Crossing the Road**

Please remember to cross the road at the crossing. The crossing is the safest place to cross the road and only takes a few more minutes to walk up to the crossing and cross the road safely. This is also a great opportunity to talk to your children about road safety. By modelling the correct way to cross the road and talking about road safety children are less likely to put themselves at risk when parents are running late or if they have to cross the road on their own. I urge all parents to cross at the crossing and keep our children safe.

**Mathletics and Reading Eggs**

Students who have paid for Mathletics will be given their user name and password this week. Students are still able to use last year’s Reading Eggs and Reading Eggs Express username and password this semester as subscription renewal for this program isn’t until Semester 2.

**Selective High School Placement Test – 12th March 2015**

The selective high schools test is held annually for Year 6 students wishing to enter a selective government high school. In 2015, the Selective High School placement test will be held on Thursday 12 March. We wish our students sitting the test all the best for Thursday.

**The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey Yrs 4-6**

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students in Years 4-6 to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.
I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey was sent home in Week 5. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 13 February. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

**Amazing Photos by Colour my Memories**
From Monday 16 March until Wednesday 18 March, 3-6pm in the school library (Monday and Tuesday) and in the school hall (on Wednesday) there will be a photo fundraiser run at school where $10 from every image purchased will go to Oatlands Public School. Lucky Dip prizes will be offered for the first 25 bookings, prizes include free and half priced family photo sessions, colour my memories gift ideas and more. Amazing Photos delivers stunning photographic images through the creative use of conceptual themes, set and subject styling, photographic expertise and post-production editing. Please see the poster attached to this newsletter for examples of how the photos turn out. Booking forms were sent home earlier this term. If you would like to book your child in please complete the booking form and return it to the school office by Friday 13 March. After the photo shoot you will receive an order form with payment options.

**GIANT Easter Raffle and Hat Parade**
On Thursday 2 April we are having a Hat Parade and P&C run parent morning tea and GIANT Easter Raffle. Students are asked to make their hats at home and they can be of any size, shape or description. Donated Easter treats are being sought for the raffle and all donations need to be in by Monday 30 March. Parent helpers will be asked to wrap the prizes on the morning of Wednesday 1 April. Raffle tickets will be sent home this week and need to be returned to the school by 8.45am Thursday 1 April. Coffee, tea, drinks and hot cross buns are available to purchase for parents/caregivers and students and must be pre-ordered by Thursday 1 April, unfortunately orders cannot be taken after this date.

**School Photos**
School Photos will be held on Wednesday 1 April. Envelopes will be sent home soon for you to complete and send back to your child’s class teacher. Envelopes containing the correct money are to be brought to school on the day of the photographs. If you require a family photo, envelopes can be obtained from the school office.

**Stewart House Clothing Appeal**
The Stewart House Clothing Appeal for 2015 has begun. Your donation of clothing helps Stewart House and The Smith Family to raise much needed funds to continue their important work. A bag has been sent home with your child. Please fill this bag with any unwanted used clothing or manchester and blankets. Extra bags are available at the school office. Please return bags by this Friday 13 March 2015. We are unable to accept bags after this date.

**P&C Meeting**
Our next Oatlands Public School P&C meeting will be held tonight at 7.30pm in the staffroom. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Mr D’Amore
Principal
Tips for Helping Your Child with Maths

Mathematics can at times be frustrating so how can you help your child if this occurs? While there is no magic cure and keeping in mind that each child and parent is different, these suggestions should help.

1) Firstly, if the situation has caused the child to be upset to the point of tears, take a break before continuing. At this point not much concentration or learning can occur.

2) Keep in mind that maths can be tricky. This is compounded if the child does not have a strong foundation in the topics building up to the task at hand. When helping, try to identify if the difficulty is with skills that the child should have already mastered. If it is, then your energies are best spent in reviewing. The child will not be able to move forward if the foundation is not there.

3) Let the child know that you understand their frustration. But don't feed it! Avoid saying things like, "I know, I hate maths too!" Instead you could say something like, "I had trouble with maths too but I wish I had of stuck with it better than I did."

Here's a list of questions you can ask the child when they are stuck:

1) What part of the problem is giving you trouble?

2) Why don't we read the problem together and make sure we understand what it is asking.

3) Can we draw a picture of the problem? (This works well for word problems)

4) Can we make up an easier problem that is similar to this? Then we can work our way up to this one.

5) Why don't we take a 10 minute break and come back to this?

MATHS GAMES to play at home

Mathematical Versions of Snap

This is a small group game (two to four players). You need: A deck of cards with the picture cards removed, the ace equals one.

1. Instead of 'snapping' on a pair of numbers make up a mathematical rule, for example- when two cards add up to ten the first player to snap takes the pile.

2. Shuffle the deck and place it face down on the middle of the table.

3. Players take it in turns to pick a card from the deck and turn it face up.

4. When two cards come out that make the rule ie in this case two numbers that add up to a multiple of ten, the first player to snap wins the pile.

5. The winner is the player with the biggest pile once all the cards from the middle have turned over.

There are lots of different rules you can use for the game, pick one which suits the level of your child. Some examples include; two numbers which multiply to equal either ten or twelve, two even numbers, two odd numbers, two numbers where the difference is three.
NAPLAN will be held for Year 3 and 5 students on 12th, 13th and 14th May 2015. Earlier this term Miss Gould and Ms Dayhew held a parent workshop on ways to support your child with NAPLAN. The key messages out of the workshop were:

1. Reading – read with your child and encourage them to read a wide range of texts such as Newspapers, magazines, signs, different types of books – fiction and non-fiction. Talk to them about what they are reading. Ask them questions about what they have read. Use the Here Hidden Head Heart analogy (shown below).

2. Get to know what is in the test and information about the test. This way you are better prepared to talk to your child about the upcoming test and the testing process. Treat the test and the test day as simply another part of the child’s schooling and do not place any undue stress or pressure on the child.

3. Involve your child in hands-on mathematics activities and problem solving involving everyday problems.

4. Useful Websites:  
   http://www.nap.edu.au/  
   http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/  

---

### Here

What information can you find that’s right there in the text? (You can point to it).

### Hidden

Hunt through the text looking for clues to give you information that may be ‘hidden’.

### Heart

What feelings can be found in the text? Who’s feeling them and how come?

### Head

Take the information in the text, add it to what you already know and come up with new information!
Kidsmatter

How to promote good mental health at home

Encourage supportive relationships:

Encourage your child to build supportive relationships, such as with extended family, friends and other adults, including teachers and coaches. This can reduce a child’s risk of depression and clinical anxiety. Expose your child to situations where they can interact with other people in a safe environment, such as parks, community organisations and clubs. Try to set a good example by building strong positive relationships with your own family and friends.

If your child is struggling to make connections with other people, talk to them about any difficulties they may be having.

Provide your child with a secure, structured and predictable environment by developing and maintaining daily routines.

Encourage good health habits:

Encourage your child to have good health habits around diet, exercise, sleep and screen time, as this may reduce their risk of developing depression and clinical anxiety.

• Diet – Provide your child with nutritious meals at regular intervals, including a nutritious breakfast. Also, as best you can, limit the amount of junk food available to them.
• Exercise – Make sure your child gets some sort of daily exercise. Physical activity can also be a good way of managing feelings of depression and anxiety.
• Screen time – Limit the amount of time your child spends watching television, playing video games or using the computer.
• Sleep – Make sure your child gets enough sleep and practises good sleep hygiene.

To encourage good health habits in your child, it is important to demonstrate these yourself.

Source: http://www.parentingstrategies.net/depression/

Over this fortnight students are learning to wear their school uniform with pride. Students are required to wear the correct uniform to school each day, the school sports uniform on specified sports days and a hat during recess and lunch. For more information about correct sports days and school uniform please speak to your child’s teacher. Bear tickets will be given to students who follow these rules and at next week’s assembly the student from each class who best meets these expectations will receive the Oatlands Award. Please discuss these positive behaviours at home with your child.

Ms Gould
From our Assistant Principals

DANCE OFF! JUNIOR CAMP: 22 - 24 April 2015
Dance Off! Junior Camp, a three day residential camp for gifted and talented dancers and is offered for Stage 3 students from 22 – 24 April, 2015. The camp will cover a variety of dance workshops in different forms including Jazz, Funk, Lyrical Jazz, Hip-Hop, Broadway, and Commercial. Choreographic workshops will also feature throughout the camp and provide talented dancers with a unique opportunity to feature in a collaborative piece. Over the three days of the camp, the tutors will provide blocks of uninterrupted time in specialist workshops for talented students to further develop skills and performance.

Dance within the arts curricula focuses on understanding dance as an art form through performing, composing and appreciating. Students attending the camp will develop a deep sense of understanding of these concepts through participation and practice. In the Creative Arts, students are continually reflecting upon their own dance composition and performance. Throughout the camp, students will review their work and gain an understanding of the nature of dance. Working with others of similar talents and interests will provide a unique opportunity for enthusiastic students.

The DANCE OFF! Camp is a NSW Department of Education and Communities initiative for gifted & talented dance students in Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6 Primary School). At 2:00pm on the final day (24th April) the students present a performance to an audience of parents, principals and teachers. All meals and accommodation are included in the cost of the camp. The cost of the camp is $210 and parents are required to drive their children to and from the venue.

Applications need to be in by the Friday 27 March 2015.

If you are interested please see Ms Kocagil for further information and an application form.

ARTS IN ACTION MUSIC CAMP 2015
The Arts in Action Music Camp offers an opportunity for students in Year 5 – 12 to join together for 4 days to receive expert tutelage and develop their performance skills. It is a NSW Department of Education and Communities initiative for talented vocal and instrumental students. Emphasis is placed on music education and participants rehearse and perform high quality repertoire. It is a four-day residential camp. Major activities at the camp include concert band, vocal ensemble, jazz ensemble, string ensemble and recreational activities. The camp is on from April 28 - May 1 at Centre Three Merroo Conference Centre. Vocal students and students who play orchestral string instruments and concert band instruments are invited to apply. There will be one place available for an experienced bass guitar player. Students will need to be confident about staying overnight. Any student who might be anxious about being away from home for three nights would be best advised to wait until next year. The cost of the camp is $320.00. This includes all meals/accommodation, recreational activities and tuition. Any interested students please see Ms Lam who is here on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for an information package and application form. Applications need to be returned to the school by Friday 20 March 2015.

WRITE FOR FUN
The 2015 Schools Writing Competition is now open! Write4Fun encourages students to write and to encourage creativity with literacy. Students across Australia will battle it out for some great prizes for the winners and their school. There is no theme and entries can be on any topic or in any style. Students are encouraged to let their imaginations run wild and get their creative juices flowing. Entry is free and the closing date is Sunday 29 March 2015. The quickest and easiest way to enter is at www.write4fun.net. Students in Kindergarten to Year 12 are welcome to enter.

DEBATING
Our debating group has been selected and congratulations to the following students; Mayra, Sophia, Aimee, Max, Luke, Aaron, Min, Jesse, Danasha, Sebastian, Sean, Malindu, Madison and Sharon. These students have a talent, ability or an interest in debating and public speaking. Over the year I will be working with these students to improve their public speaking skills and teach them the skills needed to be confident and competent debaters. Our first debate is against Parramatta a Public School on Thursday 26 March. The topic being “School Holidays should be Shorter”. All students in the debating team will develop and build on this topic and four students will represent the school in the actual interschool debate.
STAGE 3 CAMP

Stage Three students (Years 5 and 6) return to school this week after spending three fantastic days at Berry Sport and Recreation Centre. All the students participated in a variety of activities that challenged and tested their courage, encouraged them to work collaboratively and involved physical activity. We started the camp with a six kilometre hike across paddocks and through the bush to an open field where we had spectacular views of the coast and countryside. The next day, in groups of three, students paddled canoes up Broughton Creek, a tributary of the Shoalhaven River. The groups had to work together to steer and paddle the canoes. Some students managed to capsize and then were challenged to get back into their canoes. At the end of the canoeing activity the students cooled off with a swim in the creek. Archery was a fun activity and many students came close to hitting the bullseye. The dark maze proved challenging, scary and confronting with all students braving the maze commando style and crawled through the darkness to the end. Even Ms Dayhew faced her fear of enclosed dark spaces and completed the challenge! The highlight of the camp was the cable glide or giant flying fox. Students ran or jumped off the ledge to then fly through the air on a wire. Mrs Walsh was one of the many that ran off the end! Down time was spent playing sport including touch footy with Mr Hyland, tennis, soccer, basketball and table tennis, where John proved to be a champion. Despite what the students say, the food was great and there was plenty of it. The night time of mini Olympics and games were fun. Despite the busy and exhausting schedule, the students enjoyed staying up and talking about their day in their cabins of a night time and waking up early. A huge thank you to the other teachers, Mrs Walsh and Mr Hyland who left their families for three days to provide this great experience for the students. Photos and a video link will be available soon.

Ms Dayhew

Playgroup

Oatlands Public school is now enrolling for Kindergarten next year and run a playgroup on Wednesday mornings from 9.15 to 10.30am for children who have not yet started school and their parents. Please don’t hesitate to see Mr D’Amore for more information.
Happy and Healthy Eating over Easter

Easter is almost here and traditionally that means chocolate! Chocolate is a delicious part of our food choices. However, it of course should be eaten in moderation. At school, chocolate is classed as "a sometimes food". It is important to eat fresh fruit and vegetables. Aim to eat two serves of fruit and five serves of vegetables every day. Have fresh fruit available as a convenient snack and try to include fruit and vegies in every meal. Wash that chocolate down with water!

Live Life Well @ School committee

ICAS Competitions

Each year students from our school elect to compete in the ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools) competitions. There is a nominal fee per competition to participate. The assessments are conducted before school at 8am in the school library.

Traditionally students in grades 3-6 have been invited to participate. This year some of the assessments are open to Year 2 students which is great preparation for the NAPLAN testing they will participate in the following year.

The assessments include Digital Technologies, Science, Writing, Spelling, English and Mathematics and are held between May and August this year.

This is a great opportunity for students to represent our school and showcase their talents. Each student will be awarded with a certificate which is a valuable addition to their portfolios. Students also receive detailed feedback on their performance. In addition, top-scoring students in each year level for each subject will be awarded a prestigious medal in recognition of their outstanding performance.

A note with the exact dates, costs and more information will be sent home soon.

Harmony Day

Our annual Harmony Day food celebration will be held on Wednesday the 18th of March at recess this year. All children are encouraged to wear an outfit of cultural significance or the colour orange on the day. We are also seeking donations of non perishable food to be sold at the multicultural food stall. All items will be sold for 50c and money raised on the day will be donated to World Vision.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Mrs Marshall Harmony Day and ICAS Competition Co-ordinator.

Zone Swimming Carnival

On Tuesday 3rd March, 20 students along with myself and team manager Mrs McLachlan travelled to Parramatta Pool for a big day of swimming. Oatlands Public School students competed against 17 other schools in the district.

It was a fantastic day. Many students swam personal bests and we have two students, Brian and Mauro who have qualified for the Sydney West Swimming Carnival in the 50m freestyle for their ages. We wish them all the best!

A very big thank you to Mrs McLachlan for being an amazing team manager and all the parents and relatives who came to support our wonderful swimmers.

We are very proud of the students’ achievements and respectful and responsible behaviour throughout the day. Well done everyone.

Miss Dalli
Oatlands Public School

Week 7, Term 1

Oatlands Awards

Week 6 – “Being a safe student in the playground”

K Karl
Kobi
K/1 Appleby

Jesse
1/2 Peacock

Rachel

2/3 Mawson

Caitlyn

3/4 Clark

Oliver

3/4 Kossoff

Charleen

Class Awards:

K Karl

Jenna

Robert

Rylee

K/1 Appleby

Ethan

Precious

Raha

1/2 Peacock

Charlie

Alan

Sarah

2/3 Mawson

Ryan

Elson

3/4 Clark

Sarah

Joshua

Daniel

3/4 Kossoff

Christian

Jacinta

Jordan

Bear Award Winner: Grace

MON 16 MARCH UNTIL WED 18 MARCH 2015

TAKE CHARACTER WITH AMAZING PHOTOS

SCHOOL FAMILY FUNDRAISER PROGRAM 3PM-6PM

BABY AND TODDLER AMAZING PHOTOS
Oatlands Awards Week 6 – “Being a safe student in the playground”

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<td>K Karl</td>
<td>Kobi</td>
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<tr>
<td>K/1 Appleby</td>
<td>Jesse</td>
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<td>1/2 Peacock</td>
<td>Rachel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3 Mawson</td>
<td>Caitlyn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 Clark</td>
<td>Oliver</td>
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Class Awards:

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<td>Jenna</td>
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<td>Charlie</td>
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<td>Alanah</td>
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<td>Daniel</td>
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<td>Jordan</td>
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Bear Ticket Winner: Grace