The Oakdale Newsletter

Oakdale Public School,

Burragorang Road, Oakdale NSW 2570

Telephone: 4659 6251 Facsimile: 4659 6400

E-mail (School): [oakdale-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:oakdale-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)



|  |
| --- |
| **Term 4, Week 10, 2012** **Date**: **Tuesday, 11th December** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Description: Description: Description: MPj04227060000[1] Description: Description: Description: MPj04227060000[1] | **From the Principal’s Desk:**  **As the school year is drawing to a close and this is the last newsletter, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our teaching and office staff for their dedication and commitment to providing a quality learning environment for the students. I would also like to acknowledge the parents who help us in so many ways. Thanks to those who help fundraise, assist in classrooms, offer to transport students to a variety of venues, assist at swimming and athletics carnivals and attend excursions. Also those who work in the canteen, come to P&C meetings and assist by covering books etc. at home – you have made a difference with the support you have provided. I would also like to commend our students for being respectful, diligent and happy young people who appreciate what is done for them.**  **I look forward to doing it all again next year – AFTER A REST!**  **Have a safe and wonderful Christmas.**  **C:\Users\mgreen15\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\PJVIJPSO\MC900436388[2].pngBest Wishes**  **Principal - Maria Green** |
| **Coming up in December:**  \*11th Principal’s Afternoon Tea 2.30pm  \*11th Parent Helper’s Morning Tea 11.30am  \***12th Year 6 Farewell - Photos 5.30pm, seated 6.00pm, parents arrive 8.30pm, finish 9.00pm**  \*17th Presentation Day starts 9.40am  \*18th Year 6 Fun Day  \*19th Big Day In  \*19th last day of school  **Coming up in January/February:**  \*29th Jan staff return to school  \*29th Solar panels installed  \*30th Jan Years 1-6 return to school  \*31st Jan Kinder start school  \*4th- 6th Feb Life Education  \*6th Feb Dance Program starts  \*7th Feb Swimming Carnival  **C:\Users\mgreen15\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\J29MMLP3\MM910001163[1].gifReminders**  **C:\Users\mgreen15\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\PJVIJPSO\MP900448427[1].jpg\*Items for the Xmas hampers sent in – food, decorations, toys etc.**  **\*Raffle tickets returned by this Friday (14th) - if you need more tickets see the office.**  **\*Keep all Big Bluey’s until next year until we have our new class roles.**  **\*Notes and money returned for Dance and Life Education.** |

**Christmas Raff**C:\Users\mgreen15\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\F7J4F1D3\MC900439995[1].wmf**le**

This year we are asking for donations of food items and wrappings, bon-bons etc. (no out of date items please) to make up several Xmas hampers. Raffle tickets will be 50 cents each and one book of ten sent home to each family. We will be drawing the raffle on Presentation Day which is Monday, 17th December. Tickets need to be returned by Friday, 14th December.

**Principal’s Afternoon Tea**

The last morning tea will be held on 11th December, 2012 at 2.30pm. Please don’t send any more Big Bluey’s to the office this year; the Treasure Chest is on holidays!



**K-2 Xmas Fun Day and Social**

C:\Users\mgreen15\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\PJVIJPSO\MC900098089[1].wmfK-2 will have a Christmas Fun Day on Tuesday, 18th December. Students are asked to dress in Xmas colours etc. and to bring their lunch in a decorated lunch box. They will have a social at some stage during the day.

**School Uniform**

It was noted in the recent survey that many staff and parents thought that it is hard to tell exactly what our school uniform is and that it could be improved upon. Students are wearing coloured shoes and jumpers, leggings and very short bike pants to school under uniforms or with a T-shirt. Next year we would like parent support to ensure full school uniform is worn. We will be much more vigilant in enforcing our uniform policy. Please consider this when you are purchasing items for school wear next year.

**Attendance**

As I have been reading, signing and putting in attendance figures for this semesters reports I was alarmed by how many students had had a significant amount of time off during the year. Unless it is absolutely vital for your child to be away they should be in attendance at school. Unsatisfactory attendance will be followed up over the next few weeks.

**Big Day In**

“The Big Day In” is a reward for students for continued good behaviour and effort in the class and the playground. Some students may miss out on this day if they have shown they cannot follow school rules. You will be notified if your child has lost 3 strikes and will not be attending.

**Dance Program and Life Education**

C:\Users\mgreen15\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\F7J4F1D3\MC900337982[1].wmfNotes are attached to the newsletter regarding these two programs. These can be returned this year or the first week of 2013.

**Change of Details**

We would appreciate it if your circumstances have changed to notify the school straight away. If you have changed address, phone number, marital status or emergency contact please ring before the holidays to update your file.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description: Description: MCj03906860000[1] Description: Description: MCj03906860000[1]**  Congratulations to the following students who recently visited The Treasure Chest. You have all been trying very hard to do your best in class. | |
| **KB** | **Seth Siggelkow, Bowyn Scott, Casey Beard, Joshua Ryan,** |
| **1I** | **Jessica Webber, Jasmine Griggs, Dylan Palmer, Ruby Sanderson, Joel Graham, Mitchell Briggs, Myia Tabone, Tyrone Baker** |
| **1/2H** | **Caitlyn Hartshorne, Lauryn Takiari, Anastasia Lalic,** |
| **2/3F** | **Hayden Peters, Joshua Young, Cody Beard** |
| **3/4B** | **Casey Ramp, Josie Dunn, Amy Ciampa x 2, Mikayla Ashman, Zoe Palmer, William Salzmann, Kye Dingle, Scott Dimech, Dylan Newham** |
| **5L** | **Corey Burton** |
| **5/6HP** | **Lola Salzmann, Brooke Holland x 3, April Couley,** |

**Survey Results**

In 2012 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

One survey per family was sent home requesting responses in four areas of school management. School site, student welfare, communication and leadership were chosen from our school plan. Of the surveys returned 90% agreed and 10% strongly agreed that the school site was well maintained, safe, inviting and environmentally friendly. Suggestions were made that we could beautify with more gardens and colourful playground markings which had already been planned for in 2013. 90% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that our school rules, high expectations for behaviour, discipline measures and teachers responses to complaints provided their children with a safe learning environment where the students are mostly well behaved, courteous and respectful. 10% of parents disagreed and believed that more follow up of instances was required and could be improved through more supervision on the playground. 90% of parents believed communication from the school was regular, provided well in advance and done in a variety of ways. They also found the Principal, teaching and office staff approachable and willing to solve concerns in a pleasant way. 10% believed communication with parents could be improved with a noticeboard that could be changed more regularly and read more easily. 90% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that the school adequately supported their child’s Literacy, Numeracy and Technology development. Parents who disagreed believed there should be more rigour and daily practice of the above mentioned skills. 100% of parents believed there is strong strategic leadership providing clear directions for the school to head in provided by our Assistant Principals and Principal.

Staff responded through individual interviews during the TARS and EARS process and was delighted with the improved aesthetics of their working environment finding it “uplifting.” All teachers believed that the majority of students are well behaved, respectful and courteous. Staff have expressed their satisfaction re the opportunities for professional development, support to programs through adequate resourcing and the implementation of some new programs and changes to some existing structures.

Students have expressed they like the changes to their environment and the new programs such as Crunch and Sip. They understand the idea of a healthy food canteen but would still like more on the menu. All students felt safe and believed there were mainly minor issues between students that were mostly followed up by teachers. They felt supported at school and had opportunities to do many things even if they themselves didn’t do them. Some believed more access to a variety of different technologies would add to their learning.

Some comments that came from the surveys that will be given consideration when we are doing our planning for next year.

**Comments:**

\*Marked improvement in the school in the past 12 months, I wish my son had the kind of support he received this year years ago

\*Great work everyone, keep it up!

\*Volunteers in canteen feel they are not reaping any rewards for the school as there is no money being made on Healthy Canteen menu.

\*Swearing is a problem with some students.

\*More supervision during recess and lunch times, this is a problem.

\*Staff should always follow matters up.  
\*We could do more with other schools.

\*Crunch and Sip should be at lunch times.

\*Professional Development is good but not too much time away from class.

\*Believe we are discriminating against parents’ rights as to what their children can eat from the canteen – gone too far

\*I knew I came to your school for a reason and I have not been disappointed - thanks

\*Playground areas could be more colourful with painted games etc.

\*Noticeboard not always kept up to date and hard to read

\*Sometimes a lot on in a term very hard when you have several children to support everything.

\*Miss # is wonderful with my daughter and I know she has problems

\*Canteen too expensive, not enough choice.

\*K-2 Public Speaking a waste of time causes stress at home. (1 person)

\*Always a pleasure to deal with any of the staff

\*Rubbish needs to be cleaned up outside school fence

\*Bullying culture exists and not enough is being done to address the topic

\*The teacher has helped my child through some very difficult times

\* Thank the staff for being so caring of my son

**2012 P&C Report**

It’s been a busy year for our newly formed P&C, and we have had a fantastic, active, supportive parent body, keen to help with the activities of all the children. Monthly P&C meetings were held in the hall or Mrs. Green’s office, and they were always a casual friendly affair, that kept all who attended updated on the activities in the school.

It would be great to see more interested parents at these meetings in 2013. If you are interested in what is going on in our school, and would like to be involved, these meetings are an open forum for all.

Over the 2012 school year, many parents and teachers from the school have assisted in several very successful fundraising activities such as Harmony Day, Election Day BBQ, several raffles, special Canteen Meal Deal days and a Bunnings BBQ, which allowed the P&C to donate $1100 for the purchase of new carpet for the kindergarten room in June, and again to make out a cheque to the school in December for $1200 to assist in the purchase of books for the Accelerated Literacy Program. Thank you to all the parents who have helped throughout the year, giving their time and energy. Without your tireless support these valuable contributions to the school would not have been possible.

The P&C also ran Mother’s and Father’s Day stalls – events which delight the kids and allow them to buy special gifts for their parents.

The canteen has been open every Friday throughout the year, and the students have loved the opportunity of buying treats and lunches once a week. The school has implemented the Fresh Tastes @ School program and has a healthy varied menu. We have had several special meal deals such as Chicken Nuggets or Hot Dog Days, which were very popular with the students.

I would particularly like to thank everyone who has been involved in the P&C activities this year – especially Sharryn McGrory (Secretary), Kalika Austin (Vice President), Carmen Crompton (Canteen Co-ordinator) and all the Mums who helped out at various activities this year – Franca, Tamara, Karen Foster, Nadene Seisun, Margaret Jackson and Anita Young. I think our students have enjoyed all our efforts and it makes a difference within our school when so many parents are involved.

It has also been great to work with such a committed and hard-working person as our new Principal, Mrs Green, who has embraced our school wholeheartedly.

For a small school community, it is fantastic to raise $2300 to help with our children’s education. We have a fabulous committed staff of teachers and a small hardworking core of parents who have sacrificed their own time to help with fundraising events. Thank you. I look forward to an exciting 2013.

Rachel D’Arcy

Oakdale P&C Association President, 2012.

**Stage 2 Excursion to the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney**

On Thursday 20th November, 2/3F and 3/4B had the most wonderful excursion to The Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney. The full-size replica of HMB Endeavour was moored near the museum and we toured the ship. It is set up to show how the men lived when they sailed from England in the 18th century. The children were particularly taken with how cramped and difficult the conditions must have been for the original 93 men on board. After that tour, we walked through the HMAS Vampire (a decommissioned naval destroyer). The children were excited to see how different life aboard a 20th century warship was. Next, we participated in the Navigators educational tour of the museum. We learnt about how Cook and his men found their way around the world using simple equipment like sextants and hand drawn maps. Also, we were told of the extraordinary navigational skills of the Dutch explorers. All of the students were very well behaved; Mr Barr and I thought that they were excellent representatives of our school. A special thanks to Margaret Jackson (William’s mum) and Leanne Hartshorne (Maddison’s mum) for accompanying us on the excursion and helping us all day; we very much appreciate it!

