



The Oakdale Newsletter

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Term 1, Week 4, 2014

Date: Tuesday, 18th February



Dates to remember

Coming up in February

- *18th - Scripture starts
- *20th – Primary assembly commences plus Captains, Library Monitors and Class Councillors receive badges
- *25th Combined scripture
- *27th/28th – Zone swimming



Coming up in March

- *3rd – K-2 assembly open to parents
- *4th - Fire drill/Evacuation
- *6th – Primary assembly
- *10th – Lockdown drill
- *13th – 3-6 science groups commence
- *14th – Year 2 sleepover
- *17th – Camden High Tour Night
- *18th – Regional swimming
- *20th - Year 6 - EOI High School forms due
- *21st – Harmony Day – Everyone Belongs
- *24th – School photos (summer uniform)
- *Week 9 - Meet the Teacher (A note will go out over the next week or so)
- *31st – Young Leaders Day – School captains and Mrs Green attend conference

Staffing:

In Term 2 Mrs Karliotis will return three days per week and Mrs Mineeff one day per week.

Tori Davis was selected for the SSW State Cricket team!



From the Principal's desk

We have had a very smooth start to the year. Forward planning enabled us to be in our classrooms immediately on day one. I would like to commence the year by informing our community about what drives the decisions we are making. We will always strive to promote equity and excellence for our students. It is our desire that all of our students engage in the learning process, become creative, confident, respectful and productive citizens.

To ensure adequate provisions are made for quality learning we have reduced the number of assemblies across the school and focused our energies on improving Literacy and Numeracy K-6. We have provided as much support within class and individually as our budget will allow. Staff professional development will be more school based with less training at courses outside the school.

Good behaviour in classrooms allows the teacher to do their job and that is to be able to provide quality education to every child. Students who stop others learning will be dealt with by following our behaviour policy. It is our intention to positively change inappropriate behaviour so that all students comply with school rules. To do this we need parent support. If we are working at odds with one another this will not bring about a satisfactory resolution. We, like you are not infallible; we will make mistakes at times. At these times please remain calm and come up and have a conversation with us and I'm sure we will be able to sort out even the toughest problem.

Not just a good school but a great school!

2014 School Captains and Vice Captains.
Brandon Takiari, Joshua Prout, Zoe Richards and Maddison Hartshorne.



Updating our Records

If your employment status has changed please inform the office. Some of our funding is dependent on whether our parents are out of work, casually or full time employed. The more unemployed members of our community the more funds under FOEI we receive. Please fill in the form provided by the office and update your status. Also the year you left school is considered towards funding. Office staff may ring over the next few weeks if they need to verify details.

Talented Artist Program

Each class will have several art lessons taught by Mrs Gonzalez during Term 1. This way each child gets the opportunity to develop their artistic skills. In Term 4 a selected group from each class will then go on to receive more individualise instruction.

Year 6 Artworks based on Antarctica



Dylan Newham, Erika ThorntonTaylor-Lee Johns, Jaide Curtis, and Maddison Hartshorne

Year 6 Accelerated Literacy Lesson



Hassan Dirani and Jaide Curtis working on Accelerated Literacy.

P&C Chocolate Fundraiser

This term each family will receive a box of chocolates from the P&C. This will be the major fundraiser for the term. If you sell and return the money for one box of chocolates you can request to have more boxes to sell. Get behind your P&C they are working hard to support beneficial programmes for the school. Our targets for this year are to install a fitness track, provide more seating and update our science resources.

Canteen News

*Meal Deal 21st February \$6.50 – fish and chips plus popper or water. Orders must be in by 19.2.14(i.e. tomorrow)

There will be no lunch orders from the canteen on Friday 21/2/14 due to the meal deal but there will be over the counter sales.

Fiona Williams – Canteen Coordinator

Every school needs to have an Attendance Action Plan to support students attend school on a regular basis. This is our plan; please read it and understand that we are legally bound to monitor attendance very closely.

**Oakdale Public School
Attendance Action Plan 2014**

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as a part of their duty of care, monitors part or whole day absences and follows up on unsatisfactory attendance.

Staff Responsibilities:

- *Providing a caring teaching and learning environment which fosters students' sense of belonging to the school community
- *Recognising and rewarding excellent and improved student attendance
- *Maintaining accurate records of student attendance
- *Implementing programs and practices to address attendance issues when they arise
- *Providing clear information to students and parents regarding attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance

Steps to Follow to Improve Student Attendance:

- *Roll class teacher to monitor attendance and inform parents of concerns about unsatisfactory student attendance after 3 days of continuous absence or regular patterns of absence including partial attendance. A LAMP sheet to be completed by CT to monitor the attendance of students causing concern
- *Class teacher to work closely and cooperatively with family to bring about a resolution to absenteeism
- *Class teacher to work closely with supervisor to bring about a resolution to absenteeism
- *Supervisor to contact family if attendance has not improved
- Principal to intervene if family is not responsive to teacher and supervisor intervention
- *Report made to HSLO if attendance continues to be a concern
- *School HSLO contact person to contact family if attendance has not improved after the involvement of the class teacher, stage supervisor and principal.

Responsibilities of SASS Monitoring Attendance:

- *Late arrivals and early leavers recorded every day at office
- *Rolls marked by teachers and sent to office by 10.00am each day
- *Absence report generated for 1 day unexplained absence put into class teachers roll and given to student (daily basis) reminders that it must be returned within 7 days
- *SASS staff print off attendance data every 3 weeks and students of concern are highlighted by designated School Attendance Coordinator (2014 Maria Green) and signed by principal; concerns will be followed up
- *Steps to improve school attendance penned in this document will then be followed

School Initiatives to Achieve Improved attendance Patterns:

- *Regular information in the school newsletter providing clear information to students and parents regarding attendance requirements
- *Rewarding excellent attendance at the end of each term. Students will receive a blue merit certificate for 100% attendance. Recognition will also be given to students who achieve 95% attendance or above with a yellow school merit. These awards will be organised each term by the School Attendance Coordinator
- *Maintain accurate records for attendance with support from the HSLO
- *HSLO to speak with staff annually about roll marking procedures
- *HSLO/Attendance Officer to put procedures in place to target late comers and early leavers
- *HSLO, School Attendance Officer and staff to continually work with families with long term attendance issues
- *Follow the step by step process that is already in place to monitor attendance



MISSING SCHOOL MEANS MISSING OUT!

Student Welfare

To provide a safe, secure and happy place of learning Oakdale Public School has developed a Student Welfare Policy based on the 5 rules of Be Safe, Be Attentive, be Kind, Be Polite and Be Honest.

Attached today are copies of the classroom and playground monitoring sheets which are completed by teachers when students find it difficult to cooperate and function within the boundaries of these rules.

These sheets show that students are given up to 3 opportunities to adjust their behaviour and make better choices before they are sent from the classroom or playground to speak with an executive teacher or the Principal.

Students who are sent from the class or playground must attend a reflection session at lunchtime to be counselled about their behaviour, what triggered it and strategies they can try the next time they face a similar situation.

Parents are advised of this procedure either by letter or phone when the situations arise.

Students who are repeatedly withdrawn from class and playground and who fail to show they are willing to work towards modifying their behaviour then face other consequences which can include:

- Withdrawal of privileges such as representing at Gala Days, Public Speaking comps etc.
- Non-inclusion on camps and excursions
- Withdrawal from end of year celebrations
- Ineligibility for Major school Awards
- Short term suspension from class and or playground

Literacy Matters!

A home environment that supports literacy is one of the most effective approaches to helping young children develop literacy skills. Research clearly shows that instructional environments have a powerful impact on children's growth in reading. While much of the research on instructional environments focuses on classroom environments, researchers believe that the same effects may be found in supportive home environments.

A literate home means more than just having books and writing materials on hand. It is a home that:

Engages – talking, reading and writing with your children to develop literacy

Encourages – help children see how useful everyday reading skills are in everyday life, have a go attitude

Explores – use books to develop children's values, attitudes and beliefs about the world

Enthuses – be positive about your own reading and writing

Experiences – foster their imaginations and broaden knowledge with books, poems and other literary experiences

Parents don't have to be literate in English to have a literate home. Reading and writing in one's native language sends every bit as strong a literacy message as reading and writing in English. The important point is that parent's value literacy, no matter what language they read and write.

Having a literate home develops in young children a love for reading and writing. As Dr Seuss puts it: 'The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn the more places you'll go' ☺

Mrs Itskos





OPS Swimming Carnival

On Wednesday 5th of February the majority of our 3 to 6s (and some children from Yanderra PS) travelled to the Wollondilly Leisure Centre for a fantastic day at the pool. The children arrived and after some basic housekeeping the 100m freestyle events began. With these done and the 50m freestyle races completed the students had a great time in the novelty events (which were really about having fun, cooling down and getting wet!) We then proceeded with the stroke events and finished the day with one more novelty event. The children behaved very well and participated in all events with sportsmanship and admirable courage as 50m is a long way. Well done to all the children for their efforts on the day and for displaying excellent behaviour.

Thank you to all the parent spectators who cheered their children on and our helpers who assisted in various capacities. Without the parental assistance the day becomes very difficult to organise and run so a big THANKS to you all. Thank you to Mrs Carlile, Ms Wymer, Mrs Beard, Ms Bowdler and those parents who made offers of assistance and anyone else whose name I may have forgotten in the whirlwind of the excitement of the day.

To school staff who worked the entire day without a break, thank you. It is a collaborative effort with the data entries for the day altering as children had built up the courage to have a go or on the contrary decided to withdraw when they saw how long 50m is. Therefore the people time keeping, starting and marshalling the races were all kept on their toes.

I would like to say congratulations to Emmitt Carlile who had a *smashing* day. He broke 5 records (including 1 of his own) and now has a total of 8 to his name.

These are the day's results. Highlighted are the children who will be representing us at zone. ® signifies 50m freestyle relay team member.

Events	1st	2nd	3rd
Open Boys 100 m Freestyle	Emmitt Carlile	Jake Austin	
Open Girls 100 m Freestyle	Jami Roberts	Aislinn D'Arcy	Jaide Curtis
Boys 8 Yrs 50 m Freestyle	Jacob Burley	Josh Graham	
Girls 8 Yrs 50 m Freestyle	Casey Beard	Breeanna Austin	
Boys 9 Yrs 50 m Freestyle	Cooper Eather®	Joel Graham®	Mitchell Welsh®
Girls 9 Yrs 50 m Freestyle	Jasmine Griggs®	Hayley Underwood	Cody Beard
Boys 10Yrs 50 m Freestyle	Lachlan Burley®	Cooper Taylor	Liam D'Arcy
Girls 10 Yrs 50 m Freestyle	Jesse Beard®	Jessica Barrass®	Emma Barrass®
Boys 11 Yrs 50 m Freestyle	Emmitt Carlile®	Jake Austin®	Hayden Bond®
Girls 11 Yrs 50 m Freestyle	Kalani Wymer®	Chelsea Nink	Caitlan McSavaney
Boys 12 Yrs 50 m Freestyle	Joshua Prout®	Casey Ramp	Dylan Newman
Girls 12 Yrs 50 m Freestyle	Jami Roberts®	Jaide Curtis®	Aislinn D'Arcy®
Junior Girls 50 m Butterfly	Ruby Sanderson	Bella Payne	

11 Years Boys 50 m Butterfly	Emmitt Carlile	Jake Austin	
Senior Girls 50 m Butterfly	Jami Roberts		
Junior Boys 50 m Backstroke	Cooper Taylor	Zac Harding	Lachlan Burley
Junior Girls 50 m Backstroke	Jesse Beard	Emma Barrass	Casey Beard
11 Yrs Boys 50 m Backstroke	Emmitt Carlile	Jake Austin	Thomas Bonomini
11 Yrs Girls 50m Backstroke	Kalani Wymer	Chelsea Nink	
Boys Senior 50 m Backstroke	Casey Ramp		
Girls Senior 50 m Backstroke	Jami Roberts	Sarah Hooper	Aislinn D'Arcy
Junior Boys 50 m Breaststroke	Lachlan Burley	Joel Graham	
Junior Girls 50 m Breaststroke	Casey Beard	Jesse Beard	Emma Barrass
Boys 11 Yrs 50 m Breaststroke	Emmitt Carlile	Jake Austin	Hassan Dirani
Girls 11Yrs 50 m Breaststroke	Kalani Wymer	Chelsea Nink	Caitlan McSavaney
Senior Boys 50 m Breaststroke	Joshua Prout	Casey Ramp	Dylan Newham
Senior Girls 50 m Breaststroke	Shaylee Robinson	Jami Roberts	Aislinn D'Arcy
Open Boys Individual Medley	Emmitt Carlile	Jake Austin	

One more 'well done' to all boys and girls for their participation on the day. Congratulations to the students who made it into the Zone team. Notes for the Zone team were sent home yesterday and need to be returned ASAP so transport can be organised and changes can be made.

Barry Luckman
Swimming Co-ordinator

PSSA CRICKET STATE CARNIVAL

We wish Tori Davis the best of luck in the PSSA State Cricket Carnival at Barooga next week. Tori is representing the Sydney South West region after impressing at the regional carnival late last year for Razorback. Tori has been training hard and is to be congratulated on this fantastic effort, especially as she had never played cricket before trying out last year.

LITTLE ATHLETICS STATE CARNIVAL

Continuing on with the 'state' theme, Caitlan McSavaney will be competing in the State Track & Field Championships at Sydney Olympic Park next month. Caitlan will be competing in the 800m and 1500m events and continues her strong affinity with distance events. Caitlan is always looking to improve her PBs and we wish her all the best at the carnival. A brilliant effort Caitlan!

GRASSHOPPER SOCCER

Pamphlets were handed out last week for after school soccer skills run by Grasshopper Soccer. This is being run independently of the school, but using the school oval. A free trial session is being conducted this afternoon straight after school. For further information contact Scott from Grasshopper Soccer on 0439843503 or southwestsydney@grasshoppersoccer.com.au
Mr Barr

