Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you all from a very quiet school! Our Year 5 and 6 students (with some Year 4 friends!) are off enjoying the good life at Tea Gardens at a school camp. I hope that Mrs Salter, Mrs Hayek and Mr Browne are behaving themselves! I look forward to all of the student and staff stories of adventure and mayhem!!

Thank you all for your continued positive support of our school. If you have concerns regarding our programs or practices, please contact our Administration Office and arrange to speak to either myself, Mrs Duffield or Mrs Bland for assistance. We will endeavour to do our very best to support you.

Assembly Changes
This week the assembly will be held on Thursday 11th September at 2.30pm due to students being involved in the 3-6 Gala Day. There will be no formal school assembly held next week. This is due to our packed end of term schedule. We have our Oracy Competition, school disco and the sports Gala Day on the last day.

Oracy Competition
In week 10, next week, we will hold our annual Oracy Competition. This will be on Monday 15th September, from 11.45am in our school hall. Parents of student finalists will be notified and invited to attend. Public Speaking is a wonderful skill to develop, therefore all students K-6 are involved in this opportunity. You will find that most, if not all state schools have a K-6 Public Speaking Policy. Please be assured that we do take into account each student’s age and grade. However, from Kindergarten up this is a worthwhile skill that all students need to develop.

Student Attendance
As I have explained in previous communication earlier this year, regular attendance at school is essential to assist students to maximise their potential. All parents/carers need to ensure that their child is attending school regularly. If for any reason your child is absent from school, explanation of the absence needs to be made promptly. It is important to take note that if your child is ill, or has to miss school for any reason, it is a legal requirement that the school be notified in writing of the reason for the absence. Thank you to parents already supporting us with this.
Please make an appointment to discuss this policy with me if you require further clarification.

**End of term Disco**
Next Thursday 18th September, we will hold an in-school disco. Children will be invited to attend school in their party/disco clothes. The entry cost will be $5, which includes a drink and chips.

**Communicating with Staff**
Previously this term I advised you of the protocols when communicating with teachers and staff members at Oran Park Public School. Telephone interviews are more than welcome. Arranged face-to-face interviews are very much appreciated. Prior arrangements allow teachers adequate time to prepare necessary information to assist you properly with your enquiry. Another option is to email our school email account oranpark-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Attention the email to the intended staff member. As I have requested in a previous newsletter, parents should not personally email staff members. All teachers have a personal email address. This is used for direct contact from the Department of Education. A more prompt and informed response will be possible when you communicate through the school email address. Please assist us by adhering to these protocols.

**No Dogs on School Grounds**
The Department of Education has a strict no dogs on school grounds policy. Some children and other adults can be frightened of dogs. At times, no matter how much you control your dog, they may bite another person, or give the impression that they may do so. Section 14 of the Companion Animals Act (1998) prohibits dogs on school grounds except where the principal gives permission. Please do not bring any dogs on school grounds, no matter what size or breed.

**P&C Thank You**
Thank you to our very generous P&C. They have donated $500 to our Library to keep stocking our shelves. They have recently just about merged with Bunnings, considering all their ongoing fundraising BBQs and other initiatives! Their plan is to continue to air-condition our classes as our school grows. In our last newsletter I thanked some of our local Coles stores for their support of our school. I did not mention Coles in Camden. They have been very generous in their support. As have Woolworths at Mount Annan. We have been very lucky to receive baked goods from them for the recent P&C cake stall. We are very lucky to have the support of so many generous businesses in our local area! It is great to have such a positive and hardworking P&C making partnerships within our local area. The P&C have asked me to ask if there are any budding photographers out there in OPPS land, who would like to help out with a whole school photo? To capture our first historic year we would like a whole school photograph, which we will frame and display in our Administration area. If there is anyone who would be willing to help out, please contact Mrs Shevlin at school.

Have a great week everyone

*Donna Shevlin*

**Library News**

**Calling All Contactors!**
We have some great new books ready to roll out onto the shelves for the children to borrow, once they are contacted. **If you are able to spare a small amount of time to come to our library on Friday 12th September and contact books, we would really appreciate your help.**

Thank you!

*Mrs Sheehan*
**Zone Athletics Carnival**

Last week 25 students represented our school at the Zone Athletics Carnival. All the students showed true sportsmanship and tried their best in all their events and are congratulated for their efforts. A big thank you to all the parents who helped transport and support our team.

We have one student, Matthew G, going on to compete at the regional carnival tomorrow. Matthew came 1<sup>st</sup> in the 800m and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 200m. Good luck in the competition tomorrow!

**3-6 Oracy Competition Final**

Our *School Oracy Final* will be held in Week 10 in our school hall. Congratulations to our **class winners** who delivered very engaging speeches and demonstrated exceptional public speaking skills. **Each finalist** will be provided with a formal invitation for their parents/family to attend.

We are not inviting parents/carers of students who are not presenting, as this would be too daunting for our finalists.

Tina Duffield  
Oracy Co-ordinator

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**School Disco**

On Thursday of Week 10, there will be a K-2 disco and a 3-6 disco **during school hours**. Children can wear **mufti clothes on this day**, but must not wear singlets or midriff tops as sun safety is paramount. Thongs and sandals are unsafe at school, so enclosed shoes such as joggers should be worn. Please return $5 for the disco as soon as possible. This should cover your child’s entry, chips and a popper drink. All funds raised from the disco will be contributed to the Year 6 Farewell.

Mrs Duffield

**Life Education**

From 3<sup>rd</sup> November until 5<sup>th</sup> November the Life Education van will be visiting Oran Park Public School. Students will visit the van for lessons about Child Protection and Drug Education.

All students are expected to attend these lessons. The cost for the program will be $5.00. This is a reduced price as our P&C are covering $5.00 per student through their generous fundraising. A permission note will be sent home with students next term.

Mrs Treble – Organising Teacher

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**P& C News**

**Shopping Bus Trip Fundraiser**

A Shopping Bus Trip has been organised for Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014. The day will begin at 7am and return at 6.30pm approximately visiting more than 10 outlet stores ranging from manchester to shoes, handbags to clothing. It is a great opportunity to purchase Christmas presents, make great savings on purchases and enjoy the company of great people! The cost is $35 per person and you need to book your seat by paying and placing your name on the list at the school office. There are still a few spots available!
This week, (Week 9), our PBL focus is “Respecting Differences”

The value focus is: Be Proud and Be Productive

We are learning this because:

* No one is exactly the same
* Everyone should be respected
* This is a person’s right
* This is our responsibility as a kind and caring person.

To be successfully respect people’s differences we should:

* Understand that people make their own choices and form their own views
* Show people we value them by respecting their behaviour, views and beliefs
* Understand it is the right of a person to be safe, valued and cared for.
* Understand it is O.K for people to disagree at times and say what they think or feel.
* Never put people down or hurt them
* Listen and let others be heard. 'No' is acceptable for an answer.
* Understand that a person can make mistakes and still be accepted and respected.
* Make a culture of trust, honesty and happiness

Next week, (Week 10), our PBL focus will be “Holiday Safety”

The value focus will be; Be Safe and Be Organised