Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to give a friendly welcome to all of our new and current students, parents and staff. We are all part of the amazing Oran Park Public School community, a school where we celebrate lifelong learning, have fun, value our friendships and work together to provide every opportunity for our children. We are a team here and we value student, parent and staff input. This is a new community and we all have a variety of experience and knowledge that we share and can build on, to ensure all of our children have the best learning opportunities.

To ensure success for every student we require your support with open communication. If there is a concern please share it with us. So please, keep us informed, talk to us, give us feedback so that we can ensure you and your family are well supported.

Today was a great start to Term 1 of 2015, Oran Park students were happy and excited to return to school. Thank you for your support with classroom supplies and with school uniform. All of the students look really smart in their school uniform.

I advise you to grab a drink, find a quiet spot and take time to read this first newsletter. There is a lot of information to digest and there will be a written test for parents next week!!

School Newsletter
Once a fortnight we email a school newsletter, also available on our website. Our website is a good source of information and previous newsletters are available on this site.

Staff Development Day
At the beginning of Terms 1, 2 and 3 there are Staff Development Days, prior to the student’s first day. On these days we focus on mandatory training, such as First Aid procedures, new Child Protection procedures, school planning for the year and the continued development of our curriculum. Our first day was spent learning about our new whole school Synthetic Phonics program and our whole school Morning Routine Program. More information regarding these programs will follow throughout the year.
Welcome to our Kindergarten children and families

Welcome to a new and exciting beginning. On arrival to school Monday 2nd Feb, we would like to ask all parents to assist the staff when dropping your child to the new Kindergarten playground. We advise all parents to say their goodbyes quickly outside the small playground gate next to our Administration area, to ensure your child’s safety within the area. A small poster has been placed on the gate to remind all children about the "drop off zone" for the year.

For the remainder of the year, students are to be dropped off in the mornings and picked up in the afternoons outside the small playground. Please note that at the end of the day all Kindergarten students are walked by a teacher to the main playground area for dismissal or to the appropriate pick up area should your child be catching the bus or attending 'Kiss and Pickup'.

We strongly advise parents to avoid coming into the small playground before and after school, as this space is not big enough to hold all parents and students. The teachers on duty need to clearly see all children whilst supervising this area. If parents need to pick up their child early they must go to the office and sign them out.

We ask that you do not carry your child’s bag into the playground. We encourage all Kindergarten students to carry their own bag into the area and learn to place it on the bag hooks.

There will be a Meet The Teacher Afternoon for Kindergarten students on Tuesday 24th from 3.30pm-4.30pm in the Kinder classrooms.

Mrs Banfield is acting as Assistant Principal for Kindergarten and Year 1 students.

Assisted School Travel

All students in our Special Education classes and those who access Assisted Travel transport will now depart school at 2.45pm. This early departure will assist with the afternoon pick up traffic and associated congestion. All taxis will depart at this time to allow for smooth student exits from the playground. We have over 100 new students and we would like to ensure that our students in our Special Education classes can depart in a calm environment, prior to the 3.10pm whole school rush. Parents of children in the three Special Education Classes can also take their child home at 2.45pm, allowing them to depart before the crowds hit! If there are any concerns please contact Mrs Duffield our Assistant Principal Learning Support.

Classes for 2015

Currently our classes are not structured for 2015. The children are in temporary class formations at least until this Friday. At present we are having an influx of new enrolments and there will be staff changes as permanent teachers are appointed. At this stage, two new permanent positions have not been filled. I do not expect Staffing Services to fill them until Term 2. I thank you for your patience and understanding of this situation.

Currently our organization is as follows:

Classes
K - Mrs Banfield
K - Mrs Bailey
K- Ms Fulwood
1 - Mrs Selakovic and Ms Young
2 - Mrs Vella
2/3 - Mrs Cooper
3/4 - Mr Betts
4/5 - Mrs McDiarmid
5/6 – Mrs Salter
**Special Education**
3-6H - Mrs Hayek  
K-6W - Ms Wortley  
K-6V - Mrs Seguna

School Counsellor – Ms Drinnan (Tuesday)  
Support Teacher Learning Assistance – Mrs Duffield  
Synthetic Phonics Support Teacher – Mrs Bland  
Library Teacher – Mrs Cleary

**School Learning Support Officers**
Mr Browne (Also General Assistant)  
Mrs Crabtree  
Mrs Jerik  
Mrs Nelmes  
Mrs O'Donnell  
Mrs Sheehan (Also Library)

**School Administration Staff**
Mrs Bradley – School Administration Manager  
Mrs Nelson – School Administration Officer (M, T, W)

**Staff Information for 2015**
We have increased our staff considerably this term, which is really exciting. I would like to sincerely welcome them all to our school.

Currently our Assistant Principals are Mrs Duffield, Mrs Cleary, Mrs Banfield and Mr Betts.

Mrs Duffield and Mrs Cleary are permanently appointed as executive staff to Oran Park Public School. Mrs Cleary comes to us with lots of experience, as she was previously an Assistant Principal at her last school.

Mrs Banfield and Mr Betts will be acting in the position of Assistant Principal for at least two terms. They are replacing Mrs Ritherdon, who is currently acting in the Principal position at Busby Public School. Mr Betts is a new permanent teacher at our school. He was previously acting as Assistant Principal at his last school.

For your reference, Mrs Banfield supervises K-1, Mr Betts supervises years 2-4 and Mrs Cleary years 5-6. Mrs Duffield supervises our Special Education classes. They are all available to assist and support you with your children.

Our new permanent teachers for 2015 are Mrs Selakovic and Mr Betts. Our new temporary teachers for 2015 are Mrs Cooper and Mrs Seguna. Mrs Brightwell will also be with us two days a week. Miss Young will be teaching with us until Mrs Ritherdon takes up her position. Our casual teachers Mrs McDiarmid and Mrs Vella will be with us until the new teachers are permanently appointed.

**School hours**
Our school hours are 9.10am until 3.10pm. Playground supervision begins in both playgrounds at 8.40am. Please ensure that your child does not attend school before 8.40am as there will be no supervision. Each morning at 9.10am the children in Years 1-6, meet in their class lines under the COLA outside the hall.
This term we will begin teaching our new education program, Morning Routine. This will be taught in every class across the school. To maximize learning time with this program, children will line up in their classes on the first bell and will be taken to class by their teachers on the second bell. There will be no official greetings or communication meetings held at this time. Due to this immediate class start it is important that all children are on time, as Morning Routine Programs in all classes will begin by 9.15am every morning. This is essential learning time and late arrivals disrupt everyone’s learning. Please ensure that your child is at school by 9am each day.

In the afternoon please wait in the shaded areas away from the classrooms, under the COLA or on the benches near the Administration Office. Alternatively, you may also use the School Pick Up zone at the rear of the school in the second car park. Drivers stop and wait, a teacher will supervise the students meeting their parents in this area. Please do not park in the car park or in the pick up zone. You must remain with your car until your child arrives.

Please do not wait near classrooms. The classroom areas should be left clear at all times, so that the students and teachers can begin and finalise their day and not be distracted. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

**School Swimming Carnival**
Next Tuesday 3rd February all students in Years 3-6 and those children in Year 2 who turn 8 this year, will have the opportunity to attend our first independent school swimming carnival. This fun event will be held at Wollondilly Leisure Centre, Picton. Information and permission notes regarding this event have been sent home today. A bus will transport our students to and from the event. Students in K-2 will remain at school during this event.

**Meet the Teacher Afternoon**
On Tuesday 24th February from 3.30pm to 4.30pm, all teachers will be in their rooms to meet with parents, to discuss requirements for 2015 and to answer any questions you may have. If you have children in different classes please ensure that you see each teacher for their information handout. If you need further information, please organise an individual appointment time to meet with the class teacher.

If at any time throughout the year you require a meeting with a teacher, please arrange this through the school office. Please do not approach your child’s teacher whilst they are teaching their class. This enables all staff to give their full attention to the teaching of their class and to all students. By arranging a separate time to meet with the teacher it ensures that they can fully attend to your enquiry.

**School Uniform**
Thank you to those parents who have made every effort to ensure that our students attend school in the full school uniform. Your support ensures that our students show pride in their school and in their achievements. Our uniform is available from Lowes in Narellan Town Centre.

Please note that girls at our school have two uniform choices. They can wear the school polo shirt and skorts or the checked tunic. The sports uniform is the same for boys and girls, school sports shirt and black basketball shorts.

All students should wear black shoes and white or grey socks with their school uniform. Students can wear joggers on Fridays for sport. Your support and assistance with this is very much appreciated.
Please be aware that the school bag sold at Lowes is a personal choice. Some families have already purchased other bags for their children. As long as the logos and designs are appropriate, other bags are acceptable.

Students at our school wear the school bucket hat, available from Lowes. Caps are not to be worn, due to sun safety reasons. Students with caps or no hats will be unable to play in the playground areas.

**No Hat, No Play Policy**
All students need to wear the wide brimmed hat with our school logo to school. Caps are not sun safe. Our school has a No Hat, No Play policy. This means that if children come to school without a hat they will have to play in the shade during break times and will not be able to play in the unshaded areas. Students wearing a cap will have to follow the same policy. Caps do not cover ears or necks.

For health and safety reasons jewellery should not be worn. If students have pierced ears, plain studs or small hoops are acceptable. Unfortunately, accidents can happen if children wear long earrings, they can be torn from ears, and necklaces can be a choking hazard. Jewellery that has cultural or religious significance is permitted. Thank you all for working with us in this matter.

**School Parking Zones**
There is parking on South Circuit on both sides of the road. **The two car parks are for school staff only.** It is not safe for parents to park in these car parks at any time, due to student arrival and departure. The first staff car park must be kept free for Assisted School Travel vehicles to access. These vehicles drop off and pick up students with special needs. For the safety of all students, please do not park in this car park at any time.

The second car park has an outside loop around the staff parking area, for a pick up/drop off zone. This enables parents to drive through, drop their children and keep driving on, to allow other cars behind to do the same. There are marked crossings in this section for children to cross. Please note that this car park is only for staff parking.

Please assist us with this and ensure that you park on South Circuit only.

**Bike Safety**
All students who ride bicycles to school are required to wear helmets and must enter/exit the school on foot, via the school gate. There are bike racks provided at the front gates. Please ensure that your child follows road safety rules when riding to and from school. For health and safety reasons no students are to ride bikes in the playground. Scooters cannot be ridden to school, as these are not a safe mode of transport.

**Nut Awareness Policy**
We have students enrolled at our school who have severe (in some cases potentially fatal) allergic reactions to products containing nuts. In the interest of their health and safety we would like to inform all of the following guidelines:

We request that students do not bring nuts to school. This includes peanut butter/nutella sandwiches, bags of nuts, nut bars etc. We request your support in ensuring the students adhere to these guidelines. There should be no trading and sharing of food, food utensils and food containers. Bottles, other drinks and lunch boxes provided by the parents for their children should be clearly labelled with the name of the child for whom they are intended. If any parents have any queries regarding this please call me. Thank you for your continued support to ensure all of our students can attend school safely.
**School Assemblies**
In Term One our assemblies will begin in Week 2, Friday 6th February at 2.40pm. These assemblies are open to all parents and carers of students in Year 1 to 6. Our Kindergarten students will join whole school assemblies in Term Two. Kindergarten families please bear with us, so that we can ensure our kinder students are rehearsed and comfortable and ready to share their achievements with you publicly. **Please note that there will be no assembly this Friday.** Our Students in Year 3-6 will be electing Sports House Captains in this time.

**Oran Park Public School Parents & Citizens**
On Tuesday 17th February, at 6.30pm, we will hold our first P&C meeting of the year. The meeting will be held in our school library. Please consider joining our P & C. Your contributions to improve the learning opportunities for our students and to help establish our school, will be greatly appreciated.

That’s all for now folks!! I have fried your brains I am sure! Please, if you are unsure of anything, just ASK! I really look forward to getting to know all of your children and your families. Welcome and all the very best for 2015!

*Donna Shevlin*

**Cobbitty Village Market**
Cobbitty Village Market is a vibrant well-known country-style craft market that has been run by local community volunteers since May 1982. It provides quality unique crafts and produce, drawing large crowds of visitors from local and wider Sydney/NSW areas. As a non-profit organisation, the market also functions as an important fundraiser, typically raising $40-50,000 each year that is distributed to local community groups, charities and the disadvantages.

The markets are held on Cobbitty Public School grounds on the first Saturday of each month except for January and February, and are open to the public from 8am – 1pm. There are a large variety of stalls providing predominately homemade art and craft, delicious food and beverages to take home or eat at the markets; some of which are provided by local groups including Lion’s Club, School P&C, and Scouts, for their own fundraising. There is also entertainment, including local bands and groups. There is parking for 1, 000 cars behind the school/along Cobbitty Road. We warmly welcome all visitors to our market, and encourage anyone interested in joining our volunteer market committee to contact us.


**Oran Park Rugby League Football Club**
We will be holding registrations at Oran Park Podium on the 29th January from 3:30pm to 6:30pm and also on the 5th of February from 3:30pm to 6:30pm.

Registration Fees for our 2015 season are:
NEW UNDER 6 players Free!! (If turning 5 in 2015, you can register for U6’s)
U/6’s to U/16’s = $120 per player
Registration Includes; Players Insurance, Registration, Game Day Shorts and Socks and OPRLFC Training Shirt.
"NEW" registrations, will be required to provide Birth Certificate (original) and two utilities accounts (home phone, electricity, gas) showing current residential address and Medicare card.
All info is on our face book page and updated regularly: