Dear Parents and Carers,

By now you will all be in the swing of things. Your children will be more settled and you will all be getting used to our new teachers, new classes and our new Morning Routine! Thank you for your patience over the last couple of weeks whilst we confirmed our student numbers to ensure our class allocation. The new classes have been formed and we are really pleased with how quickly the students have settled and begun developing their new routines. This is a very positive start to our new year!

School Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to all students, staff and parents who were involved in the recent Swimming Carnival, it was a huge success! Thanks to Mr Betts for his efforts in organising and coordinating this event. Thanks to the wonderful staff for their efforts and enthusiasm on the day. Many thanks to those brilliant parents who assisted in making this day the success it was. The students had a great day, records were made, and the support the students showed for each other was fantastic! Some of our students made it into the upcoming zone competition on 26th and 27th February! We will keep you informed regarding their progress. Good luck to you all!

OPPS Core Values
Oran Park Public School has four core values that underpin all school programs and interactions. They help support and encourage discipline and promote and inspire a love of learning. The four core values are:

Organised: Come to school, prepared and ready to learn • strive to be your best at all times

Proud: Of appearance, achievements and your school • of the achievements of others, students and staff • respect and support the efforts of students, teachers and other community members

Productive: Be responsible, follow all school rules and stay on task • develop and model fairness and respect • build positive relationships with the school community

Safe: Take care of everyone and everything • act thoughtfully and carefully towards ourselves and others • foster a safe and secure environment for all • be aware of and reinforce safe behaviours.
Positive Behaviour for Learning
Every Monday all classes will participate in a weekly lesson to assist with the development of social skills and to learn about positive behaviour choices. Mrs Duffield, Mrs Bland, Mrs Cleary, Mrs Hayek and myself teach these lessons. The program consists of a whole school combined lesson. Then each stage group is led by an individual teacher separately to refine and consolidate the lesson.

No Scooters at School
Students are NOT permitted to ride scooters or skateboards to school. This rule is in place for safety reasons. Your cooperation is appreciated.

School Road Zones
As you are all aware parking is an issue on South Circuit, the road outside of our front gates. After speaking with Camden Council and the Police there have been No Parking Zones established in the cul-de-sac. This area had become a danger to other vehicles and to local buses. I am aware that the rangers have been on patrol to ensure that we are using this road properly. The second staff car park has an outside loop around the staff car parking area, for a drop-off/pick-up 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. We are lucky to have the “Drop-off and Pick-up” Zone at our school, please consider using this facility.

Please remember that South Circuit is a 40km zone.
There are double unbroken lines and a proper turning bay at the end of the road. U Turns are not permitted. They put our children crossing the road at risk. Road rules and fines apply on South Circuit. A couple of extra seconds using the road legally will prevent accidents to our students, your children.

Road safety is always a priority at our school. Here are some safety tips for when you drop off or pick up your child:

- Drivers should remain in their vehicles at all times in the “Drop-off and Pick-up” area
- Make sure children use the footpath-side door when getting in and out of a car
- Make sure the hand brake is applied when the vehicle is stationary
- Never double park
- Never park across a pedestrian crossing
- Never undertake a U-turn in close proximity to the crossing
- Students should stay buckled up until the vehicle has stopped
- Make sure student’s possessions are in a safe position
- Students need to be ready to get out of the car with their belongings when the car has stopped and they have unbuckled their seatbelt
- Always get in and out of the backseat of the vehicle through the rear footpath-side door

Please assist us with these safety precautions.

Special Religious Education
Each week on a Tuesday, students will have approximately 40 minutes of religious instruction provided by approved visiting instructors. At this stage religious instruction is provided for:

- Catholic Scripture and
- Combined Protestant (involving Anglican, Uniting, Presbyterian, Baptist)

Our teachers will supervise a non-scripture group during scripture time.

P & C Meeting
Our first P & C meeting for the year will be held next Tuesday evening 17th February at 6.30pm. Please come along and join in with a group of passionate and dedicated parents.
School Voluntary Contributions
Most Public schools request a contribution from parents each year to supplement existing funding. This year we would benefit from $30 per single child and $55 per family. We would greatly appreciate these contributions, which can be paid in installments. These contributions will contribute towards curriculum resources and programs for the benefit of all students.

Partial Absences
It is a legal requirement that students attend school for the full duration of the school day, unless a justifiable reason prevents them from attending. The start of the school day is very important and it is essential that students settle in their classrooms on time to get their best from lessons. Students who enter the classroom late, disturb other student’s work and disrupt classroom routine. Whilst it is understandable that on occasion events occur beyond our control, we would appreciate your efforts in ensuring that all students are at school on time each day. Please note that Partial Absences are included in your child’s Semester Reports.

Arrival on time ensures the smooth operation of our new learning program, Morning Routine. This is taught in every class across the school. There are no official greetings or communication meetings held at assembly. At the second bell, classes go immediately to their rooms. It is important that all children are on time, as Morning Routine 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.

Addressing Parent Concerns
From time to time parents or other members of the school community may need to approach the school in order to:
• Discuss the progress or welfare of their own child
• Express concern about actions of other students
• Enquire about school policy or practice
• Express concern about actions of staff

It is therefore necessary to have procedures that will help solve problems as soon as possible so that a safe and harmonious school environment is maintained. The best results usually flow from working together.

Every effort will be made to address the issues as soon as possible. However, as you can appreciate teachers, executive or the Principal may not be available immediately. Please do not approach teachers regarding an issue after morning assembly or during class time. At this time the teachers are responsible for their class and do not have the time to assist you effectively. Often teachers or executive are teaching their class, dealing with students or have a pre-arranged parent or staff meeting.

I can appreciate the urgency of some issues and we will make every effort to meet with you as soon as possible. However to fully accommodate and assist with your requests it is preferable that an appointment is made at the office. This allows for time to address the issue carefully and to give the matter full attention to ensure a satisfactory outcome. Please rest assured that if I am available I am happy to offer assistance at the time.

When you request a meeting with myself or a staff member it would greatly assist us if you state the nature of your concern so that any background information or resources can be used to ensure a speedy and satisfactory resolution. Thank you for your understanding and support. Our intention is to provide you with the appropriate amount of attention and time to assist you. Your children are important to us, as are your concerns.

The Oran Park Award System
Each Friday we hold an assembly to acknowledge our student’s efforts and talents. At this assembly class teachers give out merit awards for effort in class work and sport. There are ongoing positive merit
awards for student achievements in curriculum and sport, including wearing correct school uniform and following the four core school values.

10 Merit Awards = Assistant Principal Award
2 Assistant Principal Awards = 1 Principal’s Award
3 Principal’s Awards = Principal’s Medallion

School Assemblies
All parents are invited to attend our weekly Awards Assembly in our school hall. These assemblies will begin at 2.15pm and conclude by 3.10pm. Out of respect for the students presenting at the assembly, we ask that you actively supervise any pre-school children who attend these assemblies with you. I look forward to your company as we celebrate our wonderful student’s achievements.

Meet the Teacher Afternoon
There will be a Meet the Teacher Afternoon for all students on Tuesday 24th February from 3.30pm-4.30pm in the classrooms. At these meetings our teachers will introduce themselves, take you through the class curriculum programs and resource requirements. If you have children in different classes please ensure that you see each teacher for their information handout.

Please be aware that these are not meetings to address the progress of individual students. Parent/Teacher Interviews are held after the Semester One report is distributed.

If you need further information, please organise an individual appointment time to meet with the class teacher. Please contact the school administration to arrange a time, so that you have a personalised more effective meeting regarding your child. You are encouraged to organise a meeting with your child’s teacher if you have any concerns or need to share information regarding your child. We want to work in partnership with you all to ensure that your child has a first rate education.

Thank you all for your continued trust in us all. You have entrusted us with your precious children. Please rest assured that we have your child’s best interests as our priority. Have a great weekend all of you!

*Donna Shevlin*

P & C Easter Raffle Donations
Oran Park Public School P & C Association will be holding an Easter Raffle at the end of Term 1.

To help us make this fundraiser a huge success we are calling for donations of Easter eggs. If you would like to get involved please drop off any donations to the front office.

Tickets will be sent home with students in week 6 and all money raised will go towards much needed resources for the school.

We appreciate your ongoing support in making OPPS the best for our students.
Come And Try Clinic

SKILLS & GAMES DESIGNED FOR NON-RUGBY LEAGUE PLAYERS.

IT IS ENCOURAGED IF YOU ARE LOOKING TO PLAY RUGBY LEAGUE THIS YEAR TO ATTEND

For Boys and Girls aged 5-12 years old

Skills and Games from 10:00am - 11:00am

Come and see IMB on the day for a $20 special offer

Date - 21st February 2015
Time - 10:00am to 12:00pm
Venue - Gardner Reserve, Oran Park