Dear Parents and Carers,

**Meet The Teacher Afternoon**
Thank you for your overwhelming support of this week’s information afternoon. I was able to attend all of the Stage meetings, except Stage Three. It was great to see how many parents attended. I hope that you are all better informed. Please don’t hesitate to speak with your child’s teacher if you require further clarification. Thank you to those parents who gave me such positive feedback about the sessions. Your support is appreciated and I will pass your comments on to our teachers.

**Staff Leave**
Staff are entitled to various types of leave. Long Service Leave, Family and Community Leave, Sick Leave, Maternity Leave, Part time and unpaid leave are some of the entitlements. At all times we try to employ replacement teachers who are familiar with each class and our school. However, at times we cannot ensure this, as often a casual teacher may be employed elsewhere. All teachers are required to leave their class study program for replacement teachers to access, to minimise disruption to the class curriculum.

**Professional Learning**
Throughout the year all staff will be participating in professional learning days to keep their teaching skills current and to improve our student’s learning outcomes. When your child’s teacher is absent they will leave an outline of the day’s program for the relief teacher to implement. This assists in reducing any disruption to your child’s learning. All of our relief teachers have teaching qualifications and executive induction support.

Currently Kindergarten teachers are attending Professional Accreditation and Synthetic Phonics training courses. Mrs Bailey and Mrs Salter are attending a series of Boys Education sessions in the evening. Mr Betts is attending Sports events and coaching a zone team. Mrs Cooper and Mrs Seguna are coaching a Debating Team and will be attending a Debating Course and accompanying the team to competitions. Mrs Selakovic and Mrs Nott will be attending a Synthetic Phonics course. I’m sure the staff will gain valuable information that will assist them in improving your child’s learning program.

### Coming Events

#### March
- 4 Debating Workshop
- 9 Swim Scheme begins
- 12 Selective HS Test
- 17 Regional Swimming
- Parent Volunteer Info Session 3.30pm
- P&C AGM 6.30pm
- 20 Swim Scheme ends
- 26 Razorback Legends

#### April
- 2 Last day Term 1
- 21 First day Term 2
- 24 Anzac Ceremony
- 30 School Photos

#### May
- 1 Cross Country
- 15 Life Education begins
- 20 Life Education ends
- 12 P&C Meeting 6.30pm

#### June
- 23 Parent/Teacher Interviews

### Notes Home
Swim Scheme Years 2-6 Voluntary Contribution & Technology Levy

### Payments Due
Swim Scheme - $100 Voluntary Contribution - $30 one child, $55 family Technology Levy - $50 per child
Contacting School Staff
School staff can be contacted in a number of ways.

- By making an appointment to speak with them via the Administration Office.
- By telephoning the school on 4632 4651
- By emailing the school email address: oranpark-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Please do not contact any staff member directly via their DEC email address. All emails will be distributed to staff members from the school email address and will be responded to in due course.

Pay the Voluntary Contribution and Technology Levy and be in the Lowes Gift Card draw
We have 4 Lowes Gift Card prizes to be won. Parents who have paid the school contribution and technology levy by Friday 15th May 2015 will be in the draw to win one of these cards. This year the contribution has been set at $30 per single child and $55 per family. The Technology Levy is $50 per child. We would greatly appreciate these contributions, which can be paid in installments. Thanks for your support!

Swim Scheme
There are still a few places available for Swim Scheme. This is a valuable learn to swim program for Year 2-6. Please send your note and payment to the office.

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 students
- Combined Protestant (involving Anglican, Uniting, Presbyterian, Baptist) students
- Hindu students

Our teachers will supervise a non-scripture group during scripture time.
Scripture classes begin Tuesday 3rd March.

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. These awards are decided at the end of the week, so unfortunately prior notice cannot be given to parents.

There are ongoing positive merit awards for student achievements in curriculum, library and sport, including wearing correct school uniform and following the four core school values. There was a mistake in our last newsletter. 2 Principal Awards earn a Principal’s Medallion, not 3!!

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

Drop off and Pick up Zones Road Safety issues
Road safety is of incredible importance. Please abide by the road signs positioned in front of the school. Cars are not to park in No Stopping/No Parking zones or in the drop off/pick up zones. Please follow the rules and stop briefly to drop off or pick up, and then move on. Please do not get out of your car in this area. Also we ask parents not to undertake u-turns over the double lines in front of the school, as this is extremely dangerous and also breaks road rules.

As I have requested before, please do not park in our staff car park. This is for staff cars only. Last year a teacher’s car was hit by a parent’s car in this car park. Staff cars are not covered by any Department insurance whilst on school premises. If your child has to cross the road could you please remind them of the need to only cross when it is safe to do so. Let’s keep our students safe!
Zone Swimming

We had a number of students compete today at Zone Swimming. They all swam extremely well and represented our school proudly. We have also had students qualify for the regional carnival which will be held in a couple of weeks. The zone carnival continues tomorrow and we wish all competitors good luck. There will be more news in the next edition of our newsletter.

Lost Property

Is your child missing an item? Lost property is located in the plastic tub just inside the front office. There is a collection of containers, lunch boxes and drink bottles that have no names on them.

All items that come to school should be labelled with your child’s name. This allows the items to be returned should they be left in the playground. Names that were written at the beginning of the year may need to be redone as they will fade over time with washing and laundering.

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. Thank you to those parents who have already donated to this fun event.

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

P& C Annual General Meeting

The Oran Park Public School P&C Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th March 2015 at 6.30pm in the library. More information regarding this meeting will be distributed soon.

Donna Shevlin
KB are having a hoot of a time!

KB made owls with crepe paper after reading ‘Owl Babies’ by Martin Waddell