Dear Parents and Carers,

**Stage Three Debating**

We had our first information session to teach the art and skills of debating last week at Robert Townson Public School. We mixed with many other schools and our students were involved in a thorough step through of what a debate actually entails. I was impressed with the quality and understanding of all speakers. Mrs Cooper and Mrs Seguna have selected six students to represent us in future school debates. The students selected were all confident and assertive speakers! Stay tuned for further news as we continue our talk-fest across the local area!

**NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy)**

Next term in week four, we have scheduled National Tests for years 3 and 5. The test dates are:
- Tuesday 12th May - Language Conventions and Writing
- Wednesday 13th May - Reading
- Thursday 14th May - Numeracy
- Friday 15th May - “Catch-up Day”

**My School Website**

As you may be aware in 2010 the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) launched the My School website. The website provides profiles on each school, including ours, and includes information about the school such as numbers of students and staff, attendance rates and results from one test; the national literacy and numeracy tests (NAPLAN). The website shows comparisons between our school’s results and those from statistically similar schools across Australia.

Oran Park Public School focuses on the education of the whole child. We emphasise the pastoral care and welfare of all of our students. We offer a wide and varied curriculum. We offer special programs such as music, choir, debating and public speaking. We provide opportunities that develop a range of skills and talents, such as excursions, PSSA Sports, Swimming and Athletics Carnivals, Cross Country, Year 5 & 6 camp. All of these opportunities feature throughout our school year, as well as our focus on the importance of academic achievement.

Those of you who view the My School website will see our school’s performance. It can be expected that ratings will rise and fall over time and reflect the abilities of those students currently in Year 3 and Year 5.
NAPLAN tests are diagnostic tests for individual students. They test a range of literacy and numeracy skills. The NAPLAN test was not designed for the purpose of rating or ranking schools. It was designed to help diagnose an individual’s learning progress. That is how the teachers at Oran Park Public School use NAPLAN. These tests alone are not sufficient to judge the overall performance of a school.

Such diagnostic tests are essentially used to inform our teaching programs and to determine the purchase of learning resources and plan staff professional development. Our teachers are committed to our students and undertake significant professional learning to improve the learning of our students.

At Oran Park Public School we will continue to provide a balanced curriculum that is academically challenging but also provides learning support for students who need it. This curriculum will also continue to provide a range of experiences in creative arts and physical activity. We will continue to work hard to meet the needs of our students and do the best we possibly can. This means strengthening the teamwork between students, parents and teachers to make sure we are all focused on the same goals.

Most importantly we will continue to see the NAPLAN test as a test that occurs once a year. We will use the diagnostic information it provides with our own school assessment information to ensure learning programs are meeting the needs of our students.

We welcome your input and support throughout the school year. Please contact your child’s teacher, an executive or myself if you would like to be involved in support of our students and school. Consider joining our P&C - your contribution to improve the learning opportunities for our students will be greatly appreciated.

**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!

Have an enjoyable weekend with your families!

*Donna Shevlin*

**Kids of Macarthur Mufti Day**
There will be a Mufti Day on Wednesday 25th March to raise funds for Kids of Macarthur. Students can come out of uniform and make a gold coin donation on the day.

**Coeliac Awareness Week**
To raise awareness of Coeliac Disease on Thursday 19th March Gluten Free Cupcakes will be sold for $1 during break 1. A table will be set up under the covered area outside the hall. These cupcakes are being made and donated by a parent from our school for this fundraising event. Remember to send a $1.00!

**Road Safety**
We are asking parents and carers to please be mindful of traffic when children are alighting from vehicles. It is always safer to have them enter and exit a vehicle from the kerb side of a car. Also please remember to use the school crossing and that u-turns are not permitted across double lines.

**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 is 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 and money need to be returned to school by 30th March 2015. The raffle will be drawn after the Easter Hat Parade on 2nd April 2015. 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.

Camp Australia Before and After School Care
A flyer with information about the upcoming School Holiday Program is attached to the newsletter email and is also available on the school website. Please contact Camp Australia for more information.

2015 PBL Focus so far…..

Week 2- The four school values

- When we understand the school values, we can follow them well
- We all want a productive, happy and safe learning environment.
- All students are expected to follow the school values
- The school values are important to parents, teachers and students
- The school values help us to be good students, good people and safe human beings

We can successfully follow the four school values by…..
- Listening carefully
- Participating in discussions
- Having a go
- Giving yourself time to remember the values
- Looking at the images to help remind you of the values
- Asking for help when you need it

Week 3- Be Organised

- Being organised helps you to get where you need to go, with the right equipment
- You can learn and participate when you are organised
- When you are organised you are meeting expectations
Being organised helps you to be on time
When you are organised you can find things because you are putting them in the right place
If you are organised, others will see you as a role model or a leader
Being organised makes you feel happy and content
When you are organised you can reach your goals

We can be organised by remembering to....

- Get your bag ready for school the night before.
- Make sure your hat and uniform are ready for the next day
- Leave home with enough time to get yourself to school by around 9am, so you can have a play, go to the toilet and be ready for your day
- Make a list of things you may need to remember and tick it off. Lunch, Bag, hat, note and money for excursion, homework book.
- Read and do a little homework every day.
- Remind your parents of important days, excursions, meetings at school
- Put your rubbish in the bin
- Put things back where you found them so they will be there to use next time
- Ask questions if you are not sure

Week 4- Be Proud

- Of your 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
- Behave in a way that you can feel good about

We can be proud by remembering to....

- Be yourself
- Be happy. Speak positively to yourself.
- Be confident of your achievements and that of your school, peers and teachers
- Ignore nasty or mean comments. These can be untrue. Report to a teacher if it continues
- Be positive about yourself, your peers, your teachers and your school. Remember that people usually have good intentions.
- Be proud by congratulating others
- Know that your parents and teachers are proud of you
Week 5- Be Productive

- When we are productive, we listen and follow instructions the first time
- Being productive means caring about and respecting our learning environment, making it easier for everybody to learn
- When we are productive, we complete all work to the best of our ability
- Being productive means we are doing our best and speaking positively about our peers, our teachers and our community
- When we are productive, we get the job done and try to help others
- To be productive, we need to be organised and ready to learn
- When we are productive we respect our equipment, the school’s equipment and the equipment of others
- When we are productive, we learn much more!

Week 6- Be Safe

We want all students to be safe, comfortable and happy at school. Accidents can always happen, but if we take care and follow the expectations, we can stay safe.

- Stay in the correct areas
- Listen to all instructions very carefully
- Keep our hands, feet and objects to ourselves and never retaliate
- Be sun-safe. Wear a hat, apply sunscreen and drink water
- Use the pedestrian crossing and kiss and drop to be road safe. Walk with a parent to stay safe
- Sit sensibly and respectfully in all settings
- Walk on hard surfaces and on the black stairs
- Never leave the school grounds without permission
- Help others by reporting injuries or dangers to teachers
- Never talk to a stranger and report any problems to your carers or teachers

Week 7- Be Safe in specific areas

Be Safe by......
- Using the gates appropriately
- Walking sensibly in lines
- Using play equipment appropriately
- Following the rules of the game
- Using the toilet areas sensibly and correctly