From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you can see the school is a hive of activity, with builders galore. Our roofs are currently being repaired to prevent further leaks. We have new carpet in the library and office administration area. The library carpet has a unique design courtesy of Mrs Cleary and Mrs Sheehan, the ladies got very creative! When you get a chance, visit the library and have a look.

Zone Cross Country

Congratulations to all of our students who participated in the Zone Cross Country last week. Mrs Salter reported that it was a great day and the students were brilliant representatives for our school. Their attitudes and behaviour were fantastic. We are proud of them all! Four of our students have progressed to the Regional Carnival and we wish them good luck.

Mufti Day

On Friday 5 June 2015, we will be holding a special day to raise funds for Sport and CAPA. It will be a gold coin donation to come to school dressed in your favourite sport team’s jumper. It is State of Origin time, so blue or maroon colours are welcome! All proceeds from the day will be used to support children in the areas of CAPA and sport. Please ensure that the children wear shoes. Thongs are not permitted.

Teachers as learners

Research tells us that teacher professional learning, linked to the needs of our students, enhances student growth and achievement. It is vital that teachers continually strive to improve and enhance their craft. During the year many of the teachers are involved in professional learning projects that require them to attend afternoon or whole day courses and complete assignments. These projects require teachers to develop, implement and evaluate programs so that new knowledge, skills and understandings are applied in the classroom. To inspire lifelong learning and love of learning, teachers must also be learners.

I understand that parents become concerned when teachers are not ‘on class’ but you can rest assured that the time teachers invest in teacher professional learning is about making a difference for your children. Currently Mrs Bailey is attending courses on the teaching of the new English and Mathematics Curriculum. Mr Betts will attend a Phonics Course aligned with our school approach to phonics teaching. Mrs MacDiarmid is attending a session on how to include and cater for students with disabilities in PE lessons. All teachers are currently...
involved in training on the teaching of phonics and improving our teaching of Morning Routine. Once a fortnight, after school, Mrs Duffield, Mrs Cleary, Mrs Selakovic, Mrs Banfield and I attend a course on leadership and attaining higher credentials. All of these professional learning opportunities are linked to our School Plan, which focuses on improving student outcomes.

At all times we have endeavoured to replace our staff with consistent casual teachers. We are not always able to secure the same teachers. They are often working in other schools and cannot always commit to our school. I can assure you that all classes are still engaged in the curriculum programs developed by their teachers. In the case of all teachers, their program is readily accessible through the interactive whiteboard installed in their room. Whilst it is unfortunate that teachers have to be replaced at times, the whole school benefits as a result. Teaching programs improve, school systems and resources improve and as a result the learning and results for our students improve. Please contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

**Parent/Teacher Interviews**
On Tuesday 23rd June we will hold our Parent/Teacher Afternoon. All end of semester reports will be distributed the week before these meetings. Information will be distributed soon on how to book these interviews with your child’s teacher.

**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 remind all families 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.**

The canteen does not sell items with nuts as an ingredient. 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.

**Head Lice**
They're back! Please help us by checking your child’s hair. Combing through some conditioner with a fine toothcomb is best practice. Check the comb with each stroke to see if there are any head lice present. **Checking weekly will help us to keep them out of our school!!**

If lice are found please: talk to the Chemist about an appropriate product to treat your child’s hair and treat in accordance with the directions on the bottle. Remove all eggs (nits). This helps to ensure that you can more easily detect a new outbreak.

Wash all hats, pillows, sheets etc. Check your child’s hair every few days after treatment to ensure that they have not been re-infected. Talk to the chemist and ask for a product with a different active ingredient, if you are having difficulty controlling the problem as Head Lice can develop a resistance to treatment products.

Have a fantastic week everyone!

*Donna Shevlin*
Afternoon Dismissal

It has come to our attention that in the afternoon many students do not know how they are getting home. This often causes unwanted stress to students and teachers, who spend many afternoons locating parents.

The office is being inundated with regular phone calls throughout the day from parents updating the school of the changes to pick up locations. This places an enormous workload on the office ladies and interrupts valuable teaching time for teachers.

We understand that there may be times due to emergencies that these calls do need to be made. However it is highly recommended that parents inform their child/children of where they should wait or the location at which they will be picked up, every afternoon.

Students from years 1-6 are dismissed daily from their classroom. It is their responsibility to move safely and promptly to these dismissal areas. Kindergarten students are now responsible to line up behind a coloured cone according to their pickup location. As Winter approaches this will change.

Should you be coming late to pick-up your child due to an unforeseen circumstance it is important to call the office.

Please note that Bambino’s and Camp Australia students line up under the cola each afternoon to ensure they have their names marked by the carer’s before departing the school/cola. Please ensure you call these After School Care Facilities if your child is sick or not attending on that day.

We need your support to keep pickup locations consistent to avoid students getting lost or confused.

---

**Have you got our Skoolbag App?**

Oran Park Public School has introduced an iPhone and Android App called ‘Skoolbag’ to help us communicate more effectively with our Parent community.

The App enables us to inform parents of current school news, distribute newsletters and notes, announce up-coming events and advise of other school information. Parents and carers can submit absentee notes through the App.

It will be a great way for parents to keep ‘in touch’ with the happenings in our school. To install the free App, just search for our school name ‘Oran Park Primary School’ in either the Apple App Store or Google Play Store or follow the instructions on this page.

---

**How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone**

**iPhone & iPad Users**

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click “Free” then “Install”.
4. If iPad, change the drop list to “iPhone Apps”, your school will then be visible, click “Free” then “Install”.
5. When installed click “Open”
6. Select “OK” to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the “More” button on the bottom right of the App, then “Setup”.
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

**Android Users**

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the “Play Store” button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the “Install” button.
5. Click “Accept” for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click “Open” when installed.
7. Click the “More” button on the bottom right of the App, then “Setup”.
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.
3/4C - Term Two

3/4C have had a fantastic start to Term Two. We are revising how to write strong narratives and expositions during our writing lessons. During Morning Routine our focus has been on perfecting imaginative sentences.

Our mathematics lessons so far have focused on area and 3D shapes. The photos below show how we created square metres out of newspaper to find the area of larger spaces, the way that we used centicubes to find the area of 2D shapes that we created and our conversion from nets into 3D shapes.