**Principal’s Message**

The Oaks Public School is participating in a trial of the Online Naplan assessment being conducted by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). This will involve approximately 25 Year 3 and 25 Year 5 students in an assessment later this term. Following the online assessment researchers will interview a small number of students about the process of the test. A permission note was distributed yesterday to some students. Not all students will participate in this trial. If your child did receive a permission note and you are happy for them to be interviewed, please return the permission note as soon as possible to the school.

**P&C Meeting** will be held **Tuesday 13th August**. Prior to the meeting, I will be conducting a **panel training inservice for community members and school staff**. Anyone who is interested in being on a panel to represent the parent community for the selection of Staff members needs to have been trained. As part of the NSW Government’s program Local Schools Local Decisions there will most likely be an increase in opportunities to select staff through the Merit Selection Process. The Inservice will be held in the **Staff room**. It will commence at **5.45** and conclude in time for the P&C meeting at **7.00 pm**.

I trust that the many parents, families and friends of The Oaks Public School enjoyed the day today. Our students performed through the Footsteps routine, showed off their classrooms and work and even demonstrated the Peer Support Program that has been running and developing our future leaders.

**Personalised Learning and Support Tool (PLASST) 2013 Trial**

During the next few weeks our school, along with other public schools in the area, will be participating in the trial of a new tool (PLASST) being developed by the Department of Education and Communities for teachers to identify the learning and support needs of their students. This trial is focussed on the development of a sound and reliable online tool that, when finalised, can be used by teachers in collaboration with parents and carers to identify the strengths and educational needs of students with additional learning and support needs. This information will assist schools in planning and personalising learning and support for individual students who require adjustments in their day to day learning.

The trial will involve teachers completing an online questionnaire about the educational needs of some of their students. Students themselves will not be required to complete any additional work or be formally assessed as part of the trial. This trial will not impact on students’ education provisions.

Further information about the PLASST trial, including the collection and use of data in the trial, will be provided by the school in a letter to parents and carers. If you have any questions about the PLASST trial, would like to discuss your child’s involvement or would prefer that your child does not participate, please telephone the school on 4657 1185.

**Vision Screening.**

Year 1 students will have received a Permission note for Vision Screening today with the newsletter. This is a free service and simply needs the permission note returned to the school by Friday 9th August 2013. The Screening will then take place on Tuesday 13th August.
Canteen News

Canteen Roster for Term 3 – WK 4

Wednesday 7th – 9th August, 2013

1st Wednesday: Deuryn Williams, Vivien Jones, Jenny Wootton, Rita Atkins
2nd Thursday: Renee Jenkins, Amanda Biffin, Karen Graff
2nd Friday: Deanna Parry, Emma Henderson, Kristy Steain

NB. If you are unable to do your duty day you need to find your own replacement. Phone Rita Atkins as a last resort. Phone numbers cannot be put in the newsletter, a copy of all numbers are available in the Canteen

Library News

Read Around the Town

Our bi-annual event of Read Around the Town is on Wednesday 21st August between 12.30pm-2.15pm. On this day, our students (and the preschools) visit businesses who read to them a story. We also have activities in the school grounds, the hall and our book fair will be in the library. This year ‘Oakdale Public School’ will be joining us to celebrate the event. This event is part of our book week festivities. The message to our students is that the whole community supports the importance of reading. On this day, students will be required to replace one part of their uniform with a red item to show they are well read.

When I went and spoke to our town businesses, we had immediate response from many of them saying they participated last time and really enjoyed it and so would do so again. One young man who is university trained (newish to the area) thought that ‘Read Around the Town’ was such a good idea and he wished his primary school had done the activity when he was at school. He kept on telling me what a fabulous idea it is. I had to agree as our school is one of only a handful in the whole state that participates.

Read Around the Town is part of our ‘Paint the Town Read’ celebrations which is an ongoing part of our schools interest in promoting reading. Parents are very welcome to join us but please support us by wearing one item of the colour red. This year’s Book Week theme is ‘Read Across the Universe’ which fits nicely with reading around the town. The library will be transformed into part of deep space during Book Week.

Where is Astron?

Our alien ‘Astron’ is on his way to our school for Book Week but pictures have started to emerge that he is visiting other places first. Where is Astron this week? Can you name the place around the town?
1B have been learning about Aaron Blabey’s funny books. They have written literary recounts and sequenced the book The Dreadful Fluff.
Lacey Melia 4/5/6Wagga - Independent Research Report

History: Arabian horses are the oldest breed of horse in the world. They were bred by the Bedouin tribes in the Middle East for thousands of years. Arabians have been around for about 5,000 years. Arabian horses have always been used to improve other horse breeds.

Appearance: Arabians have a wide forehead, large eyes, a small muzzle and a curved neck. Arabians are usually 14.1 to 15.2 hands high (one hand equals 10cm). Their coat colours are normally grey, chestnut, bay and black. Their skin is always black.

Habitat: Arabian horses aren’t wild horses. They are kept, raised and bred all over the world, including the US, Canada, Europe and Arabia.

Diet: An Arabian horse’s diet consists of green chaff, white chaff, hay, carrots, apples and more. They should not be fed hot foods.

Conclusion: Arabian horses are famous for their intelligence, and gentle yet spirited nature. They make great riding horses and stand out in many disciplines.

Byron & Zane Davis Moto X Competition Riding

Over the last 6 months Byron and Zane Davis have been competing in a series of Moto X competition riding, Byron rides a 85 KTM small wheel AND Zane a KTM 65, the boys have had their fair share of falls and accidents, one earlier this year put Byron out for 3 months with a dislocated hip and Zane with a big stack taking skin and leaving bruises to parts of his body..

But they both have come back guns blazing taking out first place in each Moto x and club ride days and this weekend proved to be the best of all for both Byron and Zane with them taking out first in every event and first place on the podium for the day.. Congratulations boys keep up the good work.