Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the 2015 school year at The Oaks Public School. We welcome our new families who have moved to the area and trust that you will soon feel “at home” within our school community.

Our school sends a newsletter home each week with the eldest child in the family, which will help to keep you up to date with what is happening in our school.

The P and C will be holding a meet and greet BBQ in a few weeks’ time where parents/teachers and children will all be able to meet in a relaxed atmosphere. There will be more information about this in future newsletters.

By the time you are reading this you will probably have been inundated by your children about what is happening at school this year. I will try and provide you with the big picture.

The staff participated in a full day of professional learning yesterday that involved general school management, roles and responsibilities, teacher accreditation, and Maths – this year we have a new curriculum. We also checked class lists and met as stages to ensure that we were ready for the return of students today.

This year we have an increased population of 320 students so we are able to form 13 classes. These classes consist of:
Two Kindergartens, one composite Kindergarten and Year 1, with Mrs Aldridge and Mrs Sampson, Mrs Levings and Mrs Wilson, four Stage 1 classes of Year 1 and Year 2’s with Mrs Todd, Ms Stevenson, Miss Jackson and Mrs Atkin, three composite Year 3 and 4’s with Ms Watling, Mrs Hazelton and Mr Wales and three composite Year 5 and Year 6 classes with Mr Connor, Mrs Grieve and Mrs Scotney.

At the time of writing this newsletter, our classes have large numbers. Should there be unexpected additional numbers of enrolments we may have to form additional classes during the year. We also have classes where the teachers are in a temporary capacity. Staffing is working with us to ensure that every class has a teacher at the start of the year and that as little disruption occurs as possible.

The classes will all be called by constellations that can be seen in the southern hemisphere. Teachers and students will research this topic to come up with their favourite names. I will provide the names of the classes to you next week.

Each of our classes has been formed with a great deal of thought about your child’s learning strengths and with full consideration of the Department’s policies regarding enrolments. However, sometimes children are not initially thrilled with the class that they have been placed in. Usually our children are very well behaved and do not say very much to teachers. If your child is coming home upset and displeased with their class placement, I would ask you to support the child in liking where they are for the first week. If you can see that there is a deep concern, please speak to either myself or to Mr Connor who is responsible for Stage 3, Ms Watling who is responsible for Stage 2 or Mrs Manga who is responsible for Stage 1 and Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten). Due to our large numbers it is unlikely that we are able to change the class your child is in but we will be able to work with you to ensure that your child is able to learn in a safe and comfortable environment.

Kindergarten are not in classes yet and do not come to school as a group until next Monday. This week all Kindergarten children are attending at specific times in order to participate in initial assessments as part of a state wide program to ensure that our teachers know exactly where each individual child is at with their knowledge in Literacy and Numeracy.
As I explained at the end of last year we will be running a new and very exciting PD/H/PE course designed to assist children to socialise and learn how to make friends and keep friends (PD – Personal Development) while doing physical exercises (Health and Physical Exercise). The program flyer is attached to this newsletter. The program will start in Week 3 of Term 1. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to come and see the program in action. Payment for this program is $36 per child for an 8 week course. The P and C have decided to pay half the cost for each and every child in our school. Therefore you as parents need only pay $18 for each of your children. This is a wonderful initiative of our P and C. Payment is to be made in the first few weeks of this term. If you wish for your child to participate in this Social Skills program please complete the form below and send your money to school in an envelope marked with your child’s name and class. If you require financial assistance to enable your child to participate, please see Mrs Crouch.

The staff and I look forward to sharing the learning journey with you,
Suzanne Crouch
Principal

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**THE OAKS PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM**

**8 WEEK PROGRAM BEGINNING TERM 1 WEEK 3**

I give permission for my child ___________________________ of class ________________ to participate in the Social Skills Program beginning in Week 3.

I enclose $18 as payment for this program.

_________________________  ___________________________  _____________
Parent/Guardian Signature  Parent/Guardian Name  Date

*Please return this slip & money to the Office by Friday 6th February.*