**Principal’s Message**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you for a wonderful start to the year. Your children are settling into school routines and are becoming effective learners. I love visiting classrooms and seeing so many of our students actively learning.

This week I have had some very interesting letters written to me by some of our senior students persuading me to consider their opinions. What a great way to get your point across. I have also met with our 2015 student leaders Quin McVey, Claudia Bush, Travis Lamont and Kye Pinosa who have many great ideas to make our school a great place.

**New Signs:**

You may have noticed that we have some new signs on our gates. They say “Please shut the gate and help to keep your children safe”. In the last few weeks we have had reason to need our gates shut all day. We would ask that you assist us to keep all our students in a safe place by closing the gate after you. We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

**Scripture:**

In Week 4 (next week), the children will be starting a Special Religious Education program (SRE) often referred to as Scripture. Our scripture classes are held each Tuesday morning. At The Oaks Public school we have two approved providers of religious education. They are the Anglican Church and the Catholic Church.

If a parent/caregiver does not wish their child to attend SRE, our school is “to provide meaningful alternative activities with appropriate care and supervision. Students not attending SRE are to be located in a separate physical space from SRE classes. These activities neither compete with SRE nor are they lessons in the curriculum. Suitable activities include reading, private study and completing homework.” (From the DEC policy)

If we haven’t heard from you in writing, we place your child in SRE for a period of half an hour a week. If you do not wish for your child to participate in these lessons please complete the form at the back of the newsletter.

**Voluntary Contributions:**

At this time every year, we hope that you will be able to assist the school financially by paying a voluntary contribution to the school. All schools can request contributions to enhance their educational and sporting programs.

For a child in primary school this amounts to $45 per child. This money is used to pay for paper, printing, art supplies and the very expensive Mathletics and Reading Eggs that your children are able to use from home. School contributions are voluntary and...
payment is a matter for decision by parents. If you are willing to make this contribution please send the money to school through the “Frogs mouth” in the front office, with the separate note that is going home today. The office staff will send home a receipt as soon as possible.

A calendar will be sent home next week with dates of events that will be coming up during Term 1.

Sharing the learning journey with you,
Suzanne Crouch
Principal

CANTEEN NEWS

Next Tuesday 17 February is Pancake Day. TOPS Canteen will be opening especially for this day to sell Pancakes at lunch time. Each Pancake will cost $0.50. We would like to remind you that this is not a normal Canteen day and therefore we will not be selling any canteen produce or making lunches that day. Please ensure your child comes to school with their packed lunch as per normal.

Each pancake will be served plain, with Maple Syrup or a dollop of Margarine as an option and at no extra cost. See you Tuesday!

CANTEEN ROSTER FOR TERM 1 – WK 4, 2015

Wednesday 18th – Friday 20th February, 2015
3rd Wednesday: Deuryn Williams, Vivien Jones, Sian Bryant
3rd Thursday: Rochelle Jones, Laura Affleck, Sian Bryant
3rd Friday: Julene Rose, Jenny Hackett, Deanna Parry

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

Move it, Groove it, Dance studio are excited to be teaching our classes @ The Oaks again in 2015. We will be holding classes on Tuesdays & Wednesdays.

Fun dance classes, no exams, qualified teachers. We will teach your precious ones to love dance. Classes for boys and girls!! All ages.

Please email: moveitgrooveitdancesstudio@gmail.com
Dear parent/caregiver

Parents/caregivers in public schools have the right to have their children receive instruction in their preferred religious persuasion, where authorised teachers of that persuasion are available.

A special religious education program (SRE) is available at the school and is run by authorised volunteers of approved religious persuasions.

Below is the list of approved SRE programs provided at the school for 2015. Additional details of SRE programs on offer at the school can be obtained from SRE providers. Contact details of SRE program coordinators can be provided by the school if required.

OPTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 1</th>
<th>Anglican Scripture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Option 2</td>
<td>Catholic Scripture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please nominate the SRE program you wish your child to attend, or indicate that you wish to withdraw your child from SRE, by completing and returning the tear-off form below.

Students continue in the same arrangement each year, unless a parent/caregiver has requested a change in writing. At any time, you have the right to change your SRE nomination or to withdraw your child from the nominated lessons. A note to the principal will affect this change.

Regards,
Principal

---

Only return this slip if a change is required

I wish my child to attend the following special religious education program

Student Name: _______________________________ Class: ____________
Special religious education program: _________________________________________
Signature of Parent:________________ Date: _____________

- OR

I wish to withdraw my child from special religious education

Student Name: _______________________________ Class: ____________
I do not wish my child to attend any of the school’s SRE programs provided by approved providers of SRE.
Signature of Parent:________________ Date: _____________

www.theoaks-p.schools.nsw.edu.au       Phone: 46571185       Fax: 46571704       email: theoaks-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au