Principal’s Message

Dear Parents and Caregivers,
Welcome to the second week of the new school year. By now you will have heard many things about what is happening at school from your children. It is going to be a very busy and exciting year of opportunities at The Oaks Public School.

In next week’s newsletter, there will be a Term Calendar that may help you to know when things will be happening.

Our Kindergarten children joined us this week at school. They are ready and raring to go.

On behalf of the whole school community I welcome the children and their parents/caregivers to The Oaks school community.

There are many ways that you can get involved with your child’s school. Some of these are:
1) Read this newsletter each week. It will be provided to your child on paper each Wednesday or you can read it online by Googling “The Oaks Public School”. It is also available on the Skoolbag app.
2) Attend Parent and Citizen Meetings held 2nd Tuesday of each month in our school staff room. The next meeting is on the 9th February at 7:00pm. This group hears about what is happening in our school and assists the school with financing “big ticket” items.
3) Volunteer to be a canteen helper whenever you can on Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays. If you are interested in this, please give the school a ring and we will put you in contact with our canteen manager.
4) Volunteer to assist in the classroom once teachers ask for helpers.
5) Volunteer to assist in the Uniform Shop on either Friday afternoons or Monday mornings.

Working with children check:
Any parent who wishes to volunteer in any capacity must have a Working with Children Check (WWCC). This includes classrooms, library, canteen, sports days etc. This is a government initiative aimed to keep children safe. Please get your check completed as refusal to allow you into classrooms may cause embarrassment and distress to us both. This check is able to be started online but requires you to take 100 points of identity to a Roads and Maritime Services office to complete the check. If you are working in a voluntary capacity, this check is free.

We will also not be able to have preschoolers in any school settings while parents are volunteering on a regular basis.

After much planning, the 2016 classes were formed last Friday afternoon. This year we have one less class than in 2015. Our classes have all been named in relation to the Olympic Games as this is an Olympic year.

The 2016 classes are:
K – West Indies
K – Bahamas
1/2 – Ghana
1/2 – Sydney
1/2 – Athens
1/2 - Youth
3/4 – Helsinki
3/4 – London
3/4 – Welcome
5/6 – Germany
5/6 – USA
5/6 – Sweden

An Invitation –
Next week on Thursday, 11th February our staff invite you to an evening where you can book in an individual time with your child’s new teacher to let them know of any medical, social or academic concerns that your child may have or is experiencing. This is an opportunity for you to provide vital information about your child. It is not an interview where the teacher will be telling you information. I will also be conducting tours of the school. If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity please follow
the directions later in the newsletter to “book in” a time for a 10 minute discussion with your child’s teachers. The teachers will be in the hall. We will start at 3.50pm. You only need to attend this meeting if you wish to pass on information to the teacher.

Anaphylaxis:
In our student population we have many children with allergic reactions to many things. We also have some children who have extreme allergic reactions known as anaphylaxis. While all staff are trained in the use of Epi pens, as is mandated by the Department of Education, we would ask that all parents consider the food that their child brings to school and suggest that no nut products come to school for lunch, recess or special treats. It would also be appreciated that if you are wanting to bring any treats in to the classroom for your child’s birthday, please advise the classroom teacher in advance so that they can contact parents whose children are not able to eat these treats and they can advise about safe alternatives. This is extremely important. Your thoughtful assistance is greatly appreciated.

In next week’s newsletter I will be informing you about voluntary contributions that enable the school to make significant differences to the educational services that we are able to provide.

Later in the newsletter is an article about attendance. Please read it carefully. The Department of Education and all child related organisations take attendance at school as a very serious matter. If you are planning on taking a school age child on a planned school holiday you need to contact the school and complete an ‘Application for Extended Leave – Travel’ form.

The staff and I look forward to meeting you next week on the 11th February.

Sharing the learning journey with you,
Suzanne Crouch
Principal.
Regular School Attendance
Information for parents and carers

Did you know? If students miss as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a year of education.

Why must I send my child to school?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory. This means all children from six years of age and under the minimum school leaving age are legally required to attend school.

From 2010, all New South Wales students must complete Year 10. After Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age students must be:

1. in school or registered for home schooling, or
2. in approved education or training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship) or
3. in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours per week) or in a combination of work, education and/or training.

Principals are legally responsible for keeping accurate records of student attendance.

Principals are also responsible for deciding if the reason given for an absence is justified.

For this reason, Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation for long or frequent absences explained by parents as being due to illness.

If Principals don't consider an explanation to be satisfactory, they will record the absence as unjustified.

It is important to understand that the New South Wales Department of Education and Training may prosecute parents (including carers) if children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unjustified absences from school.

Must I send my child every day?

YES. It is a condition of enrolment that you send your child to school every day.

A small number of absences may be justified if your child:
- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (eg a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

Head lice infestations can be a common occurrence, particularly in primary schools. Parents should check their child's hair regularly for head lice and undertake treatment where eggs or lice are identified.

Translated information about head lice and how to treat them can be found at https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/lanuagesupport/documents/headlice/infosheet.htm

Advice from NSW Health indicates that there is no need for students to be sent home or excluded from school because of head lice. Head lice, is not a valid reason for prolonged absences from school.

Why is regular attendance at school important?

Regular school attendance will help your child to succeed in later life.

Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps children to build and maintain friendships with other children.

If your child doesn't learn the basic skills in the early years of school, they may develop learning problems in later years.
Why is arriving at school on time important?

Arriving at school and class on time:
- ensures that your child doesn't miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when they are most alert
- helps your child to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- gives your child time to greet their friends before class and therefore reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption.

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence.

What should I do if our family is going on holiday in school time?

Parents and carers are encouraged not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. Families should try to arrange holidays during school vacations.

If your family holiday is during school time, inform the school principal in advance and request leave and/or an exemption from school.

Depending on the circumstances and how long the leave will be, you may ask the school to provide tasks that can be completed while your child is absent.

Must my child attend all activities, including daily fitness and sport?

YES. Sport and other physical activities help to keep your children healthy. Children are expected to attend all regular school activities, including sport.

Do not keep your child away from school for the following:
- birthdays
- shopping
- minding other children
- routine check ups or care such as hair cuts
- minor family events
- sleeping in.

Medical and other health appointments for your child should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

What should I do if my child has to stay away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for your child's absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:
- send a note, fax or email to the school
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

All absences must be explained to the school. Bilingual absentee notes and further information on attendance can be found on the Department's website under the heading School Attendance (School Attendance) at https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/language/support/documents/index_s.htm

The principal of the school has the right to question parents' or carers' requests for their child to be absent from school.

The principal may also question any explanation given for a child's absence from school.

My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. The principal may seek support from a home school liaison officer or Aboriginal student liaison officer.

Who are home school liaison officers and Aboriginal student liaison officers?

Home school liaison officers and Aboriginal student liaison officers have been specially trained to help you with your child's attendance.

They work with school communities to encourage all students to attend school regularly.

For further information about the Home School Liaison Program you should contact the program manager at your local Department of Education and Training regional office. Contact numbers can be found at the website address:


Do you have problems with getting your child to school, for some of the following reasons?
- won't get out of bed
- won't go to bed
- can't find their clothes, books, homework, school bag...
- school lunches not ready
- slow to eat breakfast
- homework not done
- watching television late at night or when they should be getting ready for school
- test or presentation at school
- birthdays
- screaming and not letting go of you.

Here are some suggestions which are based on setting regular routines:
- Have a set time to be out of bed
- Have a set time to go to bed
- Have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- Make lunches the night before
- Have a set time for starting / ending breakfast: A routine is important.
- Set time for daily homework activities
- Turn the television on for a set time and only if appropriate
- Be firm, children must go to school
- Provide lots of positive encouragement
- Be firm, a birthday is not a holiday
- Time arrival at school to coincide with bell time and leave quickly. If arranged with the teacher beforehand, place your child's hand into that of the teacher and then leave.

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are provided where possible for parents and carers who do not speak or understand English well and for Deaf parents and carers who use sign language. For more information on interpreter services contact your school or phone the Telephone Interpreter Service and have them contact the school. The telephone number to ring is 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in the required language and the interpreter will call the school and stay on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.
Term 1 Week 2
5 Burragerang St, The Oaks. Phone 46571185 Fax 46571704

Wednesday 3rd February, 2016
Email: theoaks-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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Calling All Footballers. Beginners to Champions and anyone whom would just like to have a try. Girls, Boys, Ladies and Gents. All are welcome to come and join us.

Gain some fitness. Have some fun and make new friends, with a family friendly club.

Registrations - Online or Sat 20th Jan 10am-12 Witt Park Wed 3rd Feb 3.30pm-5.30 The Oaks Fruit Shop Sat 6th Feb 4pm-6 Oakdale Workers Club

www.burragerang-soccer.org.au

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- Teams from the U7’s through to U15’s in 2016
- Rising from a half back shape to semi full back rugby
- Friendly atmosphere for all the family
- Training Wednesdays & Friday’s – Play Sunday
- All players receive shorts, socks, plaing jumper & a training shin
- Cheese registration for all new players
- Sibling discounts for the 2nd & any other children registered.

NEW PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

6th Feb on Argyle St Camden
7th Feb Oran Park Podium
13th Feb @ Mt Annan Marketplace
9AM – 3PM

THE OAKS NETBALL

Rego this Sunday!
7th February
9.30am-11.30am
At the park near the roundabout at The Oaks

All Junior members for 2016 receive a Free Sponsored training T-shirt

Or Email tonc.registrar@gmail.com

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LET THEM LEARN TO LOVE DANCE WITH MOVE IT, GROOVE IT

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Camden, Catherine Field & The Oaks.

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Rose Gough 0417 441 277

NCAS COACH, Level 1 G, SM, D, SSTA, Level 2 HM, National SHC Judge

Email: rose@mooreparkstable.com.au