Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As the school year is launched there is a great deal of information that needs to be shared in order to have a safe and organised school. By the time that you receive this newsletter you will have also received a letter from each of your child’s teachers welcoming you to the school year and informing you of some of the important requirements for their classes as well as dates when significant school activities will be held. You have been invited to a “tell the teacher night” tomorrow the 11th February where you are able to tell the teacher of any significant concerns. Included with this newsletter is a calendar for the term which will add to your knowledge about what is happening and when. Some of the additional information that you need to know about is listed below.

**Principal’s Message**

### Opal Cards

Consignments of School Opal cards for students who had a travel pass in 2015, and are eligible for travel in 2016 under the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS), should arrive at schools from 27 January 2016. However, certain eligible students will need to apply for a School Opal card. These are:
- students changing schools or campuses,
- students updating personal details,
- students going from Year 2 to 3 or from Year 6 to Year 7, and
- new applicants or students who have not yet applied.

Parents or guardians of these eligible students who have already submitted an online application will have their School Opal cards posted to their home address. Parents or guardians, of these eligible students who have not already applied, should apply online at transportnsw.info/school-students.

### Behaviour Matters

Please remind students that free travel is a privilege that can be taken away if official Codes of Conduct aren’t followed. In summary, students should remember to:

- Tap on and tap off every time.
- Offer their seat to paying customers without being asked.
- Respect transport staff, transport property and fellow travellers.
- Be mindful of safety at every stage of a transport journey.

- Always travel with a valid ticket.
- Student Codes of Conduct are available at transportnsw.info/school-students.

All students at The Oaks Public School have had a “walk through” of bus behaviour and conduct. It is expected that only students who are travelling by bus wait at school with teachers until 4.00pm when the last bus leaves the school.

### Procedures for School Volunteers

At The Oaks Public School we are very fortunate to have a community who values education and who are prepared to support the school staff to bring about quality outcomes for our students. As a volunteer in any Departmental school you are expected to:

1. Provide the school with current evidence of a Working with children check from Roads and Maritime Services. Please provide this information to the office.
2. Reply to individual teacher notes to tell the teacher that you are able to volunteer in their classroom.
3. Wait for teacher confirmation to take on the volunteer role.
4. Understand that pre-schoolers are not able to work in school areas alongside volunteer parents.
5. Sign in at the office each and every time that you work in the school. This is a Work, Health and Safety requirement.
6. Wear a visitor Lanyard so that all staff and students understand that you are a “safe” adult to have on our premises. Adults in our school who are not wearing lanyards will be questioned about their presence in a student environment and may be requested to leave the premises.
7. Arrive on time and quietly in classrooms.
8. Assist the school by doing the task that you have volunteered for.
9. Respect confidentiality of all student learning. What you see and hear stays confidential.
10. Sign out of the school when you have completed your volunteer activities.
11. Feel really good about yourself for making our days brighter – THANKYOU.
Please remember that when you are in the school volunteering, the staff are all involved in teaching. It is not appropriate for them to be holding lengthy conversations with adults in their teaching spaces. This is not the time to ask for information about your child.

**Lockdown/Evacuations**
Last week our school held its first safety drill for the 2016 school year. This is a requirement of the Department of Education so that should any form of danger present itself, the staff and students of our school know how to react. Our students, led by teachers, made a quick and non-panicked response to our lockdown. Our volunteers in the canteen were efficient with their response and our site was secured very efficiently. Other drills will be held periodically throughout the year.

**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 for the entire year. 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 utilise from home. School contributions are completely 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. We understand that some parents are unable to volunteer this amount of money immediately. We are able to take the contribution at any time that fits in with your plans.

Each class will also be receiving information regarding the cost of individual school needs for 2016. Should any parent require assistance for these items please let me know.

**What would you like?**
Last year in our school survey, you as parents/caregivers identified that you would appreciate some workshops about school/learning related matters. Please complete the form opposite if you would be interested in attending any of the sessions and return it to the Frog’s mouth. It is envisaged that we could hold an information evening with 8 minute parent sessions on a number of topics.

Sharing the learning journey with you,
Suzanne Crouch,
Principal

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**CANTEEN ROSTER FOR TERM 1 – WK 4, 2016**

**Wednesday 17th – Friday 19th February, 2016**

3rd Wednesday: Renee Jenkins, Melinda Tzortzis
3rd Thursday: Karen Decourcey, Lisa Chapman
3rd Friday: Deanna Parry, Jenny Hackett, Julene Rose

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

**RAZORBACK BOYS FOOTBALL (SOCCER) TRIALS**

Year 5/6 boys of The Oaks Public School have been informed about Razorback trials and have been asked to see Mrs Grieve if they wish to be considered for a position. Trials will be held on Friday during sport time. The boys will be asked to provide evidence of their sporting achievements in soccer.

Please note that Razorback zone will be selecting the top 14 boys from 80 boys trying out.

For more information, please see Mrs Grieve.

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**What would you like?**
Best start assessments – what are they? ☐
Maths – how can I help? ☐
NAPLAN – what is it? ☐
Give us some other ideas_______________
How do I support my child with Home Reading? ☐
2016 HI-TOPS Permission Form (The Oaks Public School)

I give permission for my son/daughter ___________________________ to attend HI-TOPS (Heavenly Impact at The Oaks Public School) Lunchtime group. I understand this event will be held in a classroom on Tuesdays from 11.30-12.00. I understand that this group is a Christian themed group run by Verity Hoffman, employed by St Luke’s Anglican Church and is only available to students with parental permission.

Parent/guardian name: ___________________________ Child’s Class: ___________________________

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

ST LUKES READING AND WRITING FOR KIDS
Tutoring for children with Literacy needs (no cost involved)

Mrs Parker and Mrs Pleskun are retired teachers from The Oaks Public School who are Reading Recovery trained. They are interested in helping students from Years 1 – 6 with literacy needs.

Mrs Parker and Mrs Pleskun provide tutoring in reading and writing for students on an individual basis on Thursdays between 4 – 6pm at St Lukes Anglican Church hall, Merlin St, The Oaks. The first round of six students begins in Week 5, Term 1. Each student has a 30 minute weekly session for 10 weeks, excluding holidays. Students who are not included in the first round will be put on a waiting list for the next 2 rounds.

If you feel that this could be of help to your child, please fill out the Expression of Interest form below and return it to your school office. You will then be contacted to discuss necessary arrangements.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR ST LUKES READING AND WRITING FOR KIDS

Parent/Guardian Name:_________________________________________

Address:________________________________________________________________________

Phone number:__________________________________________________________

Child’s name:__________________________________________________________

Child’s date of birth:_______________________________________________________

School attended: ___________________________ Grade: ___________________________

Teacher’s name: ___________________________ Class: ___________________________

Current reading level (if known)_________________________________________________

Area of need: ____________________________________________________________________________

I give permission for Mrs Parker or Mrs Pleskun to discuss my child’s reading and writing progress with their class teacher. _______________________________________________
MOORE PARK STABLES
125 Moulders Road, Orangeville NSW 2570

- Riding Lessons
- Pony Leads
- School Holiday Camps - Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursdays
- Gift Vouchers
- Discounts
- Agistment
- Part Lease of a School Horse

Rose Gough 0417 441 277
NCAS COACH, Level 3 G, SH, D, SSTA, Level 2 HM, National SHC Judge

Email: rose@mooreparkstable.com.au