The Oak Leaf

Oak Park Primary School will work collaboratively to provide a stimulating, safe and challenging learning environment that promotes resilient, innovative thinkers.

 principals Column

The Greek philosopher Plato stated that ‘The beginning of something is always very important, especially when it’s young and needs time to grow’. Plato’s words are particularly relevant to young children and their parents as they begin the enrolment process into the Foundation (Prep) Year.

Starting school is a significant event in the life of a child and family. Children’s emotional maturity and social competence should be at the core of decision making about school readiness.

Social skills include knowing how to behave in particular situations, how to relate to the needs of others and how to follow the rules and routines that apply in families, places like school, within friendship groups and the community.

Children learn social skills through positive communication with family members, good role models and gentle advice from trusted people. Keep in mind that we cannot ‘fast forward’ children’s emotional maturity and social competence.

Once a child starts school, they will be in the school system for at least the next 13 years of their life, which is a significant number of years in a lifetime. It is therefore important that a child has the best opportunity to not just ‘cope with’ or ‘survive’ their first and subsequent years of school, but to flourish, thrive and reach their individual potential.

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School readiness is often perceived to be judged upon whether a child knows their alphabet or can count up to 10 or 20.

However, while early literacy and numeracy are important, formal reading, writing and counting are not the most important indicators for school readiness. The most important factors with a successful start and continued learning in school are related to a child’s social and emotional maturity, such as:

- Being able to separate from parent/caregiver when dropped off
- Taking responsibility at a basic level for own possessions
- Dealing at a simple level with conflict, not hitting, biting or throwing items when frustrated
- Being able to talk with and respond to teachers
- Showing an interest in other children
- Following a few simple directions at a time
- Completing a simple task without needing constant prompting
- Ability to socialise and play with other children.

Learning to manage feelings and to relate well with other children and adults is the foundation of doing well at school and later, working life.

Above all, it is important to keep in mind that although academic learning is highly valued in a school, social skills, communication, the ability to make friends and cope with conflict, are critical factors in learning and living with others.

Student Leadership Camp

Tomorrow a group of our student leaders will be attending a Leadership Camp in Angelsea. The students will be involved in a range of activities designed for them to get to know each other, and themselves better as well as help to develop their leadership skills.

They will work together developing ideas around our school values and relevant positive behaviours, discuss ways we can enhance student leadership opportunities at the school and make presentations on people they consider to be outstanding leaders.

The group will also be visiting Lorne Airey’s Inlet College to meet with their student leaders.

A beautiful morning for the Student Leadership Team to be heading off to Angelsea
The Oak Leaf

June 2nd 2016

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Connected the Musical

Connected is an exciting and engaging musical theatre that uses an energetic, fast-paced narrative and an edgy, contemporary soundtrack to demonstrate in live action what the consequences of cyber bullying.

Straight from the stages at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this musical is having life-changing impacts on audiences everywhere it goes.

Our Grade 5 and 6 students will be watching the cyber bullying musical on Monday 6th June. For more information about the musical see: www.connectedthemusical.com.au

Oak Park Puzzlers

WEEK 6: The correct answer to our last puzzle was – “The man and the chicken cross the river, (the fox and corn are safe together), he leaves the chicken on the other side and goes back across.

The man then takes the fox across the river, and since he can't leave the fox and chicken together, he brings the chicken back.

Again, since the chicken and corn can't be left together, he leaves the chicken and he takes the corn across and leaves it with the fox.

He then returns to pick up the chicken and heads across the river one last time.

Correct answers were received from Julian, Troy, Jamie and Liam. (The 6C Puzzle Collective)

This week’s puzzle is from our Guest Puzzler, Jan Flanagan. If you heard this puzzle on the radio......Shhhh......

“If you were driving around Australia, is it shorter to go clockwise or anti-clockwise?”

Please forward your answers to flanagan.jan.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

If you would like to be a guest puzzler please email them to the above address.

Happy Puzzling

The Succulent Saga

Thank you to the families who donated cactus and succulent cuttings to the 5/6 area. Over 150 succulents have been transplanted into seed trays, and fingers crossed, all will take hold. We are now looking for old containers to plant them in. Items we would love to receive include unusually shaped glass jars (jam, for example), used glass containers that once contained candles, tin condiment containers (e.g. mustard etc). Thank you for your continued support

***We are also hoping to collect 50 old vinyl records

The 5/6 team
Three way Conferences

Teachers have been working hard on the children’s half-year reports. This is a time consuming task, which requires expertise and professionalism. There will be many, many hours clocked up in front of computers both at night and on weekends during this term. The teachers have been collecting assessment data all year, putting it into the children’s portfolios and they are carrying out further assessment tasks and tests to ensure that their reporting is accurate and reflects your child’s achievement.

I think it is important for the broader community to be aware of the many tasks and responsibilities that make up the role of a teacher. The feedback we receive from community about our reporting process is usually very positive.

It is particularly reassuring for the children to share their work and receive such positive feedback. It is important for children to aim high and take responsibility for their learning and achievements.

The three-way conferences will take place on Tuesday June 21st and we would like to encourage all parents and their children to attend the discussion on how your child has progressed during the first half of the year.

Reports will be sent home on Friday June 17th to give parents the opportunity to read them prior to the meetings.

How About a Walk?

Today in Victoria nearly 1/3rd of all children spend less than 5 minutes walking per day. Inactive children are now more likely to be overweight – with the proportion of Australian children who are in this category now reaching 25%.

Walking to and from school gives children the opportunity to engage in regular physical activity. This is especially important for those children who don’t enjoy team sports or organised activities.

Walking is important for many health reasons, including preventing heart disease and diabetes, building strong muscles, bones and heart, and having fun becoming familiar with the neighbourhood they live in.

For those of you who drive your children to school, why not consider parking 1 km away and walking the rest of the way – maybe once a week? Alternatively, you could join the Walking School Bus or do a few laps of our oval prior to the start of school?

This day is an ‘alteration to school hours’ day and students are marked present when they attend the Interview with their parents. Please note there will be no school for children on this day – except when they attend the Parent/Teacher/Student meeting.
Successful Kids

Want to Raise Successful Kids? Science Says Do These 7 Things Every Day

It's not what you try once, or what attitudes you hold. It's what you actually do, every single day.

By Bill Murphy Jr.

1. Make your kids do chores.

Take out the garbage, mow the lawn, do the dishes—they're not just ways to make your life easier, they're ways to make your kids' lives better, too.

"By making them do chores ... they realize, 'I have to do the work of life in order to be part of life,'” Julie Lythcott-Haims, a former Stanford University dean and the author of *How to Raise an Adult*, told Tech Insider.

Related: Be an "authoritative" parent, rather than an authoritarian or a permissive one. Create a world in which your child "grows up with a respect for authority, but doesn't feel strangled by it."

2. Teach them social skills.

Have you ever worked with socially awkward people? It'll probably be no surprise to you to learn then that a 20-year study at Penn State and Duke found that kids with good social skills turned out to be more successful.

"Socially competent children who could cooperate with their peers without prompting, be helpful to others, understand their feelings, and resolve problems on their own, were far more likely to earn a college degree and have a full-time job by age 25 than those with limited social skills," Gillett and Baer wrote.

3. Teach and demonstrate high educational expectations.

We're combining two practices here, but they're related. First, a University of Michigan study finds that if you want your kids to go to college, present yourself as a good role model by making sure you finish your education first. Meantime, make it clear that you expect them to study through college, too.

"Parents who saw college in their child's future seemed to manage their child toward that goal irrespective of their income and other assets,” says UCLA professor Neal Halfon, who studied data from 6,600 kids born in 2001.

4. Teach them to develop good relationships.

We've all heard of parents whose marriages were failing but who decided to stay together for the sake of the kids. That might be admirable, but it matters more that they have good relationships with each parent, and with siblings (if they have any).

First, a study at the University of Illinois showed that it matters more that kids grow up in a home without conflict among their peers and siblings than that their parents are together. And second, a study of children born into poverty reported that "children who received 'sensitive caregiving' in their first three years" of life did better in school, and then had "healthier relationships and greater academic attainment in their 30s," Gillett and Baer wrote.
5. Get them excited about math (early).

I certainly remember my mom drilling me on multiplication tables as a kid. (Not kidding: "Three nines? Two sixes? Five fifteens?") It worked: Now I'm a billionaire.*

Reading to young children is important, but it turns out teaching them math skills is crucial as well. In one study of 35,000 young children, early math skills translated into not only "future math achievement," according to the study's co-author, Greg Duncan of Northwestern University, but also "future reading achievement."

(*It's true! But only in Indonesian rupees.)

6. Teach them to try. And not to worry about failing (or much else).

You've probably read about the idea of adopting a growth mindset versus a fixed or scarcity mindset. Short version: For your kids, you want a growth mindset. You want them to view failure, which happens to all of us, as a chance to learn and grow--not as an ending. In other words, don't worry.

More than that, try to control your level of stress, or at least to control the extent to which they perceive your stress.

7. Show them work ethic--and achievement.

If you want your kids to behave a certain way, the most likely way to make it happen is to model good behavior. (The second most effective way might be to model really bad behavior and let them learn from your mistakes. But I'm going to suggest the first idea.)

Moreover, a Harvard Business School study shows that kids who grow up with working moms have advantages over those who don't. As Gillett and Baer wrote, "The study found daughters of working mothers went to school longer, were more likely to have a job in a supervisory role, and earned more money -- 23 percent more compared to their peers who were raised by stay-at-home mothers."

There is no such thing as a complete list.

Gillett and Baer have a few other research-based recommendations, too. I take issue with two of them, for different reasons.

First, they cite the finding that kids with higher socioeconomic status tend to do better than those without. Of course that makes sense, but it's not really something you can simply decide you're going to change overnight.

Second, like virtually every other trendy article on this subject, they recommend teaching "grit," defined as the "tendency to sustain interest in and effort toward very long-term goals." While that's virtuous in a vacuum, I think we're going to find as a society that the way we teach grit omits something serious: the ability to maintain motivation while simultaneously, continuously re-evaluating your goals.
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Rock Stars…..

Here are a few more photos of our students thoroughly enjoying their Rock Star Day.....
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Community News
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Deluxe Bar & Lounge in Moonee Ponds would like to invite all the parents and friends down on Sunday 12th of June Queens Birthday Long Weekend. The cost is $10 entry but for anyone who says “Oak Park Primary” at the door we will give $3 per person back to the school. There will be live music on the heated and undercover roof top, followed by DJ’s playing all the latest and old school hits. We are hoping to create a fun and relaxed atmosphere where we can all still feel comfortable and enjoy a few laughs, music and maybe a couple of drinks!

### WOW AWARDS

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Before Care: Abbie Clewer
After Care: Rafael Dobson
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SCHOOL UNIFORM SUPPLIER

A PLUS Schoolwear

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