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

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### Principal’s Column

**Respectful Relationships**

Many parents would have come across reports in the media regarding the DET’s ‘Respectful Relationships’ initiative. This initiative is part of the government’s response to the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Below is some further information from the DET’s website – parents wanting to know more can email me (Bryan) and I would be happy to send further details.

While schools across Victoria have been teaching respectful relationships in their curriculum for many years, this initiative will strengthen their ability to promote and model gender equity in everything they do and support students and staff affected by family violence.

In the family violence prevention space, the term ‘Respectful Relationships’ has a very specific meaning – the building and promotion of gender equity in relationships, and the challenging of gender stereotypes.

Respectful Relationships is about tackling family violence through education. As part of a staged process, all Victorian schools will be supported to implement a whole school approach. This will include looking at schools’ practices and policies relating to gender and driving meaningful cultural change. The approach will build a culture of respect and equality in our schools - as learning places and as workplaces that achieve long-term change in the community.

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### Thought for the Week

We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination.

Nelson Mandela
Embedding Respectful Relationships in schools and early childhood settings is key to preventing family violence in the long term.

The whole school approach

A whole school approach has to engage with every aspect of the school – it has to be applicable to all students and all school staff members, teaching and non-teaching, but also the other people who come into the school – parents, community educators, school council representatives and others. It’s often the hardest thing to pin down, but it’s one of the most important aspects of this work. Too often we focus on what we’re telling students, when the reality is, what we teach them in classroom will only influence their behaviour when the key concepts that we teach them, such as respect, equality, gender and consent, are reinforced and modelled formally and informally throughout the rest of the school.

Through a whole school approach, schools will be supported to work through six key domains:

1. Culture and environment
2. Support for Staff and students
3. Community Partnerships
4. Teaching and learning
5. Professional learning strategy
6. School leadership and commitment.

2016 Fete Wrap Up

I am very happy to announce once again that this year’s fete raised just a little under $30 000 – an amazing result!

Funds raised from this year’s fete have been earmarked for the following projects:

- Replace the old fence along Ridge Road boundary – this is scheduled to happen during the Christmas vacation.
- New football and soccer goalposts – will be ready before the start of the next seasons of sport.
- Replacing classroom furniture throughout the whole senior school – the furniture has been ordered and we hope it will be here before school starts next year.

Congratulations to the amazing Oak Park Primary School community for achieving such a great result! This makes it just over $100 000 from our 4 fetes!

And many thanks once again to everyone who assisted at this year’s fete. An afternoon tea will be held at the school next Thursday afternoon from 2.00pm to thank everyone for their wonderful efforts in making the fete such a success. It would be great to see as many people there as possible!

Rubbish Free

Thank you to everyone for your response to my ‘rubbish rant’ in last week’s newsletter. The yard has been much, much better this week.
and I am very hopeful that this will continue when our campers return!

**Remembrance Day**

Last Friday we celebrated Remembrance Day with a special assembly organised by members of our Student Representative Council.

On Remembrance Day each year, Australians observe the occasion with a minute’s silence to pay respect to those who died and suffered in wars, conflicts and peace operations.

Originally called Armistice Day, this day commemorated the end of hostilities in World War 1 and the signing of the armistice (which means ‘ceasefire’) on 11 November 1918 – peace came into effect at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

Remembrance Day 2017 marks 98 years since the guns fell silent on the Western Front bringing the “war to end all wars” to an end. At the end of the First World War there was much celebration and noise. People celebrated with great joy in the streets.

After all the noise of war and then the noise of celebrating the end of the war, it was thought important to pause quietly and think about what had happened. Pausing for one minute of our day, to remember those who did not return home to loved ones and friends, is a small gesture to honour their sacrifice.

Remembrance Day is a time to remember all those who have served their country, particularly the more than 102,000 Australian servicemen and women who died doing so, including some 61,000 in the First World War on the Western Front, at Gallipoli and in the Middle East.

Australians have served in many conflicts, including the Boer War, First and Second World Wars, Korean War, Malayan Emergency, Indonesian Confrontation and Vietnam War, and more recently in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as on peace operations around the world since 1947. Remembrance Day is an important time for us to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice these Australians made in ensuring our safety and defending our freedom.

On 11 November people often wear a red poppy to commemorate those who lost their lives in wars and conflicts. This is because Red Flanders poppies were a common sight on the battlefields of the Western Front, the first plants to grow after the devastation of fighting. By wearing a poppy we honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Ode

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.*
*Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.*
*At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them.*

*Lest we forget*

* The Ode is taken from Laurence Binyon’s poem *For the Fallen.*
The Oak Leaf

Issue 36
November 17th 2016

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Grade 5 and 6 Camp

Our campers have had a great week so far on Philip Island. The weather started off a bit drizzly on Monday but has improved every day since.

Sally has been sending through regular updates, including photographs, on Compass.

2017 Enrolments

Oak Park Primary School continues to accept Foundation enrolments for the 2017 school year.

We remind you that, for a child to begin Foundation in 2017, he or she must turn five by April the 30th next year. Enrolment forms are available from the General Office during school hours, but please remember that proof of age (eg. Birth Certificate or passport) and an immunisation certificate are pre-requisites for enrolling at a Victorian state school.

Be Sun Smart!

Australia has one of the highest incidences of skin cancer in the world. It is important that we protect ourselves against the harmful radiation caused by the sun’s rays.

As a Sun Smart School, Oak Park Primary School encourages everyone to wear hats when outside during the warmer months of Terms 1 & 4.

Students must wear a hat when outside during recess, lunchtime or when playing sport.

Premiers Reading Challenge

Congratulations to all the students who completed the Premier’s Reading Challenge this year!

Certificates of completion will be distributed to students on Monday the 21st of November at our school assembly. Lizzie Blandthorn (MP for Pascoe Vale) will be handing out the certificates to students.

From the Office

Dear Parents,

Grade 3 & Grade 6 Netbook payments are now OVERDUE. Last week statements were sent via students for any outstanding netbook payments. Please check your children’s bags. Payments are due Friday 18th November, 2016.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please email Annette D’Elia delia.annette.a@edumail.vic.gov.au to discuss payment arrangements.

Regards
Annette D’Elia
Business Manager
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Foundation 2017

Transition

**Session 3: Tuesday 29th November (Term 4, week 9) from 9.15am – 10.45am**
Transition activities within the 3 Foundation classes. Students will participate, while parents attend an information session in the Multi-purpose room.

**Please note:** Our school uniform supplier (A Plus School Wear) will be selling new uniforms following the parent information session.

**Session 4: Wednesday 14th December (Term 4, week 11) from 10am- 10:45am**
Children to meet their Foundation teacher for 2017 and their Grade 6 buddy.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Saints Basketball Club

PLAYERS WANTED – UNDER 8’s
Oak Park Saints Basketball Club is looking for Under 8 players (boys or girls) born 2009 or 2010 for the summer season.

If your child is interested in playing or trialling training, please contact Cheryl Crotty on 0414 637 533 or email cheryl72@bigpond.com

MILO in2CRICKET

MILO inCRICKET introduces boys and girls aged 5-8 to basic cricket skills in a safe environment and is inclusive of all abilities, skill levels and children with a disability.

Oak Park MILO inCRICKET is a 10 week program and begins on Friday the 21st of October at 5 pm at JP Fielder Reserve. The cost of the 10 week program is $85 and the weekly sessions last for an hour period by our qualified coach Carolyn Drennan.

To register your child visit www.in2cricket.com.au/in2cricket and select Oak Park Cricket Club as your centre. Once your child is registered and payment complete your child will receive a player pack which includes a back pack, plastic bat and soft ball, t-shirt, bucket hat, water bottle and a Milo sachet.

Payment details are outlined on the registration page.
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School Contacts

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