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

Principals Column

Celebrating literacy & numeracy

Be confident that your child will learn to read. Show that you enjoy reading by having lots of different reading material at home and by giving books as special presents.

Children value reading through watching members of their family read and write every day. Encourage your child to read anytime, anywhere.

Children often enjoy reading more if it is shared. Make time away from television and interruptions to read aloud with your child.

Read in your home language if your first language is not English.

Encourage your child to read by sharing such activities as:

- reading signs and posters
- following a street directory
- checking the television guide
- choosing a video
- using a recipe
- reading game rules
- reading the newspaper aloud together
- playing word games including crossword puzzles
- reading instructions

Thought for the Week

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.

Dr. Seuss
• looking at letterbox leaflets
• finding brands at the shops
• reading magazines, comics, poems and rhymes.

Listen to your child read every day. Here are some ideas to use now and then, but remember some reading should just be for pleasure:

• look at the cover, title, pictures and talk about what the book might be about
• talk about the story so far and what might happen next
• after reading, talk about the story and ask questions
• talk about the pictures and how they add meaning to the text
• take turns when reading a harder book.

Remember the three Ps for new words: pause, prompt, praise.

That is, allow your child time to work out the word (pause), use clues taken from the context (prompt) and praise your child for trying.

If necessary, however, simply tell your child the word.

Talk to your child’s classroom teacher or the principal for further help and advice.

Principal for the Day

As you know, Morgan Brownett won the recent Principal For the Day competition.

Congratulations once again Morgan!

Morgan’s turn at being Principal will take place next Monday 24th October.

We have negotiated with Morgan about the day and some of the ideas she would like to implement.

Some things that parents will need to know before Monday:

It will be a Casual Dress Day AND Crazy Hair Day - for free!

The SRC will be selling icypoles and lollies. The Grade 5s and 6s will be doing an Art/Craft activity on the day - might need smocks.

Lots of other things happening too!

Have a great day!

2017 Classes – Parent Input

As mentioned in the past few newsletters, staff will soon commence the process of developing class lists for 2017. The full process has already been outlined, and I would encourage you to review previous newsletters if you would like to see this again.
The letter must be received by the school no later than 21st October in order to be considered. This is an important deadline as letters received after that date will be too late to be considered.

The letter must state the criteria and learning environment best suited for the student as per the parent opinion (this is a piece of the input to the process along with the teacher input).

We ask that you do NOT request a teacher specifically by name.

Please note that next week is your final chance to provide a written letter to the principal if you wish to give input to the process of class placement for your child.

Curiosity

Curiosity is critical for children’s all-round development. The power of curiosity helps children in clarifying problems, develop ideas and help solve problems and later, use and apply them in their daily life. Curiosity also helps children explore how situations and scenarios of life could be different in their finer aspects. When children explore the surrounding environment in an active manner, they can be the most productive people in the world. Asking probing questions, investigating all possibilities, and owning a sense of pleasure and excitement will also help children become wonderful inventors and innovators.

Almost all children come equipped with a sense of curiosity. However, they may need a gentle nudge to develop it further. Curiosity means questions, questions and more questions! It also means seeking the right type of answer for all those questions. Curiosity is the combination of tough questions and right answers. As questions are the most critical key in developing curiosity, parents may need to teach children how the ‘why’s and how’s’ of life can help them to solve many uncertain and difficult problems. Children are keen learners and they can learn more by developing curiosity. A burning desire to learn more will encourage children to start asking question after question in their mind.

Children can look at things in an exciting and thrilling way. In fact, they can be wonderstruck when they see something that is new, exciting and fresh. This ‘wonder’ is that amazingly thrilling moment that is difficult to explain. For example, it is when children utter a single and simple word – WOW!

The most important thing here is to get actively involved with them to encourage the asking of higher order questions, to help find answers to their questions and provide appropriate solutions.

All great thinkers and inventors have been advocates of asking the right type of questions. These people were patient enough to ask the right questions and seek the right answers; perseverance and dedication were the hallmark of some of the greatest scientists and inventors.

Relentless efforts and attention to details made them the pioneers and legends of the world. When children confront tricky and challenging situations, they tend to find answers with a renewed vigour. We need to encourage children to ask questions, to have a go at solving problems, to support their ideas and strategies with finding out answers, and most of all, to believe in their ability to do so.
It is always a great experience to observe our students’ sense of wonder and curiosity when on excursions, for example.

Viewing images or YouTube clips is never quite the same as actually experiencing things for yourself!

**Uniform Award**

This week’s **Uniform Wearer of the Week Award** goes to

Deborah PEREIRA 3/4B
who wears her correct uniform every day

Congratulations Deborah for setting such a terrific example to the rest of the school!

**Lost Property**

This week there were 22 bomber jackets in our lost property….un-named!!!
THEY ARE STILL THERE! They will now be cleared and donated to our parents club for a 2nd hand stall sale.

**PLEASE CLEARLY NAME YOUR CHILD’S UNIFORM**

**Staff Car Park & Drive Through**

There are many parents still dropping off & picking up their children from the Staff Car Park. We ask families to not access the staff car park at any time. Unfortunately there are not enough car parks for the staff at school, and it is very frustrating when staff arrive at school to find unauthorised people parking there. We have also had staff being blocked in by parents dropping off children.

DRIVE THROUGH: The drive through area in Summit Avenue is not for parking whilst waiting to pick up your child. This area is a drive through ONLY. If you arrive and your child is not there for pick-up, you must exit the zone and allow the area to remain free-flowing. Parking to wait for your child, causes much frustration amongst families, please respect the rules. You must also exit the drive through to the left only, as per the designated sign.

These rules about school parking etc. are there for yours and your child’s safety.

**SUSTAINABILITY:**

**Frog Pond…Help Wanted**

The current batch of pre service teachers are participating in a curriculum project with an aim of redesigning our ‘frog pond’ so that it can be sustainable in the long term. As part of the recent developments which have included
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The Oak Leaf

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the excavation which has made the pond larger whilst also allowing for running water there are still various other requirements to help fast track the project. Although there is a budget to help with cutting costs, the pre service teacher group would greatly benefit any donations of recycled rocks, stones, boulders, logs and anything that can help make the pond look as native as possible whilst being able to hold on the pond lining. This doesn’t mean going out and buying items but if you see anything laying around the backyard which you will never use feel free to bring it in. Please contact John (hughes.john.v@edumail.vic.gov.au) if you have something you’d like to drop off.

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

Oak Park Kindergarten

Milo Cricket

NATIONAL WATER WEEK PHOTO COMPETITION

You could win an amazing camera!!! Easy for kids to do on their iPads, and with the Moonee Ponds Creek so close by there are plenty of opportunities to take some amazing photos. Check it out here: https://www.smartwatermark.org/news/snap-smart-watermark/
Term 4 Soccer

My name is Harry Amiridis and I am the Strathmore Secondary College (SSC) boys soccer coach. Over term 4, Adrian Mazzarella and myself will be running technical football training combined with physical preparation work for the new season. Adrian, a teacher/coach at Maribyrnong Sports Academy, is a very experienced coach having worked at Melbourne City Youth, Crystal Palace and Chelsea academy and has been part of the Victorian Football team that travel to Nationals, as well as head coach of the Vic schoolboys teams. I have been a PE teacher/coach at SSC for the past 11 years and involved with football (soccer) and futsal at State level. This year our boys were State Champions of which you may know some of them.

If you are interested in joining our program it will run from SSC gym on Saturday mornings. Cost is $260 for the term (75 minute sessions). Welcome for all ages and ability levels.

We will begin training NEXT SATURDAY 15th OCTOBER morning time slot around 9:30am. You can register here: https://form.jotform.co/fim/joinow
OPPS 2016 FETE THANK YOU

The Fete Committee would like to thank the following list of individuals/groups (in no particular order), who helped make the 2016 fete a magnificent day!

- **Harry & Marie Dobson.** All plants at the plant stall this year were donated by Harry & Marie. 100% of profits made were generously given to the school. Not only that, but Harry & Marie have spent the past two years cultivating these plants with love.

- **SRC.** The SRC came up with some wonderful fundraising activities. Principal for the day, lolly jar & lemonade stalls were all set up in order to raise money for our school.

- **Leah Strutynski and her mum.** Leah & her mum spent tireless hours crafting away to donate items to our craft stall. And once again, 100% of profits made on the day were donated back to the school. Exceptional effort!

- **Joe Chalhoub.** Joe volunteered his time all day in the Disco Room, providing sound, music & lights. Six hours straight in the disco room means Joe really does deserve a medal (& a massive thank you!)

- **All volunteers on the day.** We’re sure you would have enjoyed the time, whether it be behind a stall, flipping burgers, or even topping up drinks from one area to the next. Many hands make not only light work, but an incredible community like ours, thank you one & all.

- **Those dynamic “little jobs” helpers.** Whether it be for one week or multiple weeks, thank you to those who could spare some mid-week time to take the load off our Fete Committee. An example of the work done by this group would be the packaging up of the big wheel donations, or even running colouring competition sheets to every classroom. A lot of work is done in the lead up weeks, and we value every person’s contribution & friendly camaraderie each “little jobs” day.

We hope you managed to come along with the whole family to enjoy what was a remarkable, sunny & fun day last Saturday.
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**WALK, RIDE, SCOOT, SKATE TO SCHOOL IN OCTOBER!**

*Apart from the great health benefits, help your child develop independence and reduce the cars on our road by getting to school in an active way. Leading schools will share in $1000’s worth of sports equipment prizes!!! Part way is OK!!! Get involved to get fitter, develop independence, look after our environment and support the school!*
This is Mia.
Mia is 11 years old and attends Oak Park Primary School. Mia was diagnosed with a rare, genetic condition called Ataxia-Telangiectasia (A-T) when she was two years old. A-T is often described as the worst parts of cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and cystic fibrosis. Add cancer, and you have A-T. A-T is a progressive, neurodegenerative condition that causes severe physical disability. It has confined Mia to a wheelchair within the last two years. Mia now needs assistance with everyday tasks that we take for granted. A-T has also compromised Mia’s immune system and she is 1000 times more likely to develop cancer than you or I.
If receiving a diagnosis of A-T isn’t devastating enough, watching Mia deteriorate before our eyes has left us with little or no hope for her future. There is no cure for A-T.

We are continuously fundraising to find treatments and eventually a cure for all children with A-T however stem cell research is still in its infancy.

Our goal is to improve Mia’s quality of life to keep her safe and happy by:
Modifying Mia’s home by purchasing a chair lift to assist her getting up and down stairs: $12,000.
Modifying Mia’s bedroom by purchasing a hospital bed: $8,000.
Purchasing a modified car that will transport Mia’s motorised wheelchair.

Thank you for your support. If you wish to support Mia and her family, please go to:
www.gofundme.com/ourmissionformia
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