The Oak Leaf

Principal's Column

Definition of ‘Bullying’

Bullying is when someone, or a group of people, deliberately upset or hurt another person or damage their property, reputation or social acceptance on more than one occasion. There is an imbalance of power in incidents of bullying due to age, size, status or other reasons.

Bullying may occur because of perceived differences such as culture, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability or disability, religion, body size and physical appearance, age or economic status. Bullying may be motivated by jealousy, distrust, fear, misunderstanding or lack of knowledge. It can continue over time, is often hidden from adults and will probably continue if no action is taken.

There is always a significant amount of media publicity regarding bullying. This is an area in which significant research has been conducted and the common findings of world-wide research indicate:

Bullying happens in all schools. Approximately half of all students report having been bullied at some time. The reported incidence of bullying decreases with age. Boys are more likely to be involved in physical bullying than girls. Bullying takes many forms.

I would love to say that we have no bullying at Oak Park Primary School but unfortunately bullying is a fact of life. I do know that we are fortunate to have minimal numbers of bullying incidents.

Julie 22
School Disco

July 29
Serendip Sanctuary exc:
Grade 1A and 1B
Parent Opinion surveys to be returned

August 1
Bully Zero Presentations
*Parent Info Evening at 6:00pm

October 8
School Fete

Thought for the Week

When people don't like themselves very much, they have to make up for it. The classic bully was actually a victim first.

Tom Hiddleston

Uniform Award

This week's Uniform Wearer of the Week Award goes to

MILLY-ROSE & LACHLAN ALDIS FP

Congratulations Milly-Rose & Lachlan for setting such a terrific example to the rest of the school.

July 19th
6.00pm Finance/Grants
6.30pm Education/ICT

July 21st
5.00pm Buildings & Grounds
(canceled)

July 27th
7.00pm School Council Meeting
incidents and most of this bullying is considered ‘low level’ bullying. ‘Low level’ bullying includes hurtful teasing, pushing or shoving, subtle but nasty body language and exclusion from games/groups. Make no mistake; I am disappointed by bullying behaviour. It is one of the most insidious actions humans can do to each other. A key role of all who work in schools is to ensure that every child is feeling safe and happy at school. Therefore, at Oak Park Primary School we take ALL reported issues of bullying seriously.

OUR RESPONSE

- We have ZERO TOLERANCE to bullying. If we become aware of bullying we immediately deal with the students involved and will contact parents. It is vital that parents and the school work together to assist the victim and the bully.
- In an extremely busy ‘people place’ like a school, we will not be aware of every bullying incident. Therefore it is imperative that if parents become aware of an issue, they immediately contact the school so that we can investigate.
- We have very clear procedures to address bullying incidents as they arise.
- We reinforce with all students the procedure to follow if they feel they are being bullied.
- We focus on primary prevention programs that assist students to develop skills and abilities to respond to bullying. These are also reinforced within the classroom and specialist programs.

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Through our concerted effort and the ‘culture’ of the school, we can ensure that we do everything in our power to ensure that bullying is kept to a minimum.
- Our experience tells us that in a lot of bullying cases there are two sides to the story. Some examples of bullying are completely unprovoked and others less so. So please listen carefully to your child and then give the school time to fully investigate the incident.
- Often children tell parents that they have been ‘bullied’ at school. What they really mean is that either they felt threatened, or were pushed or shoved or maybe hit or even not allowed to play. As a parent I ask you to ensure that you listen carefully and question your child appropriately without prompting their answers - more often than not they will change their story to the real version.

Parent Info Evening on Bullying August 1st

Bully Zero Foundation

Thanks to a generous donation to the school, the Bully Zero Foundation will be presenting to students, staff and parents on Monday, 1st August. They will present to the students from Grades 3-6 during the day, the staff after school and will also conduct a parent evening at 6pm on the same day.

At OPPS we have zero tolerance for bullying but parents often ask how they can instill the
skills in their children to equip them to deal with situations where bullying is involved. This is just as important in early primary as it is when children make the transition to a secondary setting.

The parent evening is an excellent opportunity to gain some practical information and advice both with all types of bullying including cyber. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

More information will be coming home shortly.

Sue Annett

School Banking

Application forms are now available at the Office for students to start School Banking.

We have had many families register their interest for this initiative. If you are unable to collect forms from the office, please call Fran, who will ensure a form is passed to your child.

Parent Opinion Survey

The survey is designed to take no more than 20 minutes to complete and parent feedback and opinions play an important role in making our school the best it can possibly be.

If you are one of the families randomly selected to participate, please be assured that your responses will be completely confidential. The survey is conducted anonymously and it is important to us that you complete the survey as honestly as possible. Your comments in the final, open-ended question will be scanned and provided back to the school.

If selected, I ask you to take the time to complete the survey as your opinions are important to us and will contribute to the future management and organisation of our school. For example, feedback from parents helped to change the way we structure Parent-Teacher interviews and led to the introduction of student banking.

Surveys have been sent home today and need to be returned to the school no later than Friday, July 29th.

Homework and Reading Club

Everyone is invited!

Thursdays at lunchtime in Hayley’s room
Come for help with all kinds of homework
or come and read to me or someone else!

Frog Pond

Last year the grade 1’s created a frog pond as part of their CBL project. At the end of last year a ‘5 cent Frenzy’ was held, and the money raised (around $1000) was directed towards the expansion and improvement of the area.
around the frog pond. We have put plans together to improve the area and have enlisted the assistance of Victoria University pre-service teachers, who will oversee much of the development of the area. This will involve considerable expansion, including connecting the downpipes from the Sustainability room to a creek bed style entry into the multi-tiered pond. This will involve digging the new holes, laying down sand and pond liners, placing rocks and planting water and surrounding plants, as well as a reed bed. The digging is due to commence in the next few days and the works will begin in earnest in August when the Victoria University pre-service teachers return to Oak Park PS. On top of this, students from the grade 1 area will be working on parts of this during their Sustainability sessions. It is hoped that by the end of the term we will have a lovely new area to show off to everyone (and hopefully the frogs will be interested as well).

John and Jannelle.

Upcoming Excursions

Friday 29th July – Grade 1A & 1B are going to Serendip Sanctuary in Lara. Cost $15. Permission forms and money are due back by Wednesday 27th July.

Wednesday 27th July – National Tree Day plantings with Moreland Council at Herbert St. Reserve, Pascoe Vale. Forms are to be returned by Monday 25th July (no cost).

2016 Fete

“Little Jobs for The Fete” Hour: Every Thursday from 2.30pm to 3.30pm in the staffroom, helpers are most welcome to assist with some ‘little’ jobs for this year’s fete.

ALL WELCOME

Book Club

BOOK CLUB HAS ARRIVED!

Book Club gives parents and children a convenient way to purchase affordable, age appropriate books to bridge the class-to-home reading connection.

Twice a term a catalogue will be sent home for your consideration. There is no obligation to purchase but if you do the school will receive rewards that will enable resources to be purchased for the school library and classrooms.

Attached to the catalogue are instructions on how to arrange payment for your selections.

Please note:

- Cash payments (correct change) – are to be sent to school
- Credit card payments ARE TO BE MADE ONLINE (Instructions are attached to the catalogue)

CLOSING DATE for orders: FRIDAY 22ND JULY
Oak Park Primary School will work collaboratively to provide a stimulating, safe and challenging learning environment that promotes resilient, innovative thinkers.

FETE SPONSORS 2016

Saturday 8th October 10am-4pm

All of the businesses below have sponsored our fete: please support their businesses in return by using their services.

PLATINUM SPONSORS
McDonalds Oak Park: 598 Pascoe Vale Road Oak Park, Ph: 9304 125, www.mcdonalds.com.au
Lifestyle Portraits: Studio 3 661 Victoria St Abbotsford, Ph: 94285877, images@lifestyleportraits.com.au
Barry Plant Real Estate: 1/828 Pascoe Vale Road Glenroy, Ph 9300 2344, glenroy@baryplant.com.au
Lizzie Blandthorn: 416A Bell Street Pascoe Vale, Ph: 9354 9935, Lizzie.blandthorn@parliament.vic.gov.au

GOLD SPONSORS
Church Resources, Ph: 02 9478 1414, www.cr.org.au

SILVER SPONSORS
Sydenham Dental Group, Ph: 9390 5199, www.sydenhamdentalgroup.com.au
George Weston Foods Limited (Don Smallgoods Division), Ph: 1800 147 613, www.gwf.com.au

BRONZE SPONSORS
Costco Wholesale Docklands, Inflatable World Tullamarine, Bob Jane T-Mart, Clip N Climb, AGS Prints, Essendon Keilor Gymnastics. All enquiries regarding sponsorship can direct to Casilda on 0458 340 130

Community News

Bringing Up Great Kids
Become the parent you want to be
A FREE six session parenting program for parents of primary school aged children

Join us for this great program. An opportunity to think about your family, talk about children's development and learn how to manage the stresses of everyday life.

Where: Moomba Park Primary School 111 Anderson Road Parkville
When: Tuesdays 9 August - 13 September 2016 6.30pm-9.00pm. Snacks provided
Bookings: Gabrielle McDonald, Early Years Coordinator on 0438 840 234 or email gmcdonald@ecm.org.au

Published by the Australian Government Department of Social Services
Oak Park Primary School will work collaboratively to provide a stimulating, safe and challenging learning environment that promotes resilient, innovative thinkers.

Calling All Budding Netball Players
Penola Saints Netball Club is looking for girls or boys interested in joining for the up and coming Spring Season commencing on 27th August 2016
Development Squad (Training only) – Ages 6-7
Net Set Go Team – Ages 8-10
U11s – Age 11 and under prior to 31st December 2016
U13’s - Age 13 and under prior to 31st December 2016

Proposed second route for the Walking School Bus.

There has been some interest in the school community in regards to starting a second route for the Walking School Bus along New Road, Oak Park.
I am trying to establish the viability of this option and I would appreciate any expressions of interest.
Please contact me if you live along, or in the vicinity of New Road, and you would like to have your child walk to school safely with other children.
Also, keep a look-out in this weeks’ Leader newspaper for a feature on our Walking School Bus; the last surviving one in the Moreland district.
Mary Petts 0438 538 271
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**WOW AWARDS**

**Term 2**

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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>FH</td>
<td>Arda Ozcan</td>
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<td>1B</td>
<td>Emmanuel Chalhoub</td>
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<td>3/4B</td>
<td>Marlon Basil</td>
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<td>Miriam Mekhael</td>
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<td>Zac Lardner</td>
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<td>Capri Byrne</td>
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<td>Raouf Elkersh</td>
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<td>6C</td>
<td>Lucas Callegari</td>
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<td>Lathan Satele</td>
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<td>Dan Dinh &amp; Koray</td>
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<td>Pavithra &amp; Amara Manders:</td>
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**SCHOOL CONTACTS**

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- **Office Manager**: Fran MacDonough  macdonough.frances.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
- **PFA President**: Bron Barwick  nursebron@yahoo.com
- **School Council President**: Rory Sercombe  rorysercombe@hotmail.com
- **OSHC Coordinator**: Julie Andrews  aftercare@oakparkps.vic.edu.au