The Oak Leaf

Principal’s Column

Welcome back to school everyone! I’m sure the children will agree with me that the holidays seemed to fly past very, very quickly.

A special welcome to all of the families new this year to Oak Park Primary School. This of course includes our Foundation families – many of whom have already formed a relationship with the school via older brothers and sisters – and families of children who enrolled just this year.

This year we welcome back Tess Haycox to the senior school team. Also, Melanie Ojczyk (you might remember her as Melanie Schirmer) to our Specialist team, working as our Performing Arts teacher. This year is a concert year, so it will be great having Mel work with the kids and staff on that.

We will also welcomed Kirsty Potts (Grade 5/6), Kate Dyer (Grade 2), Alexandra Macias (Grade 1), Lacey-Rae Garner (Grade 1/2) and Melissa Broso (Japanese).

I’m sure you will all enjoy your time at Oak Park Primary School and we all look forward to working closely with you!

It has been a great start to the new school year, with a really positive tone in classrooms and in the schoolyard. All classes were very settled – speaking volumes for the work put in by our teachers.
I would encourage everyone who is yet to become familiar with the Oak Park COMPASS app to do so as soon as possible. This has become the major form of communication for us and it is partly a parent’s responsibility to ensure they make use of all the forms of communication that are available.

All the best for a great 2017!

**OSHC Program**

Many parents will be aware that the school runs both a Before Care and an After Care program. In recent years, there has been an increasing demand for the service and we have been able to increase the number of places from 30 to 60.

The services come under the National Quality Framework and there are strict guidelines around space requirements and supervision.

We are currently licensed for only 60 places in the After Care Program and these are currently filled. The Multipurpose Room and Art Room combined allows us space only for 60 students.

However, there are some spaces available in the Before Care Program – this was recently increased from 45 to 60 students. Please note that 60 is the limit at this stage.

We will continue to do all we can to provide a high quality Out of School Hours Care Service for parents who need it, but at this stage cannot guarantee a place for everyone.

**School Council Elections**

Next week, I will call for nominations for both the Parent and DET categories for school council. There are four vacancies on council for parent representatives.

School Councillors whose terms expire at this election are as follows:

- Caroline Jory (Parent Rep)
- Andrew Ward (Parent Rep)
- Joanne Roolker (Parent Rep)
- Tracy De Marco (Parent Rep)
- Sally Morath (DET Rep)
- Jessica Costanzo (DET Rep)

If you decide to stand for election, you can either nominate yourself or be nominated by someone who is eligible for the same category as you wish to stand for.

Nomination forms need to be in by Monday 20th February 2015.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

The School Council Election Timeline is as follows:

- **Notice of election & call for nominations**  Feb 13
The Oak Leaf

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

Personal Property

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

Please note the Department of Education and Training (DET) does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property.

Principals have been requested to remind staff, students and parents/guardians of this at the beginning of this academic year. Both staff and students are discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

Litter Free Lunches

Much of the rubbish that we generate and send to landfill comes from the packaging on the food we buy, and lunch foods are no exception. In fact, it has been estimated that on average a school-age child using a disposable lunch generates three pieces of litter per day, which equates to 30 kg of waste per year. This works out to be 15 tonnes of waste produced by a school of 500 students each year from lunch boxes alone!

Based around the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) - litter free lunches are lunches that contain food items with no disposable
packaging or single use items, such as pre-packaged foods, plastic bags, juice poppers, bottled water, disposable utensils, plastic straws or food wrapped in cling wrap or foil.

Instead, all food is provided in reusable food and drink containers, so that there is no packaging to place into the bin and the majority of the waste produced is organic (i.e. food scraps) which can be recycled via school compost bins and worm farms.

Benefits of litter free school lunches include:

- students eating healthier lunches, as they are being provided with less pre-packaged ‘gimmicky’ snack foods and more fresh food in appropriate amounts
- less waste being produced and sent to landfill
- cheaper lunches, as food items bought in bulk are less expensive than pre-packaged products
- a reduction in waste collection and disposal costs to the school, as less waste is being generated by the school community
- providing students with a practical example of how simple behaviour change can easily address a widespread environmental issue
- promotion of environmental stewardship and advocacy within the school
- a cleaner school; research has shown that less litter is dropped in areas free of litter compared to areas where litter is more noticeable.

Please support our school and community by providing your child with a LITTER FREE LUNCH at school EVERY DAY!

**Sustainability**

Some great mail came over the holidays that acknowledged the wonderful fundraising work by last year’s grade 5 & 6 students working to support endangered animals. Included with this newsletter are letters from Zoos Victoria and The ‘Save The Tasmanian Devil’ Fund acknowledging the great efforts by our students. It’s something we and they should be very proud of. The certificates of appreciation will be displayed in the office and the letters displayed in the Sustainability room.
Oak Park Primary School will work collaboratively to provide a stimulating, safe and challenging learning environment that promotes resilient, innovative thinkers.

The frog pond is almost complete. It has taken a lot of hard work and time but it has been well worth it. Come and have a look! Thanks to Ross Mulder and Roy Hamilton in particular, for their large contributions. Hopefully we’ll have some frogs calling it home soon. Already a number of water bugs have made a home for themselves in the area.
The orchard is growing well. The generous donations of families last year will be recognised with a plaque. With 18 fruit trees representing twelve different fruits we hope to have a great harvest once the trees have really consolidated themselves. Students in grade 5/6 (and lunch time Gardening Club) will be involved in caring for them and the vegetable gardens during the first half of the year.

The chicken coop is currently being built, which should provide a great home for our chooks. We expect them to be arriving within the next month and the grade 3 students will be looking after them for the first half of the year. Last year’s SRC fundraising put $2000 towards the chicken coop – a huge thank you to all who contributed and the SRC for their great efforts. Stay tuned for more information!

Lost Property
One of our students has lost her 3 precious Beanie Bear Kids: a birthday one, a swimming one and a green one….some of these are 20 years old! If any student has come home with a ‘surprise package’ that doesn’t belong to them, could they please be dropped into the Office. Thanking you in anticipation

Book Club
Oak Park Primary Book Club will be meeting on the 27th Feb at 7.30pm. New people always welcome. This months book is Not without my sister By Juliana Buhring. Any queries contact nursebron@yahoo.com
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WOW AWARDS

Each week, teachers will be giving WOW awards to students. These awards will be given out at assembly each Friday afternoon.

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<th>Term 1 Value - RESPONSIBILITY</th>
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School Contacts

Principal  Bryan Nolan  nolan.william.b@edumail.vic.gov.au
Business Manager  Annette D’Elia  delia.annette.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
Office Manager  Fran MacDonough  macdonough.frances.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
PFA President  Bron Barwick  nursebronyahoo.com
School Council President  Rory Sercombe  rorysercombe@hotmail.com
OSHC Coordinator  Julie Andrews  aftercare@oakparkps.vic.edu.au
Community News

Sussex Neighbourhood House offers courses to parents needing to upskill and/or those running small business….Please see flyers below for courses on offer.

Skills for Small Business & Job Seekers

An ideal course for job seekers, small business and admin volunteers. Update your Excel, Powerpoint Presentation, Website & Social Media Skills to improve your business success or your opportunity for employment.

- Excel
- Powerpoint
- Website - Wordpress
- Social Media: Mailchimp, Facebook & Survey Monkey

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<tr>
<td>Pathways:</td>
<td>Pathways to Core I or II in information technology or Business</td>
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<td>Location:</td>
<td>Sussex Neighbourhood House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mode of Study:</td>
<td>Classroom &amp; Home based study</td>
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<td>Days:</td>
<td>Mondays</td>
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<td>Times:</td>
<td>6.30pm-9pm, plus flexible delivery</td>
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<td>Duration:</td>
<td>7 sessions</td>
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<td>Cost:</td>
<td>$180 or $160 conc.</td>
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<td>BYO:</td>
<td>Exercise book, pen, USB</td>
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Starts: 6 Feb Enrol Now!

Introduction to Bookkeeping

This course is ideal for small businesses, job seekers, volunteers and those wishing to upskill. Learn the essentials of manual bookkeeping and gain skills in the day to day processes including:

- Concepts and terminology
- Invoicing
- Purchasing
- Journals, cashbook
- Petty cash
- Bank reconciliations

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<tr>
<td>Pathways:</td>
<td>Acquisition of basic bookkeeping knowledge &amp; skills for business owners/volunteers &amp; job seekers, who may wish to undertake unit 106 or Accredited Certificate of Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Locations:</td>
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<td>Mode of Study:</td>
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<td>BYO:</td>
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Starts: 7 Feb to 28 March

Sussex Neighbourhood House
235 Sussex Street
Pascoe Vale Vic 3044
ph: 9354 2210
enquiries@susseh.org.au
www.susseh.org.au
share: learn: enjoy: grow
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Vic Cric Summer
Dear Parents,

We are seeking a parent representative for each class in the school. Depending on the expression of interest it may only be for the duration of a Term or for the whole year working with a partner. In partnership with the teacher, this may involve activities such as rallying other parents to attend working bees, excursions and special events. It does not mean that the parent representative needs to attend all events; this role is mainly to support the school by encouraging parents to become more involved.

All parents need to fill out the information section below and return to the classroom teacher A.S.A.P.

Thanking you

Jill Ridgwell
Assistant Principal

__________________________
Parent Name:

__________________________
Child's name: Class:

Please circle: I do/do not wish to be my child's class representative.

I wish to be contacted by the class representative when necessary and relevant to school events.

Yes/No

If yes, please provide a contact number: __________________________