



The Oak Leaf

Willett Avenue Oak Park 3046

† 9306 9182 e nolan.william.b@edumail.vic.gov.au www.oakparkps.vic.edu.au

Issue 19

June 28th 2018

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 28th** Grade 5/6 Japanese visit
Essendon Keilor College
- June 29th** **World Cup Soccer Dress
Up Day** – for a gold coin
Final day of Term 2. 2.00pm
dismissal
FINAL ASSEMBLY 1.30PM
- July 25th** 5/6LD 'Clippy' Workshop
- August 3rd** 5/6 Excursion: The Big Issue

Next School Tour:

Monday 23rd July at 9.30am. Please contact the office to arrange a place on the tour.

Uniform Award



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

CHRIS LI 1M

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

Principal's Column

Might be a little controversial, but here's a post I came across recently by Amy Murray:

Dear Parent:

I know. You're worried. Every day, your child comes home with a story about THAT kid. The one who is always hitting/shoving/pinching/scratching/maybe even biting other children. The one who always has to hold my hand in the hallway. The one who has a special spot at the carpet, and sometimes sits on a chair rather than the floor. The one who had to leave the block center because blocks are not for throwing. The one who climbed over the playground fence right exactly as I was telling her to stop. The one who poured his neighbor's milk onto the floor in a fit of anger. On purpose. While I was watching. And then, when I asked him to clean it up, emptied the ENTIRE paper towel dispenser. On purpose. While I was watching. The one who dropped the REAL ACTUAL F-word in gym class.

You're worried that THAT child is detracting from your child's learning experience. You're worried that he takes up too much of my time and energy, and that your child won't get his fair share. You're worried that she is really going to hurt someone someday. You're worried that "someone" might be your child. You're worried that your child is going to start using aggression to get what she wants. You're worried your child is going to fall behind academically because I might not notice that he is struggling to hold a pencil. I know.

Your child, this year, in this classroom, at this age, is not THAT child. Your child is not perfect, but she generally follows rules. He is able to share toys peaceably. She does not throw furniture. He raises his hand to speak. She works when it is time to work, and plays when it is time to play. He can be trusted to go straight to the bathroom and straight back



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again with no shenanigans. She thinks that the S-word is “stupid” and the C-word is “crap.” I know.

I know, and I am worried, too.

You see, I worry all the time. About ALL of them. I worry about your child’s pencil grip, and another child’s letter sounds, and that little tiny one’s shyness, and that other one’s chronically empty lunch box. I worry that Gavin’s coat is not warm enough, and that Talitha’s dad yells at her for printing the letter “B” backwards. Most of my car rides and showers are consumed with the worrying.

But I know, you want to talk about THAT child. Because Talitha’s backward “B”s are not going to give your child a black eye.

I want to talk about THAT child, too, but there are so many things I can’t tell you.

I can’t tell you that she was adopted from an orphanage at 18 months.

I can’t tell you that he is on an elimination diet for possible food allergies, and that he is therefore hungry ALL. THE. TIME.

I can’t tell you that her parents are in the middle of a horrendous divorce, and she has been staying with her grandma.

I can’t tell you that I’m starting to worry that grandma drinks...

I can’t tell you that his asthma medication makes him agitated.

I can’t tell you that her mom is a single parent, and so she (the child) is at school from the moment before-care opens, until the moment after-care closes, and then the drive between home and school takes 40 minutes, and so she (the child) is getting less sleep than most adults.

I can’t tell you that he has been a witness to domestic violence.

That’s OK, you say. You understand I can’t share personal or family information. You just want to know what I am DOING about That Child’s behavior.

I would love to tell you. But I can’t.

I can’t tell you that she receives speech-language services, that an assessment showed a severe language delay, and that the therapist feels the aggression is linked to frustration about being unable to communicate.

I can’t tell you that I meet with his parents EVERY week, and that both of them usually cry at those meetings.

I can’t tell you that the child and I have a secret hand signal to tell me when she needs to sit by herself for a while.

I can’t tell you that he spends rest time curled in my lap because “it makes me feel better to hear your heart, Teacher.”

I can’t tell you that I have been meticulously tracking her aggressive incidents for three months, and that she has dropped from five incidents a day, to five incidents a week.

I can’t tell you that the school secretary has agreed that I can send him to the office to “help” when I can tell he needs a change of scenery.

I can’t tell you that I have stood up in a staff meeting and, with tears in my eyes, BEGGED my colleagues to keep an extra close eye on her, to be kind to her even when they are frustrated that she just punched someone AGAIN, and this time, RIGHT IN FRONT OF A TEACHER.

The thing is, there are SO MANY THINGS I can’t tell you about That Child. I can’t even tell you the good stuff.

I can’t tell you that his classroom job is to water the plants, and that he cried with heartbreak when one of the plants died over winter break.

I can’t tell you that she kisses her baby sister goodbye every morning, and whispers “You are my sunshine” before mom pushes the stroller away.

I can’t tell you that he knows more about thunderstorms than most meteorologists.

I can’t tell you that she often asks to help sharpen the pencils during playtime.

I can’t tell you that she strokes her best friend’s hair at rest time.

I can’t tell you that when a classmate is crying, he rushes over with his favorite stuffy from the story corner.



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The thing is, dear parent, that I can only talk to you about YOUR child. So, what I can tell you is this:

If ever, at any point, YOUR child, or any of your children, becomes THAT child...

I will not share your personal family business with other parents in the classroom.

I will communicate with you frequently, clearly, and kindly.

I will make sure there are tissues nearby at all our meetings, and if you let me, I will hold your hand when you cry.

I will advocate for your child and family to receive the highest quality of specialist services, and I will cooperate with those professionals to the fullest possible extent.

I will make sure your child gets extra love and affection when she needs it most.

I will be a voice for your child in our school community.

I will, no matter what happens, continue to look for, and to find, the good, amazing, special, and wonderful things about your child.

I will remind him and YOU of those good, amazing, special, wonderful things, over and over again.

And when another parent comes to me, with concerns about YOUR child...

I will tell them all of this, all over again.

With so much love,

Teacher

School Wide Positive Behaviours

I'm sure everyone knows by now that Oak Park implements the School Wide Positive Behaviours initiative. Many would have seen the SWPB Matrix that is displayed in all teaching spaces. The matrix outlines the positive behaviours that we encourage

every day and are explicitly taught in classrooms. The behaviours relate to our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.



Oak Park Primary School Positive Behaviours Matrix

	RESILIENCE	RESPONSIBILITY	RESPECT
Always	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept a genuine apology when it is offered. Try to solve some problems myself before going to a teacher. Persist when tasks are difficult. Demonstrate good sportsmanship and take turns when playing a game. Use my initiative and toolbox of positive strategies when I come across a situation that is challenging. Take an active role in my own learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be an UPSTANDER, not a bystander. Be a positive role model. Work play and exit safely. Look after school property, the belongings of others as well as my own. Ensure that all personal items are labelled. Take responsibility for my behaviour. Organise required materials for the day or activity. Be on time. Help our school to stay rubbish free. Attempt all tasks in a timely way and to the best of my ability. Keep all areas clean and tidy. Follow the agreed expectations. Search borrowed equipment, including library books, on time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite others to play with my group. Speak and listen politely to everyone. Play fairly and by the agreed rules. Be a good winner as well as a good loser. Ask permission before using other's belongings. Share equipment with others. Be considerate of other's personal space. Move quietly during work time. Offer a sincere apology when I have done the wrong thing.
Outdoors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend a lunchtime club, or on the Buddy Bench or ask to join another game if I don't have anyone to play with. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play only in the areas that are supervised. Decide on the rules of a game before playing. Move in a safe and orderly manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite others to play with my group if I see them alone or sitting on the Buddy Bench.
Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let a teacher know if I see something that is not right. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the toilets during school breaks/recess. Wash my hands after using the toilet. Flush the toilet after use. Use water wisely. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be considerate of the privacy of others. Use soap and toilet paper correctly. Put paper towel into the correct bin. Leave the area as soon as I have finished.
Using computers and iPads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn the steps to fix some common ICT problems myself. Save all my work in an organised manner. Delete and report anything inappropriate that is forwarded to me. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit to the ICT Agreement signed at the start of the year. Use only school approved apps. Keep my devices and passwords in a safe location. Report any cyberbullying or inappropriate material immediately. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow others to use online resources without interference. Be courteous and polite in all online communications.
In the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take care of my own safety. Ask for help when necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the safety guidelines at drop off, school crossing and in the car park. Ensure that I am respectful of property. Behave appropriately when on excursions or camps. Follow road safety rules. Report any unsafe behaviour to the teacher or adult in charge. Stay with the class group on excursions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen politely to teachers, parent helpers or camp organisers. Follow instructions carefully. Ensure that the environment I am visiting is left clean and tidy.

Values are difficult concepts to grasp sometimes. The best way to teach the values is by modelling them, living them – 'practising what you preach'.

We believe positive behaviour approaches work best when there is consistency between home and school; when we are on the same page.

It would be great if parents could further explore our shared values with their children at home. One way to do this could be to explain the values in terms of home contexts.

Students in the SRC worked on a SWPB matrix that links our values with things that happen outside of school. Please see below. You might like to use it to help your children understand what these values mean and what we can do to demonstrate that we think these things are important.



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HOME INVOLVEMENT
POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS MATRIX

	RESILIENCE	RESPONSIBILITY	RESPECT
Getting up in the morning	Ignore distractions such as watching TV. Pack your own bag.	Make your bed. Eat breakfast. Make sure your iPad is charged. Help organise your own lunch. Feed any pets that you may have.	Thank your parents for helping. Clean up any mess you have made in order to help keep your home clean and tidy.
Getting to school	Attend school even if you are feeling slightly tired or sick. Cooperate when you are asked to sit in a certain car seat.	Arrive at school on time. Obey road, crossing and footpath rules. Go straight to school. When walking to school, only talk to the people you know. Walk at a reasonable pace. Wear school uniform properly.	Cooperate with your family and work as a team. Greet people as you see them. Hug and say good-bye. Thank parents for driving you.
Cleaning up time	Show perseverance in completing the job's you are responsible for. Clean up properly – no shortcuts.	Clean up after yourself. Make sure materials and equipment are returned to the correct place.	Take care of your belongings. Use a polite tone when asked to do something.
Homework	Make the commitment of doing homework even if you are tired – no excuses. Allow people to help you.	Read every night. Take pride and do it to the best of your ability. Return homework to school on time.	Attend to your homework when asked to by your parents.
Meal times	Eat the vegetables you may not like. Try new foods without complaining. Be grateful for the food that is being placed in front of you.	Take dirty dishes to the sink or dish washer. Help set the table.	Say please and thank you. Use table manners at all times.
Getting ready for bed	Get organised for the following day even if you are tired. Ignore distractions from siblings.	Put your pjamas on and brush your teeth. Calm down and turn off all screens well before bed time. Charge iPad. Help prepare clothes for the next day. Read a bed.	Agree to a bed time for weekends and school days and stick to it without a fuss. Allow sibling to sleep without distractions such as light and noise. Listen to parents.
Time to relax or after school activities	Take turns with choosing TV programs. Make the commitment of turning up to activities for the whole season.	Unpack your bag if going home first. Arrive at after school activities on time.	Give others personal space if they need it.
Screen time	If you are playing games with a friend, be resilient in defeat.	Make a time limit with your parents and stick to it. Only play suitable children's games.	Finish when you are told to by an adult. Use headphones if you are listening to music.

online store where you can get some of these products.

<https://www.floraandfauna.com.au>

I would recommend checking out the cotton net produce bags, the stainless steel straws (with pipe cleaner/bottle brush), the bamboo cutlery sets (for handbags etc.), the lunch wraps and glass 'keepcup'!

Sustainability

BREAKING UP WITH PLASTIC

The recent plastic bag ban has been in the news a lot, and the students worked on 'Beating Plastic Pollution' as the theme for World Environment Day. The students loved this video (link below), which shows some ways of avoiding plastic when purchasing, and using more sustainable or compostable products. It is actually quite funny, and the students got a lot from it. I would encourage you to have a look as well:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DEc16dEMns>

While we were investigating this, the students came up with many great solutions for breaking up with plastic, including using bamboo cutlery, bees wax wraps instead of cling wrap, stainless steel straws instead of plastic ones and many more. I recently bought a bunch of great resources to show the students, which were a big hit (the bees wax lunch wraps in particular), so here's a link to a great

Lost Property

If your child has lost their bomber jacket, coat, lunch box, or drink bottle, please check the lost property outside the Administration area.

It would be fantastic if all the lost property was claimed before the holidays

Compass Notifications

Parents & Guardians are able to post absence notifications (holidays, illness etc) for their child on the Compass Portal.

If your child is going to be absent due illness or holidays, please utilise the Compass portal to add an absence notification for your child. It is very easy to do, and an 'unexplained absence' will not show against your child's attendance record.

We ask that families please update their child's absence.

With regards to Late Arrivals of your child to school, please ensure you come in via the office to pick up



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a late arrival card to give to the teacher. The office staff will then sign your child in at the time they arrive. If your child arrives late, it is expected that the parent will come into school with them and take them to class via the Office. It is unsafe for your child to be just dropped off when the school yard is deserted.

Early Departure of your child requires the parent to come via the office and collect an early departure card to take to your child's class. This must be done before your child will be released from class, particularly as the office staff will be aware of who can, and can not, pick up your child from school.

These procedures are for safety reasons and we ask all parents/families to follow our procedures.

Thank you

Student Wellbeing

Term 2 has been a great term for Wellbeing Activities at Oak Park Primary School. The Whole School was introduced to the You Can Sit With Me program and this has been taken on board by all classrooms and students in the school. The grade 5/6 students also participated in the Tools for Transition program run by the Life Skills Group. This was a fantastic 8 session program that focussed on self-regulation, communication, teamwork, managing big emotions, positive self-talk, self-belief, taking healthy risks and leadership. Students learnt about the values of respect, honesty, being a team player, caring, resilience, confidence and

leadership through the use of mindfulness techniques, games and relaxation. From feedback provided by the students it was a time for them to learn and reflect on their own behaviours and abilities, a time to listen and learn from others experiences and a quiet place to learn new coping skills for life. The program provided the students with some great practical strategies and coping skills and we are planning on them sharing their new knowledge and skills with the rest of the school, by running some sessions for the younger students in term 3.

CALL OUT FOR PARENTS

This year's whole school Wellbeing Day will also be in term 3 on Wednesday 8th August. The theme of the

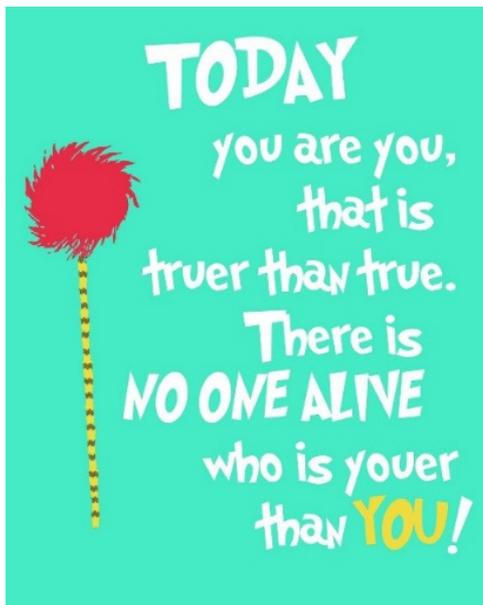
day is "Being The Best Version Of You". If there are any health professionals (eg. Psychologists, doctors, dietitians, physiotherapists, art therapists, police... to name a few), or parents in the Oak Park Primary School Community that would like to share their knowledge with students or assist on the day please email Natasha Niemann the Student Wellbeing Officer on

niemann.natasha.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

Thank you and please enjoy your holidays and time with your children.



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Grade 2 Scientists

On Tuesday, Grade 2 became scientists for the day. We learnt about dissolving by carrying out the Skittles Experiment. The students were amazed to see how the sugar coating on the lollies dissolved in water to create rainbow patterns!



Later on, we investigated how to make different colours using the primary colours of red, blue and yellow. We dipped absorbent paper towels into coloured water to mix the colours. The students made green, purple, orange and beautiful rainbow patterns!





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Whole School STEM Challenge



Next term we are really excited to be embarking on our whole school STEM challenge where all students F-6 will be immersed within the STEM field focusing on **ENGINEERING**.

During this challenge, students will be learning about the Engineering Design Process, then using this process to create a construction using cardboard and tools from MAKEDO.

In order for this challenge to be successful, we are asking all families to purchase a MAKEDO Kit for each of their children which they will use at home and at school to promote creativity and problem solving; two skills that are necessary for the future workforce. The screws will remain at home, and your child/ren will be asked to take to school their 'tools' (mini tool and safe saw) to be used for constructing their 'school challenge'. At the end of the challenge, students will be able to use the Engineering Design Process to develop their problem solving and creativity skills at home.

MAKEDO KIT:

\$11.00 (valued at \$16.50)

1 mini tool

1 safe saw

20 screws

5 XL screws

Please ensure payment is received by the end of week 2 on COMPASS.

We thank you kindly for your support. More information about the STEM EXPO will be given out next term.

Many thanks,

The Inquiry/Technology Team

Uniform Policy

School Council is currently reviewing the school's Uniform Policy and would like your input.

Please take the time to read the policy (see the policy on the website under 'Parent Information' then 'OPPS Policies') and if you would like your thoughts to be considered as part of the process, please email the Principal at:

nolan.william.b@edumail.vic.gov.au

Your feedback should be in by Friday July 20th.



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Chess Tournament

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the first official Chess Tournament at Chess Club. It was a very close tournament and all the students won at least one game during the tournament. This was an outstanding effort.

The winners of the Chess Tournament-

Overall Winner (Trophy)- Ryan Reichardt

2nd Overall Agasthya Nellore

3rd Overall Jack Chila

Junior Ages

1st Oliver Ojczyk

2nd Toby Kennedy

A big congratulations to you all!

Chess Club registration for Term 3 is open now. We also have spaces for new players. Please see compass for a form or you may get a form from the office.

Chess Club is \$50 for Term 3 (bargain!) Please ensure money is returned with your child's form

Happy Holidays everyone!



P.F.A News

- Help needed for the Bunnings Bar-B-Que on August 25th
- Donation tub is in the office for fete 'bottles' Thanks to those who have donated already

Next PFA Meeting JULY 30th @ 7.30pm

OSHC Payments

It is preferred that OSHC payments are paid directly into the school bank account.

Bsb: 063450 Account: 10002492 Please ensure that your surname and OSHC are included in the description. Your assistance with this would be greatly appreciated

COMMUNITY NEWS

Team Holiday

JOIN US THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!
Winter School Holiday Program Here!

Everyone Welcome

- Awesome Teaching Staff
- Active, Fun Experiences
- Convenient Locations
- Child Care Subsidies Apply

Formerly known as Team Holiday
SAME GREAT Company Staff Experience

Easy Online Booking
teamkids.com.au 03 9532 0366



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WOW AWARDS

Class	Name	Awarded for
FH	Lily Sermeliotis	For working so hard to improve your writing by practising your goal of independently sounding out words. You're a superstar!
FS	Maisie Morton	For always giving everything a go, no matter how scary!
FP	Lucas Oltoumis	For always attempting and persisting through a challenging task
1M	Adam Jammal	For doing a fantastic job as the news reporter in your inquiry group's video
1H	Leo Steet	For being a great player during learning games and a great helper in the classroom
1/2C	Hamish Ward	For showing resilience and improving the presentation of his work. Keep giving your best Hamish
2M	Riley Bishop	For taking your news report production seriously and learning your lines excellently
2D	Kadir Karabag	For persisting when working on imovie. You face a challenge head on and you didn't give up. You independently solved the problem, well done!
3E	Ryder Higgins	For showing so much interest in Maths this week. You did such a fantastic job with your subtraction stories
3P	Brinda Shah	For joining the 3P classroom with such a positive attitude and working extremely hard!
4JW	Khoa Dinh	
4A	Jordan D'Silva	
5/6G	Kyrra Bicanic	For her outstanding work in writing, using fantastic descriptions and creativity
5.6C	Charlotte Beattie	
5/6LD	Kyla Forbes Poppy Ward	For your outstanding acting in your CBL group play about Australian History
Sustainability	Jackson Chila 4A	For taking the initiative in cleaning up after cooking
P.E.	Stella McKinnon	



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Japanese	Charli Higgins	For her amazing effort on her Japanese town design with detailed pictures! Well done!
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School Contacts

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OSHC Coordinator	Julie Andrews	aftercare@oakparkps.vic.edu.au