



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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb 9** Curriculum Day
- Feb 12** School Elections process commences
- Feb 14** 'Meet the Teacher' Parent/Teacher meetings
- Feb 28** School Council Meeting
- March 14** Parent Info/Parent Helper's sessions
- May 22nd & 24th** School Tours

Principal's Column

My eldest two children were raised in an era when computers were just starting to take hold in primary schools. The old Apple IIe was the most popular device used in schools back then and I remember as a teacher having several of these computers in the classroom. Floppy disks were inserted and you waited a while for the program to load and then away you went. (I also remember the Commodore 64 which took ages to load via cassette tape!).

My younger two children are well and truly products of the current computer age and could hardly imagine a world without personal devices and permanent connection to the world.

We sometimes hear criticism from older people about the time that some children spend on their devices and wouldn't it be great if they played outside more.

Well, my wife and I went for a run on Christmas morning last year. (Yes I know – we are boring). We didn't see one kid on any street playing with anything. It doesn't seem that long ago that it was commonplace to see kids outside riding bikes or playing with other toys on Christmas morning. Perhaps this is a consequence of kids being connected to devices inside their homes, or maybe parents who worry about their child's safety on the street?

I thought that was interesting.

And speaking of toys and playing, I reckon the best two 'toys' we ever got for our kids were a sandpit

Uniform Award



This week's
Uniform Wearer of the Week Award

goes to
CHRIS LI Grade 1M
BERIL SU ATA Grade 1H

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



The Oak Leaf

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Issue 2

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and a trampoline. When they were quite young, my kids would spend hours in the sandpit. They dug, built, shifted sand, tunnelled and improvised. As they played, they talked. And talked. It was a sandpit that I constructed myself – basically four planks nailed together on a weed mat covered with sand - but I have no doubt, it went a long way to assist in their development.

And then the trampoline. If anything, this was even better than the sandpit! From quite young to mid-teens, this was the 'go to' thing. They learned about spatial and body awareness, gained confidence and imagined. They also fell off, got stitches and broke bones. But it was worth it.

I read recently that the best selling toy, worldwide, was Lego. And I think that's a good thing. As a kid, the best toy I ever had was a Meccano set. That's how old I am. But like Lego, it was a thousand toys rolled into one and I spent hours and hours making different things with the set. I learned how to use screw drivers and spanners and how to read instructions and plans.

I think the best toys are those that are adaptable, durable, able to be shared and stimulate imagination. Even if you break a few bones along the way.

*I've included an article at the end of this newsletter from the ABC News website you might be interested in – it's about the use of mobile phones in classrooms.

Curriculum Day - Friday

A reminder that this Friday February 9th is a Curriculum Day and no students should attend school on that day. Staff will be working away from school on that day with a facilitator, Glen Pearsall. Our focus for the day will be Student Agency and Building Practice Excellence.

Student Banking

School Banking Program

Oak Park Primary School

Strathmore
Community Bank* Branch



Your School Banking program is again available to all students who would like to participate in the program. We would provide a covering letter detailing what is required to open an account along with an application form.

For any new children to the Bank, a voucher for \$10 will be provided to kick start their savings.

The account specifically designed for the students ..

Bendigo Piggy Saver Account - Minimum to open - \$1

- *Fee Free
- *Quarterly Bank Statement
- *Birthday gift from ages 4 to 11
- *Only available to children aged under 12 years.

Bendigo Student Account - Minimum to open - \$1

- *Tiered Interest Rate – paid on a monthly basis
- *Fee free unless using another financial institutions ATM machine
- *ATM Card available
- *Quarterly Bank Statement
- *Available to students aged 12 years and over.

If you have any questions please call our branch on 9374 2807 or drop into 337 Napier Street, Strathmore.




Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited, The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo, VIC 3550. ABN 11 068 049 178. AFSL 237879. (548083) (04/14)

www.strathmore3041.com.au

Banking forms are available from the front Office. Banking day at Oak Park Primary School is every Tuesday



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Student Absences

If your child will not be attending school for any reason e.g. illness, we would appreciate parents/guardians marking their child's absence via Compass.

The class attendance rolls are marked within the first 10 minutes of the day, so we would greatly appreciate families advising on Compass, their child's absence before this time.

Sustainability

HOLIDAY CARE OF PETS AND GARDENS – THANK YOU!

Over the holidays we were very lucky to have our pets and gardens looked after by the following students and their families: Sharky and Shardy Fernando, Lachy Roebuck, Madeline and Cassidy Reither, Hosanna, Sophie and Emma Crute, Elliot Mohummadally and Ryan and Kyle Reichardt. Thank you so much to these families – the support for the program has been wonderful, and it is wonderful to know that our families are keen to be involved in looking after our gardens and pets. They all did a great job!

RECYCLING AT SCHOOL

We have a strong emphasis on recycling anything we can't re-use at school and so we recycle the following items: paper/cardboard, liquid paperboard (eg. Big M cartons), rigid plastic (eg.

Juice, soft drink bottles, yoghurt containers), glass (jars and bottles) and steel and aluminium cans/tins. The 5/6 students look after this aspect of our school operations and do the collections from classrooms twice per week. However, there is a heap of other stuff that can be easily recycled – some you can do yourself and we collect others at school for distribution. For example, all types of 'scrunchable' plastic (eg. Plastic bags, frozen vegetable bags and most plastic food wrappers excluding the foil lined ones) can be recycled by taking them to your local COLES store and placing them in the bin there. Please see the image below for information about what we collect for recycling – next week I'll explain why.

Bring these items in to be recycled at school:

Ink cartridges



Batteries



Mobile phones



Toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes



Bring these items to the Sustainability room and help us reduce waste!



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Japanese News

The Consulate-General of Japan in Melbourne has on display, detailed models and dioramas of the Australian Japanese Model Railway Group. The models reproduce locations around Japan, and show examples of the very first steam train in Japan through to the latest Hokuriku E7 Shinkansen. You can see these daily from 9:00am – 4:00pm (closed 1:00pm– 2:00pm) and is free to the public. It will be available from Friday 2 February – Wednesday 28 March 2018. See the websites below for more detail.

<http://www.ajmrg.org/>

<http://www.melbourne.au.emb-japan.go.jp/>

Another reminder that on the 25th of February there will a Japanese Summer Festival at Federation Square. Admission is free and there are many Japanese cultural elements to see and take part in – including the dress up competition. Plus there will be a special guest appearance from... Kumamon!!! You can find more details on the website below.

<http://jcism.org.au/fest/>

Melissa Broso

Japanese Language Teacher

School Tours

There will be 2 school tours during Education Week. They will be 22nd & 24th May from 9.30am

to 10.30am Please call the office if you would like to attend.

Performing Arts

It is very exciting to continue the Performing Arts program at our school this year!

The program will run as follows-

Term 1 and 2- Foundation, Grade 1 and 2

Term 3 and 4- Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6

Each class will be given one lesson a week and additionally there are a lunchtime clubs for children who want to experience Performing Arts all year round. Watch this space for lunchtime club updates.

This term the focus is reintroducing Performing Arts to the younger year levels. They are exploring all three major areas- movement, drama and singing. The children will play many drama games to build up confidence and also will help the students bond with their new classmates. We will also be focussing on role-playing social situations the children may encounter in the playground. We will explore issues such as "How do you ask to join in a game at playtime?" and "If you see someone lonely what can you say and do?" These simple role-plays are essential to promote positive social interactions and allows younger children to practise certain dialogue in a supportive way.

For the first few weeks of term, students will be participate in a variety of familiar games which they learnt last year in Performing Arts class. This will give the students a sense of familiarity and build their confidence from having a semesters break. Ask your child about "Mirrors", "Find My Family" and "Pass the Clap". These team building games are very popular with many grades.



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Please come and see me if you have any questions regarding the Performing Arts program and I will continue to keep you updated with our activities via this newsletter.

I look forward to working with your child this semester and hopefully your child is coming home singing and dancing!

Melanie Ojczyk
(Performing Arts Teacher)



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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.

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



| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Text books | provided |
| Pathways: | Acquisition of basic bookkeeping knowledge & skills for Business owners/ volunteers & job seekers, who may wish to undertake MYOB or Accredited Certificate of Business |
| Location: | Sussex Neighbourhood House |
| Mode of Study: | classroom & home based study |
| Days: | Tuesdays |
| Times: | 6.30pm-9pm, plus half hr flexible delivery |
| Duration: | 8 sessions |
| Cost: | \$200/\$150 conc., includes text book |
| BYO | Calculator, pencil & rubber |

Starts: 7 Feb to 28 March

SUSSEX NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE
235 Sussex Street
Pascoe Vale Vic 3044
ph: 9354 2210
e: enquiries@sussexnh.org.au
w: www.sussexnh.org.au
share : learn : enjoy : grow





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WOW AWARDS

Term 1 Value - RESPONSIBILITY

| Class | Name | Awarded for |
|-------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FH | | |
| FS | | |
| FP | | |
| 1H | Spencer Herrod | For starting Grade 1 with a focused, responsible and hardworking attitude |
| 1M | Ekaa Raghubanshi | For being a positive role model for others in the class |
| 1/2C | Georgia Nixon | For being a responsible student and getting ready for learning |
| 2M | Archie | For showing fabulous listening skills and working responsibly in the classroom |
| 2D | Zoe Morcom | For always completing her work on time and to a high standard. For also being a responsible role model in class |
| 3E | Omar | For being an outstanding member of the classroom and listening |
| 3P | Kate | For always being a positive role model |
| 3/4B | | |
| 4A | Kade Wheeler | For taking full responsibility for your classroom jobs |
| 4JW | Jude | For concentrating and working hard to get some great results |
| 5/6C | Natasha Haritopoulos | For being a thoughtful contributor to our class and showing a wonderful attitude |
| 5/6G | Lucy Lowry | Being eager to take responsibility for your learning by asking questions and seeking help |
| 5/6L | Helin Erdal | For always acting in a responsibly manner, looking after the people around you and being a good person |



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| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5/6P | Ella Silverwood | |
| Sustainability | | |
| Art | Chelsea Ippoliti 5/6C | For completing work and seeing if she can help me out |
| Japanese | Ruby Jory 3P | For being a responsible and thoughtful class member with her peers in Japanese |
| Phys. Ed. | | |
| Performing Arts | | |
| First Aid | | |

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 | nursebron@yahoo.com |
| School Council President | Joanne Roolker | joanne.roolker@live.com.au |
| OSHC Coordinator | Julie Andrews | aftercare@oakparkps.vic.edu.au |



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Banning mobile phones in classrooms takes education back in time, experts say

By [Ashleigh Raper](#) and [Brooke Wylie](#)

Mon 5 Feb 2018, 9:59pm



Photo: [Using phones can enhance learning, especially for STEM subjects, experts say.](#) (ABC Central Victoria: Larissa Romensky)

Despite Government calls for smartphones to be banned in classrooms, some experts say doing so would take education back "a few years".

Federal Education Minister Simon Birmingham has come out in favour of locking mobile phones away during school hours.

"Classroom time is for learning," he said.

"Not to be distracted from learning."

He did concede mobile technology "has its place" as a learning tool, but said "there was no conceivable reason as to why students need to access their personal mobile" at school.

New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian echoed his view.

"I don't think they have any place in the classroom," she said.

"That would be akin to us, in the good old days, having a cassette recorder or something else sitting on the table and I think the classroom is for learning."

But Dr Joanne Orlando, an expert on children and technology with the University of Western Sydney, disagreed.

"A blanket statement like that takes us a few years back from all the work we are doing in education and training," she said.

"There are so many new ways that mobile devices can add to the classroom."



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MOBILE PHONES CAN HELP SCHOOLS PROMOTE STEM

It is up to individual schools as to how, or if, they allow access to smartphones during school hours.

Some make students hand them in at the start of the school day, whereas others have relaxed rules.

Many schools implement a BYOD policy — Bring Your Own Device.

As part of that, a smartphone is used in a range of ways; as a search engine, to take pictures of work and for quizzes.

NSW Secondary Principals' Council president Chris Presland said removing phones from schools was not something "that advantages students educationally".

"We talk about trying to stimulate STEM education in our schools — science, technology, engineering and mathematics," he said.

"And at the same time it seems quite bizarre that we're talking about banning the most obvious forms of technology at our disposal."

He said there was an "issue" of cyber-bullying via a smartphone, but banning it "actually diminishes the capacity to use it in a positive way".

"We can't let fear control everything we do in the classroom," Dr Orlando said.

"So it's about the students and the teachers and the school community understanding how to approach educating students around cyber-safety.

"And then also finding that nice balance where they use technology safely, but in a way that actually enhances their learning in the classroom."