



# *On The Grapevine*

## **A quality education in a caring, innovative environment**

*September 2015 (Issue 1)*

### ***NAPLAN results***

Congratulations to our students and staff on excellent NAPLAN results. Year 3 students performed well above state in all areas; reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy. Year 5 students also performed above state average in all areas and most students exceeded expected growth.

Staff will engage in an in depth analysis of results overall and this data will be matched with in school assessment results to indicate areas of growth and areas for development.

### ***Have your say!***

Please read the information at the end of this newsletter about the *Tell Them from Me* surveys. Our years 4-6 students completed this survey earlier in the year and will be completing it again in the next few weeks. The results provide us with valuable feedback from the students about their learning. We are also inviting parents to complete the parent survey to give us your perspective on many aspects of school and home life. This provides us with valuable information about how we can strengthen our partnership. Information about accessing the survey will be sent home soon.

### ***Defence School Transition Aide (DSTA)***

We welcome Becky Blamires to the position of DSTA. Becky will be at our school on Tuesdays and Thursdays working with our ADF families.

### ***Safety First***

To ensure our students' safety, parents and children are not to walk through the staff carpark. Please use our student-parent entry and pathway.



Becky Blamires (DSTA)

### ***Staff update***

Congratulations to our wonderful teacher librarian/ learning and support teacher, Daria Ivanek, on being selected to help manage the rollout to all schools of the new library system. It is a testament to her outstanding skills that she was offered this position for the rest of this year. We welcome Ms Robyn Watt to our library.

I am now on long service leave until 16 October. I am very excited to be travelling overseas for a long planned holiday. Lesley Coker and Angelique Brown will relieve as principal during my absence.



Ms Ivanek with some of her Library monitors

We also welcome Mrs Irene Wallace as relieving reading recovery teacher when Helen Mansfield is on long service leave from Week 9 Term 3 to Week 3 Term 4.

### ***Ryde Eastwood grant another \$5000***

We are most grateful to Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club for their \$5000 grant for equipment to be used by our support classes. We are investigating the possibility of a food preparation area to support the life skills program.

### ***Zone athletics***

Thank you to Miss Monardo, Miss Razon and Ms Krautloher for organising and managing our Zone athletics teams, and a big thank you to those parents providing transport on the day.

Congratulations to Jade and Brendan who have progressed to Sydney West PSSA carnival at Blacktown Olympic Park on 9 September.

### ***In the classroom***

Esha and Alisa from KS read their excellent recounts of their exciting weekend activities.

Aston (KS) read me his story about a skateboarding crocodile and Alisa (KS) discussed her writing about a big footed elephant and his friends.

Kelsie (K/1) wrote several sentences about the changes that come with Springtime.

Daniel (2-5D) showed Mrs Brown his information report on aboriginal land rights in my absence.

Did you read *The Inside Counts* by Shayne?

Read some of the pieces of writing from 1B below.

### ***Year 1 Drama***

Children in Year 1 have been thoroughly enjoying a variety of literacy experiences through drama. As a follow on task from last week's drama session, children were required to write a diary entry from the point of view of the evil stepmother from the fairytale, Cinderella.

Here are a few examples:

### **The Inside Counts**

by Shayne

If you look down deep  
You're just like me and  
I'm just like you  
So the inside counts  
The inside is where it's at  
So don't be afraid to be you  
If you look down deep  
You're just like me and  
I'm just like you  
It ain't about the clothes  
It ain't about the hair  
It ain't about how you look  
So the inside counts  
Show the inside to the outside



Athletes Jade and Brendan

Dear Diary,

I hate Herb because he made me feel queasy. He pulled the page out and then stuck it back in upside down. I wish he hadn't done that! Oh! It's not fair that I can't go to the ball because the page is upside down.

Evil Stepmother.... HANNAH

Dear Diary,

I hate when my daughters keep fighting and I really want to go to the ball. I can't go to the ball because of Herb. He wrecked this page. I feel queasy because Herb ripped out the page and stuck it back in upside down.

Evil Stepmother...AMBER

Dear Diary,

I am feeling queasy because that little brat turned my page over. I hate my daughters fighting about dancing with the prince. I am exhausted! I won't get to go to the ball because I am upside down and can't get out the door.

Evil Stepmother....WILLIAM.

### Thank you

Thank you to our wonderful P&C president Suzanne Barber for spending a morning weeding in our garden. Much appreciated!

### Student Wellbeing

Congratulations to the following students on achieving Principal's Awards:

Silver Level 1: Jun

Silver Level 2: Ryan D

Bronze Level 1: William O'H

Bronze Level 2: Asiya

Playground hero award: Kora for standing up for and assisting another student



### To help with your budgeting please note that:

- school photos will be taken on 3rd and 5th November average cost approx. \$30
- gymnastics starts on Friday 16 October for an 8 week program. The school is subsidising this program to reduce the cost to \$2 per week per student
- Years 5 & 6 camp 17-19 November

*Keryn Hinchcliffe*

Principal

3 September 2015

Thank you to Ryan, Jack, Toby, Brendan, Luke C and Cain for helping to clean out the Games Shop ready for the new skipping ropes, hula hoops and other equipment bought with our P&C grant money.

### Dates For Your Diary

<b>7 September</b>	Spelling Bee Final Meadowbank Public School
<b>9 September</b>	Sydney West Athletics
<b>17 September</b>	Assembly and afternoon coffee 1:55pm

**Congratulations to Our Ozzie Mozzie Award Winners:**



Joanne	Jett	Harvey	HyunJu
Bodie	Jayden M	James P	Jaylah

### ***Music News***

Rehearsals for our 2015 musical production, Do Not Forget Australia, are well underway. We will present the production on Remembrance Day next term. Our talented students are busy learning their lines. The wonderful songs tell the story of our diggers who fought in France during World War 1. We have benefitted from the expertise of our drama mentor, Bron. Bron is from the Sydney Theatre Company and she shared some great tips for projecting our voices. It's full steam ahead now, as we discuss and prepare props and costumes.

*Lesley Coker*

### ***Reps Kids Garden Club***

On Wednesday, we participated in REPS Kids Garden Club from 8:30- 9:15am. Lots of kids arrived to help Margaret and to sign up for the club. We weeded, watered, harvested and fed the citrus trees. We tasted our produce and our favourites were the sugar snap peas and the broccoli. We learned that pineapples grow faster in tropical areas than in Sydney. Our pineapple has taken 3 years to fruit. We look forward to harvesting again next week. Representatives of the club will present our delicious harvest during Thursday's assembly. We are excited about receiving our new badges in Week 10.

*Charlotte A and Lilli H, Year 5*

*On behalf of the 'REPS Kids Garden Club'*

### ***The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey***

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the 'Tell Them From Me' student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by 8 September, 2015. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

### ***The Partners in Learning parent feedback survey***

Our school will also be participating in the Partners in Learning parent survey, another part of the 'Tell Them From Me' suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically takes 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated. More information about the survey is available at <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>.



### UNIFORM SHOP

There are plenty of good quality 2<sup>nd</sup> hand uniforms including both summer & winter dresses, and girls + boys shorts & jackets (all at discounted prices)

New uniforms and bags available for sale  
(Price list on the school's website)

Open Mondays & Fridays (8:30 - 9:00 am)  
Cash and cheque accepted  
Access through the Canteen



**BUNNINGS**  
warehouse

### Bunnings BBQ Volunteers

Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> September, 8am - 4pm

The following times are still  
in need of your help

08 - 09am: 2 spots  
09 - 10am: 1 spot  
10 - 11am: 1 spot  
11 - 12pm: 2 spots  
12 - 01pm: 3 spots  
01 - 02pm: 2 spots

Please contact René on 0412 084 786  
or email: [rthouse@bigpond.com](mailto:rthouse@bigpond.com)

Our next Bunnings BBQ is booked for  
Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> November. If you can't help this time,  
please consider volunteering for next time.

### GARDEN CARE - WEEDING

Our school has extensive grounds and lovely gardens for everyone to enjoy. Weeding the gardens is a recurring challenge but can be managed if we regularly do a little bit. All parents and carers are invited to help with keeping the weeds under control. Even just 10 minutes a week, while you are waiting to collect your children can make a difference. If you have any questions or need some guidance please contact [repscommunity@gmail.com](mailto:repscommunity@gmail.com) or Suzanne on 0400474797.

### CANTEEN

Open Wednesdays only for Term 3

### Closed for Term 4

The school canteen will close from October.  
During Term 4 there may be some ice block sales or special days, however, as there is no management committee to run & operate the canteen, it has been forced to close for the remainder of 2015. Anyone who is interested in forming a team to run the canteen in the future, please contact the P&C to discuss the details.



### ***OOSH (Out of School Hours Care) news***

Over the past fortnight the children in the service have been participating in variety of science experiments to continue on with children's interests. The children have a special science experiment book that they are able to look through to see what they would like to do. The children have been exploring how gas turns into liquid by using a jar, ice cubes and some salt. Providing these experiences for the children allows them to investigate ideas, solve problems and use complex concepts. It also encourages them to think, reason and hypothesize.



We have been discussing our upcoming Vacation Care which will be at Oatlands Public School. We have a very exciting 2 weeks full of activities where the children are able to meet new friends as well as see familiar faces. The children are very excited about our excursions as we are going to the museum and bowling. We are also having reptiles come out for an incursion, as well as hatching chickens. This is a great time for children to interact with other children whilst having fun and learning about the world around them.

During Education Week, Dr Geoff Lee who is the parliamentary secretary, mentioned the Helping Hands Network and the high quality of care that is provided to both children and their families at school. Dr Geoff Lee said,

"Principal D'Amore (from OatlandsPS) recognised all those who helped to make his school so great, including the Parents and Citizens Association and Helping Hands Network".

*Melissa*

*Helping Hands OOSH*



4/5/60 and Ben, Daniel and Ethan from 2-5D have created this fantastic collaborative artwork displayed in our office foyer.

Every student was given a small portion of Andy Warhol's Campbell's Tomato Soup which they then had to enlarge onto an A4 piece of paper and join each together to make a matching artwork.

The class voted to pick colours that 'popped' to make this artwork bright and interesting to look at.

*Jess O'Flaherty 4/5/60*

### ***Book Character Day***

Some great costumes to celebrate books and raise funds for the year 6 farewell dinner and gift.

