From the Principal’s desk

The care of each and every child at Oakdale Public School is very important to us. Schools have become recognised as important locations for addressing student wellbeing. We consider all aspects of a child’s development as being paramount to becoming a happy and well-rounded person. We endeavour to look not only at a student’s educational functioning but also their emotional, social and physical wellbeing.

If a child is at risk in any of these areas we refer to our Learning Support Team which includes Mrs Green, Mrs Berger, Mrs Coppola and Mrs Kendall; our School Counsellor. We discuss the best course of action to take and often involve parents in the planning process.

If a child is at risk of harm we have a duty of care to report our concerns to the Child Wellbeing Unit. Areas that are reportable include Educational Neglect (e.g. a child that is falling behind because they do not attend school on a regular basis) Emotional abuse where children are exposed to material that is not suitable for their age e.g. magazines, digital and video media. Psychological harm where extreme punishment, continual verbal abuse, witnessing domestic violence and drug and alcohol abuse affect their wellbeing. Physical neglect where students are not cared for and show poor hygiene, lack of food, inadequate supervision and living arrangements.

On a daily basis we as a staff are dealing with student behaviour that has been triggered by some of the above areas. We are here to try and assist students and families work through issues. If you are experiencing any difficulties that you know are affecting your child please come up and have a chat; because if we know we can help.

Maria Green

Reminders:
*Chocolate money returned
*Parent Interview slips returned
*Reading Eggs note and money
*Blue Surveys on employment
*Read bulletin on sleep
*If you can help make costumes for our performance at the Wollondilly Music Festival please see Mrs Green
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO RECENTLY VISITED THE TREASURE CHEST. YOU HAVE ALL BEEN TRYING VERY HARD TO DO YOUR BEST IN CLASS.

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<td>1C</td>
<td>Ella-May Dern, Claire Sproule, Ashley Barnes, David Milne, Lily Hooper, Reagan Austin, Esther Brown, Georgia Griffin, Zahli Hoare, Lily Hooper, Isabel Nash, Bindi Woods, Phoenix Chelin, Kuljas Kapoor, David Milne, Emma Palmer</td>
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<td>2H</td>
<td>Timothy Prout, Breeanna Austin, Suvi Lehtonen</td>
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**P &C Chocolate Fundraiser**

Thank you to all of the families who have already returned chocolate money; we have had a great response. Please feel free to get another box to sell as there are plenty more mixed boxes ready to go. The Freddo Fun Mix boxes contain 50 chocolates and the other mixed boxes contain 48 which is marked on the outside of your box. Also please make sure you write your child’s name, class and amount on an envelope when returned to help us keep track of sales. Please note that we need to pay the invoice for these chocolates 28 days after delivery, so your prompt return of the fundraising envelope and money would be appreciated. If you feel that you are unable to sell the chocolates please return them to the school with any money from the chocolate you have sold and we can pass the box onto somebody else.

Our next P&C Meeting will be on the 11th March at 9.30am in Building F; (near the office) we would love to see you there.

**Parent and Teacher Interviews**

Please return your interview request slip as soon as possible; those who get their slips in early will get a time closest to the one they nominated. Unfortunately parents will have to be flexible as we can’t give everyone what they want. This is an important time to discuss your child’s progress; try to get to one of the interview time slots.

**Trees in the Playground**

Pleased be assured that as a school we discuss Work Place Health and Safety issues weekly. After the tragic death of a student by a falling tree branch we have had an arborist in to check
all of our trees. A plan and quote has been drawn up and is upwards of $7,000. I will seek DEC assistance and keep you updated as to what needs to be done.

**Behaviour, Uniform and Homework**

*Our Behaviour Management Policy is working well; unfortunately I have had to give three warnings of suspension so far this year. The message we are sending is loud and clear – we will not tolerate any child interrupting learning in the classroom or physical aggression of any kind whether that be in the playground or in the classroom.*

*Some students are choosing to not wear the school uniform; as it becomes colder many students wear coloured jumpers etc. Our school policy recommends the wearing of uniform with pride. Once again I ask for parental support in insisting students come to school dressed appropriately. Bike shorts are not to be worn.*

*Several teachers have expressed their disappointment at the amount of students who are completing their homework on a regular basis. Teachers spend valuable time organising what is sent home and it is unfortunate that not all students are taking the opportunity to consolidate their skills by completing set work. I would ask parents to monitor this closely and ask for help from the school if they need support.*
Our Attendance has Improved

Thank you to our school community for coming on-board with ensuring our students are at school on time, every day, unless sick and for returning absence notes. In 2009 the attendance rate was 92.1% and now it is 94.7% which is above the State average!

Sleep Deprivation

Quite often students come to sleep very tired and do not perform to the best of their ability. They are also cranky and often end up getting into trouble. Please read the article on sleep it is a very important factor in a child’s wellbeing.

We are all MathsMad at Oakdale PS!

On Thursday 27th February, 5F and 6W participated in the new mathematics groups (called “MathsMad”). These groups are held every Thursday at 10.30am for an hour. Year 5 and 6 students have been split into two groups with Ms Fuller, Ms Walsh, Mrs Itskos, Mrs Kaapro and Mrs Green team teaching. The lessons consist of “Short Frequent Focussed” activities at the beginning, activities levelled to the students’ progress, extension or support activities and consolidation activities at the conclusion. Problem-solving is also a feature of the maths groups. There is an emphasis on “place value” this term; this mathematical concept has been identified as one of the most important for students to understand so that they can manipulate numbers in higher order processes such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
Well done to all the students for such a fantastic start! Check out Mrs Itskos’ wonderful photo of Years 5 and 6 having fun with maths in 5F’s room.
Zone Swimming Carnival

On Thursday 27th and Friday 28th of February, 24 of our students participated in the Razorback Zone Swimming Carnival. Although it rained on Friday our new gazebo kept the kids and parents dry and only those competing got wet! The children participated with a fantastic attitude and spirit that should make all their parents proud. The official results are still to be released, but there were many PBs set on the day. Congratulations to Emmitt Carlile! Despite being quite ill on both days, Emmitt made the final in the breaststroke and is in the Razorback Zone team due to winning both the 50m Freestyle and Backstroke, and placing in the Butterfly and 100m.
I’d like to thank all the parents who assisted with transport on the day and give a special thanks to Mandy Carlile for taking, erecting and packing up the school’s gazebo so we could have prime viewing for the meet.
Barry Luckman

TALENTED ARTISTS