Date: Tuesday, 17th February 2015

From the Principal’s desk
Welcome to our new families and to our Kindergarten students. I have visited Mrs Hooper’s class almost every day and they are very happy and settled; which is reassuring to see. I know parents can leave and not stress that their child is upset. Kinder have been eased into their start at school with structured play activities for the first two weeks. Mrs Hooper is assessing all of her students using Best Start. This information will be used to implement programs that are tailored toward the needs of each child. They are learning their first sound this week! It is vital Kindergarten students have a positive introduction to school as it influences their attitude and engagement toward school.

What’s Coming up in February
*18th K-2 Meet the Teacher
*19th 3-6 Meet the Teacher
*19th Induction Ceremony
*23rd K-2 assembly open to parents
*24th P&C meeting 2.30
*25th Combined scripture
*26th Primary assembly
*26th Zone Swimming Carnival
*27th Zone Swimming Carnival

What’s Coming up in March
*9th Camden HS open night
*13th Year 2 sleepover
*17th Taste of Camden HS night
*17th Regional swimming
*20th EOI for high school returned
*Harmony Day
**Return of Notes**

Our school will be changing over to a new financial system introduced by the DEC at some stage this year. It will operate very differently to the way we do now. There will be cut off dates that have to be adhered to. In order to familiarise parents and students to it we will have definite cut off dates for the receipt of events. Parents need to ensure the permission note is back by the due date; if an extension is required to pay please call the school and work out an arrangement prior to the event.

**Arrival to School**

The arrival time for school is 9.00am. Students are not supervised before this time. We would appreciate if parents could assist us with this matter.

**Homework Starts Week 4**

Approximately 30% of students in our school did not complete homework on a regular basis last year. I am hoping with parental assistance that we can drastically improve the completion of homework this year. Teachers spend their own time preparing and marking work but with so many students not doing it I feel disappointed at the lack of effort. Homework is important because it helps revise what has been taught in class during the week and prepares students for high school. Let the teacher know if your child is struggling with what has been set.

**Rule for the Term-Be Attentive**

What does being attentive mean?
* Listen when your teacher is speaking; do not call out and interrupt.
* Put your hand up to speak and wait until you are acknowledged.
* Use your whole body to listen; stop wriggling, tapping, turning around, talking at the wrong time.
* Do not try to distract others from learning.
* Listen to instructions so that you can begin your work straight away.
* Be prepared for the lesson; have the correct equipment; pencils, rubber, ruler etc. so you do not have to waste time looking for things.
* When you come in from the playground calm yourself down and don’t hang on to anything that may have happened in a game. It is time to work once you have entered the classroom.

**Meet the Teacher Organisation**

K-2 teachers will meet parents on Wednesday, 18\textsuperscript{th} of February at 3.45pm in the hall. After a joint meeting grades will break into discussion groups with their own parents.
3-6 teachers will meet parents on Thursday, 19\textsuperscript{th} of February at 3.40 in their own classrooms.
Meetings with Mrs Green or Class Teachers
If you need to speak to a teacher or Mrs Green please ring the office and make an appointment. The school is a very busy place and it is not always possible for Mrs Green or a class teacher to see you at length if you just pop in. We are very willing to speak to parents and want your input but to avoid disappointment please ring the office prior to coming up.

School Photos
Our school photos will be taken on Monday, 23rd March, 2015. All students are to wear their summer school uniform. Envelopes have been handed out and need to be returned as soon as possible. Family photograph envelopes are available at the office if needed; you can phone and we will give an envelope to your child.

Taronga Zoomobile FREE Visit
We have been lucky enough to obtain a FREE visit from the Taronga Zoomobile as part of the Sustainable Schools Initiative. The Zoomobile will be visiting Oakdale on Tuesday 24th February. During the visit students will be able to meet, learn about and interact with native animals, encouraging them to take positive action in the conservation of our native wildlife.

The selection of animals that the students will be learning about are: Shingleback Lizard, Blue Tongue Lizard, Bearded Dragon, Diamond Python, Children’s Python, Snake-necked Turtle, Exotic Tortoises, Green Tree Frogs, Ringtail Possum, Short-beaked Echidna, and Phasmids.

If you have any concerns or do not wish your child to be included in this visit please contact the school by phone on 46596251 or email oakdale-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au as soon as possible.

Attendance
Regular attendance at school for every student is essential if students are to achieve their potential, and increase their career and life options. Schools in partnerships with parents are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as part of their duty of care, record and monitor part and whole day absences. Schools, in providing a caring teaching and learning environment, which addresses the learning and support needs of students, including those with additional learning and support needs or complex health conditions, foster students’ sense of wellbeing and belonging to the school community.

What are the responsibilities of parents?
Parents must ensure:
2.1. Their children of compulsory school age are enrolled in a government or registered non-government school or, registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) for Home Schooling.
2.2. Their children who are enrolled at school attend every day the school is open for instruction.
2.3. They provide an explanation for absences to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence through means such as telephone call, written note, text message
or email. The 7 day timeframe for explaining absences is a requirement of the Education Act (1990).

2.4. They work in partnership with the school to plan and implement strategies to support regular attendance at school. This includes communicating with the school if they are aware of issues impacting on their child’s attendance or engagement with school.

3.16. Consideration is given to the Mandatory Reporter Guide (MRG), specialist advice and professional judgement, where there are concerns about suspected risk of harm. In accordance with the MRG Neglect Education - Habitual Absence is defined as ‘The child/young person is of compulsory school age (6 years to current leaving age) AND is habitually absent’. ‘Habitually absent is a minimum of 30 days absence within the past 100 school days. However, principals should consider other factors, such as the student’s age and learning support needs in deciding on action earlier than the 30 days indicated.

3.17. Other decisions trees can be used if the underlying issues impacting on school attendance are also of concern. For example, care concerns, neglect: supervision, or child/young person is a danger to self and others.

**Does the principal have to accept the explanation provided by a parent for an absence?**

6.1. Principals can decline to accept an explanation for an absence and record the absence as ‘unjustified’. The parent should be advised that the explanation has not been accepted and a reason for the decision provided.

7. What should be done if there are frequent absences being explained as due to illness?

7.1. Where frequent absences are explained as being due to illness consultation with parents must occur regarding the health care needs of the child.

7.2. Principals can request that the parents provide a medical certificate if they have concerns with the explanation provided, or where there is a history of poor attendance.

7.3. Where principals have concerns about the medical certificates being produced for absences they can ask the parents to request that the medical certificate states “the child is unfit for school” on specified dates.

7.4. Where principals have ongoing concerns they can request the parent’s consent for a doctor to provide information to the school about their child’s health condition. It is essential the school has all relevant information so that the learning and health care needs of the student can be addressed. If the request is denied or if the principal is still not satisfied with the reason for absence, they can record the absence as ‘unjustified’. The principal must consider whether the habitual absence or parental attitude places the child or young person at suspected risk of harm.

7.5. Principals can seek information from prescribed bodies under Chapter 16A of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 where they have ongoing concerns regarding a student’s safety, welfare or wellbeing. They should also the Child Wellbeing Unit (CWU) or if they believe the student is at risk of significant harm the Child Protection Helpline.

**MISSING SCHOOL MEANS MISSING OUT!**

**Technology**

Mrs Berger has provided some students across the school with laptops to assist with written tasks. Year 6 has received 5 additional laptops and 3 tablets; they had 4 computers already. We are building their technological capacity; paving the way for 21st Century learning.
**School Contribution**

We have decided to ask for a voluntary contribution from parents. The many and varied activities we offer at the school comes at a cost. We do not wish to stop any of our successful programs so funds we receive through this means will go toward extra support for students and our cultural and technological programs. Notes will go out at the end of Term 1 (as this is a costly term for parents with their children starting school) with the hope that contributions would be paid early in Term 2. Voluntary contributions will be $40 per family or $25 for one child. More information will follow during the term.

**Easter Raffle**

The school will be organising an Easter Raffle to be drawn at the Easter Hat Parade at the end of the term. We are asking parents for donations of eggs and chocolates to make up gift baskets. Please send your contributions to the office.

**Carpet**

New carpet will going in to the library, Year 1, 2 and 3 this week compliments of the DEC.

**Reading**

I have been very pleased with the organisation of reading groups in Years 5 and 6. Mr Barr offers extra support to both classes three mornings per week and Mrs Dettino works in the classrooms on Mondays. Mrs Kaapro assists on Thursdays thereby reducing the student/teacher ratio allowing more individual support.
Playground Equipment

I would like to remind parents and students that the playground equipment is not to be used before and after school. Students (and toddlers) are not permitted on the equipment without teacher supervision.

Talented Artist Program

Our whole class art program started this week. Colour was the element being explored by 2C, 1B and 3C through the artworks of Kandinsky. He was credited with painting one of the first purely abstract works.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KH</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fletcher Woods, Amelia Harding, Josef Stack</td>
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<td><strong>Student of the Week:</strong> Rylee Beard</td>
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<td>IB</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Alyvia Bond, Samuel Walker, Charlie Hooper X2, Hayley Austin, Morgan Scott</td>
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<td><strong>Student of the Week:</strong> Paige Fraser</td>
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<td><strong>Writer’s Award</strong> Alex Tait-Palummo</td>
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<tr>
<td>2C</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Emma Palmer</td>
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<td><strong>Sport Award</strong> Isabel Nash</td>
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Library Monitors 2015

I would like to extend a huge welcome to our enthusiastic 2015 Library Monitors from 5I: Anastasia, Caitlyn, Olivia, Brandon, Amy and Lachlan. They have embraced their new role with eagerness and initiative and are all so excited to be working in the Library.

From Left: Anastasia Lalic, Caitlyn Hartshome, Olivia Bunce, Brandon Baker, Amy Hooper & Lachlan Brincat.

In other exciting news, it is only the beginning of the year and we already have a lovely new sign (see below) as well as new carpet!

Miss Hannaford
Teacher Librarian
Razorback Zone Representation
As the sporting representative season gets into full swing with the Zone Swimming Carnival and team sport try-outs currently taking place, students and parents are reminded that representing the school at these events is a privilege and not a right. First and foremost, behaviour is the main criteria when allowing students to attend Razorback Zone sports. Unacceptable behaviour will result in students being excluded from any such events. Further, it is NOT acceptable for students to turn up at Zone events and not compete due to injury or illness suffered prior to or on the morning of the event. If a student is selected for any representative sport and is unable to compete on the day, the expectation is for the student to attend normal school classes. Students may be excluded from future sporting representation should they attend but not compete due to non-legitimate reasons.

Golf Clinic
Last Friday saw K-6 participate in a Golf Clinic conducted by Antill Park Golf Club. Students were taught the basics from grip, stance and swing technique. It was a great experience for all the children to play a sport not normally offered at schools. Following on from this clinic, the school will be purchasing a golf package for use in weekly sport. There was some fine ball striking throughout the classes (after a few attempts) and all the children had an enjoyable time with some catching the golf ‘bug’ already. Hopefully we can find some new ‘Adam Scotts’ or Karrie Webbs’ in the future.

NRL Community Day
Yesterday saw three players from the Wests Tigers, including exciting winger David Nofoaluma address the school as part of the NRL Community Carnival. Students were able to interact with the players as well as receiving important messages about “Wellbeing”. The players talked about the importance of physical activity, nutrition and well-being in young people’s lives.

OPS Swimming Carnival
The school’s swimming carnival was held on Thursday 5th February under grey, but comfortable conditions at the Wollondilly Leisure Centre for Years 3 to 6 (plus one Year 2) together with Yanderra Public School. It was the first time in a few years that heats and finals were needed to be held for junior races which was pleasing to see. The children are to be commended for their outstanding behaviour on the day and excellent cheering for housemates and peers alike. There was also plenty of time for novelty events in the outside and inside pools.

Thank you to all the parent spectators who cheered their children on and our helpers who assisted in various capacities. Without the parental assistance the day becomes very difficult to organise and run so a big THANKS to you all.

Once again Emmitt Carlile was a standout performer breaking all available records. He broke six records (including 2 of his own) and now has a total of 13 to his name. Emmitt’s achievements speak for themselves and he is to be congratulated on his phenomenal performances.

Following are the day’s results. Highlighted are the children who qualified for the Zone Carnival on the 26th and 27th February at the Wollondilly Leisure Centre. Notes have been
sent home and need to be returned by Tuesday 24th February. Finally, congratulations to the following students for taking out junior and senior swimming champion titles. Trophies for these awards will be presented at the Class Champions Assembly at the end of this term.

**Junior Girl Champion:** Casey Beard  
**Junior Boy Champion:** Beau Wymer  
**Senior Girl Champion:** Kalani Wymer  
**Senior Boy Champion:** Emmitt Carlile

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Boys 100 m Freestyle</td>
<td>Emmitt Carlile</td>
<td>Jake Austin</td>
<td>Lachlan Burley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys 8 Yrs 50 m Freestyle</td>
<td>Taj Hickson</td>
<td>Jake Griggs</td>
<td>Riley Grieve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls 8 Yrs 50 m Freestyle</td>
<td>Talina Seisun</td>
<td>Isabel Nash</td>
<td>Savannah Dancuo</td>
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<td>Xander Reid</td>
<td>Jacob Burley</td>
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<td>Breeanna Austin</td>
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<td>Mitchell Welsh/Joe</td>
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<td>Cooper Eather</td>
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<td>L Graham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls 10 Yrs 50 m Freestyle</td>
<td>Jasmine Griggs</td>
<td>Cody Beard</td>
<td>Ruby Sanderson</td>
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<td>Lachlan Burley</td>
<td>Liam D'Arcy</td>
<td>Wesley Johns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls 11 Yrs 50 m Freestyle</td>
<td>Jesse Beard</td>
<td>Jessica Barrass</td>
<td>Olivia Bunce</td>
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<td>Boys 12 Yrs 50 m Freestyle</td>
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<td>Hayden Bond</td>
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<td>Tori Davis</td>
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<td>11 Years Girls 50 m Butterfly</td>
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<td>Senior Boys 50 m Butterfly</td>
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<td>Jake Austin</td>
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<td>Junior Boys 50 m Backstroke</td>
<td>Mitch Nash</td>
<td>Jayson Sinclair</td>
<td>Joel Graham</td>
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<td>Junior Girls 50 m Backstroke</td>
<td>Casey Beard</td>
<td>Stephanie Fordham</td>
<td>Cody Beard</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Yrs Boys 50 m Backstroke</td>
<td>Cooper Taylor</td>
<td>Liam D'Arcy</td>
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<td>11 Yrs Girls 50m Backstroke</td>
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<td>Jessica Barrass</td>
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<td>Boys Senior 50 m Backstroke</td>
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<td>Girls Senior 50 m Backstroke</td>
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<td>Mitchell Welsh</td>
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<td>Junior Girls 50 m Breaststroke</td>
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<td>Caitlan McSavaney</td>
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<td>Open Boys Individual Medley</td>
<td>Emmitt Carlile</td>
<td>Jake Austin</td>
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BAG A BARGAIN OR BANK A BUCK!
The 6th Annual
Wollondilly Swapmeet & Family Market Day

Presented by The Rotary Club of Wollondilly North Inc.

When: Sunday 8th March, 2015 - 6am

Where: Oakdale Workers Club Football Field 1605 Burratorang Road, Oakdale

Cost: Gold coin donation (kids under 14 FREE)
Chocolate Wheel, raffles, FREE jumping castle and more!

Sites available: Large: $20 ea or Small: $15 ea

All sellers welcome!

Contact: 02 46596 064 or rcwnswapmeet@live.com
All proceeds are donated to Rotary local community projects.
The Oaks Pony Club
Do you ride? Would you like to make new friends to ride with and improve your riding as well? Then come and join The Oaks Pony Club. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month and riders are involved in flat work, dressage, jumping, sporting and games. We have a yearly camp, go for visits to Silver Hills for Cross Country, have the opportunity to compete in all types of competitions and generally have a great time. Come join us! Registration is on Sunday 1st February at Dudley Chesham Oval The Oaks.
For more information go to our website: theoakponyclub.org.au
HI-TOPS – Heavenly Impact
Time @ Oakdale P.S
Wednesday Lunchtimes

HI-TOPS is a Christian lunchtime group that is available to all students K-6, who wish to come and have parental permission.

HI-TOPS aims to encourage & promote good ethics, caring friendships, positive attitudes and an opportunity to talk about God, the bible and the Christian faith.

If your child would like to attend HI-TOPS please return the permission slip to the front office.

HI-TOPS is run by Verity Hoffman, a trained primary school teacher, employed as a families worker by St Luke’s Anglican Church, The Oaks.

For more information please email verity@theoakss.anglican.asn.au

2015 HI-TOPS Permission Form (Oakdale Public School)

I give permission for my son/daughter _______________________________ to attend HI-TOPS (Heavenly Impact Time @ Oakdale Public School) Lunchtime group. I understand this event will be held in a classroom on Wednesdays during lunchtime I understand that this group is a Christian themed group run by Verity Hoffman, employed by St Luke’s Anglican Church and is only available to students with parental permission.

Parent/guardian name: _______________________________ Child’s Class: _______________________________

Signed: _______________________________ Date: _______________________________

For Anglican Parish of The Oaks
The Oaks - Oakdale - The Oaks
Phone: 9788 8604
Fax: 9788 7933
Website: www.theoakss.org.au

Serving God - Serving Jesus - Serving Each Other

SAFE MINISTRY.
Professional Standards Unit
P.O. Box 6, Oakdale, NSW 2570

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SAFETY FIRST