Term 3, Week 1, 2015

**From the Principal’s desk**

Hope everyone had a great time and were able to spend time with their families over the holidays. While Mrs Green is in the beautiful sunshine and sandy beaches of Hawaii we have returned and Winter has shown itself. Please ensure that all students have adequate warm clothing and their names are clearly written on jumpers, jackets, scarves, etc to save confusion of ownership.

In Week 3 is Education Week. Our Open Day is 5th August (week 4) due to Mrs Green being on leave. Please see the attached flyer for details. We’d love to see as many parents as possible.

Mrs Green will return on Thursday 30th July.

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**Dates to remember**

### What’s Coming up in July?

- 22nd Netball Clinic
- 23rd 5I Camden High School
- 24th Bookclub due
- 24th Golf Gala Day
- 27th 6KM WAC Performance
- 27th Catch up dance lesson
- 28th ICAS English
- 28th K-2 Assembly
- 30th Yrs 3-4 Bike Education Centre
- 30th Mrs Green returns from leave

### What’s Coming up in August?

- 4th K-2 Assembly
- 5th Education Week Open Day
- 6th 3-6 Assembly
- 7th Cricket Gala Day
- 7th Canteen open
- 11th ICAS Maths
- 11th K-2 Assembly
- 12th Swim School payments due
- 14th Netball/Soccer/AFL Gala Day
- 14th Canteen open

**Reminders**

- * Year 6 Farewell 9th December
- * 5/6 Camp payments due
- * Deposit for Swim Scheme $20
- * Deposit for 3/4 camp $60
**Skoolbag APP**

To make communication easier we have purchased a program called ‘skoolbag app’. The app is downloaded onto your phone and pushes out instant messages and updates as well as newsletters, permission notes, etc. Office staff are currently being trained in how to use this. Attached to this newsletter is information on how you can download the app to your phone.

**Swim School**

There are still a couple of positions available if you are interested in sending your child. Swimming Scheme is held from Monday 17th – Friday 21st August from 10:30 – 2pm at Picton Pools. The cost for the 5 day program is $55.

If you have already paid your deposit the balance is due by Thursday 12th August.

**School Shades**

Recent medical research has revealed that:
Children under the age of 10 yrs are unable to block as much UV radiation as adults eyes making their eyes more susceptible to damage caused by UV rays.
UV rays are at their strongest between 10am and 2pm, the times during which students are at recess, lunch or playing school sport.

Damage to the eye from prolonged exposure to UV rays can result in:
Skin cancer around the eyes and eyelids
Cataracts (cloudiness of the lens)
Macular degeneration (damage to the retina)
Pterygium (an overgrowth of the conjunctiva onto the cornea)
Squamous cell cancers on the conjunctiva (membrane covering the white part of the eye)
Climatic droplet keratopathy (cloudiness of the cornea)

School Shades is a company that can provide sunglasses for all students. The package includes: highest quality UV sunglasses, branded with the school's and student’s name, hard-cover protective case, and high quality microfiber cleaning cloth. The cost is $11.50 per pair. If there is any business or company that would be willing to sponsor us in providing sunglasses for all of our students we would be able to put your logo/business name on the armbands as well. Please contact Mrs Green if you would be interested in supporting the school.
Carpark
Please try not to park in the school driveway if you are picking up your child. On a few occasions parents have been parking in the driveway which blocks access to the carpark.

Canteen
From Week 4 Monday 3rd August the canteen will be opened on Fridays only. A new menu will be sent home soon. The same menu will be available from The Dome Monday-Thursday.

Oaks Christmas Night
The Oaks Christmas Night has been running for over 10 years. This year we have been given the opportunity to presell ride tickets. Every booklet sold will result in the school being given $10. If you would like to purchase your ride tickets prior to the night please come to the school office.

Oakdale Public School Fundraiser
Family ride ticket booklets
1 booklet of 60 tickets for $60
(4-8 tickets per ride)

- When you pre-order and pay for your booklets through Oakdale School office the school receives $10 from each booklet
- Money raised will go towards the purchase of a digital noticeboard

Dog Walkers
If you walk or know of someone who walks their dogs around the school perimeter could you please make sure that droppings are picked up. A number of parents have complained about droppings being walked into their cars by their children.

3-6 Assembly
Please note due to the whole school assembly being held today there will be no primary assembly this week. The next primary assembly will be held on Thursday 6th August at 2:45pm.
Congratulations to the following students who recently visited the Treasure Chest. You have all been trying very hard to do your best in class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4F</td>
<td>Katie Chelin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6KM</td>
<td>Charlene McKinlay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Will begin on Tuesday 11th August 2015  
5pm – 6pm at the Catholic Parish Hall, The Oaks.  
Children need to be in Year 6 and have made their First Holy Communion.  
The date of the Confirmation is September 13th, 2015

**International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) Results**

Congratulations to the following students on their awesome results in the ICAS Digital Technologies and Science tests! Ms Fuller.

**Digital Technologies:**
Participation certificate – Breeanna Austin 3C, Jackson New 3C, Zac Crawford 3C, Seth Attard 3C, Jessica Webber 4F, Mitchell Nash 4F, Tyrus Williams 4F, Zac Harding 5I, Tori Davis 6KM, Joshua Young 6KM, Thomas Bonomini 6KM.  
Merit Certificate: William Milne 4F, Ava New 4F  
Credit Certificate: Niamh Dárley 3C, Peter Lynch 5I, Liam Dárley 5I

**Science:**
Merit Certificate: William Milne 4F  
Credit Certificate: Peter Lynch 5I, Liam Dárley 5I, Thomas Bonomini 6KM
## Term 2 Week 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3C</th>
<th>4F</th>
<th>5I</th>
<th>6KM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nash Brackenrig</td>
<td>Joel Graham</td>
<td>Tyler Henry</td>
<td>Caitlan McSavaney x 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Graham</td>
<td>Lauryn Takiari x 6</td>
<td>Reilly Rowbotham</td>
<td>Tori Ryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taj Hickson</td>
<td>Jessica Webber x 3</td>
<td>Emma Barrass x 3</td>
<td>Brianna Fraser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breeanna Austin</td>
<td>Myia Tabone</td>
<td>Jessica Barrass x 2</td>
<td>Kalani Wymer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dakota Williams</td>
<td>Emily Roberts x 3</td>
<td>Cooper Taylor x 4</td>
<td>Hannah Stoddart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riley Grieve</td>
<td>William Milne</td>
<td></td>
<td>Josh Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blake Takiari</td>
<td>Stephanie Fordham</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Ryan x 2</td>
<td>Dylan Palmer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savannah Dancuo x 2</td>
<td>Ruby Sanderson x 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson New x 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowyn Scott x 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ike Sanderson x 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Sanderson x 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Star Student:**
- 3C: Seth Attard
- 4F: Madelyn Russell
- 5I: Olivia Bunce
- 6KM: Zoe Palmer
Oakdale Public School
Education Week 2015

When: Open Day Wednesday 5th August
Time: 9.40-12.20
Where: School hall and classroom visits

Timetable of Events:
9.40am – 10.20am K-6 assembly in hall
  ➢ Welcome to Country
  ➢ National Anthem
  ➢ Welcome address by Mrs Green
  ➢ K-2 Future Stars
  ➢ Music Bus Item
  ➢ 3-6 Bright Stars
  ➢ K-2
  ➢ School Song

10.30am - 11.30am Classroom visits to view/assist.
  ➢ KH Phonics
  ➢ 1B Literacy
  ➢ 2C Maths
  ➢ 3C Sport
  ➢ 4F Visual Arts
  ➢ 5I Visual Arts
  ➢ 6KM Technology
  ➢ Library open

11.30am - 12.20pm Picnic lunch (Bring your own blanket, chair and picnic basket packed with lunch or order a meal deal from the canteen)
The Peer Support Program
The Peer Support Program is a student welfare program that is “dedicated to providing school communities with an evidence-based, peer led approach to enhance the mental, social and emotional wellbeing of young people.” (Peer Support Australia 2013)
There are many benefits that children gain from participation in this program. The Leaders and Co-leaders: practise leadership skills, develop confidence in leading a group, act as a positive role model, enhance their own life skills and develop organisational and time management skills. Younger students: learn life skills through fun and safe activities, form positive relationships with Peer Leaders/Co-leaders, practise cooperation and collaboration and build confidence to actively participate.
The senior students undertook a leadership training day on Monday 20th July with Mrs Itskos and Ms Fuller. The students were very focussed on developing their skills as they worked on activities designed to teach them about managing groups and facilitating learning. On a lighter note, they also had fun and yummy pizza for lunch on the day – thanks Mrs Bailey! The Peer Support groups are comprised of students from K-6 and begin on Wednesday next week. Fifty fantastic Year 5 and 6 students are now prepared to lead and manage their groups over the eight week program. Well done seniors, you have made an excellent start to Peer Support! Ms Fuller
HOT DOG DAY!
Wednesday 5\textsuperscript{th} August
$2.50 per Hot Dog
(orders in no later than Monday, 3\textsuperscript{rd}
August – on brown paper bag with correct
money please)

I would like my child ___________________________ of
class _______ to participate in Hot Dog Day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Tomato sauce</th>
<th>BBQ sauce</th>
<th>No sauce</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>
ATHLETICS CARNIVAL REPORT

The school Athletics Carnival was held over two days in the last week of Term 2. K-6 participated in the track events with Years 2-6 (8 years +) participating in the field events the following day. We were blessed with favourable conditions on both days for the new format. The behaviour and sportsmanship of the students was fantastic with everyone having a go at the various events. It was also pleasing to see a large crowd of parents and relatives cheering on all the children at the track events. There were some tired competitors at the field events but there was still some exciting jumping and throwing nevertheless.

I would like to thank the Burragorang Soccer Club for loaning the school their line marker to mark our new and improved track. Also, a huge thank-you goes to Mr Nash for organising the paint and Mrs Nash for providing instructions and help on how to use the machine. Additionally Mrs Nash (timekeeping), Mr Dickson (set-up, timekeeping and clean-up), Mr Seisun (set-up, timekeeping and clean-up) and Mr Milne – along with William and David – (clean-up and lock-up) gave up their time to ensure the event went smoothly. Mr Seisun was a glutton for punishment at the field carnival, again helping with set-up, clean-up, discus and high jump. Thanks also to Mrs Hickson who filled-in at discus during the day. Without the above help, I think we’d be still packing up!

Following are the 2015 Athletics Champions:

Junior Boy Champion: Joel Graham and Dylan Palmer (joint winners)
Junior Girl Champion: Casey Beard
Senior Boy Champion: Hayden Bond
Senior Girl Champion: Caitlan McSavaney

We look forward to our students representing the school at the Zone Athletics Carnival on Thursday 27th August (field events and 800m) and Friday 28th August (track events) at Campbelltown Sports Stadium. Notes regarding the Zone Carnival will be sent home shortly. Below are the final results for the 2015 Oakdale Public School Athletics Carnival. Names with a ‘Q’ next to them are the children who have qualified for the Zone Carnival. All 1st and 2nd placegetters in track events proceed on to zone, whilst the 1st placegetter qualifies automatically in field events with the runner-up only proceeding if they reach the qualifying standard. If your child does not want to go to any zone event, please ensure they notify Mr Barr as soon as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/9/10 Years (Junior)</td>
<td>11 Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 100m

| 800m | 1. Casey Beard Q  
| 2. Bella Payne Q  
| 3. Emily Ballard Q |
| 200m | 1. Casey Beard Q  
| 2. Anastasia Xegas Q  
| 3. Jesse Beard Q |

| 800m | 1. Casey Beard Q  
| 2. Jasmine Griggs Q  
| 3. Emily Ballard Q |
| 200m | 1. Miki Ashman Q  
| 2. Anastacia Xegas Q  
| 3. Jesse Beard Q |

### 800m

| 100m | 5 Years 70m |
| 6 Years 70m |
| 7 Years 70m |
| 8 Years |

| Girls | 1. Amelia Harding  
| 2. Olivia Wilkinson  
| 3. Izzabella Johns |
| 4. Li. Olivia  
| 5. Sarah McKinlay |
| 6. Casey Beard Q  
| 7. Emily Ballard Q  
| 8. Myia Tabone |

| Boys | 5 Years 70m |
| 6 Years 70m |
| 7 Years 70m |
| 8 Years |

| 9 Years | 1. Chase Brackenrig  
| 2.  
| 3.  |
| 1. Jack Eather  
| 2. Levi Hickson  
| 3. Fletcher Woods |
| 1. Joel Graham Q  
| 2. Dylan Palmer Q  
| 3. Cooper Eather |
| 1. Bilal Dirani Q  
| 2. Lachlan Burley Q  
| 3. Noah Meredith |

| Girls | 5 Years 120m |
| 6 Years 120m |
| 7 Years 120m |

| 1. Amelia Harding  
| 2. Olivia Wilkinson  
| 3. Izzabella Johns |
| 1. Paige Fraser  
| 2. Chelsea Blacker  
| 3. Alyvia Bond |
| 1. Ella-May Dern  
| 2. Hayley Austin  
| 3. Emma Palmer |

| Boys | 5 Years 120m |
| 6 Years 120m |
| 7 Years 120m |

| 1. Chase Brackenrig  
| 2.  
| 3.  |
| 1. Levi Hickson  
| 2. Jack Eather  
| 3. Fletcher Woods |
| 1. Aedan Hannigan  
| 2. David Milne  
| 3. Phoenix Chelin |

### 5/6/7 Years 400m

| Girls | 1. Ella-May Dern  
| 2. Paige Fraser  
| 3. Alyvia Bond |

| Boys | 1. David Milne  
| 2. Aedan Hannigan  
| 3. Jake Graham |

### OAKDALE SPORTING NEWS

**GOLF GALA DAY**
Unfortunately due to the inclement weather last week, the golf gala day has been postponed to this Friday 24th July. Permission notes need to be returned to the office as soon as possible. Please see Mrs Berger or Mrs Fuller for further information.

**AFL/NETBALL/SOCCER GALA DAY**
The 14th and 21st (back-up day) August (Weeks 5 & 6) are the tentative dates for the AFL/Netball/Soccer Gala Day washed-out last term. A decision will be made shortly as to whether the ‘B’ Gala Day will go ahead depending on the availability of schools to attend.

MILO CUP CRICKET
The Milo Cup Cricket T20 Blast competition is being held on this Friday 7th August at Tahmoor Sports Ground. Oakdale will be sending senior boys’ and senior girls’ teams. Trials for the teams will be held in the next week with Mrs Mineeff and Mr Barr.

RAZORBACK SPORTING REPRESENTATION
Following on from her success in Hockey this year, Tori Davis has also made the Razorback Zone Girls Cricket team for the second year running to compete at the PSSA Regional Championships. No doubt Tori’s powerful striking ability and lethal speed bowling helped in gaining her selection. Well done Tori, we wish you all the best at the upcoming championships. In cold and miserable conditions, Caitlan McSavaney competed at the State Cross Country Championships at Eastern Creek Motorway last Friday. Congratulations Caitlan on doing your school proud once again.

ORIENTEERING GALA DAY
On Wednesday 24th June, the weather finally cleared and I took a fantastic group of students to the Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Centre, to participate in the Sydney South West Primary Orienteering Championship. The team consisted of: Imogen Ramp, Kate Foster, Mitchell Welsh, Lachlan Brincat, Olivia Bunce, Anastasia Lalic, Brandon Baker, Emma Belter, Zoe Palmer, Chelsea Nink, Kalani Wymer, Lydia Foster.

The students were taught all the basics of orienteering by wonderful teachers and volunteers from NSW Orienteering and various orienteering clubs from our area. We had a “walk through” on the course, before the start of the races, on how to read the maps, locate the “control points” (flags showing the location of electronic checkpoints) and usage of the electronic tags. Each child had their own electronic tag to carry and had to “tap-on” at the start, at each checkpoint and at the end of the race (the system is similar to “tap-on” public transport cards). Of course, our technologically-minded students quickly became familiar with their use.

The students were put in age races and each start was staggered to allow them easier access to the course. The equestrian course was green and gorgeous after the rain but the students had to dodge some puddles and a fair bit of mud to complete it. At the end of the race, the data from the cards was downloaded to a teacher’s laptop and each child could see their progress. They were fascinated by how their journey around the course had been recorded. Relay races were next. Three students were in each team and one student completed a shorter course before “tagging” the next runner. I was very impressed with Oakdale’s teamwork and skill at navigating the both the individual and relay courses!

Overall, the day was a huge success and the children got to try a sport that they hadn’t participated in before. As the children like to say, it was also “heaps fun”. I would like to commend the students on their excellent behaviour, enthusiasm and skilful map reading. Congratulations guys, you made us very proud!

Ms Fuller
2015 GREATER SOUTHERN SYDNEY PRIMARY SCHOOLS PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

The school has entered the Greater Southern Sydney Primary Schools Public Speaking Competition with Oakdale competing in the Wollondilly Division. School winners will compete at the Wollondilly Network Final at Buxton primary school on Monday 7th September (Term 3, Week 9). The divisions and requirements for the competition finals are as follows. Impromptu speeches will not be required at school level but are compulsory at the finals. One student from each division moves on to the network final.

Speech Duration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prepared Speeches</th>
<th>Impromptu Speeches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ES1 (Kindergarten) 1 minute</td>
<td>ES1 No Speech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S1 (Years 1 and 2) 2 minutes</td>
<td>S1 1 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S2 (Years 3 and 4) 3 minutes</td>
<td>S2 1 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S3 (Years 5 and 6) 4 minutes</td>
<td>S3 1 to 2 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children may choose ANY TOPIC OF INTEREST suitable for a school audience however speeches prepared for the Multicultural Perspectives topics are not to be used for this competition. Following is a list of suggestions and are not meant to be prescriptive.

**Kindergarten:** My Favourite Toy; My Favourite Book; Holidays; Animals; My School

**Years 1 and 2:** Family; Friends; My Favourite Recipe; Pets; Things to Do on a Rainy Day

**Years 3 and 4:** Technology Benefits; My Life as a Hero; Good Manners are Important; My Greatest Invention; Winning Is Not So Important as Participating

**Years 5 and 6:** We Care Too Much About the Way We Look Than Who We Really Are; I pads are Anti-social; A Day in My Life as a … (table, pencil, car, potato, bicycle, window, ball, anything at all!); The Best Thing I’ve Ever Learnt…; Laughter is the Best Medicine

Students can choose their own topic or any from the list above. The topics listed are only suggestions for each division. Speeches need to be ready by Week 6. Further details regarding the school competition will be presented in the next few weeks. Any student (or their parents/caregivers) interested in competing in the school competition should see Mr Barr for further information and more detailed guidelines on the public speaking competition.
Parent/Caregiver Information Leaflet: The Middle Childhood Survey (MCS)
Dear Parent/Caregiver,

My name is Vaughan Carr, and I am leading the New South Wales Child Development Study (NSW-CDS).

The NSW-CDS is a state-wide study of child development which aims to identify factors affecting later health, education, and behaviour in adolescence or adulthood. The study is being led by researchers at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in collaboration with others at the Universities of Newcastle, Western Australia, and Canterbury (NZ), and in partnership with Government organisations including the NSW Department of Education and Communities, NSW Ministry of Health, and the NSW Department of Family and Community Services.

As part of this study, students enrolled in Year 6 of every primary school in NSW this year will be invited to participate in a survey of child mental health and wellbeing: the Middle Childhood Survey (MCS). This letter is to inform you that the Principal of your child’s school has agreed to conduct the survey during class time in Term 3.

The following information will help you decide whether you would like your child to take part. If you do not opt your child out, they will also have the opportunity to decide whether or not to participate during class time.

The MCS will gather a snapshot of child mental health and wellbeing within a longitudinal research study of children who were assessed using the Australian Early Development Index as they entered school in 2009. The MCS will gather information directly from the children about their thoughts, feelings, actions, and experiences at a critical stage of development, in order to better understand the needs of children in this age-group, and how programs and policies might be improved to promote their healthy development into adulthood. It is important to note that the MCS cannot be used to “label” children or diagnose a mental illness. Most children will complete the MCS in class under the supervision of their teacher. There will be no researchers at schools; the survey is designed for students to complete themselves. In the future, MCS responses will be combined with information from other organisations via record linkage processes; linked data may include, but is not limited to, child and parent records from Health (e.g., hospital admissions), Education (e.g., literacy and numeracy skills), Welfare (e.g., community services), and Justice (e.g., crime statistics) departments. These linkages will facilitate the long-term goal to develop policies and programs that promote the healthy development of all Australian children.

We stress that the privacy of your child’s responses will be protected at all times: all information gathered within the NSW-CDS is provided anonymously, and remains confidential (accessible only by the research team). Any findings from the research will be reported in such a way that individuals, schools, and small communities cannot be identified. We will also provide confidential feedback to the Principal of each participating school that summarises the mental health and wellbeing of children in the school, without identifying individual participants.

If you do not wish your child to participate in the MCS, you can complete the Opt-Out Form attached and return it to your child’s class teacher, or visit our website to opt-out now. Even after your child has completed the survey, you have until the start of Term 4 [16 October 2015] to opt them out if you wish. This will ensure that your child’s survey answers are not provided to the researchers.

If you have any concerns about the conduct of the study, they may be directed to the Ethics Secretariat, The University of New South Wales, SYDNEY NSW 2052 (telephone: [02] 9385 6222, fax: [02] 9385 6648, email: humanethics@unsw.edu.au). Complaints will be investigated promptly and you will be informed of the outcome. If you need any further information about any aspects of the NSW Child Development Study, please contact your child’s school for assistance.

Thank you for supporting the MCS.

Vaughan J. Carr
Professor, UNSW
What is the NSW Child Development Study?

The NSW Child Development Study (NSW-CDS) is a longitudinal study of mental health and wellbeing in children who were assessed using the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in 2009. This project aims to map patterns of resilience and vulnerability for later mental health, education, work, and other outcomes. You can read detailed information about the study at our website.

Why is it important?

The NSW-CDS will provide unique information and raise awareness about child developmental pathways that can be used by schools, governments, and other agencies/organisations to develop policies and programs that promote the healthy development of all Australian children. This information is crucial for children to develop into successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and healthy, active and informed adults.

What is the Middle Childhood Survey (MCS)?

The MCS is one component of the NSW-CDS. It measures the mental health and wellbeing of all NSW children in Year 6 in 2015. The MCS will gather information directly from the children about their thoughts, feelings, actions, and experiences.

How is the MCS completed?

Most children will complete the MCS in class using school computers, with responses recorded anonymously. There will be no researchers at schools, and the survey is designed for students to complete themselves.

If your child usually has a support worker in the classroom, he/she can complete the survey with the support worker’s assistance. There will also be audio-versions of the survey for children who need help with reading.

What does it mean for my child?

Participation may not provide any direct or immediate benefits for you or your child. However, in the long-term, the answers your child provides to the survey will help governments and schools to develop policies and programs that benefit all Australian children. If the survey leads your child to think about things that upset them, there are supports to help you deal with this.

Is this information anonymous?

Absolutely. None of the information provided to researchers can be traced back to either you or your child. We describe how we keep your information private further on in this brochure. You can be assured that any study findings (from the 2015 state-wide study) will be reported in such a way that individuals, schools, and small communities cannot be identified publicly.

How will the information be used?

Information from the 2015 state-wide MCS will be analysed by the research team to identify childhood factors that influence resilience and vulnerability for later mental health and other outcomes. To do this, MCS data will be combined with records from other organisations using record linkage, which may include, but is not limited to, child and parent records from Health (e.g., hospital admissions), Education (e.g., literacy and numeracy skills), Welfare (e.g., community services), and Justice (e.g., crime statistics). For more information on how we do this anonymously, please see the simplified diagram of Record Linkage in this leaflet.

Who organises the NSW Child Development Study?

The NSW-CDS is led by the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and involves collaboration with the Universities of Newcastle, Western Australia, and Canterbury (NZ), and partnerships with Government organisations including the NSW Department of Education and Communities, NSW Ministry of Health, and the NSW Department of Family and Community Services. For more information visit our Who We Are page.

Who is funding the research?

Financial and in-kind support for the NSW-CDS is provided from multiple sources, including: the Australian Research Council, the National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Rotary Health, and with the support of the NSW Department of Education and Communities, Ministry of Health, and Department of Family and Communities.

Who has access to the data?

Only the researchers running the study, in collaboration with the study partners or stakeholders, will have access to anonymous MCS responses, and the University of New South Wales will act as the custodian of MCS data to be used in future linkage projects. See our website for detailed information about Record Linkage.
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS cont.

Does my child have to participate in the MCS?

No. Participation in the MCS is entirely voluntary and children and their parents are free to opt out of the study if they wish. There will be no adverse consequences for any child opted out of the study; children who do not participate in class time will be given an alternative activity by their teacher. You may choose to opt your child out via the procedures outlined below.

What if I don’t want my child to complete the study?

If you don’t want your child to complete the MCS at school, there are three ways that you can ‘Opt-out/Withdraw:

1. You can sign the “Opt-Out/Withdrawal Form” attached to the information leaflet and return it to your child’s class teacher.

2. You can opt-out online via our website.

3. Contact your school directly by telephone or by speaking to your child’s class teacher.

If your child’s teacher does not receive your opt-out/withdrawal notice prior to the survey, your child will be given the opportunity to complete the survey in class.

If you change your mind about your child’s inclusion in the study you can withdraw your child’s responses from the MCS research database by any of the methods above, up until the start of Term 4 (16 October 2015); after this point all responses will be de-identified for provision to the research team, such that removal of a specific child’s responses will no longer be possible.

Where can I find out more?

Visit our website: http://nsw-cds.com.au
Call us on our information hotline: 1800 901 922
Email us: info@nsw-cds.com.au

Follow us on:

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Acknowledgements

The NSW-CDS has the support of the NSW education sectors: the NSW Department of Education and Communities (DEC), the Catholic Education Commission (CEC), and the Association of Independent Schools (AIS).
Record linkage combines individual records from different agencies in a way that ensures all persons remain completely anonymous. It provides a secure way to help researchers examine relationships between events at a population level. It also allows researchers to link children’s information with information about their parents. You can read more about record linkage on the NSW-CDS website.

An example of Record linkage is shown below – the identifying information is seen only by the Centre for Health and Record Linkage (CHeReL) which links the identities; the records are seen only by the researchers. The CHeReL replaces identities with a code number that is sent to the researchers for each record collection. The researchers then link individuals together using the code number, without ever knowing the identities of the participants in the files.
Parent/Caregiver WRITTEN OPT-OUT/WITHDRAWAL Form

Please complete ONLY if you wish to withdraw your child from participating in the Middle Childhood Survey (MCS).

Participating includes completing the MCS survey in class and a linkage of the survey with child and parent information from other organisations. If you have read the Parent/Caregiver Information Leaflet or you simply do NOT want your child to take part in the MCS, please complete the below form to withdraw them from the survey, and return it to your child’s school before survey administration.

If you change your mind about your child’s inclusion in the study you can withdraw your child’s responses from the MCS research database up until the start of Term 4 (16 October 2015); after this point all responses will be de-identified for provision to the research team, such that removal of a specific child’s responses will no longer be possible. If you withdraw your child’s responses, your child’s data will be withdrawn and destroyed.

I have read the enclosed information or discussed my child’s participation in the Middle Childhood Survey, and I request that information is not to be collected or included for:

Child’s full name: ____________________________________________

Child’s date of birth: ___ / ___ / ___  Today’s date: ___ / ___ / ___

Full name of authorised parent/caregiver: ____________________________________________

Signature of parent/caregiver: ____________________________________________

By signing here, I understand that my child will NOT participate in the Middle Childhood Survey and that an alternative activity will be provided for my child. I understand that withdrawal from the survey can only happen from the time at which this form is activated in the online survey system, and that such withdrawal WILL NOT affect the relationship with my child’s teacher, my child’s school, or The University of New South Wales.
Skoolbag is a mobile App for your school to communicate directly to both parents and students. It works through both smart phones and smart devices (such as iPads and Android Tablets). Ideal for:

- School, free push notification alerts
- School events
- School newsletters
- School documents
- School RSS feeds
- School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

iPhone & iPad Users

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click "Free" then "install".
4. If iPad, change the drop list to "iPhone Apps", your school will then be visible, click "Free" then "install".
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

Android Users

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.
1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

Don't forget to like us on Facebook! Like
Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au