Welcome back! Whilst some students can feel some anxiety returning to or starting at a new school we have found the transition from home to school this year to have been a very smooth one for our students. Parents play a vital role in this area as for most students this anxiety will only last a couple of days. It is suggested that parents listen to their child’s issues but not to dwell on them; speak positively about the school and discuss all the wonderful things school has to offer.

Some students may suffer from separation anxiety from a parent; reassurance from parents that it will be ok and that they will get used to the situation and encouraging words will assist your child separate more readily. Leaving your child as they enter the classroom will also help them establish independence faster. We will ring parents if there are serious concerns and will contact parents if their child has had an unsettled start to reassure you they are now settled. When parents become distressed this anxiety can be passed on to the child. I can assure you we will do everything possible for a safe and positive start to 2016.

Maria Green
Staffing 2016
Principal – Mrs Green
KH – Mrs Hooper
1B – Mrs Berger (Assistant Principal)
2B/W – Miss Baker and Mrs Woodward
3C – Miss Clay
4I – Mrs Itskos
5C – Mrs Coppola
6K – Mrs Karliotis (Assistant Principal)
Office Staff – Vivienne Bailey (SAM) & Karen Costello (SAO)
Library, RFF, Reading Recovery & Support – Miss Hannaford
Support – Mrs Smith, Mrs Woodward, Ms Fuller, Mrs Nash & Miss Hannaford
RFF- Ms Fuller Science
Learning Support Officers – Dianne Hill, Jackie Ward & Gina Minasi
Enrolment: 164 students

Attendance: MISSING SCHOOL MEANS MISSING OUT!
At Oakdale Public School we take student attendance very seriously. Every time a child is away they miss out on the introduction of new concepts or the consolidation of skills taught. If students are away regularly their friendships can break down and they feel awkward on their return to school as they have missed out on so much school work, fun activities and they forget routines. A divide can be created where they feel like an outsider; often resulting in school refusal.
If your child does not want to attend school we need to know about it immediately so that we can put supports in place to successfully assist a swift return to consistent attendance.

1. Introduction DOE Attendance Policy
1.1. 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.
1.2. This document supports the School Attendance Policy (2015) and applies to all NSW Government schools, excluding pre-schools. It replaces Student Attendance in Government Schools – Procedures 2010.
1.3. These procedures should be read in the context of:
The Enrolment of Students in Government Schools: A Summary and Consolidation of Policy (1997)
Memorandum DN/06/00168 Enhanced Enrolment Procedures (intranet only)
Protecting and Supporting Children and Young People Policy and Procedures
2. 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.

Adidas Fun Run Supporting our School Programs
YOU COULD WIN A TRIP TO DISNEYLAND!

We will be having a fundraising Fun Run on Wednesday, 24th February starting at 2.30. Students who seek sponsorship of more than $10 will be entitled to a prize. All of the prizes available are listed in the booklet provided. The sponsorship form is at the back of the booklet. The more you raise the more expensive the prize e.g. if you raise $100 you can choose 3 prizes from a given category. Every child that participates will receive a certificate. All money is to be returned to the office with the correct money inside the provided envelope. Money is to be returned from 23/2/16 - 3/3/16. We must collect all sponsorship money by Thursday 3rd March. Thanks for your support.

Class Induction (Formerly Meet the Teacher)

We will be holding our class induction afternoons on 9th (K-2) and 10th (3-6) of February. Times and dates have been staggered to enable parents with several children to attend all meetings. An overview of the year will be given. It is not intended to be a formal one-one conversation between the teacher and parent; this will occur later in the year. We will start at 4.00pm in the hall both days. If you have any concerns about your child at any time please make an appointment to see the class teacher as soon as the problem arises.

Science and Technology is the Way of the Future

This year, we are focusing on the further implementation of the new Science and Technology syllabus in all classes K – 6. Dr Marc Noakes, who is a scientist, teacher and university lecturer, will be involved in providing professional development for staff and
the elaboration of science and technology units, leading to a school-wide scope and sequence. Ms Fuller is teaching science and technology units this year during the teachers’ RFF time. These units complement those taught by the classroom teachers. The school has allocated money to increase the current range of science equipment, to support what is being taught. The school also has many books associated with science and technology topics in the library and Miss Hannaford is building on this.

On a fun note, the school has booked a science show called “Jollybops Science Show” http://www.jollybopsscience.com.au/, which will allow the students to see the exciting practical aspects of science. There are other interesting events coming up throughout the year that are associated with our commitment to providing a comprehensive science education at Oakdale PS.

**Support our local stores**
Our small local shopping centre needs the ongoing support of the community if it is to survive. The school has always been generously supported by our local community and will back them by using their services as often as we can. Go and have a look at what they have to offer.

**Focus on Listening Skills**
This term we are focusing on our school rule “Being Attentive.” Listening skills came up as one of our weaker areas of grading in our school reports. This week we are discussing ignoring distractions and whole body listening. It would be great if parents could follow this up at home as well. The website link parents to ways you can develop talking and listening at home. http://www.schoolatoz.edu.au

**Oakdale Public School Sporting News**
Welcome to another year of sport at Oakdale Public School, providing students every opportunity to lead an active and healthy lifestyle. The Swimming Carnival kicks us off next week (Monday) week three. The Cross Country Carnival will be held early Term 2 and the Athletics Carnival will be held early Term 3. As always 3-6 students will be afforded the opportunity to compete in numerous gala days this year.

**Transport to Sporting Carnivals and Permission Notes**
Stricter DEC regulations and new school financial management systems has led to a revision of the school’s policy and organisation of all sporting events. In the first instance, as last year, the school will no longer organise private transport arrangements for zone carnivals or similar, nor provide individual student transportation. Parents/caregivers will need to organise their child’s own transport arrangements. A list of all students attending events will be supplied on the permission note and/or newsletter. Secondly, as last year, permission notes not returned by the due date will exclude student participation in the sporting event. Mrs Green can be contacted if financial assistance is needed for any sporting activity however permission notes need to be returned on time.

**Razorback Representation**
It is always encouraging to see lots of enthusiastic students trying out to represent at zone level for various sports (excluding swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals.) Most sports only allow 2 students from each school to try out. If students are selected to try out at zone level, transportation needs to be organised privately and not through the school. It
should also be noted that if students make any Razorback, Sydney South West or State team, they must be available to attend all training sessions and of course the carnivals for that sport. Training sessions are normally held after school. If students are unable to attend training sessions or events (without good reason) they may face a 12 month ban from any further PSSA sporting representation. This policy is in place so as other students who would like to represent at higher levels, do not miss out on the opportunity.

**House Captains & Vice Captains 2015**

House meetings were conducted last Friday to elect Captains and Vice Captains for the Thunderbolts and Meteorites for 2016. Students from 1-6 were able to vote. Some loud and fantastic war cries were heard echoing over Oakdale. Congratulations to the following students. Badges will be presented at the Induction Assembly in Week 3.

**Thunderbolts Boy Captain:** Tyler Henry  
**Thunderbolts Girl Captain:** Emma Barrass  
**Thunderbolts Boy Vice Captain:** Cameron Richards  
**Thunderbolts Girl Vice Captain:** Katelyn Chelin  
**Meteorites Boy Captain:** Jett Hickson  
**Meteorites Girl Captain:** Summer Neal  
**Meteorites Boy Vice Captain:** Jaylen Bryant  
**Meteorites Girl Vice Captain:** Cheyanne Baker

**Swimming Carnival**

A reminder that the school swimming carnival is being held on Monday 8th February for 3-6 students and competitive 8 year old swimmers in Year 2 at the Wollondilly Leisure Centre. The bus will be leaving at 9:30am sharp so please ensure your child is on time. Please make sure no thongs or sandals are worn to school however they may be brought for use at the pool. Children are encouraged to bring their own lunch and snacks however a canteen will be operating at the pool. If you are able to assist with time-keeping or acting as a lifesaver please let Mrs Itskos or Mrs Karliotis know. All assistance is greatly appreciated. Parents and relatives are invited to attend.

**UPCOMING EVENTS IN TERM 1**

- **Monday 8th February (Week 3)** – School Swimming Carnival  
- **Thursday 25th February (Week 5)** – Zone Swimming Carnival  
- **Friday 26th February (Week 5)** – Zone Swimming Carnival  
- **Tuesday 15th March (Week 8)** – Regional Swimming Carnival

If your child has achieved in sporting events outside of school we want to know. Send the details to my email narda.itskos4@det.nsw.edu.au, so we can recognise all achievements of our students in and out of school. Alternatively, you can contact me at school. I’m looking forward to another fantastic year of sport at Oakdale.

Yours in sport,  
Mrs Itskos
COULD YOUR KIDS DO GO4FUN?
- FREE PROGRAM FOR KIDS AGED 7-13 ABOVE A HEALTHY WEIGHT
- FAMILIES LEARN HEALTHY EATING AND EXERCISE WITH FUN GAMES
- BUILDS CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ESTEEM
- AFTER SCHOOL DURING TERM IN AN ENCOURAGING ENVIRONMENT

Enrol in a program near you today!

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<td>EAGLE VALE</td>
<td>Tues 5:00pm - 7:00pm</td>
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To find out more contact Claire Southwood-Jones Tel: (02) 97802811 or visit our website to register.
Library Fundraising

This year we are hoping to raise enough money to purchase 15 brand new laptops for the library! At the moment there are only 15 computers in the library which means students need to share.

We will be running the 5 cent fundraiser for all of Term 1. It would be fantastic if you could rummage around for any spare 5 cent coins and send them to school in zip lock bags with your child’s name and class written on them. There will be prizes for the class that raises the most money, as well as a prize for the student who contributes the most money from each class.

In isolation 5 cents isn’t much… but if each student raises $57 this year we will have enough money to buy all 15 laptops!

Book Week

Book Week is in August this year and we will be having a Book Parade. This year’s theme is: Australia: Story Country - Start thinking of costume ideas!

Premier’s Reading Challenge

KH, 1B & 2BW:
- Will be completing the PRC in class.
- Will be read 30 PRC books by their teachers.

3C, 4I, 5C & 6K:
- Need to read a total of 20 books, with a minimum of 5 personal choice books that are not on the PRC list (available online).
- Will be given some time in class to read but reading at home is encouraged.
- Will fill out the PRC Reading Log on orange cardboard in their classroom. Class Teachers will then give students time on the computers to enter their data online (from March 7th)
- Will receive House Points for participating. Students will receive 1 point for reading 10 books and 5 more points for completing the challenge (only 10 additional books). These points will combine with the sports points and go towards the Winning House at the end of the year. Meteorites have won two years in a row... c’mon Thunderbolts!

**Lunchtime in the Library**
This term the Library will be open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at lunch times (second half).

**Monday & Thursday:** Reading, borrowing, board games, computers, colouring-in.

**Tuesday:** Book Club - I will continue to read *Ratburger* by David Walliams. Everyone is welcome!

**Parent Information Session: Reading Strategies**
On Wednesday 17th February at 4pm in the Tiered Learning Room, parents are encouraged to attend a free information session on reading strategies. The content of the session is aimed at parents of students who are learning to read. Parents who attended last year provided overwhelmingly positive feedback, so if you would like to learn about some strategies that will help you support your child’s reading, come along! Please note: The content will be similar to last year’s session.

*Miss Hannaford ©*
Calling All Footballers, Beginners to Champions and anyone whom would just like to have a try.
Girls, Boys, Ladies and Gents, All are welcome to come and join us.

Gain some fitness, Have some fun and make new friends, with a family friendly club.

Registrations - Online - or
Sat 30th Jan 10am-12 Willis Park
Wed 3rd Feb 3.30pm-5.30 The Oaks Fruit Shop
Sat 6th Feb 4pm-6 Oakdale Workers Club

www.burragarang-soccer.org.au