NEWSLETTER 2 – Week ending 7th February, 2014

IMPORTANT DATES

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<th>FEBRUARY</th>
<th>TERM 1</th>
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| Thursday 6th | Parents & Friends  
Meeting 3.35pm |
| Monday 10th | Art – Seniors  
Music |
| Tuesday 11th | AAS – Hockey |
| Wednesday 12th | NO PREPS  
Art – Juniors |
| Thursday 13th | Italian  
AAS – Triathlon |
| Monday 17th | School Council 7.30pm |
| Tuesday 18th | Library/Science  
Bluearth/ Music  
Catering Fundraiser  
AAS – Hockey |
| Wednesday 19th | NO PREPS  
PD Staff – Keay Cobbin  
Art - Juniors |
| Thursday 20th | Italian  
AAS – Triathlon |
| Sunday 23rd | Wangaratta Marathon |
| Monday 24th | Art – Seniors  
Music |
| Tuesday 25th | AAS – Hockey |
| Wednesday 26th | NO PREPS  
Art – Juniors |
| Thursday 27th | Italian  
AAS - Triathlon  
PARENT BBQ 6pm |
| PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS 5th & 6th March |
| SNOW ROAD SPORTS | Wednesday 2nd April |

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to whoever is celebrating their birthday this week!

WELCOME BACK BBQ

As a welcome back to families of old and new we are having our annual family barbecue that will include a few Bluearth Games this year. This year it is planned for 27th February, at 5.30 pm and generally runs until the sun goes down, so don’t stress if 5:30pm is too early. This is a Thursday and we would love to see you all there. Meat and bread will be supplied by the Parent & Friends Association and it would be appreciated if all families A-L could bring a dessert to share and M-Z a salad. We hope to see you all there.

PARENT HELPFERS FOR READERS AND PREP ASSESSMENTS

Mrs Batey is looking for parent helpers to help change readers each morning during the week. Please call in and see her if you can help.

As part of your child’s transition to school we carry out a number of assessments. One of these assessments is the English Online Interview.

The English Online Interview is a powerful online tool for assessing the English skills of students in Years Prep to 2. The Interview assesses students across the three key areas of – Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening.

The English Online Interview is a one-to-one interview between a teacher and student. Teachers record each student’s responses and this data is used to generate reports that provide a point-in-time overview of students current level of understanding.

On the 12th February we are going to release Julie to conduct these interviews with the prep students and have allocated times for you to bring your child in so that this can take place.

Please let us know if the allocated time does not suit. There is a separate letter attached to this newsletter.
PRINCIPALS REPORT

2014 Year 6 Group

Last week we placed a photo of the new preps into the newsletter, so I thought that it would only be fitting if I added a photo of our year 6 students and leaders this week. I refer to all of these students as leaders in the school as they have the ability to influence everyone in the school community in a positive way. I look forward to watching them grow into this role as the year progresses. Your final year of Primary School is a wonderful year and this is especially the case at Oxley with the wonderful Mr Shaw as your year 5 and 6 teacher.

Thank You

One of the best things about being Principal at Oxley Primary School is the community spirit that we have within our school. Many parents help out in many different ways from unblocking drains to listening to students read.

Over the break there are a number of people that I would like to thank for making sure our return to school was a smooth one. So thank you to;

- Pam Bertalli for watering the grass out the front of the school and planting grass runners to improve the appearance of the entrance of our school.
- Mark and Alyssa Tully for servicing all of the air conditioners,
- Franco for his role in smoothing out the large mound of dirt out the back of the school and filling in the holes in the drive way,
- Bruce Ubergang and Mick Nolan for their role in coordinating the finishing of the lining of the Community Centre out the back of the school,
- Cam Miller for organising and delivering all the MDF sheets to go up in the Community Centre,
- Mark Costello, Matt Fraser and Brad Currie for helping out last Saturday in completing the lining of the Community Centre,
- Melissa Costello for supplying morning tea last week for all of the workers,
- The Roller Derby girls for giving the shed a huge clean on Saturday,
- Russell Coleville our builder from RMC Constructions who volunteered his time to help manage and instruction the project when completing the lining of the Community Centre.

Sports Meeting

Last night we had a meeting with Everton, Springhurst and Carraragarmungee Primary Schools as they have put the proposal forward for them to join our Snow Road Cluster sports. Everyone agreed that it would only strengthen the relationship that we have with these schools and as of this year our sports will now include; Oxley, Milawa, Whorouly, Everton, Springhurst and Carraragarmungee Primary Schools.

We are running a competition of what to call our new looked sports day. We have the Snow Road Sports District coming together with the Everton District. Be creative and think of a name for the new district and your name may be chosen to go on top of the new shield.

Shared Values

Four years ago I read a book titled ‘Any Given Team’ which was written by Ray McLean. I chose to read this book because it focussed
on the key elements in creating successful organisations as well as the fact that Ray had worked extensively with the Geelong Football Club. There were a number of take home points for me from this book, however the main one was that every successful organisation has a key set of values that they stand by and implement on a daily basis. This is no different for a school and we are extremely lucky at Oxley that our families and students already have many of these values embedded into their lives.

The shared expectations of the school and community are designed to promote the following values in and out of the school:

**Respect:**
Showing respect at Oxley Primary School is when:
*We actively listen with our eyes and ears and follow instructions,
*We use our manners and are fair to others,
*We have a positive attitude and always try to do our best.

**Care:**
Caring at Oxley Primary School is when:
*People treat you the way you would like to be treated,
*You look after the schools and other people’s property,
*We look after the environment.

**Honesty:**
Honesty at Oxley Primary School is when:
*You do something wrong, you own up to it and it makes you feel relieved,
*You self-umpire in games,
*You are true to yourself and don’t try to be someone else.

**Responsibility:**
Being responsible at Oxley Primary School is when:
*You complete the tasks you have been asked to do,
*You are reliable and trustworthy to be counted on,
*You take control of your own actions / the way you act.

**Excellence:**
Excellence at Oxley Primary School is when:
*You put in lots of effort into everything you do,
*You keep the school clean and tidy,

Our behaviour is always of the highest standard.
We act from what we think not from our emotions.
We therefore expect everyone that enters the school to uphold these values written by the students and the teachers.

Our school uniform is also an important aspect of our shared expectations and we ask all parents to make sure that they send their child to school in the correct uniform. I believe that it is a great advertisement for the school, (whether we are on an excursion or I’m showing prospective parents around the school), to see all students in the correct uniform. Uniforms can be ordered from the school and these order forms can be picked up at the office.

**Timetables**

**Italian** classes started back today and it was great to have Lisa again for this year. Lisa Gardner’s timetable on a Thursday is as follows; year 2 and year 3/4 from 9:30 – 11:00 am, year Prep and 1 from 11:30 – 1:00 pm, year 5 and 6 from 2:00 – 3:30 pm. Other specialist programs that are running include;

**Library / Science** runs every fortnight on a Monday for the entire school, please remember to remind your child to bring their library books back. Library for all of the classes is this week and will therefore be on the weeks starting on the 3/02, 17/02, 3/03, 17/03 and 31/03.

**Music** runs every Tuesday.

**Blue Earth** runs every fortnight on a Tuesday and will be starting next week on the 4/02.
Art runs every fortnight on a Monday for the year 3 – 6’s and a Wednesday for the prep – 2’s starting next week. This will mean that they will all have art on the weeks starting on 10/02, 24/02 and 24/03.

Could you please make sure that your child has an art smock. Art smocks can be purchased from stores like Target but also dad’s old shirt would do fine! Please hand these smocks into the class teachers with your child’s name on them.

**Tips to help your child at home with school**

It has been great to see how all the students have settled into the 2014 school year and the confidence of our new preps growing each day. This is a big step in their lives as each day they are learning a variety of new concepts, playing and interacting with new people and getting used to a whole new environment – and for some students it will take time to settle in.

Some things you can do to help your child adjust to school:

- Ensure they have a healthy breakfast – this is important for energy to get through the day.
- Aim to get out of the house on time in a calm, relaxed manner to set up a positive tone for their day. To help you achieve this, try giving your child some simple tasks like putting the cereal or fruit for breakfast on the table or collecting their hat and drink bottle and putting them into their school bag. Don’t worry if they are slow or make mistakes with these tasks at first. They will get the hang of it, and it’ll be one less thing you’ll have to do.
- Make time to chat to your child about what they did at school that day. This will give you a good idea of what they enjoy doing and how they are getting on in their new environment. Remember, your child’s emotional reaction to going to school may vary a lot, especially during the first few weeks.
- Develop a bedtime routine so your child can wind down at the end of the day and get a good night’s sleep.
- Try not to put too many expectations on yourself or your child; if they are happy and enjoying school, that’s a real achievement.
- Share your child’s reader with them each night and encourage them to use pictures to help read the text.

You know your child best. If you have any questions about how they are settling in at school, contact your child’s teacher so you can talk things through together.

**Parents and Friends Association (formally known as the Fundraising Group)**

Our first Parents and Friends Association meeting for the year will be held **tonight** in the staffroom straight after school and light refreshments will be supplied. This group plays a major role in organising social events for the entire school as well as organising important funds that go towards supporting all of the students. I encourage all our members from last year to come back as well as encouraging all our new families to come along as it is a great way to meet other parents at the school. Pam Bertalli will be running these meetings.

**Prep Students**

Preps will be attending school Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with **Wednesdays off** until after the long weekend. This means that they will start attending Wednesdays at school from the 12th March onwards.

**School Council**

Next Thursday night we have our first School Council meeting of last year’s committee. This year we have a total of 4 parent members who are up for re-election (Kate Byvoet-Mullins, Helen Taylor, Pam Bertalli and Warwick Philpott with one member stepping down, Sue Broughton) and 1 DEECD member for re-election (Anthony Lawler). This means that we have 1 vacant position on our School Council available to the community. Please come and see me if you are interested in joining our School Council.

Qualities that we look for in our school council members are;

- All school councilors need to respect other members’ opinions AND support and uphold all council decisions
- Parent members bring expertise and views to council on behalf of the whole school community
DEECD members bring educational expertise and views to council on behalf of the whole school community. It is important that if you take up a position on the school council you commit to making all of the meetings.

Our timetable to elect a new School Council for 2014 will be:

**Monday 10th February** – Notice of election and a call for new nominations

**Wednesday 20th February** – Closing date for nominations

If we require a vote:

**Monday 24th February** – Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed

**Friday 7th March** - Close of ballet

**Thursday 20th March** – New School Council meeting and AGM.

Jeremy Campbell – Principal

Oxley Primary School is committed to Nurturing confident, lifelong learners, in a friendly rural community.

**Parent Fees**

Parent fees for 2014 are now due. They are $175 per child, per year. This money goes towards books, pencils, cluster days, arts performances, end of year activities, etc. We are happy to except this money in stages throughout the year and would be happy to speak with any families in regards to setting up a payment plan i.e. $40 per term, $10 per week via internet banking. We are also requesting $25 per family for employment of a gardener. This is to eliminate the need for families to go on a mowing roster. There will be major excursions; camps and swimming that are a separate cost during the year. All payments can be made with cash, cheque or Direct deposit. Our banking details are:

Oxley Primary School
BSB: 063-531  Act: 10089185

Please note if paying by direct deposit please include family name and description of what payment is for in details.

**Emergency Contact Update**

Emergency Details information will be sent home next week. This is extremely important documentation that needs to be kept up to date. It would be appreciated if any adjustments are made and paperwork returned to Jaye. We also require updated Asthma Management Plans and Anaphylaxis forms for 2014 if you require these please see Jaye.

**EMA**

Attached to this newsletter are EMA forms. Education Maintenance Allowance is available to all parents that have an eligible Health Care Card that is valid. Please complete the attached form if you are eligible and bring in your health care card to have a copy taken before 20th Feb for processing.

**Working With Children**

All parents that are involved in reading, school camps, bike hikes, etc. within the school are required to have an up to date working with children check. Forms can be collected from the post office. This is free of charge as you are a volunteer of the school.

**Bookclub**

Bookclub for February is attached to today’s newsletter. If you would like to order please complete the form and enclose it in an envelope with your child’s name, year level, money and order form. They are due back by the 12th February.

**Active After School**

Active After School is a program run by the Department of Education and Australia Sport and is free to all primary aged students. It is designed to get kids off the couch and outside after school to develop fit and healthy youth. Our program starts next week. This term we are lucky enough to have Glen Clarke running a triathlon sessions and Kristie Vearing running a hockey session.

Hockey training will run on Tuesday from next week the 11th February, between 3.45 pm and 4.45 pm.

Triathlon will run on a Thursday from next week the 13th February, between 3.45 pm and 4.45 pm.

Permission forms will need to be completed and can be collected from the office.
LYNNE OUR CLEANER
A huge thank you to Lynne Gleeson our cleaner for the wonderful job she has done throughout 2013 and over the school holiday break. It is lovely to walk into a fresh and clean learning environment on a day to day basis. Your hard work is much appreciated.

TISSUES
Thank you to all the parents that donated tissues to their children’s classroom last year. We are asking all parents to send a full box of tissues with your child next week. Boxes will be distributed to classrooms as required. Thank you.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE (OOSH)
Welcome back to a new year of After School Care at Kid Bizz. Important information for parents: After School Care runs from 3.30 pm to 6.00 pm for parents/guardians that require care for their children after school hours. If you require this service please notify the school prior to end of classes. Bookings are essential and are taken via the phone or in the school office. If you need to cancel your booking, please notify by 3.00 pm or fees will still apply. If a student is not collected by bus time 3.50pm, they will be brought into After School Care and fees will apply.

PIANO LESSONS
Students are reminded that Piano starts back on Tuesday (all day) and Wednesday (afternoons). If you are interested in lessons there is room so please see Heather or call her on 5726 9384. Please remember your books and a smiley face for Heather.

GUITAR LESSONS
Michael Braenuler has vacancies for guitar lessons at OPS on Fridays in 2014. For more information please call 5722 1080 or email mbraendler@bigpond.com

LUNCH ORDERS
Little Duck Catering 4 Kids
Mondays and Fridays – starts next week
The food is nutritious, delicious and there are lots of homemade items to be enjoyed.
This is how it works:
- Orders can be placed online (www.3rdlittleduck.com.au) the night before or students can bring in money and their order in a brown paper bag or envelope on the day.
- There will be a box located on the small white table in the foyer where these orders can be dropped as students arrive at school.
- Orders will be collected on the morning of our allocated days (Mondays & Fridays)
- Lunch orders will be delivered back to school in class tubs.
Attached to this newsletter is an order form. Order forms will also be kept in close to the money box in the foyer.

HELP - NUTS
We are heading in the right direction and appreciate everybody's assistance in reaching our goal of making Oxley Primary NUT FREE or as nut free as we can get! Please continue to cut out any nut products that you send with your child to school – this includes peanut butter. We also ask you to stress the importance that your child doesn’t share their lunch with other students due to the many allegories that we are now aware of in our society. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.