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20 February 2014

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Parent involvement- the secret ingredient to children's school success

Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as holding their school in high regard.

If you want the best outcomes for your child or young person then it's important that you become involved in as many aspects of your child's education as practical.

The involvement of parents helps break down the mystique about school that can exist for some children. Their chances of success are better when they see school as an extension of home rather than merely an institution for learning.

Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as their school. Children copy many of their parents' views so your positive attitude to school and learning is catching.

Parent involvement takes energy

Many primary schools offer parents classroom jobs such as hearing kids read, taking small groups in elective activities and assisting children when writing stories.

Unfortunately, finding parents who are willing to take part in these activities is increasingly difficult. Many parents find themselves worn out from working too hard or being involved in a variety of activities. They find themselves with no energy left to be involved in their child's school.

Make sure kids are school ready every day

Participating as a parent can be much broader than helping out in the classroom. There is a range of simple things you can do at home that will assist teachers to maximise the learning of your child.

These include: talking with your child about their day, hearing young learners read, helping with homework and making sure kids go off to school happy, healthy and having had plenty of sleep.

Here are some more ideas to help you participate in your child's education in positive ways.

- **Find out** what your school is trying to **achieve** for your child and show your support for its aims. Discover what sets your child's school apart from others.

- **Support** a broad, balanced curriculum that offers children a **variety of educational experiences** rather than a program that focuses narrowly on the traditional 3 R's
- **Direct conversations** through the **correct channels** such as your child's teacher, the principal or the school's governing body. Gossip or thoughtless criticism within the general community can easily tarnish a school's reputation.
- Become an **advocate** for your child's school and promote its positive features throughout the wider community. Encourage your child to take **pride** in their school through your example.
- **Attend** school activities such as open days, concerts, sports events and celebrations. **Invite** other members of the community along as well.
- **Consult** with your child's teacher about practical ways that you can assist both at home and at school.

Positive parent participation in school and learning is a proven contributor to student success. One practical way to assist your child as a learner is to become actively involved in his or her school life.

Kind regards
Heather Andrew

FROM THE DEPUTIES' DESK

Changes to Prep and Year 1 Classes

An increase in the expected number of enrolment for this year has meant that we were able to create a new class in the lower school. We now have four Prep classes and four Year 1 classes. The Prep/Year 1 class has been disbanded and Mr T now has a straight Prep class. We would like to welcome to Mrs Pikunic. Mrs Pikunic who will be teaching the newly formed Year 1P class.

We would like to thank the Prep and Year 1 parents for their understanding and support during the changes.

School Uniform

It is great to see our students proudly wearing the Ormeau State School uniform. Thank you very much to our parents for ensuring that our students had the correct school uniform. A reminder that Ormeau State School is a uniform school and this position is affirmed by our Parents' and Citizens' Association.

This year we will be monitoring the wearing of the school hat as per our dress code. (Please note that the school hat must have the Ormeau State School logo on it.) Congratulations to all of our students who have been wearing the correct hat. We

understand that the uniform shop ran out of caps, but believe that new stock has now arrived. School caps (wide-brimmed hats and the Prep bucket hat) may be purchased from the uniform shop or online (www.ormeauss.eq.edu.au); alternatively when the uniform shop is not open you can purchase a school hat from the tuckshop.

Booklist Requirements

It is important that students have the necessary equipment for school, as per year level booklists. When developing the booklists teachers considered very carefully the type of equipment and books that students would need to assist them with their learning. To ensure that your child is prepared for the day can you please make sure that they have all of the equipment and books listed on their year level booklist. Please note that due to copyright laws teachers cannot photocopy any pages from the activity books/textbooks that may be listed on the booklist. Thank you for your support and understanding in this area.

Arriving at School before 8:30am

All students who arrive to school prior to 8:30am must wait in the tuckshop undercover area. As part of our safety requirements prior to 8:30am, students are not permitted to play on the playground, play around the school buildings or go to the classrooms (including port/bag racks). To assist students in learning this routine we are asking parents who come to school and wish to wait with their child (prior to 8:30am) also wait in the tuckshop undercover area. After 8:30am you are more than welcome to wait with your child outside your child's classroom.

Reminder – No Playing on Play Ground Equipment after School

There is no supervision of playground equipment by school staff after school, so for the safety of all, no children (school and non-school) should be playing on any school playground equipment. As there are many people in the school grounds and trying to leave at the same time, students should also not be playing games or throwing balls around after school. Could you please remind your children that they should not be playing after school, but rather going directly to where they need to be, and waiting with you, or for you?

Kind regards and happy reading

Your Deputies Jane Tuckett and Stephen Rowe

PREP NEWS

Hello Parents and Caregivers,

The students have been coping well with their new transition into primary school. All students are getting more familiar with school and classroom routines and are enjoying each other's company. Our main focus is building a foundation of Literacy and Numeracy skills, but we still include aspects of play to ensure the student's get a well-rounded, fun learning environment.

The students have enjoyed working with the parent helpers who have kindly donated their time. If you can spare half an hour or more, please come and see us, as the students benefit

greatly from small group learning and working one-on-one with an adult.

Reminders:

- Please put an extra set of clothes in your child's bag in case they have a mishap.
- We encourage children to eat healthy food first then we allow them to eat their treats.
- Tuckshop is now available for Prep students.
- If your child does not have a library bag we have them for sale for \$10.
- Donations of hand soap would be greatly appreciated.
- Children are not allowed to play on the play equipment before 8:30am and after school

Kind regards from the Prep teachers

Mitch Campbell, Jan Laws, Katie Phillips and Jonathan Thorburn

2F, 2G, 2I, 2J AND 2LT

We have been very busy bees in year 2! It has been a fantastic beginning to the year with most of the students having all of their equipment and uniform items. For the first half of this term we are looking at character recounts in English, measurement, counting, partitioning of numbers and identifying days, months and seasons of the year in Maths.

Swimming commences in week 5 so please ensure you have paid and returned the permission note to your child's teacher.

It is important to remember "Mental Munchies" each day as we have a long two hour session in the mornings now and it helps stretch the hungry students out until Morning Tea. Drink bottles (filled with water) also need to be brought in on a daily basis.

Banking has started so please remind students to bring in their banking every Monday.

Shandell Gammon, Bec Johnston, Jonathon Frazer, Shandy Iurato, Cynthia Thorpe and Andrea Lephed

4B, 4K, 4H AND 4T

Dear Parents/Grandparents and Carers,

Welcome back to what promises to be a busy year in Year 4. The students have all settled down to class and school routines, and have been trying very hard.

Please ensure that your child has all of the resources they need each day for school as it can become very stressful for them if they have to constantly ask to borrow things. I know some of the parents have kept half of the books at home however, some books roll over for the semester and some students are still missing a few for some subjects.

The students have been looking at our Ormeau Values and rules and how they affect them in the first two weeks of school and then we will move into our Health Unit this week.

For English this semester we are looking at Narrative writing and the students are required to produce a new chapter to a known text. The text is 'The Twits' by Roald Dahl and the students are very excited to have this text as their focus.

Ormeau has implemented the new Syllabus for Geography this semester and the students have been enjoying looking at the Continents and practising their mapping skills.

Please ensure the students have covers for drink bottles that they are bringing into the classroom, so the condensation doesn't ruin work as this often distresses the students and the teachers.

Ormeau hats are also a must especially with the extremely high UV rays in Queensland. Even if it is cloudy we can still get sun damage and as the 'No hat no play', policy still stands it is imperative the students are reminded to bring their Ormeau school hats. These can be now purchased over the counter at the tuckshop. If you could please ensure that the students have sun block protection on in the morning, then if need be, they can then reapply if we are going out after morning tea.

Smart Moves is still being implemented at Ormeau State School where the students engage in 15-30 minutes of physical activity every day. The students will be engaged in activities from running and simple exercises to boot camp and dancing.

Healthy eating – Please ensure your child has enough food for both morning tea and lunch with a little extra fruit for mental munchies. Your child's lunch box should have healthy foods only. No lollies please. It is better to leave the chips for an after school snack so children are not filling up on junk and throwing their sandwiches away.

Homework will go home Monday of each week and needs to be returned on the Friday. Students should be reading for a minimum of 15 minutes per night. This is a requirement of their homework and an essential part of their learning. Our behaviour cards are included in our homework so please ensure to check and discuss this with your child each week and accompany it with a signature.

Homework will be online on the Year 4 EdStudio website and is up and running. The students have been practising logging on in Lab time and are getting better with practise.

Meet the parent night went well with a good turn-out. If you couldn't make it and wish to speak to your child's teacher you can make an appointment that suits with the teacher or alternatively ring the office to make an appointment.

Thank you for making the transition to Year 4 easy for your children and we look forward to working with you during the year ahead.

Regards

Katie Brown, Cassandra Tones, Suzzi Bray and Michael Howlett

5/6N, 6B, 6G AND 6S

Wow, what a busy start to the year we have had. Our feet have hardly had the chance to hit the ground and we are already half way through our first term. We would like to compliment the students on their impressive start to 2014. They have impressed us no-end with their dedication to wearing their uniform correctly, their behaviour, their manners and their organisation. As a team, we are extremely excited as we anticipate an exceptional year for 2014.

Leadership process – Winding up the process in less than a week, we will have finalised our leadership team. The students have undergone an extensive leadership process where points have been allocated across a range of areas. Once school and house captains have been decided, the process will turn to other leadership positions, such as, peer mediators, student councillors and bus captains. Congratulations must go out to all those who were nominated for either school or house captains as all nominees buckled down to show off the leadership skills during the campaign trail.

Senior Shirts - Our seniors will look dashing in their senior shirts, quotes are in and soon they will be measured up for their shirt. Please discuss with your child how many you would like to order. There will be an expectation that there will be a \$5 deposit per shirt. Shirts will hopefully arrive for the start of Term 2. Stay tuned for a letter, in the near future, that will go into further details.

Absenteeism - As the students are in the final year in their primary schooling, we are asking the students to be a little more diligent in reducing the number of days that are being taken off – all students do fall ill, but we encourage healthy eating and monitored sleep time to assist in creating a healthy mind. Students need to ensure that when missing a day of school it is their responsibility to make every attempt to seek out what work has been missed and they need to catch up during their own time. Students will benefit from finding this new found initiative and ingenuity very resourceful when they enter into high schooling. This also includes catching up with homework that has been missed.

Camp – What an amazing way to start our year, camp provides us as teachers an insight into our students. We are blessed to begin in such a fashion. True character is often revealed in times of stress or panic as they stand 4 metres off the group on a small plank of wood or covered in mud after crawling through a stinky mud challenge. It was rewarding to hear many chirp, "This is the best camp ever." If any belongings failed to make it home, Mrs Johnston kindly took home the dirty washing and has returned it smelling a lot fresher and can be collected outside the Year 6 block.



Regards

Nikki Swain, Suzanne Bailey, Shane Grubb, and Kimberley Strachan

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT NEWS

Dear Parents and Carers,

Research shows that children do better in school when parents talk often with teachers and become involved in the school. There are number of ways that parents and teachers can communicate with each other, rather than relying on the

scheduled parent-teacher conferences. Close communications between parents and teachers can help your child.

Parents who participate in school activities and events will have added opportunities to communicate with teachers.

Teachers usually welcome meeting their students' parents early in the school year. Making an effort to do this will help the teacher better understand you, your child, and how you will support their education. Teachers appreciate knowing that parents are concerned and interested in their child's progress. This can also help open the lines of communication.

Another good investment in your child's education is to volunteer. Depending upon parent's availability, interests, and the needs of the school, the opportunities are endless. Some suggestions include: helping out in the tuckshop, tutoring or assisting in the classroom, speaking on a specific topic of interest, and as a volunteer for school events such as sports days and excursions.

Phone calls and visits to the classroom are also good ways to cooperate with teachers and keep informed about your child's progress. Discuss appropriate times and means of contact with the teacher. I hope many of you took the opportunity to attend parent-teacher conferences last week. For parents and teachers, this was a chance to meet. If you would like the opportunity to meet one-on-one about your child please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher to organise an appropriate time. Parent-teacher conferences are a good opportunity to launch a partnership between parent and teacher that will function during the school year.

Studies have indicated that children whose parents and/or other significant adults share in their formal education tend to do better in school. Some benefits that have been identified that measure parental involvement in education include -

- Positive attitudes and behaviour
- Higher grades and test scores
- Long term academic achievement
- More successful programs
- More effective schools

As parents we all want our children to become successful, caring adults. Similarly, many parents want to be involved with the formal education of their children. Sometimes, however, they don't know where to start, when to find the time, or how to go about making positive connections with the school. At the most basic level, parents can begin encouraging the education of their children by showing that they truly value education themselves.

Kind regards & don't be a stranger,

Carol Moores
Behaviour Support Teacher

GERMAN NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS once again to the students who participated in the German excursion of Kinderkarneval at the Brisbane German Club last Sunday.

Thank you to Mr Howlett and Mrs McLeod for joining us for a day of energetic chaos. The students participated in many challenges and games and won lots of prizes.

Well done to the students who came in Fancy Dress costumes – it greatly added to the atmosphere.

Ich bin stolz auf Euch! – I am proud of you all!



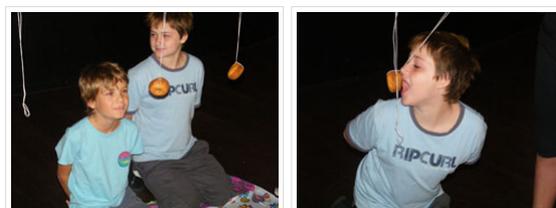
The officials! Our dressy crew! They won!



Dance til we drop!



The challenges!



No hands!!

Frau Hay

HEAD OF CURRICULUM NEWS

Australian Curriculum

This year, you would be aware, the Australian Curriculum: Geography has been introduced across the school from Prep to Year 7. Each year level will complete 2 units of study.

Each year level has key inquiry questions which will be explored and developed over the year. Each year level will complete 2 units of study.

Prep:

- What are places like?
- What makes a place special?
- How can we look after the places we live in?

Year 1:

- What are the different features of places?
- How can we care for places?
- How can spaces within a place be rearranged to suit different purposes?

Year 2:

- What are the different features of places?
- How can we care for places?
- How can spaces within a place be rearranged to suit different purposes?

Year 3:

- How and why are places similar and different?
- What would it be like to live in a neighbouring country?
- How do people's feelings about places influence their views about the protection of places?

Year 4:

- How does the environment support the lives of people and other living things?
- How do different views about the environment influence approaches to sustainability?
- How can people use places and environments more sustainably?

Year 5:

- How do people and environments influence one another?
- How do people influence the human characteristics of places and the management of spaces within them?
- How can the impact of bushfires or floods on people and places be reduced?

Year 6:

- How do places, people and cultures differ across the world?
- What are Australia's global connections between people and places?
- How do people's connections to places affect their perception of them?

Year 7:

- How do people's reliance on places and environments influence their perception of them?
- What effect does the uneven distribution of resources and services have on the lives of people?
- What approaches can be used to improve the availability of resources and access to services?

From 2015, familiarisation and/or implementation will begin with the following learning areas:

- Health and Physical Education
- Civics and Citizenship (from Year 3)
- Economics and Business (from Year 5)
- Languages
- The Arts
- Technologies

By 2017 all learning areas will have been implemented.

If you have any queries about any aspect of curriculum, please contact me. jmcco40@eq.edu.au

Kind regards
Julie McCombe

MUSIC NEWS

Welcome back to 2014. I hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable break.

This year, a fresh face joins the Instrumental music program for 2014. Mrs Claire Van Vuuren is our new multi-instrumental teacher for both Beginner and Senior band students. Our instrumental days this year are Wednesday for our Strings Program and Thursday for any Brass, Woodwind and Percussion students.

Senior choir has also commenced with a bit of a difference. This term, I am trailing student's grade three to seven in Ormeau's Senior Choir and a Junior choir of year one and two students. Rehearsals for the Seniors are Tuesday lunchtime and Juniors Choir (beginning later this Term) will be held on Thursday during the lunch hour.

Please feel free to pop in if you have any queries in regards to our instrumental program or choral program at Ormeau State School. The Instrumental and Classroom Music block are located at the back of the school in Teaching Block 9.

Yours in Music
Naomi Kircher

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS

Hello again. SEP is now in full swing. Our students are settling in to their new classes. SEP teachers should have now contacted all parents. If you have not yet received any communication from Your SEP teacher, feel free to contact me and I will follow up, on your behalf.

A number of our students attended the Year 6/7 leadership camp on the Sunshine Coast from Wednesday to Friday of last week. From all accounts, everyone had a great experience. Thanks to Mark Sycz and Danielle Murray for their assistance on camp, and to Sarah Lopes for "holding the fort" whilst we were away...

On a different note, Jodi Post has asked if any parents have any small old garden pots and /or 4lt ice cream containers, with, or without lids to donate that would be great. Please send them down to the SEP.

Special Award

On Tuesday 18th February, 2014 a very special award was presented to one of our students. Jarrod Webb was awarded the title of Garden Manager for Ormeau State School. This is the first time this award has been presented. The award was presented to Jarrod in recognition of his efforts and support with the garden facilities of the special education program at the school. Jarrod regularly assists Mrs Post, and other students working in the garden. Jarrod has always done so in a polite and cheerful manner. Well done Jarrod. Well deserved. Mr Giles and Mrs Post had great pleasure in presenting Jarrod with his award at assembly.



**Until next time,
Peter Giles**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

Congratulations to Nicolas (7C) for his selection in the Beenleigh District cricket team. And well done to our swimmers who competed at the district swimming trials last week - Holly (7W), Emma (4T), Zane (5C), Ben (6S) and Heath (5S).

Trials are now underway to select teams to compete in the Gala Days commencing 14 March.

Runaway Bay Fun Run Series

A fun run series featuring events for all ages and over a variety of distances will be held at the Runaway Bay Super Centre over the next few months. Details and entry forms at <https://www.corporatechallenge.com.au/fun-runs/sports-super-centre-series>

UNIFORM NEWS

The Uniform shop is open from 8:00am to 10:00am on Mondays and Wednesdays. You are also able to order every day through **flexischools** for delivery the following day to your child's class (cut off each day is 3:00pm).

NEW: We now sell school caps over the counter in the Tuckshop.

P AND C NEWS

**Parents and Citizens Association Annual General Meeting?
3 MARCH 2014**

The P&C will hold its Annual General Meeting on Monday 3 March 2014, at 7pm in the school office. All positions are declared vacant and elected or re-elected. The positions are listed below, together with a brief description of activities.

Please return nomination forms to the School Office for these elections. Nominations will be accepted at the office until Friday 28 February 3pm, and at the AGM.

Nominations are called for the following committee positions

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer
Events Coordinator

Regards

Erica Koskela

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gold Coast Softball

Gold Coast Softball Association is having their 2014 season sign on days, 15th & 22nd February, 2014

See flyer for more information

First Swing Golf

After school and weekend programs available at Windaroo Lakes Golf Club and Coomera Anglican College

See flyers for more information

JUNIOR NRL

Your local Junior Rugby League Club the **Ormeau Shearers** are looking for boys and girls aged 5 – 17 to come and play this year. Junior Rugby League is a FUN and SAFE way to play the game with modified rules to make the game more enjoyable and the Safeplay Code to ensure everyone's safety on the field. The Ormeau Shearers are particularly looking for players in the U/12 age group. If you are interested please contact the Club President John Coulter – 0413 309 905

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder in Children and Adolescents

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

Does your child worry excessively about certain things? Does your child engage in senseless and time consuming habits, routines or rituals? Does your child constantly seek reassurance from you? Your child may be experiencing Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and Griffith University can help.

A research team at Griffith University is offering an OCD assessment and treatment service for children and teenagers aged 7 to 18 years. After an initial assessment, eligible children will take part in the OCD BUSTERS Program. This program, held at Griffith University aims to reduce levels of OCD symptoms in children and youth. For further information call – (07) 55528317 or email the OCD Busters Team on ocdbustersgc@griffith.edu.au

Village Family Support

Village Family Support Program is running '1-2-3 Magic and Emotion Coaching' parent course. The courses cover strategies and increases confidence of parents in managing children's challenging behaviour, while teaching children to better manage their emotions and frustrations. Attached is the flyer with details of the program commencing Friday or Saturday mornings or Wednesday evenings during Feb/March, contact Nikki at Studio Village Community Centre, located off Exit 62 for more information or to discuss your needs. Nikki, as Family Support Worker also offers individual support for those who need someone to talk to for information, advice or referral, including 1-1 parent courses, call between 9am and 3pm Monday to Friday for an appointment

Below is the link to the flyer on our website, for your information.

<http://www.studiovillage.com.au/>

[CMS/?Family_Support:Current_Programs](http://www.studiovillage.com.au/CMS/?Family_Support:Current_Programs)

Communities for Children Northern Gold Coast

Free programs for parents: Term 1, 2014

See flyer for more information

Hinterland Tennis Club

World Tennis Day

When: Sunday 2 March

Where: Price Street Nerang

Time: 8am-12 noon

Free coaching for juniors and adults. Free court hire and cardio tennis.

Free Day with BBQ and ball matches

For more information call John 0411 154 353