Welcome back to the start of the 2014 school year. We have had an outstanding start with enrolment numbers reaching predictions, but lower than last year. New enrolments, however, have been constant. Students have settled in well with big smiles and routines being well established. The teachers are well prepared and teacher aides and administration staff have made our starting arrangements both smooth and efficient and parents, well done, also. The children are well presented in school uniform and it is pleasing to see many of you ensuring the partnership between teachers, parents and students is a strong one. Please remember … your presence is always welcome at Ormeau State School.

Classes are final now and late changes will not be permitted.

I’m ever mindful that our school is a primary school. It’s the first venture into the big world away from parental, loving care and our teachers are very aware of this. I ask our teachers to pause for a moment and endeavour to see the school, the classroom and the teacher as a child sees them. I assure you that there’s no place in a primary school for a teacher who doesn’t love ALL kids, particularly those who are battling a bit. So, please, if you need help, approach the teacher, after school for a ‘cards on the table’ session. Your input is invaluable.

Would you allow me on a personal note to congratulate the parent body on another front? I’ve seen good parent communities over other areas in our state but none surpass Ormeau. Be proud! Visitors constantly make comment to me praising the school in its landscaped setting and the charming, immaculately dressed and well behaved children… even the hats!

Mr Rowe, Mrs Tuckett and the ladies in the front office join me in saying …
MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT - MONDAY
FEBRUARY 10, 2014

When: Monday 10 February
Where: In your child’s classroom or as indicated below
5:00pm Year 4B, 4H, 4K, 4T
      Year 5C, 5F, 5O, 5S
5:30pm Year 2F, 2G, 2I, 2J, 2LT
      Year 1B, 1C, 1G, Prep/1T
6.00pm Prep 1, Prep 2, Prep 3,
      Year 3C, 3FM, 3J, 3L, 3M
6.30pm Year 6B, 6G, 6S, 5/6N
      Year 7C, 7W

On the night, there will be NO supervision available for children

10 ways to help your children succeed

1. Talk with your children - talk early and often, provide them with the information, feedback, a sympathetic ear, good advice based on family values, support rather than criticism. They will come to you throughout their lives for guidance if their early experiences are positive.

2. Set high but realistic expectations. No-one knows better than you your children’s true abilities. Note their strengths and talents and gently encourage them. Identify where they need assistance and find help for them. Assist them in setting realistic self-expectations.

3. Build your children’s sense of worth. As children grow and make choices they will make mistakes. Knowing they have your unconditional love and support whatever happens will help them pick themselves up and start again when things do go wrong.

4. Keep your children healthy. Children who do well at school come to class rested, well-fed and emotionally prepared. Children who are well-nourished in every respect have the foundation for success.

5. Support learning at home. Involvement in your child learning starts at home. Create the conditions for good learning - books, computer, quiet study area, library membership, time set aside for homework, interest in progress reports.


7. Encourage a spirit of inquiry. Show your children what a wonderful place the world is. Visit parks, museums, art galleries. There’s plenty of free entertainment and exploration available. Curiosity about the world around them is the first step to children’s thirst for knowledge.

8. Build friendships. Children want to fit in and feel they belong. Welcome their friends to your home. Show your children how to be good friends. Teach them the difference between true friendship and popularity.

9. Keep your children safe. Identify risks and hazards and show your children how to avoid them. Children develop a sense of security when they are taught what to do if they are in danger.

10. Speak well of teachers and school. Children learn their attitudes from you and will like and respect their teachers’ if they see you do the same.

Getting involved in school - some ideas

Meet the teacher - visit the school - go to parent teacher interviews - read the school website - get to know the principal - read the school rules and policies - volunteer your time and talents - attend school events - have fun

Kind regards
Heather Andrew

FROM THE DEPUTIES’ DESK

Prepared for Learning

2014 is underway with the return of most students last week. It is very important time of the year for all students to be here to develop new friendships and develop good work habits for a new year. Last year we sent out a letter that highlighted issues around attendance rates and the impact on learning. This table was included in the letter:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alert Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAR Performer</td>
<td>Your child’s attendance is above 97%. They are likely to be a STAR Performer due to their excellent attendance. They will have the opportunity to achieve to the best of their ability and will have the chance to benefit from the best educational opportunities possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green for Go Level</td>
<td>Your child’s attendance is between 90-95%. They are at the Green for Go Level for very good attendance and are likely to achieve to the best of their ability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amber – Take Care Level</td>
<td>Your child’s attendance is between 90-95%. They are at the Amber – Take Care Level and are missing so much time from school that it will be very difficult for them to keep in touch with lessons or work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Light – Be Alert Level</td>
<td>Your child’s attendance is between 80-90%. They are at a Red Light – Be Alert Level. They are missing so much time from school that it will be very difficult to keep in touch with lessons or work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Risk</td>
<td>Your child’s attendance is below 80%. Your child’s attendance is At Risk. They are missing so much time from school that it will be almost impossible for them to keep in touch with lessons or work.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some other facts about attendance:

- Primary schools: year 1 students who attended less than 85% of the time were more likely to repeat this attendance pattern at year 2 and year 3 and more likely to perform poorly on their year 3 NAPLAN test.
- The recommended attendance range is between 95 and 100% attendance rate. Over a 12 year period a student who attends 92% of the time will have lost almost 1 year of school contact.

Along with attendance … being prepared for school is essential. It is important that students return to school with all the equipment from the booklist. Teachers and classrooms do not have spare equipment for these students and it can be very difficult for both the student and the Teacher to set up good working routines without the right equipment.

**Bus passes**

All bus passes sent to the school have been handed out. If your child has not received a bus pass it is important that you ring the bus company to organise this pass. It has come to our attention that a number of children returning to Ormeau have not renewed their bus passes.

**Uniform**

A uniform order form can be found on our website at: https://ormeauss.eq.edu.au/Facilities/Uniformshop/Pages/Uniformshop.aspx

It is important that students have the correct uniform and we have begun to look at student uniforms during parades and class visits. Two issues that come about every year are hats and shoes. Ormeau State School students require an Ormeau State School hat or they will need to go to the office to get a spare. There are limited spares and once these have been handed out all other students will have to sit out of the sun. Secondly, Ormeau State School students are required to wear white shoes with white laces or black shoes with black laces. Definitely not variations of this pattern or different coloured shoes. Can you please ensure that your child has the correct uniform as soon as possible?

**Regards and happy reading**

*Your Deputies Jane Tuckett and Stephen Rowe.*

**1B, 1C, 1G AND Prep/1T**

A warm welcome back to the parents and carers of year 1 children to Ormeau State School. For the families new to our school, we look forward to you being part of our Ormeau State School community. The past week has allowed us to meet and get to know your wonderful children; their enthusiasm, positive attitudes and delightful personalities remind us why we love being teachers. The children are settling in extremely well while routines and timetables are being established.

Mental munchies will continue this year so please send cut up fruit or vegetables and water with your child each day. Our morning session is our longest session of the day therefore we break at 10am to have some fruit and veggies to keep our brains active.

A reminder that by now all Year One students should have the Ormeau State School hat. The prep hat or any other non-school hat is not allowed and this will result in your child being unable to play outside. Please ensure your child’s hat is clearly labelled as well.

Homework will be handed out from Friday week 2 onwards. This will include sight word work, spelling activities and homework. The homework folders are due back each Friday so that your child may have testing and their homework marked. Please assist us in ensuring they bring their homework folder back each Friday morning.

Term One begins with an intensive round of assessments in both literacy and numeracy. This testing will provide information to the teachers about the needs of each student and class. We look forward to a wonderful term, full of hard work and fun!

*Kind regards,*

*Natalie Casala, Berni Chisholm & Fiona Galletly*

**3C, 3FM, 3J, 3L AND 3M**

**Greetings from Year 3**

Welcome to Year 3 for 2014. Students have settled and adjusted well to Year 3 life. This term is a very busy term for all involved. Students have enjoyed studying the new National Curriculum subject - Geography. This unit of work involves students exploring similarities and differences in places near and far. Skills involved include mapping, interpreting and analysing data regarding climatic conditions within Australia and neighbouring countries.

With NAPLAN (National test in May) slowly approaching students have started to explore persuasive and narrative text types. In conjunction with preparing students for persuasive writing, the Technology unit involves students designing their own cereal package. Students will have to advertise and persuade the target audience as to why people should purchase their product. This is a fun and exciting unit of work where students get to become creative and market their own product.

Swimming lessons commence on Monday February 24 at Gulliver’s Swim School; -Upper Coomera. The swimming program runs for the whole week. Please note this is different to previous years. Students will have one lesson everyday starting on Monday and finishing on the Friday. A reminder that students do not come to school in their swimmers, school uniform is to be worn to school. Payments are to be made at the office and permission notes handed to the class teacher.

**Mental Munchies**

With the new bell times for this year and the morning session now a two hour session classes will have Mental Munchies at approximately 10am. The Mental Munchies program is designed to help children with their concentration by eating a healthy snack and through this we are promoting healthy eating habits. The children are asked to bring either fruit, dried fruit or vegetables cut up in a small container (if possible). Muesli bars, fruit sticks, roll ups and other packaged foods will not be allowed as they contain high levels of sugar, fat and artificial colourings.
Finally, just some housekeeping regarding homework and weekly behaviour cards. Please check that your child is showing their weekly behaviour card to you as this is an indication relating to the behaviour that has been displayed by your child for that particular week. Also, please check that your child is completing their homework each night ready to hand in every Friday.

If you have any concerns or queries, please contact your child’s classroom teacher.

Kind Regards,

Year 3 Teachers
Casey Cameron, Olivia Furner, Natasha Mudri, Jamie Miller, Laura McGhee and Louise McMillan

5C, 5F, 5Q, 5S AND 5/6N

Welcome back to all our returning Ormeau families and a special welcome to all those families joining us for the first time. We hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break.

We have a very exciting and busy year ahead. In week 3, we have “Meet the Teacher” evening. This is an opportunity for all our Year 5 parents to come in and meet their child’s classroom teacher and discuss any concerns or questions you may have. It’s also a good opportunity to see what we have been getting up to in class.

Towards the end of the term, we will be offering parent/teacher interviews where you will have an opportunity to discuss your child’s progress so far. In Term 2, all Year 5 students will have their NAPLAN tests.

Our Year 5 teaching team for 2014 includes Brendan Creighton, Rhiannon Saunders, Fiona Quin and Deanna Forrester. Brendan, Rhiannon and Fiona all worked with Year 5 at Ormeau last year. Deanna will be joining the team this year from Broadbeach State School. Year 5 students will be working with an array of support and specialist teachers and teacher aides over the year as well.

Students will be given homework from Week 2 onwards. Homework will be handed out every week and all students will be expected to complete and submit their homework every Friday. We would also like to remind all our families that students are expected to wear their school uniform correctly each day. This includes the Ormeau State School hat. Students are not permitted to wear any other hat through the day.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher. We look forward to getting to know you all over the course of the year.

The Year 5 Team
Brendan Creighton, Deanna Forrester, Rhiannon Saunders, Fiona Quin and Nikki Swain

7C AND 7W

Our sincerest WELCOME is extended to our seniors of 2014. Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone in your life. No doubt this year has been much anticipated by our students and if our parents and caregivers are honest they would probably find it difficult to comprehend how fast the transition from toddler to Senior has been. Take a deep breath, wipe the tears from your eyes and please continue.

2014 is going to be a brilliant year. We have had a great start to the year. We had a busy first week establishing classroom rules, routines and expectations. The first week has allowed us to get to know our students and for them to get to know us. The tone in our classroom is cheerful, respectful, vibrant and pleasant. For us it is a great place to be and exudes a great atmosphere and environment conducive to great learning. We thank you for preparing your children for this significant and memorable year. You would have been so proud if you had the opportunity to witness how well they settled into their learning and how determined they were to reach class expectations. Just another perk that we as teachers have the privilege of experiencing!

We don’t intend to burden you with housekeeping details through the Newsletter, but rather save that for the “Meet the Teacher” evening on Monday the 10th February! We extend a warm welcome to ALL our Parents and Caregivers of our seniors. It is a great evening which allows you to fully understand what 2014 holds for our seniors. It also enables you to experience first-hand the learning environments which have been created for the students’ learning.

We are looking forward to working together this year. We are all key players in ensuring personal excellence is achieved. Please enjoy and cherish every moment of 2014 as unfortunately as you are fully aware, time waits for nobody so we don’t want to have regrets at the end of the year.

Until our next communication...

“We don’t have to be someone special to achieve something amazing!”

Kindest regards
Rebecca Coplick and The Old Fella

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT NEWS

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to another wonderful year at Ormeau State School. It’s so great to see so many smiling children coming to say hi and telling me about their break. I am excited about working with your children once again and welcoming the new families to our school. Some children may be very excited, however, some may feel a little anxious too. It is no secret that a new school year can be especially daunting for some children and can create a little uncertainty. It can also be a difficult time for the whole family having to get back into a routine after having such a long break. Whether it’s finding more time for family activities or getting better organised for school, the start of a new school year is a good time to rethink and plan ahead.

Do you feel like you are always rushing? Is there a lot of yelling going on at your house? Take the opportunity of a new school year to rethink your family’s activities. Here is some information on how families can start the school year off right for success at home and at school.
Start the School Year Right: Tips from some experts

Listen without fixing.

Just once during the first few weeks of the new school year, resolve to listen to your child’s story about something that happened in school without immediately “fixing” the problem, interrupting or teaching a constructive lesson. Concentrate on listening first and then later on, when you and your child are both calmer, give advice or guidance and keep it short, very short!

Make a habit of finding time to talk and listen.

Pay attention to the times of day your child is most naturally open, whether it be during after-school snack, whilst watching TV, at bath or bed time, and protect those times as very special. Get in the habit of talking and listening for just a few minutes a day. Having dinner together as a family is also a wonderful relaxing opportunity to share the days experiences.

Try not to overextend.

Make an effort to limit activities for your kids, especially younger kids - one or two activities are enough, especially for parents with more than one child. Otherwise, it causes stress all around. If you have a child with special needs, he/she may already be getting extra services at school, such as working with a learning specialist and/or a tutor. If you add on more than one or two extracurricular activities, you’ll have overload.

Think about what you can do to make your family daily life go more smoothly.

What bothers you? What bothers your child? What in your family life needs adjusting? Role-play a conversation in your head in advance so you know what you want to accomplish. Once you sit down with your child, discuss the situation and what each of you can do to make it better. You may want to write a contract and have both parent and child sign it. Be sure to write your contract according to your child’s and your family’s needs. Here are just a few suggestions:

- I will do my homework at four o’clock daily so my mum won’t have to bug me about it.
- I will put my dirty clothes in the clothes basket.
- I will eat a healthy snack when I get home from school and my mum will allow me to help her prepare it.

Use driving time to play some educational games.

Whether driving to school, an after-school activity or to a friend’s house, you can make the ride fun by playing some games and exercising their brains. Try “I Spy,” a game that is great for developing descriptive vocabulary, particularly for young children. You play by describing an object (or beginning letter of an object) that you see out of the window (or inside the car) and ask your child to “spy”, spot or guess it. Another game to try is Geography, where you say a state, country or city. Your child then has to figure out the last letter of the word and say a new location using that last letter. A game that my family still love playing is to make funny words up from a car number plate in front.

Schedule time to relax.

Too many things on your family’s “to do” list? Consider adding one more to your list this year: relaxation! Schedule a family Saturday games night at home to play board games such as scrabble, pictionary, monopoly (the younger age appropriate games). Alternatively, consider renting a classic family movie such as “Wizard of Oz,” “Babe” or films of more recent vintage such as “Shrek.” Make popcorn, curl up on the couch and turn off the computer, mobile phone and video games.

Kind regards

Carol Moores
Behaviour Support Teacher

References:
Dr. Ron Taffel, a child and family therapist and author of Parenting by Heart, Why Parents Disagree, Nurturing Good Children Now, The Second Family, and a guide for child professionals, Getting Through to Difficult Kids and Parents. Dr. Ruth Jacoby, author most recently of Parent Talk: The Art of Effective Communication With the School and Your Child. Debra Collins, a family therapist. Dr. Susan Goldman, a child and family psychologist.

GERMAN NEWS

Willkommen! It was a shock to the system arriving back to Ormeau this year, as I had enjoyed three weeks in Austria and Germany prior to the school year beginning. It was a rather warm winter, with temperatures between 12 and 15 degrees, although we had the occasional -3 degrees as well. But no snow!!

This year, the national theme of learning is „Feste feiern“ – Festivals in Germany. How appropriate – and what fun! We have been discussing the celebrations so far – Silvester (New Year’s Eve), Neujahr, Perchtenlauf (an Alpen winter festival) and Dreikönigstag – all festivals which I celebrated while in Germany.

The next festival on the calendar is Karneval, which traditionally Ormeau students attend at the Brisbane German Club. This year the day will be celebrated on Sunday, February 16 (very soon!) and excursion notes have been distributed to interested students in Years 6 and 7.

Once again, our ‘Wort der Woche’ Quiz competition has started in all classes. This week’s challenge is a revision phrase: „Jetzt geht’s los!” and secondly, a codeto decipher: „BLN CTY” Viel Glück – Good luck!

This year I am very lucky to be working with all continuing students (as well as our new students) and am looking forward to a very productive year celebrating all things German!

Alles Gute ins Neujahr!!
Frau Hay
From the iCentre
Book Bags and Borrowing

All students will start borrowing weekly as of Week 2 and those in Prep – Year 4 are expected to use a Book Bag when borrowing. Ormeau State School Book Bags are available from the iCentre or Prep1 at a cost of $10. They are a very durable bag that will last your child throughout their primary years.

Overdue Books

We understand that from time to time books go missing and children do not return them on time. When this happens you will receive an email or text message from us. Please endeavour to find the book and then let us know if it is lost. We do ask that lost or damaged books are paid for so replacement copies can be purchased. The replacement cost should be detailed in the email or is available from the iCentre. Please phone or come in to speak with us about the matter.

Scholastic Book Fair

Our first Book Fair for the year will be in Week 7 this term……March 10 – 17. We like to hold our Book Fairs in Terms 1 and 4 as a great opportunity for you to put books away for your children for Birthdays, Easter and Christmas. Parent helpers are needed for the Fair. If you are interested in helping before school please give us a ring on 55 466 500 and the Office will put you through to the iCentre. Thank you!

Happy Reading

Linda Langes and Maree Bawden

SCIENCE NEWS

Welcome to a new year of Science fun and learning. This year in our Specialist Science program, Mrs Cokley will be teaching the Year 2 classes as well as 3L and 3J. Mrs Hines-Smith will be working with the Year 4 and 5 classes as well as 3M and 3FM.

“Mix, Make and Use” is the first unit for the Year Twos. This unit involves exploring the properties of materials and combining materials to make an object for a particular purpose. We would like to use recycled materials to make our objects, so we will be collecting cereal boxes this term. Please save any empty cereal boxes and send them along to the Science room.

“Hot Stuff” is the name of the first unit for our Year Threes, which will run for the whole semester. We will be learning about the different ways that heat can be produced and exploring how heat can be transferred through conduction. We will also be using thermometers to measure the effects of heat.

Year 4 students are practising to become geologists. We will be investigating Earth’s surface changes over time due to impacts of natural processes and human activity. In particular, students will be considering the effects of events such as floods and extreme weather, on the landscape.

The structure of and events within the solar system, will inspire Year 5 students’ thinking and learning this semester. Students will investigate and compare orbits of planets and understand that the Earth is a part of a system of planets orbiting around a star.

We would invite any parents with special interests and qualifications in these areas to contact us to possibly arrange a lesson where you could be a special guest expert presenter.

Looking forward to an exciting semester of learning at Ormeau State School.

Cheers

Janelle Cokley and Leanne Hines-Smith

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS

Hello, and welcome back to the Ormeau State School Special Education Program (SEP). I also extend a very warm welcome to the newly enrolled students and families.

Our program is currently catering for approximately 41 students across most year levels of the school. SEP teachers (case managers) and SEP teacher aides work with students within the classroom, and also within the SEP building (Block 10). We also have started this year with another teaching space to use, allowing us a little more flexibility with our groupings and activities.

Our staff currently consists of 5 teachers and 7 teacher aides. This semester Sarah Lopes shall be working with grades 4 and 5. Mark Sycz will be working with grade 6. Peter Giles is working with grade 7 and prep. This year, we also welcome Kristie Cutter. Kristie will be working across grade 2 and 3, taking over from Casey Cameron who now has her own year 3 class.

SEP staff also offer a range of activities throughout the week, including Fingerym, Activities Room, Learning Connections, Intended Curriculum, and Social Skills. We also offer an number of lunchtime clubs including Garden Club, Art Club, Games Club, Cooking Club, and IPad Club.

SEP teachers will shortly introduce themselves to you (if they haven’t already done so). If you have any queries in regards to our program, or particularly relating to your child, please feel free to contact SEP staff by ringing the school, or using the details that case managers have provided.

Our wonderful staff looks forward to working with your children throughout the year.

Please feel free to contact me directly if the need arises.

Kind regards,

Peter Giles
Acting Head of Special Education Services

BANKING NEWS

Ormeau State School student banking will commence on Monday 10 February 2014. A Banking Representative from the Commonwealth Bank will be here on that day to open and assist with new accounts. The Representative will be here from 8:30am and be located near the bridge at Prep area.

To open a new account for your child you will need to bring with you your licence or passport identification.

We look forward to seeing you.
FINANCIAL PAYMENTS

Please be aware Ormeau State School Administration are happy to receive part payments throughout the year to cover your child's activities for 2014. We have many families who choose to pay a small fee (eg: $10) via the internet payment option on a weekly/fortnightly basis, so when payment invoices arrive they are covered each and every time. Please feel free to take up this option to alleviate pressure when camps or excursions come around.

P AND C NEWS

Welcome to 2014. We hope to see many of our parents this year, new and old, join in the fun of helping out our school. We have some fantastic events coming up this year and would love as many hands on deck to ensure success.

Tuckshop

The Tuckshop is in full swing with a fabulous new menu out now for Term 1. Please utilise our online ordering system (www.flexischools.com.au) for quick and easy ordering. PLEASE update your child’s class if you have not done so. You can edit this under your child’s profile when you login to flexischools.

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

We are looking for some helpers in the Tuckshop so if you can spare half an hour after drop off, or an hour over lunch, or anytime throughout the school day we would love to see you. Pop by anytime and introduce yourself.

Uniform Shop

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).

We would like to thank Helen Falcone for her many years of service to the school. Helen has run the Uniform Shop for the most part of her years at the school and is now moving on. Please be patient as we transition with our new helpers. We, of course, would welcome new volunteers in the Uniform Shop also.

On a final note...You will see many references to “volunteers” in our paragraphs. This is simply because our P&C is run by volunteers and our aim as volunteers is to increase our children’s resources and opportunities at the school. There are many ways you can help either at the school, or some roles you can do at home. Your voluntary contributions and your personal involvement make our school a great learning institution.

Erica Koskela
P&C President

COMMUNITY NEWS

Coomera Hockey Club

Sign on day

When: Saturday 15 February
Where: Cnr Musgrave Ave and Hockey Lane Labrador
Time: 10am-12pm
Look for the Coomera Hockey Club sign

Coomera Crushers Rugby Union

Coomera Crushers Rugby Union Club are having sign on days for players on the 1st, 2nd, 8th & 9th of February from 10am - 2pm at the clubrooms at Coomera Sports Park, Beattie Road, Coomera (behind Dreamworld).

Ormeau Bulldogs Junior AFL – Sign on Day

See flyer for information

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

Win a IPad

Pay your family Voluntary Contribution by the end of Term One and you will be in the running to win an IPAD. Anyone can win – this yearly fee of $70 per family for our family contribution is payable over the full year but by paying it before April gives you a chance to win. Our payment window is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings or pay via the internet for your convenience.

Erica Koskela
P&C President