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15 May 2014

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

SPEEDING and PARKING



Please be careful when driving through the school zone in Mirambeena Drive. Also children **MUST NOT** walk or play in the parking area in front of the Childcare Centre. There are footpaths on both sides of the parking area for access to cars.

Some students are mingling behind parked cars and not aware of the potential danger soon to occur if cars pull out.

Recently the Police and Gold Coast traffic officers have been hovering through school zones watching for illegal parking on footpaths, nature strips and in STOP, DROP, GO areas. We all understand that there is never enough parking for all parents during the critical period. Some alternate strategies used every day by parents include:

- Wait for 10 minutes after school time and enter the STOP, DROP, GO area with ease.
- Park around the corner in Guara Grove (but not on the footpath) and enjoy the short walk.
- Park at Pimpama Tennis courts and meet your children at the courts.
- The Shopping Centre in Guara Grove is available with limited parking.
- Park at the back of the school in Lumeah Avenue and meet your children at the other end of the nature reserve. A short walk only. The staff carpark is not to be used for parental parking.



STOP, DROP...GO

Often drivers are observed parking in areas they shouldn't, like at the Two Minute Stop Drop and Go Zone, the No Standing/ Parking zones, bus stops and private driveways. These actions are potentially dangerous to children travelling to and from school. Some of these poor driver behaviours lead to frustration for motorists and can result in complaint calls to the school or Council officers.

Police and Councils, when contacted, will visit schools periodically during the year. Motorists may receive traffic offence/parking notices.

The success of our two minute "Look Out" Stop Drop and Go zone requires cooperation and patience from all motorists and children, to ensure quick clearance of vehicles in the zone.

How can you help improve the road safety at the school loading zone.

Do:

- Talk to your children. Tell them what time you will be collecting them and to be there waiting for you.
- Ask them to look out for your car.
- Plan your trip - delay your arrival time in the afternoon. The children will be safe if they are waiting in the Stop Drop and Go zone.
- Pick-up or drop-off children only by the car's kerb side doors
- Make sure the children wear their seatbelts
- Drive out safely - indicate and check
- If your children are not at your arranged collection area, go around the block and try again or park legally and collect them.

Don't

- Arrive early in the afternoon and park in the Stop Drop and Go Zone
- Park for longer than signed times
- Park in the Stop Drop and Go Zone or get out of your vehicle and walk away
- Double park anywhere
- Use staff parking or bus areas

Some ways to reduce the large numbers of cars waiting to park is to:

- Talk with other parents - share a vacant seat - car pool
- Use school bus transport
- Walk with children to school one day a week (short distances)



Kindest regards

Heather Andrew
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTIES' DESK

NAPLAN

Students across Australia will participate in the National Assessment in Literacy and Numeracy this week. Much is written about this topic in the media and I am sure you all have your own opinions about NAPLAN and the possible stress it has on students. We attempt to minimise any stress some students may have by identifying these students early and providing the option of completing the assessment in a smaller group with a little extra time. NAPLAN, though a useful tool for comparing growth in students' abilities, is only one very small part of what we do at Ormeau State School in identifying the strengths and needs of students.

Bus concerns

We have had continuing issues with the buses and changes to drivers which has affected our procedures at Ormeau State School. We are trying to rectify these problems, however, if you have a concern with the particular service it is important that you make contact with the bus company so that they are aware of the problem. This is important as some of the issues happen out in the community and we are unaware of these particular issues. One particular issue of concern is the growing number of students on some routes and though we have made contact with the companies it is always useful to have the community also contacting the bus companies to express concerns.

How much bullying is really bullying? (by Sherri Kuhn)

Bullying seems to be the hot topic among parents of school-aged children these days, but what exactly constitutes bullying? Some general goofing off and teasing is just the nature of growing up and being kids.

HAVE WE TAKEN THE BULLY BANDWAGON TOO FAR?

With the cultural bias toward bullying, have we swung too far in the opposite direction and declared too many things as "bullying" behaviours?

When is a bully not a bully? The fine line between playing around and being bullied is getting harder to see. With some parents preferring a zero-tolerance approach while others want to just "let kids be kids" the definition of bullying may be changing.

What constitutes bullying?

When does good-natured teasing turn the corner and become bullying? In the simplest definition, bullying behaviour consists

of an imbalance of power (either physical or social) and happens consistently over a period of time. This is different from a one-time-only type of interaction because the bully continues to inflict the hurtful behaviour time and time again. This is where some people are confused, and wind up calling any unpleasant interaction a bullying situation. Victor Neves has been teaching for over 20 years, and has plenty of experience with these scenarios. "Intent doesn't matter," he shares. "If a weak person is persistently attacked or even menaced by a stronger person, it's bullying."

More information can be found here:

<http://www.sheknows.com/parenting/articles/993967/how-much-bullying-is-really-bullying>

Regards and happy reading

Your Deputies Jane Tuckett and Stephen Rowe

1B, 1C, 1G AND 1P

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe that we are now well into Term Two! Congratulations to all of our students for getting back into school routine so quickly. It has been great to see the children settling in after the holidays and they have already achieved so much in such a short time.

Over the last couple of weeks each of the Grade One classes attended Life Education with Healthy Harold. Everyone loved learning about good food, healthy habits, the body and were lucky enough to get their own special booklet to work on as well.

This term in English we have been developing our knowledge of characters in stories and writing detailed character descriptions as well as focusing on reading comprehension. Maths has seen us focus on patterning and now we're working on positioning and directions.

A few reminders:

Jewellery – We have seen a number of students sporting loom bands on their wrists and necks recently. Please ensure that your child does not bring bracelets, necklaces, anklets, rings or plastic bands on wrists to school. The only jewellery acceptable are plain studs and a watch, unless special permission has been given from the office.

Homework - This is due back each Friday, please ensure that this is returned on time so we can do sight word testing, change reading books and mark homework to send it back asap.

Uniform- As winter approaches, we are starting to see more bright and colourful jumpers making an appearance. Please remember that students should be wearing either a navy jumper or the Ormeau State School jumper. This goes for hats as well; remember- no school hat, no play.

Kind Regards,

The Year One Team

Natalie Casala, Berni Chisholm, Fiona Galletly and Michele Pikunic

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

Welcome back. We trust that everyone had a lovely Easter break and are well rested in preparation for a very busy Term 2.

Students have been involved in some ANZAC Day commemorations as a school and in class as part of our History unit. It is wonderful to see the students making connections between why we honour the ANZAC diggers of the past and how they contribute to keeping the ANZAC spirit alive through participation in ANZAC services.

Our focus for literacy is narrative. We have been working on extending the children beyond the classic stories they are accustomed to writing such as fairy tales and we are seeing some creative writers emerge.

NAPLAN testing is fast approaching and will be conducted over 3 days in week 4. As this is the first time Year 3s have been involved in this we understand that there may be some apprehension associated with these tests. Please be reassured that we are doing everything possible to alleviate this stress by emphasising that NAPLAN is simply just another test and all we ask is they work to the best of their ability.

Some helpful tips for preparing your child for NAPLAN are to:

- Ensure they get a good sleep at least 8-9 hours each night
- Make sure they have a healthy breakfast and a nutritious lunch packed every day
- Remind them not to panic and just do their best

It is also very important that they arrive on time each day to avoid disruptions.

As the weather is becoming cooler it is important for your child to have a school jumper which is clearly labelled. We are trying to encourage students to be responsible for their belongings and this process is a lot easier when everything is labelled and able to be returned to the rightful owner.

Year 3 Teachers

Natasha Mudri, Olivia Furner, Louise McMillan, Jamie Miller, Laura McGhee, Casey Cameron

5C, 5F, 5L, 5Q AND 5S

Welcome back to all of our Grade 5 students after our 2 week Easter break.

This term is going to be exciting and busy.

NAPLAN week is now over. Results will come out in Term 4. All students tried their hardest and we are very proud of them.

Gala day sports finished for this term on the 9th May. Our summer sports starts late in Term 3.

Later this term in Week 10 we have our athletics carnival. So you have a few weeks to get your child outdoors practicing and enjoying some physical activity.

As the weather cools down, please make sure you have appropriate jumpers for your child. We are a uniform school and expect the students to be wearing school jumpers. No hoodies or different coloured jumpers are allowed.

We have had a fantastic semester with our Grade 5s so far. They have been a pleasure to educate and we hope their fantastic work ethic continues in the second half of the Term 2.

Brendan Creighton, Deanna Forrester, Rhiannon Saunders, Fiona Quinn and Trent Long
Grade 5 teachers

7C AND 7W

Welcome to another instalment of the days in the life of year 7, where time moves fast and one of the teachers, not so fast!

Curriculum Talk

As report cards loom, we are knuckling down to some serious core business. Effort is paramount!

In English this term we have been focusing on reading and creating life writing, with a particular focus on biographies. The assessment piece requires the children to gather information to create a written biography about a person who has displayed courage. We are continuing to have a dominant focus of reading comprehension. We are very grateful to those parents who are giving their time to assist in the classroom with reading groups. The effectiveness, success and engagement of students during these activities is fantastic. We have also been lucky to have two wonderful seniors from Lewani Palms Retirement Village who have given up some time to read with your children as well. David and Jeanette have graced us with their wealth of experience 3 days a week, which the children have revelled in. If you (or a grandparent) are interested in helping with reading groups, please see your child's teacher.

In Maths we continue to build on our application of Mathematics by extending our knowledge of patterns and algebra, and plotting points on a Cartesian plane. As the term progresses we will continue our lessons with Mrs McCombe on using the Polya method to problem solve.

Exploring motion is the hot topic in Science. Did you know that gravity is a non-contact force? Ask your kids – they should be able to tell you why! Did you know that forces acting on an object are unbalanced if the object changes its state of motion? Quiz your children about forces acting objects speeding up, slowing down, changing direction or remaining at constant speed. This will help them to make sense of the physical world we live in.

Every day counts – Is your child at school today?

Did you know? Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement.

Why is regular attendance at school important?

Regular school attendance will mean that your child has a better chance in life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day.

- they learn better
- they make friends
- they are happier

- they have a brighter future.

Why must I send my child to school?

Under Queensland law, you must make sure your child of school age is enrolled and attends school all day, every school day unless they have an acceptable reason. Illness, doing work experience or competing in a school sporting event are acceptable reasons for being absent from school.

Avoid keeping your child away from school for:

- birthdays, shopping, visiting family and friends, if they sleep in, looking after other children, minor check-ups or
- care such as hair cuts.

Routine medical or other health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

Source: www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycountsw

As always, we have an open door policy in Year 7 – if at any time you need to talk to us (good or bad) we are here to help. However, if you feel that you need our attention for an extended period of time please be sure to secure an appointment time so we can give you our full consideration.

***Yours in education,
Rebecca Coplick and the Old Fella***

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT NEWS

Dear Parents and Friends,

We can never receive enough reminders about helping our kids to be positive!

In the last newsletter there was some information shared on developing friendships and dealing with bullying. There are many life experiences that our children will face and unfortunately there is no avoiding the difficulties. However, there are lots of ways we can help our children through difficult situations and one very successful way is to be optimistic about life's experiences ourselves. The Department of Communities state that being optimistic is being able to expect the best out of life's experiences. Being able to look on the bright side helps all of us to get on top of challenges and manage life's difficulties. It means having hope, and a strong belief and confidence to deal with situations.

The Department of Communities for family and parenting answer the question 'what is optimism'?

Optimism is being able to expect the best out of life's experiences. Being able to look on the bright side helps all of us to get on top of challenges and manage life's difficulties. It means having hope and a strong belief and confidence to deal with situations.

The building blocks of optimism include:

- having a go
- practicing
- coming to terms with success and failure
- planning for the best outcome

- having the belief and confidence to try again

How do children develop optimism?

Some children are born with a 'sunny disposition' and a natural ability that lends itself to dealing with challenges and solving problems.

Other children may struggle to overcome difficulties, often expecting the worst to occur (making mountains out of molehills).

As children grow and develop they need as many opportunities as possible to experience success. Every time children achieve something they set out to do they start to develop a belief that they can go on trying and have more successes.

'Self talk' is what we say to ourselves to explain the things that happen through the day. When children can say to themselves that they can do something, they are more likely to succeed.

The way that adults think about and talk about their experiences are very powerful in shaping a child's beliefs about why success or failure might happen.

If we were to share our thoughts (our self talk) out loud, an optimist might be saying something like, "I was just saying to myself that most of the time when you allow enough time and really try hard with your maths homework you get good results", rather than "You never allow yourself enough time and you never try hard enough with your maths homework."

Why is optimism important?

If children believe they can succeed, they are more likely to give things a go. Optimists refuse to feel helpless and don't give up when faced with seemingly impossible problems.

They expect to succeed, believe in themselves and remain positive. Optimists are less likely to suffer from depression. Optimists are more likely to recognise and think about their past signs of successes and what they did to succeed.

The more optimistic children are, the more able they are to succeed and have a sense of the future and of being able to make friends and learn at school. Optimistic thinking words can be - maybe, sometimes, usually, possibly, perhaps.

What parents can do

Be a good role model - Let your children hear your 'self talk' and share your positive thoughts with them.

Teach your child to make realistic appraisals. "I'm hopeless at maths" would give you the opportunity to ask, "Tell me what you can do well." After discussing the positives, look at ways of improving the maths and talk about personal best rather than having to win all the time.

'Talk it again'. - Say things or use different words to make more positive sense out of a situation.

Child: "I never have anyone to play with."

Parent: "Sometimes it's hard to find a friend, but last week you had a good time with Mary."

Tell their own stories of overcoming hardships - "When I was at school I thought . . . but then I realised . . ."

Use stories/videos of characters who overcome the odds to inspire children:

- The Karate Kid
- The Lion King
- Free Willy

Draw your child's attention to media and highlight public figures who have overcome hardship e.g. sporting celebrities who have a disability.

Give encouragement - what were the thoughts that popped into your head when you thought you were losing that tennis game? How did your thoughts change to enable you to change from losing to winning? Help your children catch their helpful and unhelpful thoughts and stick with the helpful ones.

Remember some of the old sayings: 'If at first you don't succeed.' 'There's no such word as can't.' 'Every cloud has a silver lining.'

***Information shared from 'The Department of Communities: General parenting: Helping kids to be positive'.**

NB: I have included a timetable for Term 2 from the Northern Gold Coast Communities for Children for those parents that may be interested.

Kind regards

Carol Moores
Behaviour Support Teacher

GERMAN NEWS

Excitement is building as the students prepare for the International Online Language Perfect Competition for German which kicks off next Monday after NAPLAN.

We have been working very hard in the Computer Lab to prepare and I am looking forward to their efforts in the upcoming Language Competition. Top 3 performers in the school are – Chloe D, Caeb K (both in 6B) and Luke P (7C).

Congratulations to the students in Years 6 and 7 who successfully completed their Online Homework responsibilities with a high level of accuracy – Chloe D, Holly S, Nicolas B, Bradlee F, Caeb K, Luke P, Reece W, Tatiana D, Ella S, Gemma J, Dezi Cutter, Sami O and Ben N.

As a sidebar –

5 extraordinary students took up the personal challenge to participate in the International Online Competition for Social Science. This involved answering questions in the field of History, Geography and Social Studies. Based on their general knowledge, the students achieved 4 Highly Commended Certificates and 1 Bronze Certificate.

WOW! Congratulations to these Year 6 students:

Bronze Certificate – Ron L

Highly Commended Certificates – Lily D, Dezi Cutter, Shaiyenna B and Caeb K

I am looking forward to their efforts in the upcoming Language Competition.

Frau Hay

SCIENCE NEWS

Term Two is flying past.

The Year Two classes are learning about how you can move a toy by pushing and pulling. They will be making a toy that will move by either pushing or pulling. We will be collecting milk bottle lids this term to reuse to make the rolling toys. Please send along any milk bottle lids to the Science room.

Thanks everyone for the great response last term when we were collecting empty cereal boxes to reuse for making our lunch containers. The finished products included some very creative containers for carrying lunch.

The Year Three students will be continuing with their investigations about heat. We are learning that heat moves from hotter objects to cooler objects and how the transfer of heat can be slowed or made more effective. The children will also be studying the components of a Scientific Report.

Erosions and Weathering are still the main focus for Year 4 students during Term Two. A major investigation into sand erosion will be completed and data collated in table and graph formats. Explanations, as to why sediments shifted in the way they did during the investigation, will hopefully challenge and develop students' deeper understanding of concepts.

Year Five classes will be engaged in ongoing information gathering and discussions about past and future space missions. Students will further consolidate their understandings of the key features of our Solar System.

Mrs Cokley and Mrs Hines-Smith

PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

District Cross Country

Congratulations to our school cross country team on your efforts at the district carnival last week. All team members ran well with most finishing in the top half of the field. Standout performances were Isabella C (6th in 12 years girls), Dezi C (10th in 11 years boys), Eli V (6th in 13 years boys), Ellie M (9th in 13 years girls), composite relay team (1st) and 10 years boys relay (3rd). The girls team were placed 3rd overall and Ormeau placed 3rd in the A Division. Isabella and Dezi were selected in the Beenleigh team to compete at the South Coast Championships next month and Eli was invited to compete at the Pacific District secondary schools carnival.

Kind regards
Peter Tyne

P AND C NEWS

Hi all

Paying your voluntary contribution helps a great deal with supplying resources to the school and we hope to see everyone "pay their part". Thank you for supporting your school.

We hope you enjoyed your Mother's Day. The kids had such great fun choosing presents for mums and grandmas at our stall.

Entertainment books have now gone home and you would be flicking through the pages. If you would like to purchase a book please send money or credit details with envelope back to school or take advantage of paying online using our name as fundraiser (Ormeau state school P&C). You can also order a digital copy this year and have it as an app on your phone! Every book sold through our school raises valuable funds that go toward the P&C objectives such as IT resources for the school. If you decide the book is not for you please return to class thank you.

Upcoming events

We are gearing up for the sports carnival coming up in June, so stay tuned for more information. Helpers will be required on the oval so please see the tuckshop to book your time in.

As always a note to all mums and dads and grandparents looking for something to do in school hours...Please come and see us at the Tuckshop! We are in need of volunteers everyday to prepare our fine fresh food! The best part is your child will love seeing your face in the tuckshop when they come up at Morning Tea and Lunch!

Also - don't forget to remind your child to get their entry in for "naming the tuckshop". This is a fun and exciting competition that will provide the tuckshop with a great name to use going forward. Good luck to all our entrants.

Don't forget to get your orders in for your jumpers too! It's getting cold in the mornings!

Have a great week.

SCHOOL BANKING NEWS

Keep saving to win a family underwater adventure holiday.

See attached flyer for more information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Coomabah State High School

Enrolment Timelines for Year 7 and Year 8 in 2015

Enrolment Packs for Years 7 and 8 are now available. Parents and guardians are welcome to drop into our school office to collect an enrolment pack or phone our Enrolment Officer on 55523869 for further information.

All relevant enrolment documents can be downloaded from the Enrolments page on our website.

We are also happy to mail enrolment packs upon request.

Term 2

Monday 5 May	iGniTe Specialist Program Parent and Student Experience Night for Year 7 and 8 in 2015 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm starting in the Junior Secondary Centre (L Block) Includes iGniTe workshops – Academic, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Sport & Exercise Science
Friday 16 May	Applications for iGniTe programs and scholarships due
Wednesday 21 May	Sport & Exercise Science trial day - 9.00 am to 2.45 pm
Thursday 22 May	Visual Arts Workshop – 9.00 am to 2.45 pm
	ARC Testing and Workshop Day – 9.00 am to 2.45 pm
Friday 23 May	Performing Arts Auditions (Dance, Drama, Singing) – 9.00 am to 2.45 pm
Monday 26 May	ARC Catch-up Testing (for those who cannot attend on Thursday 22 May) – 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm Resource Centre
Friday 30 May	iGniTe Offers and Scholarship winners advised by mail
Friday 13 June	Acceptance to iGniTe courses and scholarships due
Friday 20 June	All enrolment forms due and can be returned to the school office

Saver Plus Program

Is your child at school or starting school next year? Would you like \$500 to help pay for uniforms, books, excursions or a laptop?

For more information on eligibility see flyer

Indoor Cricket

Come and try indoor cricket at our introductory "Come and try" day.

When: Tuesday 27 May

Where: Gold Coast Indoor Sports Centre 9 Dominions Rd Ashmore

Time: 4pm

For more information see flyer