19 February 2015

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 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 five Prep classes. This has enabled us to reduce the number of students in each of our Prep classes. Ms Saunders is teaching the newly formed Prep 5 class. We would like to thank the Prep parents for their understanding and support during the changes.

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 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,

Yours truly, Deputies Jane Tuckett and Brendan Creighton

PREP NEWS

Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the first Prep newsletter for 2015. The children are slowly settling into life at school and are already starting to learn many interesting things. Our main focus is Literacy and Numeracy, along with the other Key Learning Areas, as well as ensuring the children get a well-rounded, fun-learning environment.

Thank you to the many parents who attended our Meet the Teachers night. If you were unable to attend and would like any information presented please see your class teacher.

Due to the large number of enrolments in Prep this year we were lucky to get another Prep class. Thank you to the parents in assisting with the transitioning of the students to Prep 5. The students have settled in well to their new class.

School has many routines to assist students in transitioning, behaviour and school and class expectations. Your assistance in helping your child understand and follow these routines is greatly appreciated.

Parent-Teacher interviews will be offered at the end of Term 1. This gives you the opportunity to discuss your child’s progress and discuss any concerns you may have. If you have any concerns that you would like to discuss before the formal interviews please contact your class teacher to make an appointment.

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.
- Mental Munchies is only fruit or vegetables so please send each day in a separate container.
- Please send a spoon if you are giving your child yoghurt in a tub.
- Label all lunch boxes, school bags and drink bottles.
- Tuckshop orders are available through Flexi School or written form.
- 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 in the morning or after school (3pm).

Kind regards from the Prep teachers,

Jonathon Frazer, Jan Laws, Katie Phillips, Kate Mirandella, Melita Thomas and Rhiannon Saunders

2I, 2M, 2N AND 2T

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

We have had a very busy and productive start to the year getting to know each other and settling into classroom routines. In History this term we are exploring ways in which technology has changed over time and the impact this has had on our day to day lives. In English we are currently learning how to write a retell in the first person. We have been exploring this genre through fairy tales and taking on the role the main character in our writing. It’s wonderful to see all of the adjectives and noun groups being used already.

We are very much looking forward to the excursion on Monday 23rd February to the Beenleigh Historical Village. Swimming will also commence that same week and will continue every Tuesday and Wednesday for three weeks.

Please encourage and support your children in returning their homework on Fridays. It helps them to develop a good work ethic and understanding of accountability for the years to come.

Kind Regards,

Cynthia Thorpe, Shandy Iurato, Jamie Miller and Nicole Taylor


4C, 4G, 4N AND 4S

Dear parents & guardians,

Welcome to Year 4 for 2015. Students have already settled and adjusted well to their New Year level and it has been wonderful to see everyone working so hard.

As you are aware, on Monday night we had our Meet the Teacher night and a big thank you to all the parents and guardians who attended. It was great to discuss with you our expectations and plans for the year with your children.

This Term in English we are looking at narrative writing and the students are working towards producing a new chapter for a known text. The book we have been looking at is called The Twits by Roald Dahl and this has been a very enjoyable book to read and work on in class. Maths has seen us looking at equivalent sums, number facts and problem solving. In History we are learning about European exploration and the impact on various peoples. A reminder that this year Music, Science and PE will provided by specialist teachers.

For those new families, or those who are unaware, in Year 4 we continue to have mental munchies during class time. Please ensure that you send your child with either fresh fruit or vegetables. Fruit bars or fruit in jelly, etc. are not considered mental munchies. Thank you for your continuing support with this.

Please do not forget that homework will go out Monday each week and needs to be returned on Friday. Students should be completing all their homework as well as reading for a minimum of 10 minutes every night. Also, our behaviour cards are included in the homework so please check these and discuss with your children each week.

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

The Year 4 Team,
Berni Chisholm, Shandell Gammon, Elizabeth Sas and Nikki Swain

6B, 6C, 6Q, 6T AND 6W

Welcome to Year 6 for 2015! What a busy, yet exciting start to the year it has been already.

Meet the Teacher Night

Thank you to the parents who were able to attend the Meet the Teacher Evening last week. We appreciate the support you have shown and look forward to building further relationships throughout the year. Below are some of the topics which were discussed.

Camp

Our Year 7 Leadership Camp was held at Camp Apex, Mudjimba Beach, last week. The focus was on ‘leadership’ and included team and rapport building. Activities such as the Challenge and Initiative tasks, Mid Ropes Challenge and Flying Fox, Radio Rogaine and Body Boarding were enjoyed by all students. Our night times were also exciting, with outdoor and indoor activities planned, allowing the students to demonstrate skills of leadership and group management. Again this year, the staff at Camp Apex made special mention to how wonderful the behaviour and manners were from our students. What a fantastic compliment!

Leadership Program

The Leadership process has been successfully implemented at Ormeau State School for many years. The process is based on awarding numerical values for contributions to Ormeau State School. Numerical values are awarded to: camp participation (if attending), the leadership speech, a staff vote, a student vote and an interview with administration. House Captains are not subject to a staff vote, but rather, are awarded values based on their participation in, and commitment to, a range of school activities. The top five boy and girl candidates will be determined in week five. Only those in the top 5 are placed on the ballots and interviewed.

Reading

Reading in 2015 continues to be a major focus for Ormeau State School. Each class will be involved in sustained reading every day to help improve our reading standards across all year levels. Reading consists of reading stamina, explicit teaching of comprehension skills and individual activities EVERY day.

Homework

Homework may vary slightly from class to class this year; however each class WILL be completing NIGHTLY homework, usually based on spelling, maths and reading. Occasionally, we may ask students to also complete a task that they failed to complete during class time. As reading improvement continues to be a major focus this year, we ask you to monitor that your child is reading nightly, and to sign their diary to show us that this is indeed happening. We appreciate your support in seeing that homework is completed.

Behaviour

At Ormeau State School, behaviour standards and expectations are closely tied to our Values program. Our classroom rules are reflective of the values of Opportunity, Responsibility, Manners, Excellence, Acceptance and Unity. Classroom behaviour management plans are in place and across the Year 6 cohort, are similar. A detention plan of 10-20 minutes at 2nd break is in place for small indiscretions. Continued time in Year 6 detention will result in planning rooms being issued. Positive reinforcement is used in all classrooms to encourage desirable behaviour. Behaviour cards will continue to be issued by the classroom teacher on a weekly basis and are required to be viewed and signed by parents.

3
Senior Shirts

The orders for Senior Shirts are in motion. If you wish to purchase a shirt for your child please fill in the order form which was sent home and return to your child’s classroom teacher. It is anticipated that the children will receive their shirts at the beginning of Term 2.

Please remember that all Year 6 teachers are interested in you and your child, and are happy to see you if any concerns/issues should arise. Please be mindful, however, that if you should require a lengthy period of time to discuss your child’s schooling that an appointment time be made so that we are able to provide you with an uninterrupted free period.

The Year 6 team would like to wish you and your children a wonderful and fulfilling 2015.

Kind Regards,

Christine Burch (6B), Rebecca Coplick (6C), Fiona Quinn (6Q), Grayham Tyler (6T) and the Old Fella - Peter Wright (6W)

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT NEWS

Dear Parents & Carers

I trust you are back in the swing of things now being back at school and in week 4! I look forward to working together with the children to continue to develop their social skills and along the way, incorporate further unpacking of our Ormeau school values. It would be great if you could assist by asking your children what our school values are and if they know a little about what each value actually means. Discussions like the one you may have can only strengthen our relationships between school and home.

This first term we will continue to learn and understand our school values, in addition we will learn a little about healthy eating. It’s really important to have a nutritious diet as there is so much evidence to support that children focus and learn better after having healthy foods. Research suggests that a good part of a healthy and balanced diet is to encourage our children to eat 5 serves of vegetables and 2 serves of fruit per day; and to drink lots of water. This will help children stay more alert at school and be less likely to develop behavioural problems or sleep disorders. Yet many children simply wouldn’t eat what’s considered ‘good for them’, while some are fussy, and may only eat one or two types of fruit. Incorporating at least five varieties of cut up portions of fruit each day are good for Preps as these portions usually equate to eating 2 pieces of fruit and will tempt even the fussier eaters. Encouraging young children to get into the habit of healthy eating when there are so many other temptations around is hard, however, we have to keep persisting by offering the same foods from time to time so there pallets and tastes can adapt and are willing to have a go at trying new foods. Different coloured fruits and vegetables are often appealing too!

Nutrition Australia suggests that children are increasingly growing up on a diet that largely consists of junk food. Regular amounts of junk food in the diet contribute to a number of health problems in children, including:

- Tiredness, lack of enthusiasm and a lack of energy
- Unwillingness to take part in any physical activity
- Mood swings, irritability and restlessness
- Fidgety behaviour, inability to sleep
- Unpredictable behaviour
- Constipation or stomach upsets
- Weight problems
- Pale skin, dull hair, weak, brittle nails, dark shadows under eyes
- Nausea, headaches
- Frequent colds and infections
- Increased incidence of allergies
- Poor concentration

Ways to Encourage Your Children to Eat Fruit

There are several things you can do to encourage your children to eat more healthily. Children love sweet food, and fruit is a great source of natural sugars. To encourage your children to eat more fruit, they need to see you enjoying it as part of a healthy diet. Make family mealtimes part of your daily routine and serve up a healthy variety of foods, including fruit. Add a banana or apple, or dried fruit such as mango to their school lunch boxes, or let them snack on grapes or berries. Making fruit kebabs, freezing fruit and making smoothies are great ways to help your children enjoy fruit.

If you would like some healthy tips, recipes, ideas, strategies or further information, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Carol Moores
Behaviour Support Teacher

GERMAN NEWS

It’s full steam ahead for the upcoming Kinderkarneval excursion. All Year 5 and 6 students have been invited to the excursion which will take place on Saturday February 28. Spare excursion forms are available from Frau Hay or the office. A bus will leave the school at 10 am and return by 3.30 pm.

A Karneval atmosphere is being created in the German classroom with posters and art and craft activities completed by the students.

Meanwhile .... The students are very keen to see Frau Hay’s costume this year. Will it be an animal, a creature, a fairytale character??? They are waiting to see!! Stay tuned for photos in the next newsletter...

Ormeau Alaaf!
Frau Hay

HEAD OF CURRICULUM NEWS

“The Big Six”

Readers of all ages integrate the following six areas in order to be effective and successful readers:

1. Oral language
2. Phonological and phonemic awareness
Dear Parents and Families:

Reading is the most important skill you can teach a child. Of all the skills children learn, it is the one you can influence the most.

We invite you to visit our Scholastic Book Fair and experience a celebration of reading that provides families the opportunity to get involved in a universal mission: encouraging children to open a world of possible.

Our Scholastic Book Fair theme – Kings, Queens and Castles: Enter the Kingdom of Books! – surrounds students in the celebration of reading with hundreds of fun, engaging, affordable books for them to discover. Giving children access to good books and the opportunity to choose their own books will motivate them to read more, and like most acquired skills, the more children practice reading, the better they’ll achieve.

Reading is vital to every child’s success, and raising children as readers means getting involved while they’re young. Now is the time. Since there will never be a substitute for a parent’s direct involvement in his/her child’s education, please make plans to visit our Book Fair. Hope to see you there!

Book Fair Dates: March 10 – 13
Shopping Hours: 8:30am – 3:30pm Tues – Fri

Reading Regards,

Linda Langes and Maree Bawden

SCIENCE NEWS

Welcome to the 2015 academic year in our Science room.

This year, three teachers will be engaging all students from P-6 in the Science program: Janelle Cokley P -2, Toni Hutton 3-4 and Leanne Hines-Smith 5-6.

Our Living World is the focus for Prep students during Term 1. Children will be identifying and comparing the needs of living things and recognising the differences between plants and animals. Year 1 students also have a Biology focus, recognising and describing external features of living things. We are fortunate enough that Greenie the class stick insect, has survived the school holidays to make a triumphant return to the classroom. He is much larger and more colourful than he was upon his exit at Christmas time and is a great specimen for students to observe and put their new observational skills to work. Thank you to Rylan for looking after him.

Year 2 students are looking in depth at the properties of materials. This involves investigating ways in which materials are used and the effects of mixing a variety of materials together.
Feathers, Fur and Leaves is the unit of study for Year 3. Opportunities will be provided for students to develop their understanding of basic science classification and look more critically at the features that make an animal an animal and a plant a plant.

Year 4 classes will be involved in the study of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. Students will investigate how erosion impacts on the natural environment and identify areas in the local community that may benefit from revegetation.

Both Year 5 and 6 students will extend their knowledge of states of matter and various chemical compounds. Year 5 will focus particularly on the movement of gases and how people utilise gases in everyday life. Year 6 students will build on their prior knowledge from the year before, investigating physical and chemical changes in matter.

Kind regards,

Leanne Hines-Smith, Janelle Cokley and Toni Hutton

P AND C NEWS

Fundraising in 2015

If you are interested in getting involved this year and would like to help out with organising an event on our calendar or have some great fundraising ideas please come along to our "get involved" meeting. Details will be posted on our facebook page shortly (Ormeau State School P&C Assoc). Alternatively send an email expressing your interest to pandc@ormeauss.eq.edu.au

The Tuckerbox

Great response from our Valentine’s Day special. Thanks for getting involved. Keep an eye out on flexischools as we will be putting up some special deals from time to time with our first one to hit the flexischools menu in the coming week. Go to www.flexischools.com.au

Ormeau State School P&C Association Annual General Meeting

9 MARCH 2014

The Ormeau State School Parent's & Citizen's Association will hold its Annual General Meeting in the school office at 7:00pm on Monday 9 March 2014. New members are welcome to attend and participate or observe.

All positions will be declared vacant and office-holders elected. The open positions are listed below. Written nominations will be accepted at the school office until 3pm on Friday 6 March. Nominations can also made in person at the AGM.

Kind regards,

Ormeau State School P and C

ADMINISTRATION REMINDERS

Absent Students

If your child is unable to attend school due to sickness or other family reasons it is not necessary for you to call the school each time. We get many phone calls each morning from parents informing us their child is away for the day. For this reason we ask if you could send in a note with your child on their return to inform the teacher of the reason for the absence. For your convenience you can also email the absence through (admin@ormeauss.eq.edu.au). If your child is to be away more than three days then we do appreciate a phone call to ensure the safety of your child.

Medication

If your child needs to take medication of any kind while at school we can only administer prescription medication. This medication needs to be in the original box/container with the chemist label adhered to it. Students are not permitted to hold medication of any kind in their bag. All medication must be brought to the office, authorisation forms filled out and signed by parent/guardian. Students then come to the office for staff to administer the medication. Should you have any queries please don’t hesitate to contact the office.

Mobile Phones at School

It is understood that some students have a mobile phone for safety purposes whilst travelling to and from school, however, it is this school’s policy that phones are to be switched off and signed in at the office for safe keeping during the school day. Students are to be reminded that it is at their own risk if they choose to bring a mobile device to school, but cannot under any circumstance be permitted to keep the phone with them throughout the day.

Have you moved?

If you have moved, changed jobs, changed your telephone number (including mobile) or if your emergency contacts have had any changes to your contact details we need to know. Please email admin@ormeauss.eq.edu.au send a note to the office with your child or phone the office on 55 466 500 to let us know of any changes.

Payment Information

Student I.D Numbers

A friendly reminder to Parents/Caregivers to use your student’s I.D number as a reference, when making payments via internet banking. The correct I.D number is 10 digits with a letter on the end (eg. 1234567899X). This is particularly important when making payments via internet banking so that the school’s Finance Department can apply the payment.

If you are unsure of your child’s student I.D number, please do not hesitate to contact our Administration Department on 55 466 500.

Paying via Internet Banking: Direct Payment into School Bank Account

- School’s Bank Account Name: Ormeau State School General A/C
- BSB Number: 064-401 (CBA Branch Beenleigh)
- Account Number: 00090359
Paying by phone: Payment by Credit Card ONLY
Call the school on 55 466 500 Monday to Friday between 8am - 4.00pm. VISA or Mastercard accepted.

Paying in Person: Payment by Credit Card, Debit Card, Cash or Cheque can be made at the school Payment Window Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8am – 9:30am

Centrepay - the easy way to pay your bills
Ormeau State School is now able to accept Centrepay payments directly with your approval.

There is a form you can collect from the administration office that you can take to Centrelink nominating an amount to come directly to the school each week/fortnight. You as the parent or caregiver can choose where these payments come from eg: (Family tax benefit, Newstart Allowance, Pension or Parental paid leave). This payment will go as a credit onto your child’s payment screen and can be used for any activities throughout the years of your child whilst attending Ormeau State School. This is a no hassle and convenient way for payments to be received from Centrelink on your behalf.

Parents can also nominate a target amount so that once the target is reached Centrelink will cease payments automatically or you can choose for payments to come consistently to cover all costs throughout the year.

If you need to know anything further please don’t hesitate to contact the administration team.

Kind regards,

The Administration Team

COMMUNITY NEWS
Ormeau Bulldogs AFL

Ormeau Bulldogs
AFL Club

Sign on Days 2015 Season

Juniors
(Children born from 2010, include 8-10 or 6-8 years old)

Masters
(Adults over 25 years of age)

Sunday 8th and Saturday 21st February 2015
10am – 2pm
Ormeau Sports Park
Upper Ormeau Rd, Kingscliff

Join us for a sausage sizzle and a kick of the footy!

Paid Umpires Wanted
Please apply
Send us an Email: info@ormeau afl.com.au or call 0432 271 798 for further information.

Visit our website for more information
www.ormeau afl.com.au
Or follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/OrmeauBulldogs

• Reference/Details: Please record the student’s I.D. number in the reference/details section so that your payment can be recorded correctly.

• Accelerate and Extend their reading and speaking abilities effectively.
• Have fun learning through storytelling, roleplaying, improvisation, mime
• voice care (projection, delivery, enunciation & speech exercises-phonetics/sounds
• weekly speaking tasks (poems, readings -prose, informal speeches, plays-drama
• Games for listening, observation, focus, self-control, self-awareness of feelings.

Small limited numbers. $20 per class – pay on the day for the first 3 weeks trial. Class trials their first 3 lessons. Parents welcome to sit in on the class. It is a structured yearly programme. Local teacher of 33 years. Enroll now in preparation for future performances and presentations. To enroll: Phone Karen 55732009 / 0438732009. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD FOR LIFE.