Social skill weeks 5 & 6
Preschool & Kinder: Using brave talk
This week and next our children will be learning to talk bravely. They will practise recognising appropriate times to use this skill and how to use a brave look and a brave voice.

Yrs 1–6: Telling someone to stop annoying you
It is difficult for children to tell someone to stop annoying them, or to ignore someone who is giving them a hard time. Children will practice an assertive response rather than a passive or aggressive one.
The cool way to respond is to use a firm voice, stand tall, look the person in the eyes and stay in control.

Calendar of events

March
Fri 7 Chess
Mon 10 Kindergarten parent literacy information session 5:30pm
Wed 12 Kindifarm 9.10–3pm
Thu 13 Selective HS test Assembly:1A 3/4B
Sat 15 School Development Day for staff – Kidsmatter
Mon 17–Fri 21 Life Education sessions
Wed 19 Maths Information Night – 2 sessions P&C meeting 7pm Block A
Fri 21 Grandfriends and Harmony Day
Mon 31 Stewart House Collection date

April
Wed 2 Stage 1 Schoolhouse Museum excursion Cybersafety sessions for students and parents (6–7:30pm)

NSW Public Schools - Arts Unit: Junior Dance Workshop

How To Be Involved
The NSW Public Schools Junior Dance Workshop is a three day intensive workshop for dance students in Years 5–6 and will be held in Term 1. This workshop is an excellent opportunity for students with talent and skills in dance to develop in this art form. Applications are now open online.

Date & Times: Years 5–6 only, Wednesday 9 to Friday 11 April 2014, 9am–3pm.
Venue: Sydney Dance Company Studios, Pier 4, Hickson Road, Walsh Bay
Cost: Years 5–6 $220.00 incl GST

Grandfriends and Harmony Day

www.harmony.gov.au
Since 1999 Harmony Day has been an Australian Government initiative. It is managed by the Department of Social Services.
Harmony Day is celebrated on 21 March each year and allows schools to celebrate the cohesive and inclusive nature of our nation and promote the benefits of cultural diversity. Harmony Day coincides with the United Nation’s International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
The continuing message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. It is about dealing with cultural, racial and religious intolerance by promoting respect, fairness and a sense of belonging for everyone. Schools have the opportunity to share with others the importance of diversity in school and community through action, performance, fashion and food.

At Orange Grove PS we would like to combine Harmony Day activities with a celebration of our Grandfriends–grandparents and older friends.
All our grandfriends are welcome to join us on Friday 21 March.
Start the day with a cuppa in the library at 9am while classes settle into morning routine. You are then welcome to visit classes from 9.30–10am. Children will have crunch n’ sip, and then entertain you under the COLA at 10.15am.
Children are invited to wear orange if they have something suitable to wear to school. We hope you can join us!
Junior Garden Club

Junior Garden Club has started for K–2 children. Only three children from each of these classes can attend the LUNCHTIME club each Tuesday in Weeks 6 to 11 this term. Different children will get a turn every five weeks. Children attend the club in first half of lunch, after they have finished eating. If your child decides they want to do a different activity, they need to let Ms Keane know so someone else can have a turn. Activities include: watering, planting, harvesting, snail collecting, weeding, rubbish collection, worm farming, composting and mulching.

Variation to School Development Day

Tabled at the last P&C meeting was notification that the staff wish to substitute the SDD timetabled for Friday 19 December for Saturday 15 March. Staff will spend the day working on Kidsmater. KidsMatter Primary is a mental health and wellbeing framework for primary schools and is proven to make a positive difference to the lives of Australian children.

KidsMatter Primary provides the proven methods, tools and support to help schools work with parents and carers, health services and the wider community, to nurture happy, balanced kids. It is our aim to be a ‘Kidsmater school’.

iPads are now in use!

After financial support from the P&C, technical support for setting up, and wifi infrastructure in place, we are now ready to have the set of 30 iPads in use in classrooms. Teachers will use these in a variety of ways to support the teaching and learning program, individually, in groups or whole class.

PSSA Swimming Carnival

Our team of 20 swimmers had a great day representing Orange Grove PS at the district swimming carnival on Tuesday.

Mathematics information evening

All parents are invited to attend a Mathematics information afternoon/evening on Wednesday 19 March.

Session 1: 3:15-4pm, Session 2: 5:30-6:15pm.

Find out how to ‘do the split strategy’ and what an array is.

Cybersafety information sessions

Internet safety presentation helps children stay safe online

Young people today are immersed in digital technologies. They use the internet and mobile phones to socialise, study, exchange ideas and play. While online activity has many benefits, there are also risks.

To help your children stay safe online, Orange Grove PS is hosting a Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation. Designed for parents, teachers and students, this presentation is provided by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) as part of a national program of cybersmart initiatives.

The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation is thorough and non-technical. It covers a range of issues including:

- the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies
- potential risks for children online, such as cyberbullying, identity theft, inappropriate contact and exposure to inappropriate content
- tips to help children stay safe online.

The presentation is conducted by an ACMA Cybersmart trainer and is free of charge.

When: Wednesday 2 April

Students 3–6: 2–3pm, Staff: 3.15-4.30pm, Parents: 6–7.30pm
What will my child learn at school?


The Board’s syllabuses state what must be taught in these six key learning areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE) (incorporating History K–6 from 2015)
- Creative Arts
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)

This guide gives some examples of things your child can learn in each year of primary school. There are many ways for teachers to organise lessons effectively, and individual lessons may cover more than one subject.

(a) English

In English, students learn to read, write, speak, listen and represent language. They learn about English language and literature, how language varies according to context and how to communicate to a range of audiences for different purposes. They learn to read for information and for pleasure. They learn about poetry, novels, plays and visual texts. They begin to understand language structures, punctuation, spelling and grammar. They learn to think in ways that are imaginative, creative and critical.

(b) Mathematics

Mathematics develops students’ thinking, understanding, competence and confidence with numbers, shapes and measurement. Students learn to add, subtract, divide and multiply whole numbers, fractions and decimals. They learn to measure time and calculate with money. They learn geometry, algebra and how to work with data and graphs. Students use mathematical knowledge to communicate, problem-solve and reason.

Great books for tweens to read

Favourite books from the Premier’s Reading Challenge team that will inspire kids aged between nine and 13 to read read read!


Science assignment starters

Not sure where to go to help your child find out about electricity, natural disasters, the solar system or other science projects? Have a look at our project starters.


Growing School Communities

Exciting new gardening and sustainability initiative starting at OGPS—Growing School Communities. Expressions of interest are sought from parents/community members who would like to be mentored by a gardening facilitator in Term 2.

The facilitator will be conducting gardening/sustainability classes in tandem with classroom teachers and volunteering to maintain and develop the existing kitchen garden.

Applicants need to commit to a minimum of 2 hours each Tuesday with the view to eventually taking on the garden teacher role. This is an outstanding initiative that will help teachers incorporate the kitchen garden and sustainability themes into their teaching programs and give all students the opportunity to develop knowledge, understanding and skills about productive gardening and sustainable living.

Want to know more? talk to Ms Keane in the playground, email Toni ogps.garden@gmail.com or come to the next P&C meeting.

Advertisement:

PIANO teacher needed

I am Matthew and Nicholas’ grandmother and each Monday I come into Lilyfield to take them to school and pick them up. I am teaching myself to play the piano and would like to contact a piano teacher, preferably female, who could give me lessons on a Monday morning (in school terms only).

If you’re able to help me please call me on my mobile 0438223236. Many thanks, Patricia Zanetic

2014 homework planner

The best homework help you can give your child is to teach them to be organised. Print out the 2014 homework and study calendar, which includes key dates and school holidays. Stick them on the fridge and above their desk.


Maths A to Z

Brush up on some of the maths terms your child uses in the classroom. The Maths A to Z glossary provides straightforward explanations and illustrated examples.

1/2F - Our work so far
Dates to keep marked on the calendar:

Wednesday 19 March – P&C meeting, 7pm Block A
Sunday 6 April – Football parking 3pm
Friday 11 April – Movie Night! More info to come, but keep this night free!

Uniform report

Uniform store regular opening hours: Mondays 2.50–3.30pm and Wednesdays 8.40–9.10am

Did you Know... With the cooler Autumn weather approaching, look out for the fleecy vests order form in next weeks newsletter.

Cake stall

It must have been the right kind of weather for a cup of tea and a cake over the weekend, because the Cake Stall made $1173! The rain didn’t stop the Cake Stall volunteers, nor the bakers – a big thank you to all of you! Let’s hope the weather is kind to us on Saturday 31 May when we get to do it all over again and the kindergarten and pre-school families are our main bakers!

Football Parking

The first opportunity to fill our ‘car park’ is when the Manly Sea Eagles play at Leichhardt Oval on the afternoon of Sunday 6 April at 3pm. If you can help, text your details to Peter Lewis on 0413 8732852 or Louise Appel on 0437 105073 and your two hour shift as a car park attendant will make a massive difference to our school!

And don’t forget, those who help out get free tickets to the game.

Gonksi news

As we all know, Gonksi funding will help every child in Australia to get a great education. Six-year Gonksi funding agreements were signed last year by NSW, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the ACT. Those agreements specify the level of additional resources each government will contribute and require the funding to be delivered according to student need.

However, the Abbott Government has only agreed to provide less than one third of the money required under those agreements, saying it would only commit to funding until the middle of 2017.

In addition, it has handed $1.2 billion in Gonksi funding to the states and territory that did not sign up – WA, QLD, NT – with no requirement to match that funding or even distribute it to schools. So far, not one dollar of that money has been allocated to schools in WA and the NT.

So, Gonksi vans have been hitting the streets, driving across Australia – reaching Canberra just in time for the May Budget. As they travel, they are connecting with communities the length and breadth of the country to build support for action on Gonksi by the Abbott Government and state and territory governments.

Canteen news

Don’t forget we are selling hot buttered (or not-buttered) corn on the cob in the canteen on Thursdays – only $1.50 for 2 cobs, or $2 for 3. Please specify on your order if you want it buttered!

The canteen sells toasted sandwiches as lunch orders every day that we are open, we make them fresh to order (cheese, ham & cheese, ham/cheese/tomato). But we are not a toastering service for sandwiches from home! Lately we have had quite a few children turn up at our windows with sandwiches, asking for them to be toasted… much as we would love to offer this service, we are simply too busy with popcorn bags, gelato scoops, snipping the tops of icy poles, popping straws into juice boxes, buttering raisin toast, slinky-ing apples etc… we don’t have time to toast sandwiches that have come to school in lunchboxes!

Sushi Friday from Koi Bento... please remember the sushi order goes in on Thursday morning, to be delivered for lunch on Friday. We can’t accept late orders any more (it is simply getting too huge!) Any sushi orders placed at the canteen on Friday mornings will receive a cheese toastie instead!

And a big “thank you so much” to Roz (mum of Scarlett and Seraphine) for the wonderful donation of a boiler plate/cook top… this means pasta and sauce will come back in term 2 and who knows what else we can add!

Class parent system

This is now up and running, you should be receiving emails from your class parent rep/s on updates and important events and activities.

If you are not a part of the system but would like to be please email ogpsparentreps@gmail.com or fill out the form on the school website and hand in at the office.
Introducing KidsMatter Primary

Do kids matter? Of course! They matter to families, to schools and to the community. These are the groups that KidsMatter Primary wants to bring together to improve children’s mental health.

Good mental health is vital for learning and life. Children who are mentally healthy are better able to meet life’s challenges. They also learn better and have stronger relationships with teachers, family members and peers.

KidsMatter Primary is a national mental health initiative that has been trialled nationally in over 100 schools since it began in late 2006. KidsMatter Primary has been developed in collaboration with the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, beyondblue: the national depression initiative, the Australian Psychological Society, and Principals Australia (formerly the Australian Principals Association’s Professional Development Council). The trial was also supported by Australian Rotary Health (formerly the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund).

Research has found that up to 14% of Australian children have mental health problems such as anxiety, depression and behaviour problems. Only one out of every four young people with mental health problems receives professional help\(^1\). Sometimes this is because parents, carers and school staff are unsure whether children need further help. They may not know what kind of help is available or where to get it. In some cases it may be difficult to access child and adolescent mental health services in their area.

KidsMatter Primary has three major aims:

- To improve the mental health and wellbeing of primary school students
- To reduce mental health problems among students
- To achieve greater support for those students experiencing mental health problems

One in seven Australian children have mental health problems - KidsMatter Primary aims to reduce this.

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