Welcome back!
We trust all families and community members had an enjoyable summer break. It was a wet but friendly welcome to the new school year for 2015.

Today our new Kindergarten children started their school life and we wish them, their families, and our other new families a rewarding and happy experience with us.

We would also like to welcome the new families and children joining other year groups:

Yr 1: Baden
Yr 2: James
Yr 3: Isaac, Eadie, Annabelle
Yr 4: Tayrn, Tayah, Darcy, Amelia

Staffing and school organisation
We welcome many new additions to our 2015 teaching staff:

Grace Lattuca – (relieving assistant principal), Sam Wagstaff, Shelley Middleton, Edwina Macdonald, Cathy Burns (librarian) and Craig Ashworth.

We also welcome back some familiar faces who will join as temporary teachers once more: Kate Barnard, Dave Addley, Sam English, Brooke Whitney.

Rebecca Garay joins the permanent team in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and Maria Wrigley joins us on a temporary basis replacing Christine Gallagher while she relieves at a larger school. Dave Macanulla is also on board as general assistant.

We begin the year with 368 students K–6 with an additional 40 children in the preschool. As numbers continue to grow, the class formation model continues to vary, with K–2 student classes based on a year model, and 3–6 based on a stage model.

As class groups were planned in 2014, and the school is funding an additional teacher, the class structure was stable and able to be put into place earlier this year. Classes for 2015 were formed yesterday, day 1.
The 2015 class structure and teacher allocation is:

KA  Mr Addley  Block B
KB  Ms Barnard  Block B
KL  Ms Lattuca  Block B
KW  Ms Wagstaff  Block B
1T  Ms Whitney (casual)  Block A downstairs
1B  Ms Baines  Block A upstairs
1M  Ms Middleton  Block A upstairs
1/2M  Ms Mazaferro  Block A upstairs
2C  Ms Cascio  Block A downstairs
2K  Ms Keane  Block A upstairs
3/4M  Mr Musa  Block D
3/4B  Mr Barbuto  Block D
3/4E  Ms Macdonald  Block D
4/5F  Ms Frederiksen  Block D
5/6H  Ms Humphries  Block D
5/6A  Mr Ashworth  Block D

Library: Ms Burns
Counsellor: Mr Reid (Tue only)
Italian: Signora Dimarco (Mon-Wed), Signorina Maria (Thu-Fri)
Reading Recovery: Mr Madden
Learning Support: Mr Madden, Ms Fleming
Music: Ms English
Office: Ms Maria Wrigley (Tue, Thu, Fri)
    Ms Martine Gabriel (M–F)
    Ms Rebecca Garay (Tue, Thu)

Religious instruction
Scripture lessons will commence on Friday 6 February for all children K–6. If you elect that your child not attend scripture, he/she will be in a group supervised by one of the teachers during this time. For a child to change scripture groups there must be a letter stating this intention.

The instruction available is listed on the note sent home.

Scripture times are: K–2 Friday 9:30am, Yr3–6 Friday 9am.

GOT Game
Orange Grove will continue to use GOT Game, an external provider, in 2015 as a more prominent feature in the sport program as well as to further enhance the profile of sport at the school. GOT Game provide a wide variety of programs developed around the new national curriculum with qualified PE teachers specifically trained to deliver engaging lessons using specialist equipment.

K–2 will participate in a four term program involving fundamental movement skills that involve balance, running, jumping, throwing and catching, hopping and skipping.

Yr3–6 will be exposed to a variety of athletic sports such as high jump, hurdles, discus and shot put. In Term 2 and 3 these students will participate in PSSA Summer team sports such as netball and soccer. Term 4 will continue with balance, rhythm and movement.

Teaching programs
All programs will commence on Monday – library, Italian, support, and release from face to face programs (RFF). The timetable for individual classes will be discussed at the parent information evening on Wednesday evening, 11 February.

Reading Outreach
This program, which supports literacy learning, operates with the support of community volunteers and the school hires a teacher to train the volunteers, follow up student progress and complete assessment data and tests. Heather Fleming, our Learning Support teacher, will be overseeing the program. If you have some time available during the week (1 hour) to commit to the Outreach program, Heather would love to hear from you.

February P&C meeting
The Parents and Citizens Association meets on the third Wednesday of every month during school term. The February meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 commencing at 7pm in the school Library.

Come along and find out about your school.

Swimming carnival
The annual swimming carnival is to be held at Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre (LPAC) on Thursday 12 February.

The carnival is for all children in Yrs 3–6, and any children in Year 2 who are 8 or turning 8 in 2015. Children are invited to come in their house colours. They must have a hat and sun protection.

A note about this event will be sent home.

All parents are welcome as volunteers or spectators. See Mr Barbuto if you can help.
Family contribution scheme (school fees)

Each year families K–6 are asked to contribute an amount of money for the purchase of consumable items to be used by all students.

The money raised by this scheme assists the school to purchase items like paint, craft supplies, specialist equipment and paper.

The family contribution scheme is a voluntary scheme. However, it is hoped that as many families as possible can assist the school to further develop our teaching and learning programs.

In 2015 the Family Contribution Scheme K–6 is set at $55.00 per child per year.

Payments can now be made by completing an online payment. Go to the school website. Select ‘Make a Payment’. Choose Voluntary School Contribution from the Drop Down menu.

Receipts will be issued for all Family Contribution payments.

Although Orange Grove PS has a high Family Occupation and Education Index (FOEI, used to determine the level of school funding), the number of families who have paid the school contribution in the past has been minimal. Please support the school by providing these much needed funds.

Parent information evening

A meeting for all parents P–6 will be held on Wednesday evening 11 February, commencing at 5:30pm in Block A hall, where the staff 2015 will be introduced.

This will be followed by information in classrooms by class teachers. If you would like to know how your child’s class will operate this year it is a great opportunity. We hope as many parents as possible are able to make it. Information leaflets will be available.

Please be aware that this evening is not for individual parent interviews. If you would like an interview to discuss your child, please make an appointment with your child’s class teacher who will only be too happy to do this.

Best Start – (Kinder)

This assessment for all kindergarten children will take place next week. Kindergarten teachers will be replaced by casual teachers. They will then take children individually to complete the assessment. Information about this process has been sent home with children. If you would like further information, please see the class teacher who will happily explain it to you.

Child collection

Please be mindful of the fact that teachers are instructed not to let children leave the premises with anyone, including other community members, without their knowledge of the arrangement. This often causes unnecessary stress, when the teacher is required to ring the parent to confirm the plan. If you require your child to be collected by others, please provide the class teacher with a list of names of the people to whom you have given permission.

Anaphylaxis – severe allergic reactions

What is anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. This year at Orange Grove there are more children who are anaphylactic.

Anaphylaxis occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen (such as a food or an insect bite). Reactions usually begin within minutes of exposure and can progress rapidly over a period of up to two hours or more. Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and always requires an emergency response. Fortunately anaphylactic reactions are uncommon and usually preventable by implementing strategies for avoiding allergens.

At Orange Grove we need to put into place some of these avoidance strategies. Common allergens for anaphylaxis are:

- foods, e.g. peanuts and nuts, shellfish and fish; and in pre-school age children, milk and egg
- insect bites, e.g. bee, wasp, jumper ants
- medications, e.g. antibiotics, aspirin
- latex, e.g. rubber gloves, balloons, swimming caps.

To support our students to avoid allergens we are asking that children not bring food with peanuts or nuts. This includes peanut butter and Nutella. We thank you for your support.

A reminder to parents to notify the school about your child’s health

We welcome information from parents about your child’s health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Any children who have it noted in their enrolment form that they have an allergy, will be sent home information forms. Please provide this information in writing to the principal. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and wellbeing.
Growing School Communities

We are very much looking forward to another wonderful Term in our beautiful Orange Grove Kitchen Garden. We will be expanding our Kitchen Garden and opening up some new space near the play equipment.

In the next weeks we will be organising a Working Bee to help start this garden. We will be seeking people to join us for an hour or two to help prepare the site for planting. No special skills are needed, just the ability to spread newspaper and cardboard and mulch. We will set a date for this activity in the coming weeks. In the meantime, if you have any spare cardboard boxes (flattened) or newspaper, please leave it on the table next to the garden shed.

We will be selling tomatoes, herbs and leafy greens at the assembly this coming Friday morning. These were grown and nurtured by our students. All proceeds from our sales go directly back to buying supplies for our garden.

TexTech – Sewing & Textile classes for Students Year 3-6

... embrace your creativity through textiles

In 2015, we will continue our mastery of the sewing machine as well as exploring other fun textile techniques such as wool felting, tie dying and screen printing.

Lessons will be held in my home on Thursday afternoons from 3.30pm. The first lesson will be held on 5 February finishing on Thursday 2 April. This is a nine week term. The fees will be $225 + $30 for a sewing kit if your child does not have one.

Orange Grove students will be collected after school and escorted to my home where I will give them a nutritious afternoon tea.

Please call or text me on 0407702880 if your child is interested.

Annie Zimmermann (Mother of Zoe in Year 5, 2015)