

Dear Parents/Carers



On behalf of our teachers I wish to extend to all ODPS families a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. May 2020 be filled with good health and happiness. Thank you for your lovely Christmas messages and home cooked treats. Delicious!

Some families will be moving away from our area and some students are heading off to high school or to Opportunity Class. We wish you all the very best. Those returning to us we look forward to seeing you in 2020.

Summer Holidays:

Last day for students Wednesday 18 December 2019.

School resumes:

Year 1-6 Wednesday 29 January 2020. Kindergarten begins Monday 3 February 2020.

Dates for your Diary

Week 10

Wednesday 18 December

Last Day of Term 4 for students

Term 1 Week 1 2020

Tuesday 28 January

Staff Development Day

Wednesday 29 January

Years 1-6 students return to school

10:00am Classes announced – students move to new rooms for 2020

Kindy Best Start Assessment

Thursday 30 January

Kindy Best Start Assessment

Friday 31 January

Kindy Best Start Assessment

Summer PSSA – Final Trials

As the year draws to an end, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have shown our school in 2019.

External Validation occurred in Term 2

Once during a five-year cycle, schools undergo an external validation of the evidence of their school self-assessment. Our school engaged in discussions with an external panel and had our self-assessments validated using the School Excellence Framework (SEF). The panel, determined the school's evidence supports their self-assessment using each element of the SEF. The leadership team and our teachers have strategically planned for excellence as described in the SEF since 2015. Our body of evidence indicated to us that we are achieving at 'Excellent'. This is what we submitted to the panel and on Tuesday 11 June 2019, the panel confirmed our decision by validating our school in the following areas;

- **Learning: EXCELLENT**
- **Teaching: EXCELLENT**
- **Leading: EXCELLENT**

This achievement is only possible when educators have their students at the core of all decision making. Our strategic directions have a relentless focus on learning and wellbeing. Our staff believe it is our responsibility to provide the best possible school environment for our students. These results can only be achieved when a school is supported by its community. Not all public schools are the same. At this public school our parents support our goals. You attend workshops, parent teacher interviews and provide us with your feedback. Our NAPLAN results confirm our internal data, with over 70% of our students achieving in the top two bands in literacy and numeracy. Every year we see a growing number of our students successfully gaining places to Opportunity Classes (OC) and Selective High Schools. Our sporting teams and performing groups succeed in competitions and

At this public school, we work together to provide the best possible environment for our students to learn and grow. Your voluntary school contributions, in addition to those of the P&C directly contribute to learning, by allowing us to employ teachers above establishment to support students at risk, and extend and stretch all learners. All teachers prepare personal development plans and set goals for their own professional development and are supported by expert teachers.

I also thank and acknowledge your support of P&C initiatives. Our P&C organise many fundraising activities throughout the year, which you support to supplement and complement our school's allocated Department of Education resources. These are extras above and beyond our state allocation. In 2019 the P&C supported our school with approximately \$50,000 worth of works. Some of these include:

- Ground improvements: Synthetic grass, fencing, concrete pathways, awnings and covered walk ways to classrooms
- Canteen Mural
- Air conditioning
- Student leadership program
- Yr 6 First Aid program

Oakhill Drive Public School is not like other public schools. At Oakhill Drive, your child gets more than a basic education. I'd like to thank all families who were able to assist us in meeting our goals in 2019.

Class Formations 2020

This procedure begins with the placement of students with the teachers who we believe will bring the very best out of these students. Every class must have a mixture of boys and girls and a mixture of ability groups. We also take into account their relationships with their peers. Teachers know if 'best friends' can work productively in the same class or not. Some friendships are best suited to the playground only. **There are no guarantees that they will have their closest friend in their class.** We ensure that our students understand this from now. We seek your support to reassure your children that they will cope with their new class setting in 2020. The placement of our students in the appropriate class with the appropriate teacher and mix of students is our top priority.

Whilst we consider academic results, more importantly we take into consideration students' social and emotional wellbeing. All classes offer a differentiated curriculum. This means that all classes will have mixed ability groups within them. Our learning programs are designed to meet the needs of each ability group.

Yesterday I spoke with our students about coping with change and about the 'butterflies in their tummy'. I reminded them that this is normal and that it will pass, as it did at the beginning of 2019. Help us to support your children for the new school year, by talking up this change and reassuring them, that they will make friends in their class and the teacher will be supportive of them.

Extending Students

At Oakhill Drive Public School we offer the opportunity to extend our talented students by placing likeminded students in the same class, as a cluster. These clusters occur over several classes. This is offered to students from Year 1 to Year 6. These students are taught the same curriculum content, however the pace of the lesson is faster, and the repetition of content is less. The nature of the student is such that the teacher can offer more challenging activities for students to apply their knowledge to.

Day 1 Term 1 2020

All Year 1-6 students will assemble at their 2019 class spot under the COLA, when the bell rings at 8:55am.

On behalf of our staff, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a happy New Year and a restful holiday with your family.

Betty Ploeg
Principal

Wellbeing Wednesday

Last Wednesday, Oakhill Drive was bursting with wellbeing! Students and teachers had a great day, reviewing, reliving and rethinking all their learning during the year about wellbeing and positive relationships. Year 6 students led others in a fantastic range of wellbeing activities which covered all the aspects of physical, social, emotional, cognitive and spiritual wellbeing. Our 'Hands up for Wellbeing' display highlighted many things that we all do to build and maintain our wellbeing and relationships.



'From Our Plate to Their Paddock' – Food for Farmers

"Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference." Kathy Calvin (President and Chief Executive Officer of the United Nations Foundation)

Thank you again to all our wonderful families for their very generous response to our food drive. Year 6 students helped to pack over 90 boxes filled with a great variety of grocery items to give to the families affected by drought. Tahlia and her mother, Simone, came to collect the food last Thursday and address the students. Tahlia is a Year 10 student at Galston High School, who started collecting food, hay and monetary donations for the farmers, after travelling to the drought areas of NSW. Her message to our students was that every person, no matter how old or young, can make a difference if they have a passion to do so.

Thank you again, we are so proud of our Oakhill Drive community! I wish you all a happy Christmas with family and friends and a restful holiday. Enjoy spending time being together to value all the special relationships we each have.



Helen Paris
Deputy Principal

2020 Dance Auditions

Dance auditions will be held early in Term 1 2020. Date and time to be advised. All troupes will be finalised by the end of Week 3.

Summer PSSA Teams

Final trials will be held early next year, with all teams finalised by the end of Week 3.

Miss Chamberlain
Coordinating Teacher

**2020 Representative Sporting Trials**

Each year there are trials for students to be part of a zone or area team in a variety of sports. As a school we are able to select a few students to send to each trial. To attend trials, students are expected to participate in the sport outside of school in either Division 1 or Representative level in U11/12 age group or above. Most sports are only open to Year 5 and 6 students. When trials are announced, the Representative Sport Coordinator and coach of the sport will consider any suitable students, looking at the level they play out of school and skills shown in weekly PSSA. Most of the zone trials are held after school within the local area. It is the parents' responsibility to transport your child to the various venues. The following is a list of the sports:

- **Girls and Boys:** Basketball, cricket, diving, golf, hockey, netball, orienteering, soccer, softball, tennis, touch football, water polo
- **Boys only:** AFL, rugby league, rugby union

If your child meets the criteria to be nominated as a possible school representative at a trial, please send in the following details to Miss Lord:

- Child's name, class, age, date of birth
- Chosen representative sport
- Local club and representative teams – name of club/s, current competing age group, division, number of years played
- Positions played.

Janelle Lord
Representative Sport Coordinator

Canteen News

NO LUNCH ORDERS TOMORROW WEDNESDAY 18 DECEMBER. The canteen will be open for drinks and snacks only.

Melanie and Helen
Canteen Managers

Uniform Shop

TERM 1 – 2020 – SHOP HOURS

- **Wednesday 29 January 2020 – 8:30am to 9:30am**
- **Thursday 6 February 2020 – 8:30am to 9:30am**
- Thursday 13 February – Flexischools Orders Only (Shop Closed)
- **Thursday 20 February – 8:30am to 9:30am**
- Thursday 27 February – Flexischools Orders Only (Shop Closed)
- **Thursday 5 March – 8:30am to 9:30am**
- Thursday 12 March - Flexischools Orders (Shop Closed)
- **Thursday 19 March – 8:30am to 9:30am**
- Stocktake 25 March (Winter Uniform)
- Thursday 26 March – Flexischools Orders (Shop Closed – winter uniform orders)
- **Thursday 2 April – 8:30am to 9:30am (winter uniform sales)**
- **Thursday 9 April – 8:30am to 9:30am (winter uniform sales)**

FLEXISCHOOLS ORDERS CAN BE MADE AT ANYTIME AND WILL BE DELIVERED TO YOUR CHILDS CLASSROOM ON THURSDAY'S

Flexischools will remain open over the holidays for orders. Orders placed during the holidays will filled by the first day of school and available to be picked up from the uniform shop on Wednesday 29 January. If orders are not collected by 9:00am, they will be delivered to your child's 2019 class.

If your child is new to the school and does not have a class allocated you may include their order under the classroom labelled New Students.

Georgina Brown
Uniform Shop Coordinator

Community News

DISCLAIMER

We sincerely thank our advertisers for their support of our school. While Oakhill Drive Public School is selective in the advertisements it runs, parents are advised to use their own discretion in supporting these services.



LEARN TO PLAY
BRING A FRIEND
BRING YOUR DAUGHTER
2020 Girls Teams
Learn to play

Castle Hill United is one of the largest local female football (soccer) clubs, hosting multiple teams from U6 to Over 35's ladies' teams. We have specific female only games on Sunday playing locally in the Hills district.

Girls – Bring your friend and play a game of soccer:-

- We have a team for you.
- From never played before teams to Division 1 teams
- Training during the week
- Sunday games during winter
- Teams from U9, U11, U12, U13, U15, U18, AAL, O35's.
- Don't worry if you have never played, we will teach you to play.

Dates and Times

- Registrations start 1st January
- Grading in February
- Season starts end March



CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

E-mail: ladies@castlehillfootball.com.au
Ladies VP: Scott Macdonald 0416 534 629

School Holiday Activities

Free activities
for primary
school students
at **The Reserve
Bank Museum**

Students will receive an interactive presentation on banknote security features and get a closer look at the new \$20 banknote. They will also be taken on a guided journey through the Museum and learn about the history of Australia.

Cost:
Free (Registration essential)

- Booking Information:**
- Expressions of interest are now open for the Summer school holiday period.
 - For further information, session times, and to register your child please visit the Museum website.
 - Registrations will close on 10th January at 5:00 pm.

museum.rba.gov.au
museum@rba.gov.au
(02) 9551 9743
Ground Floor, 65 Martin Place,
Sydney NSW 2000

RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA



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Our Values

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Respectful and reciprocal relationships



Our mission

"We aspire to provide the best education and care, and create a nurturing environment for you and your child's individual needs"



Centre hours

We are open from 7am and close at 6pm weekdays.
Care for birth to 6 years

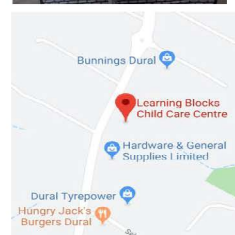
242 New Line Road, Dural
9651 7700
learningblocks.com.au

What do we offer?

Quality educational program and individual care for your child.

We provide all daily meals and nappies.

Professional and passionate educators



All parents and volunteers please remember to sign in and out at the Front Office each time you visit the school to work with students. Also, please ensure you have completed an Appendix 5 form available at the office. This only needs to be done once and covers all the years you help at the school provided it is continuous service.

Supervision of Students

Our teachers supervise children at the following times in the playground:

8:40am-9:00am - Before school

10:55am-11:20am - Recess

1:10pm-2:00pm - Lunch

3:00pm-3:30pm - Bus children only

No child should be at school before 8:30am

No child should remain playing on site without parent supervision in the afternoon.

SCHOOL SECURITY

If you see trespassers in the school out of hours please call school security.
1300 880 021 (24 hours)



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