

Dear Parents/Carers

Changes to School Development Days in 2021

At the commencement of 2021, there will be amendments to our School Development Days (SDD). These amendments will impact Terms 1 and 4, but will have no impact on Terms 2 and 3. As a result of the changes, we will no longer have two Staff Development Days at the end of Term 4.

The 2021 school year will commence with two Staff Development Days. Therefore, for students in Years 1-6 the first day of school in 2021 will be Friday 29 January.

Community Safety

Last week, a parent was hit by a car as they tried to cross from the medium strip at the bus bay towards Mensa Place. Thankfully, all parties involved are well. However, this could have been a very different outcome. I remind parents that great care is required on our streets for the safety of all.



It is simply not possible for all parents to park in Mensa Place and I suggest that you will need to park further away from the school. It is also not safe to call your children to cross the road from the bus bay to you. If you want them to cross independently they should use the crossing.

Complacency is settling in, with parents now using the bus bay to socialise, children are being allowed to play ball games and chasing games. Pre-schoolers are using the sign posts to swing around and last week I witnessed a student doing handstands on the medium strip! I remind parents to socially distance and urge you to leave the street as soon as you have connected with your children.

There is an increase in the number of dogs being bought to wait in bus bay with their owners. Dogs are unpredictable around other dogs, noisy children and traffic. I would suggest that you do not bring your dog into the bus bay area.

Please ensure that grandparents, who pick up your children are aware of this information. I thank you for your support.

Kindergarten Enrolments 2021

Due now. Please complete an online enrolment form now or contact our school for further assistance. The Department of Education enrolment form can be found here:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/enrolment/primary-school-enrolment>

Further information can be found on our website:

<https://oakhilldr-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/enrolment.html>

Dates for your Diary - Term 4

Week 3

Monday 26 October

Yr3-6 Book Week Author Visit

Tuesday 27 October

Trash Free Tuesday
Kindy Scienza Viva Incursion

Wednesday 28 October

Book Week Fun - Mufti Day

(no gold coin required)
Yr5 Leader Nominees Informed

Thursday 29 October

Yr5 Student Leaders Write
Speeches
Band info Session (via Zoom)

Friday 30 October

Grit-2-Gro initiation Day
Scripture & Ethics

Week 4

Tuesday 3 November

Trash Free Tuesday

Wednesday 4 November

Student Leader Speeches &
Voting Yr2-6

Thursday 5 November

Yr3-6 Athletics Carnival
Parent Webinar: Transition to
High School (via Zoom)

Friday 6 November

K-2 Athletics Carnival
2021 Student Leaders
Announced
Scripture & Ethics

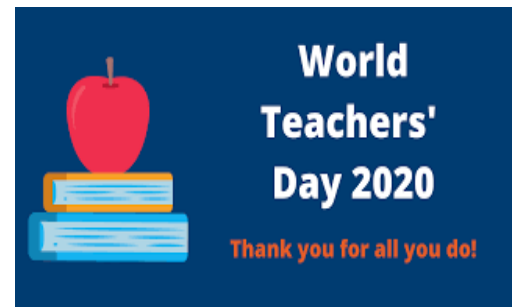
If you are planning on withdrawing your child/ren from the school at the end of this year, you must advise us in writing now. Also, please advise us in writing, if your child/ren will be late to start the new school year. It is a government requirement that we are informed of the school your children will be attending in the future.

Minimising Risk of COVID-19 Transmission: Updated Advice for NSW Schools

- Schools should continue to exclude students and staff with even mild symptoms of COVID-19 and encourage them to seek testing immediately. **Parents of symptomatic children will still need to provide evidence of a negative test result on their child's return to school.**
- In the case of seasonal allergic rhinitis or other condition that presents similarly to COVID-19 and in the presence of continuing symptoms, **the child will need a negative COVID-19 test result and a letter from their GP confirming that the child should be permitted to return to school.** If the child's symptoms change from their usual symptoms, repeat COVID-19 testing should be performed.
- Non-essential adults should continue to be excluded from school unless involved directly in delivery of curriculum activities or health services. All teachers, coaches and volunteers should continue to ensure they maintain physical distancing during, before and after school or sporting activities.
- Good hand hygiene practices should continue to be supported along with the other measures outlined in the school and community sports COVID-19 Safety Plan.

World Teacher's Day, Friday 30 October 2020

World Teacher's Day is a day for us to celebrate and be proud. This year, despite major challenges, our teachers have made sure education continues. It's reinforced the significant role we play in the lives of children and students, their families and communities. I am immensely proud of the achievements of our teachers this year, they capably embraced unprecedented change, solved problems, and professionally supported their students in their learning and wellbeing. Congratulations ODPS staff and thank you.



We're celebrating Book Week

Curious Creatures Wild Minds!! There is no greater way to transport yourself to another world than through your imagination and a good book. With limited outings this year our children have found more time for literature. Books are flying out of the library in record numbers. Below are a few suggestions about how to instil a love of reading in your child.

1. Make sure there are plenty of books available; our library has plenty for everyone
2. Be a reader to grow a reader; talk about what you're reading
3. Read regularly to your children, set a time stick to it. Be enthusiastic, use character voices
4. Share your favourite parts, talk about the characters, the plot, the setting, make connections with reading and other issues
5. Listen to audio books
6. Introduce books or topics or genre that they may not have considered eg poetry
7. Limit screen time



**Dress up as a book character
Wednesday 28 October 2020**

Can't wait to see!!

R U OK? Day

In Term 3 our students, led by our school captains Angus and Abigail prepared thank you notes and pictures to show their gratitude to the people working in essential services. We have received several letters and emails of thanks. Below are three further letters from NSW Rural Fire Service, Rural Aid Limited and Bus Company, ComfortDelGro NSW.

Dear Angus, Abigail, SRC and Oakhill Drive Public School Students ...

Thank you for your letter dated 11 September 2020 about the R U OK? Day event you held with your fellow students at Oakhill Drive Public School.

I was very kind of you to take the time to show your gratitude to others including our NSW Rural Fire Service volunteer firefighters. We really liked the colourful poster you made for us and so thank you to all who took the time to make it. I have enclosed a few of our posters you might like to put up at your school.

2020 has been a challenging year for everyone at the NSW Rural Fire Service and across the country. So, it is even more important for us all to stay connected and look out for each other. R U OK? Day is a reminder for us all to do this.

On behalf of all of the volunteers and staff at the NSW Rural Fire Service, please look out for each other and stay safe.

COMMISSIONER – NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

What a delight it was to receive your R U OK? Messages from you and your fellow students. We passed them around the office and stuck them on our walls.

It certainly made us all smile.

Many of those drawings show some budding artists at your school. We appreciate the effort you have all taken to say Thank You.

Angus and Abigail please pass on our thank you to all of the students and teachers behind this project.

Great Job!

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – RURAL AID LIMITED

We would like to thank you for the touching messages and drawings sent to us for R U OK? Day.

We are going to display them around our depots for all drivers to see as they come to work. It will put a smile on their faces knowing you all appreciate their hard work.

We are pleased to be at your service and look forward to receiving more messages like these!

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – COMFORTDELGRO CORPORATION NSW

Betty Ploeg
Principal

Presentation & Sport Assemblies

We are continuing to plan our special end of year assemblies where many students' achievements will be recognised. However, we are waiting for further directive from the Department of Education regarding these types of events, including the number of people able to be in the room, if we can mix Stages, the time period permitted and the ability for parents/carers to attend.

Our current plans are to hold the assembly at Cherrybrook Technology High School on Monday 7th December. If the assembly proceeds at CTHS, we will hold both the presentation and sport assembly as the one event. Both school and sport leaders will have the opportunity to lead their appropriate part of the assembly.

If parents/carers are unable to attend CTHS, we hope to live stream the event. As usual, parents/carers will be notified by mail if their child/ren will be receiving an award.

Thank you for your continued understanding and flexibility.

Kindergarten 2021

It has been a pleasure meeting our families whose children will begin kindergarten in 2021. Many of these families are new to our school and they are excited about joining our Oakhill Drive community. We will be holding kindergarten transition days later in the term (Thursday 26 November and Thursday 3 December) so that these children can start to become more familiar with our school environment. Following current guidelines, parents will need to drop off and pick up their children at designated areas, maintain physical distancing and move off site as quickly as possible.

Instructional Rounds @ ODPS

Last week, our colleagues from John Purchase PS, Thornleigh West PS, Normanhurst PS and Berowra PS observed lessons (virtually) across our school. We delved deeply into research, considering the work by Barbara Blackburn on rigour and how that will be implemented in pending curriculum updates. Following our observations, we looked for evidence of best practice and made recommendations for improvement. This learning was highly valuable as it will direct our professional learning by setting goals for the next 12 months where we will continue to develop our knowledge and skills around questioning, rigour and formative assessment. We are so lucky at ODPS to have talented teachers who strive to learn and implement best practice. The following 'post it' notes summarise some of the many celebratory comments that our colleagues noted.



**CELEBRATION WALL 2
ODPS 2020**

Student talk focused on task

T asked students to refer to prior learning

Students looked engaged and happy in learning

Walls that teach! Co-constructed texts around the room

Goals from one context referred to in another

Very clear questioning of students and had a clear vision of what they were teaching

Students were learning with a partner which meant they were able to talk

Students given choice to work individually or in pairs - I agree, this was done very well

Teacher-student callbacks super effective

Lots of teacher questioning used to deepen student thinking

Wonderful use of Popplet throughout the lesson

Love the bright classroom environments

Focus on mathematical skills / proficiencies in maths lesson

Thanks for giving us the Intro video and explaining how to use your videos. That helped me a lot!

Teacher & student relationships were positive which created a positive learning environment

LISC articulated and used during the lesson

The observer dug deeper to elicit information from the students. This caused the student to self reflect and adjust his perception of his learning and he discovered that his Maths was actually challenging and not easy

Activated prior knowledge before moving on with the lesson

Movement based lesson introduction engaged students

Beautiful artworks throughout classroom; Loved the 'old people' art

Probing questions at the end of the lesson to uncover what students found tricky was great

The probing questions of the observer allowed an insight into students' understanding of the lesson

Use of wait time clearly evident

T referred back to LISC multiple times in the lesson

Students remained focused on task

Students had the opportunity to talk

Worthwhile lessons based on syllabus expectations, important content and student need

Teachers rephrase questions when seeking clarification

T and students worked together to define vocab in LISC

Julie Torney
Deputy Principal

Wellbeing – LEARN IT, LIVE IT, TEACH IT!
Quality Relationships and Wellbeing



SchoolTV

“My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me.” —Jim Valvano (American Basketball Player, Coach and Broadcaster)

This month on SchoolTV - Raising Boys

Many parents will attest to the fact that most boys are active, loud, rambunctious and prone to rough play, but this should not affect how a parent acts towards their son. Be careful not to pigeon-hole your son into sex specific behaviours or gender roles. The male brain is distinctly differently in its development. A boy's physical maturity is often at odds with his mental and brain development.



Societal beliefs about how to raise boys can sometimes influence their adult carers. Although we are not determined by our biology, it is a factor. It is important to support boys in their natural tendencies and nurture their strengths and abilities. Teach them the skills they need for their future and to develop a healthy identity. It is important for boys to have a role model they can connect with and acknowledge who they are. One of the most important determinants for a boy's development is how secure they feel growing up.

In this edition of SchoolTV, adult carers will gain a better understanding into some of the more complex issues relating to raising boys. We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this month's edition, and we always welcome your feedback.

If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help. Here is the link to this month's edition <https://oakhilldr-p.schools.nsw.schooltv.me/newsletter/raising-boys>

Helen Paris
Deputy Principal

Student Awards**Silver and Gold Acorns and School Magazine**

All students across Stage 3 have the opportunity to earn a Silver (Year 5) or Gold (Year 6) Acorn. There are 3 components:

1. **Awards:** any 2 school awards (Colour, Positive Pan, Oaktree or Legends) presented in class or at an assembly throughout this year
2. **Participation:** the involvement in activities that encourage skill or knowledge development
3. **Citizenship:** helping the school or the community in various activities

Requirements of the amount of time and suggested approved activities have been shared at the beginning of the year and with the students throughout the year. Each Stage 3 teacher has copies of the 2020 adjusted requirements, also given to all students (mid-Term 2). This is available again for interested students.

Names of students who receive a Silver or Gold Acorn are included in the annual school magazine and are awarded at the weekly Monday 9am assembly. The cut-off date for forms to be given to Miss Lord for inclusion in the school magazine is Thursday Week 4 (5 November). Acorn awards can still be finalised and presented after this date.

Janelle Lord
Award Coordinator

Notes Due	
ODPS Drive Safety Walk	Thursday 29 October
Surf Education Australia Program – Many Beach (<i>online Waivers</i>)	Friday 30 October
Athletics Sports Day – Years K-2	Tuesday 3 November
Athletics Sports Day – Years 3-6	Tuesday 3 November
2020 School Photo Year Book Order	Thursday 5 November
Year 7 Entry into Selective High Schools in 2022	Monday 9 November

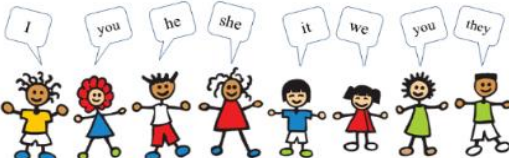
Uniform Shop

A small supply of (new style) Girls Dress Shorts to be worn with the Girls' Summer Shirts, have arrived in the Uniform shop. The shorts have an adjustable waist to allow for growth and re-sizing as necessary. These new shorts can be ordered via Flexischools.

Georgina Brown
Uniform Shop Coordinator

ENROL NOW FOR KINDERGARTEN 2021

If you have a child or children turning 5 or 6 in 2021, School Enrolment Forms are now available on the school website, under the ENROLMENT Tab – please click on this link <https://oakhilldr-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>



Non-Returning Enrolment

Should your child **not be returning** to Oakhill Drive Public School in 2021, please print and complete this section, and return it to school as soon as possible.

Child's name: _____

Class in 2020: _____

In 2021 my child will be attending _____

School Travel for 2021



2021 school travel applications are now open

Applications for student travel in 2021 opened from Monday 12 October 2020.

Students who require a School Opal card or travel pass for 2021 can now [apply](#) online. A new application should be submitted if a student is applying for a school travel pass for the first time or requesting an additional pass as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody).

Students who have changed school/campus, changed address, repeated a year or received an expiry notification from Transport for NSW for their school travel entitlement should [re-apply or update their details](#).

*Applications must be completed by the student's parent or legal guardian if the student is aged under 16 years. Students 16 years and over must complete the application form themselves.

Where there is a change of distance eligibility based on a student's grade, the system will automatically update a student's entitlement if they meet the new criteria. If they do not meet the new [eligibility criteria](#), they will receive an expiry notification via email.

Students who have an entitlement approved under a medical condition which is due to expire will receive a notification advising them to re-apply.

[Term Bus Pass](#) holders will receive a notification to re-apply.

If a student needs to update their information or re-apply, they should go online to <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/updateDetails>

Applications need to be submitted before **31 December 2020** to ensure that current student entitlements are updated and their current entitlement/card remains valid. If their application is submitted after 31 December 2020, the system will automatically cancel an entitlement/card and a new one will need to be issued.

Students in the Opal network applying for a SSTS or Term Bus Pass entitlement for the first time will receive their card at their nominated postal address. Cards will be mailed out from January 2021.

Students residing in Rural and Regional (R&R) areas should receive their travel pass at the commencement of the new school year from their nominated operator, this may be distributed via the school or sent direct to their address. **Note:** some R&R operators do not issue travel passes. Students/Parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass.

New Concession Entitlement Cards

Transport for NSW will be replacing the below cards with Transport Concession Entitlement Cards (TCEC) from October 2020:

- Senior Secondary Student Concession Card (16 years and over) – also used by Mature Secondary Students (18 years and over), Distance Education Students and Home School Students
- Proof of Age card (when a student under 16 years of age looks older)
- Boarder Rail Pass.

All previous cards will be valid until they expire. Students who require a Transport Concession Entitlement Card should speak with their school administration staff.

Enquiries regarding school student travel can be submitted to Transport for NSW at <https://transportnsw.infor/contact-us/feedback/passes-concessions-feedback>



High Performing Students Team

Placement in selective high schools for Year 7 entry

in 2022

Information for applicants

Thinking of applying for
a government selective
high school for Year 7
in 2022?

You must apply online at:

[https://education.nsw.gov.au/
public-schools/selective-high-
schools-and-opportunity-
classes/year-7](https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7)



Key Dates

Application website opens:
13 October 2020

Application website closes:
16 November 2020
You must apply before this date.

Test centre and test authority advice
released:
25 February 2021

Selective High School placement test:
11 March 2021

Placement outcome information released:
2 July 2021

**Please read this booklet carefully before
applying.**

**From this year, you will be able to log
into your application to send and
receive messages and notices.**

There may be changes to the procedures
in this document. Check the website at
education.nsw.gov.au/shs-oc regularly for
updates throughout the application and
placement process.

Please check the website for information
before you contact the Team.

The Selective High Schools placement process for Year 7 entry is administered by the High Performing Students Team. It is referred to as 'the Team' in this document.

Contact Details:

High Performing Students Team, NSW Department of Education
Email: ssu@det.nsw.edu.au
Telephone: 1300 880 367
Postal Address: GPO BOX 33, SYDNEY NSW 2001

Facebook:
[https://www.facebook.com/groups/
772251106301086/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/772251106301086/)



Surviving the transition to high school



Helping your child make changes

The transition to high school is an exciting time in your child's life. In this workshop parents develop skills for preparing their child for the transition to high school. Specific strategies regarding organisation, travel and managing the revised demands of school provided.

The 1.5 hour session covers topics such as:

- New skills your child will need to acquire
- Common fears about high school
- What parents can do to help their child prepare for high school
- Organising stationery and study areas
- Travel training
- Technology + safety

When: Thursday 5th November 2020- 5:00pm-6:30pm

Where: Online via Zoom:

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctcuyhpjkiGNNveLv7A0XqKnhOUTWkURZv>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.





You're invited to Oakhill Drive Public School Band's 2021 Information Night!

Students in Year 2 and Year 3 who are interested in joining our fabulous Band Program in 2021 are invited to a live Webinar event to find out more about becoming a band member next year.

The Webinar will go live at 7pm on Thursday 29 October.

Families will have the opportunity to hear all about selecting the right instrument for your child, as well as details of how our exciting program is run.

To register an expression of interest for this event and to receive an information pack, please use the QR code or head to:

<https://forms.gle/2jENjW3TiWapQXoa6>



Jamie Watkins
ODPS Band Coordinator
odpsband@gmail.com

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.

TAEKWONDO WORLD

Martial Arts for Kids

ACTIVE KIDS

www.tkdworld.com.au
5 Gladstone Rd, Castle Hill
8850 7771


NEW COMPETITIVE SWIMMING PROGRAM IN THE HILLS

WESTERN SYDNEY AQUATICS

Training out of **Oakhill College** swimming pool, Western Sydney Aquatics focuses on stroke development, competition introduction and coaching for State, National and Open Level competitions.

ENQUIRE TODAY!
 westernsydneyaquatics.com

Supervision of Students
 Our teachers supervise children at the following times in the playground:
 8:30am-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.



PLEASE CALL US

Attention Parents

Please remember we do not encourage parents onto the school grounds. If you need to visit for any reason – please call ahead first. Once on grounds please ensure to sign in each time you enter for COVID-19 Tracking.



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 E: oakhilldr-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au