

Dear Parents and Carers,

Summer Holidays

Last day of Term 4 is **Wednesday 16 December 2020**.

School Resumes

School resumes in Term 1 2021 on Friday 29 January for all students in Years 1 to Year 6.

Kindergarten students begin on Wednesday 3 February 2021.



Band Gala Night

Last Wednesday night we live streamed to you the wonderful sounds of our performance bands and ensembles. This was a new experience to us all and I congratulate Jamie Watkins, Renee Burrows and the parent committee who support them. I hope you enjoyed the show from the comfort of your home and perhaps you may have shared it with the extended family as well.

Our band program maintained its presence this year, ensuring our students continued their learning in this creative field. I congratulate our musicians for the resilience and dedication they have shown.

Mr Watkins informs me that that next year, we will welcome over 70 new students to the band program.

Quality Relationships and Wellbeing for All

At Oakhill Drive, we believe that 'Relationships are Central' and this is evident in everything we do and everything we say. Respectful, positive relationships are only possible when there is a high level of personal wellbeing. At our school, these are focused on 'hand in glove' with academic learning and reinforced at every opportunity.

"According to the World Health Organisation, mental health is 'a state of well-being in which every individual realises his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community'. Schools are an ideal setting for supporting the mental health of young people." (Reach out, 2020)

Dates for your Diary - Term 4

Week 7

Tuesday 24 November

Trash Free Tuesday
Kindy Drama Incursion

Wednesday 25 November

Yr5 - First Aid Training

Thursday 26 November

Yr6 - First Aid Training
Kindy 2021 Transition (Session 1)
Yr6 Music Ensemble Workshop (at CTHS)

Friday 27 November

Scripture & Ethics (last lesson)

Week 8

Tuesday 1 December

Trash Free Tuesday
Yr6 High School Orientation

Thursday 3 December

Kindy 2021 Transition (Session 2)

Week 9

Monday 7 December

Presentation & Sports Assembly (at CTHS)

Tuesday 8 December

Trash Free Tuesday
Concert Band Auditions

Wednesday 9 December

Wellbeing Wednesday – Students to wear Crazy Socks

Week 10

Monday 14 December

Yr6 Farewell (Castle Hill RSL)

Tuesday 15 December

Trash Free Tuesday
Stg3 Planetarium Incursion

Wednesday 16 December

Last day for students

In 2020, we have continued to 'grow' Positive Education at Oakhill Drive by:

- **Positive Education lessons** were reviewed and incorporated into weekly PDH lessons.
- Implementation of a **whole school mindfulness program**, using the resources from Smiling Mind, which extended to homework activities. Teachers reported that they could see significant benefit to students' levels of emotional regulation and ability to focus after these sessions.
- Our beautiful school grounds now display a range of **new signage** that reinforces our positive culture. These include the plaques above the COLA showing important aspects of relationships and learning as well as signage in play areas outlining expectations of play. Along the pathway a giant KiND sign is displayed with little bees around it, reminding us to '*Bee Kind*'.
- **Harmony Day** activities empathised the importance of kindness and inclusion.
- **R U OK Day** was recognised by reinforcing the need to look after each other.
- **Education Week focus on 'Gratitude'**.
- **Modified Athletics and Cross-Country Carnivals** at school to provide leaders with opportunities, students with fun and exercise and to build a sense of belonging.
- Trial and implementation of **new student wellbeing programs** to support groups of students in the school, such as START (Yr 6 transition), Grit2Grow (Stage 3 resilience), Thrive Hive (Stage 2 relationship building) and the continuation of Panda Patch (K-2 relationship support).
- Commencement of a **review and updating of Student Wellbeing Policies**.
- Development of a **revised Semester 1 report**, with adjusted Social Development and Commitment to Learning criteria that reflects the environment at the time.
- The Wellbeing section on our **ODPS website** has been updated and enhanced, to provide additional information about Positive Education at Oakhill Drive and a Parent Support tab with information about different wellbeing topics.
- The **Parent fact sheet resource** in the office has not been accessible, so factsheets and brochures have been added to the website and newsletter.
- **SchoolTV** has been a well-utilised resource for parents, especially the Covid related Special Reports.
- **Parent workshops** delivered by Learning Links (Developing Resilience, Anxiety & Depression).
- **Ongoing professional learning** for teachers on a range of Positive Education concepts, including solution-focused approach, restorative practices, mindfulness, resilience in education.
- Whole school plan to **monitor and support the wellbeing of students and families** this year, especially during the period of remote learning.

It has been a year of change and unfortunately one that has brought sadness and difficulties for many. While recognising this, at Oakhill Drive we have focused on maintaining a happy and safe environment for our students and families, within a culture that supports the individual and others to be resilient and hopeful about the future.

Thank you to all our parents for supporting us in delivering Positive Education this year. We are grateful for the partnerships that we have with our community enabling us to work together to help our students connect, succeed and thrive. Please note further within this newsletter about our 'Giving Tree' scheduled to commence Wednesday 2 December 2021.

Betty Ploeg
Principal

SRE/SEE

We thank our SRE/SEE Teachers for teaching our students this year. Due to restrictions we will not be holding an end of year Christmas service.

Last lessons will be Friday 27 November, 2020.

Presentation & Sports Assembly

We will hold our assembly at Cherrybrook Technology High School on Monday 7th December, we will hold both the presentation and sport assembly as a combined event. Both school and sport leaders will have the opportunity to lead their appropriate part of the assembly.

Unfortunately, no parents/carers are able to attend. However, the event will be live streamed. As usual, parents/carers will be notified by mail if their child/ren will be receiving an award, so you can make sure that you tune in.

Thank you for your continued understanding and flexibility.

Julie Torney
Deputy Principal

Debating at ODPS in 2020

Due to the Covid19 situation this year the Hills Interschool Debating Competition was unfortunately cancelled. This did not deter the students at ODPS and we set up our own debating program and competition within our school. This was prepared so the students involved could continue to practise and develop their public speaking and debating skills.

The program involved all participating students giving up their Monday and Thursday lunchtimes to learn the skills of debating and public speaking. Students were placed into teams to formally debate each other on a series of controversial topics and the program has been running throughout the entire Term 3 & 4.

Each team has debated against each other in a round robin competition, with the winning teams progressing into a finals phase. The remaining teams have then debated against each other.

Our competition is nearing its finale, with the two grand final teams decided.

We wish the following team members well in their preparation for the upcoming Grand Final debate this week on the topic – “That climate change is the greatest threat in human existence?”

- * **Team 1** - Calli B, Siena H & Sayali M
- * **Team 7** - Emily Z, Leah S & Bianca I

Mr Wicks & Miss Perger
Debating Team Coordinators



Canteen News

The School Canteen remains open for **lunch service only** – Thank you again to all our volunteers for helping us each day.

End of Year - The last day for Flexischools lunch orders will be Friday 11 December.

Monday 14 December and Tuesday 15 December the canteen will be available **for over the counter service only – NO LUNCHES**.

The Canteen will be closed on Wednesday 16 December for cleaning and stocktake.

Helen, Liz and Jenny
Canteen Managers



OAKHILL DRIVE PUBLIC SCHOOL

'GIVING TREE' 2020

It has become an annual event on Wellbeing Wednesday for students to demonstrate their compassion by donating to others less fortunate. In previous years, we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our community and many people have benefited from your kindness.



This year, we have decided to support:

1. Families who continue to experience hardship as a result of the bushfires and COVID, by donating 'treat yourself' items, for them to enjoy during the holiday period. The Salvation Army will distribute these items to families in need, to help them enjoy the holiday period.
2. Essential/emergency workers in our local area. Our student leaders have suggested making gift baskets for these people, who have given so much this year, to keep **us** safe and well. These may include local shops, doctor surgeries, SES centres, Rural Fire Service, aged care workers, police stations, fire stations, hospital workers etc. These baskets of 'goodies' will be shared by essential workers in their workplaces. Baskets will be prepared by classes and delivered by staff or parent volunteers.

Students are asked to donate an item to be included in 'Treat Yourself' drive.

Items may include:

- ✓ **Snack treats e.g. chocolates, nuts, biscuits, lollies, chips etc.**
- ✓ **Soft drinks, juices, cordial, milk additives etc.**
- ✓ **Christmas foods, Christmas decorations**
- ✓ **Any non-perishable foods**
- ✓ **Personal products e.g. soaps, bath bombs, bath salts, hand creams, body lotions etc.**

When to donate:

Wednesday 2 December until Wellbeing Wednesday on 9 December

Where to bring donations:

Due to COVID restrictions, *only students* are able to bring donations into school. Students can place their donation under the Giving Tree in the COLA, when they arrive at school.

Donations will be collected each day and stored inside. They will all be brought out and displayed under the tree on Wellbeing Wednesday to show the students how together we can make a big difference.

This time has been difficult for many families, so we urge families to only donate whatever they feel able to afford.

If every family donates just one item.....together, we will support many!

We thank you in anticipation of your support, once again, of this initiative.



Helen Paris
Deputy Principal



OAKHILL DRIVE PUBLIC SCHOOL



Dear Parents/Carers

At Oakhill Drive Public School, parents can access their child's reports and awards records via the Parent Portal. Student reports include: Semesters 1 & 2 Class Reports, Band Reports, EAL Reports and Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten) Best Start Reports.

All parents at Oakhill Drive Public School, need to register for the Parent Portal to have access to any information relevant to your child. After registering for access, no further action is needed and you can access at any time, especially when reports are available.

To access the portal, parents must have an email address registered with the school. This should have been provided to the school via your child's enrolment form. There may be some family circumstances in which both parents may require their own access to the portal. This can be done if both email addresses are registered with the school.

If you are a new parent, please allow approximately one week from the day your child starts at Oakhill Drive Public School before you try to register for the portal. This will allow your child's details to come across to all the data systems in the school. It is recommended that parents who have registered previously, check their access at this time.

The Parent Portal can be accessed by following these instructions:

1. Go to the Parent Portal
<https://www.impromotion.com.au/portal4parents/?schid=4604>
2. Click on the **'Don't have a password? Get Registered'** link at the bottom of the portal sign-in page, then enter your email address
3. Parents with no current portal account or incomplete portal accounts will receive a 'Getting Started' email which will guide them through the registration process.

During the registration process, parents will receive an email with instructions and a default password to use initially. This will give access to the portal to allow them to set up their own password which will be linked to that email address.

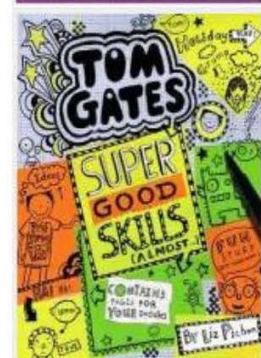
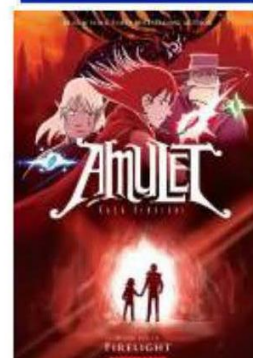
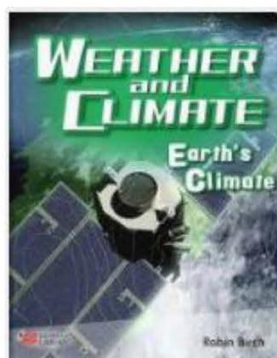
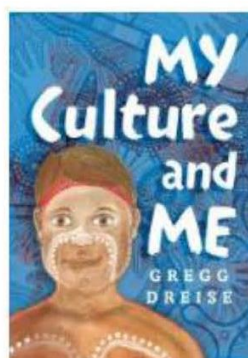
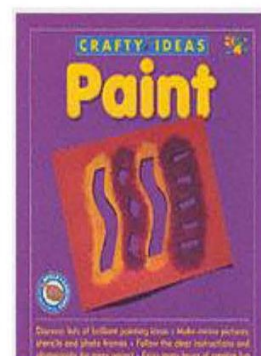
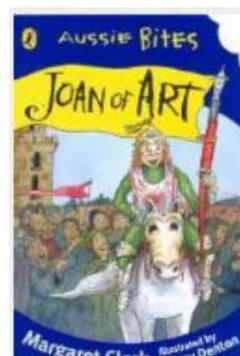
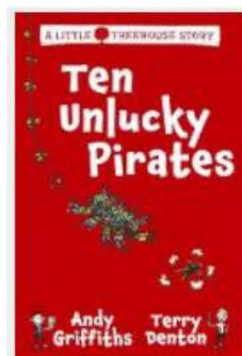
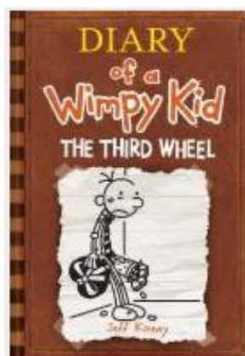
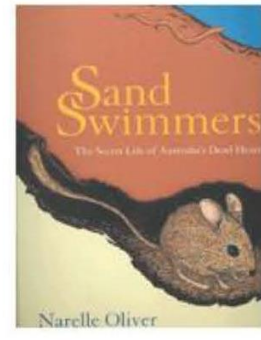
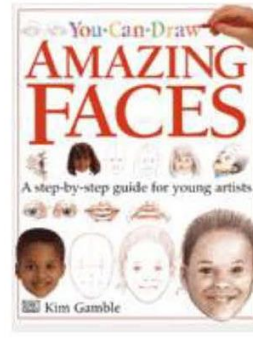
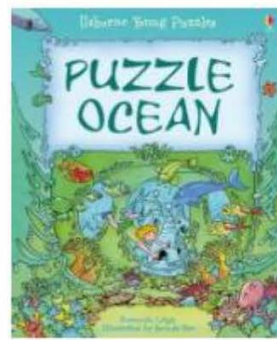
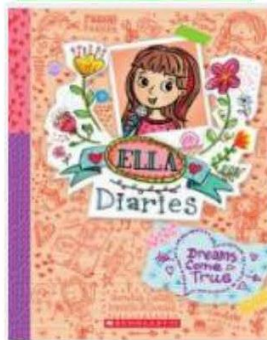
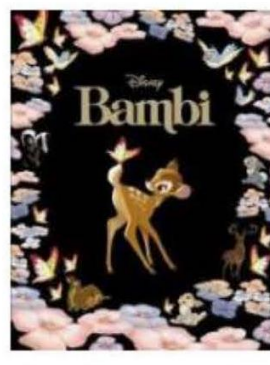
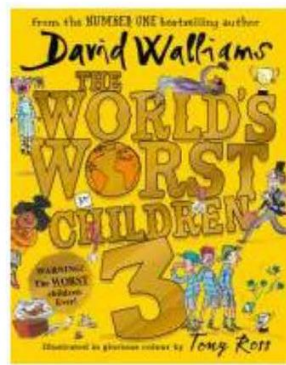
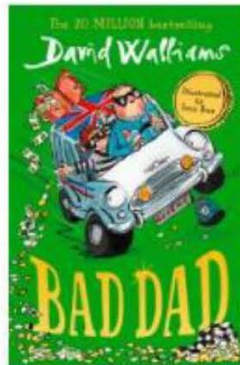
After the registration process is complete, parents can access the portal using their own email address as the Username and their newly set-up password.

Please note your password in a safe place for future reference when accessing the portal.

Helen Paris
Deputy Principal



New BOOKS in the Library



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>



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.

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 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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