

Dear Parents and Carers,

Summer Holidays

Last day for students Wednesday 16 December 2020.

School resumes

Year 1-6 Friday 29 January 2021. Kindergarten begins Wednesday 3 February 2021.



Respecting our Neighbours

We recently surveyed our neighbours to gain their input about the school's impact on them. Overwhelmingly the results were very positive. They raise one main concern and that is 'blocking drive-ways'. Therefore, I alert you to this and urge you to be mindful of this complaint. It may be a healthy alternative to park further away, increase your step count, admire the beautiful gardens and empty your thoughts while you walk to the school gate.

Planning for 2020

Planning for 2020 is well underway and as always it is critical that we receive information to assist us in this process. **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. Also, if you have a child beginning Kindergarten next year or know of a neighbour with a child starting school, please ensure the school office is contacted regarding enrolment.

At this time, we are expecting 760 students to attend Oakhill Drive PS in 2021. We are expecting 75 kindergarten students; however, we are exiting 108 year 6 students and more to OC. This means we will be forming 29 classes.

Staffing 2021

Four teaching positions will be filled permanently from 2021. Three of these were appointed by HR and one through the merit selection process. Elizabeth Softsis and Judith Dixon were long term temporary casuals who have worked in our school for many years. They have now been converted to permanent staff. Kathleen Van Den Broek is a new member of staff who has recently been appointed and Silvia Samaan (previously on temporary engagement) was successful in gaining a permanent position through the merit selection process. We congratulate these teachers and are excited that they remain with us as permanent members of staff. We welcome Kathleen who is working with us for the remainder of 2020, getting to know our students and staff before her permanency begins next year.

Dates for your Diary - Term 4

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 2021 we look forward to the return of some permanent staff from leave, while others go on leave. In addition, some of our permanent staff will be retiring or moving to other schools. Mrs Robyn Kulmar (classroom teacher at ODPS 20 years) will retire at the end of this year. Mr Jerome Wicks, (classroom teacher at ODPS 5 years) will be moving on to St Luke's in Marsden Park. Miss Laura Feeney (Assistant Principal, four years at ODPS) will be leaving Sydney and continuing her work with the DoE at Korora Public School. Mrs Susen Sparkes (School Administration Officer), will be leaving Sydney and our school, after nine years of service at ODPS. We wish all of these colleagues the very best for the next milestone in their lives and we thank them for the years of dedicated service to our students and our community.

Final Scripture - Friday 27 December 2020

Last Friday was the last scripture lesson for our students until next year. We were unable to hold our usual combined Christmas service, however in their individual lessons each denomination has acknowledged this very special time in the year. I thank all the Scripture teachers who have volunteered to teach our students this year.

In spite of the difficulties this year has brought, they remained dedicated and prioritised our students. I wish them a Merry Christmas and look forward to their return in 2021.

Presentation Day Ceremony - Monday 7 December 2020

This ceremony will occur at Cherrybrook Technology High School and live streamed to you. Whilst all our students are recognised for their achievements and personal bests throughout the year, this ceremony recognises some students from each class, who have excelled academically, made significant progress and shown exemplary citizenship. Sporting achievements will also be recognised at this time.

All students are expected to wear their full summer uniform. No sport shirts or Year 6 shirts on this day please.

Betty Ploeg
Principal

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



Wellbeing Wednesday is coming!

On Wednesday 9 December, the whole school will be celebrating the wellbeing learning and practices learnt during 2020. On this day, students will participate in 3 activities:

1. Year 6 led fun activities based on each of the 5 aspects of wellbeing: social, physical, emotional, cognitive, spiritual.
2. Class lesson on gratitude. Leaf display activity on 'Tree Trunks', using poles in COLA, representing growth through wellbeing.
3. Movie: related to wellbeing.

On Wellbeing Wednesday, students may:

- wear sport uniform with crazy socks (these can be made from an old pair from home)
- bring a spare t-shirt as they may get a bit damp doing some of the activities e.g. jumping over a soaker hose
- bring a pillow/cushion, popper and popcorn to enjoy during the movie



Don't forget to bring in a donation for the Giving Tree, starting from this Wednesday, until Wellbeing Wednesday in the following week. See separate note.

Helen Paris
Deputy Principal

Silver and Gold Acorns

All students across Stage 3 have the opportunity to earn a Silver (Year 5) or Gold (Year 6) Acorn. With the end of year approaching, any student wishing to achieve an Acorn needs to have all their forms completed in the next fortnight. Students can check with their class teacher for the requirements.



The cut-off date for handing in forms and awards to Miss Lord is (week 9) Wednesday 9 December. This will allow for confirmation of all requirements prior to the last presentation of Acorns on Monday 14 December (week 10).

Janelle Lord
Award Coordinator

Canteen News

The School Canteen will be running down their stock over the next few weeks. Please refer to Flexischools for availability of items.

The last day for Flexischools LUNCH ORDERS will be Friday 11 December.

Canteen will be open for counter services only on Monday 14 December and Tuesday 15 December.

NO LUNCHES will be available the last week of school.

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

Thank you to all for your support this year – we look forward to seeing you all next year in the Canteen.

Helen, Liz and Jenny
Canteen Managers

Notes Due	
Combined Presentation Assembly Sports Celebration	Wednesday 2 December
2021 Summer PSSA and Home Sport Preferences (Yrs 3-5)	Thursday 3 December
Stage 3 Achievement for Silver & Gold Acorn Forms	Wednesday 9 December



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

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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