

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our thoughts are with the people of India who are currently experiencing a record jump of infections and deaths due to Covid 19. This is intensified with a critical lack of resources due to the scale of the population impacted by this health crisis. We realise that some of our own school community may be personally impacted and we extend our deepest hopes that this situation rapidly improves. We are currently researching any way that our school community can assist.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parents being involved in the education process for children improves success socially and academically. This includes parents discussing school activities, helping with learning at home and maintaining ongoing contact with their child's teacher. Our parent teacher interviews are an opportunity for parents and teachers to share their expectations of the student and discuss any concerns, making plans to work together to meet these goals. These conversations should continue throughout the school year, using the teacher's preferred method of communication, in order to support students to achieve. Over 90% of parents have arranged to meet with their child's class teacher over the next two weeks and we thank you for your active involvement and support.



Assessment Tools

At Oakhill Drive, teachers use a wide range of tools to assess what students know, can do and understand in order to plan for future learning. This week, all students in Years 4 and 6 are undertaking the Department of Education's 'Check In' assessment in reading and numeracy. This is an online, multiple choice assessment completed by students across the state. Similarly, students in Years 3 and 5 will complete NAPLAN from Week 4. In addition, teachers gather data from daily activities, observations and samples of learning to determine each student's level of competency. A wide range of assessment data is used by teachers to inform future lesson plans as well as to make judgements for semester reports. These reports will be available for parents via the Parent Portal at the end of Term 2.

Enrolment

Families are starting to enrol via the online enrolment system for Kindergarten 2022. If you know families who may have children that will attend ODPS, please point them in the direction of our school website and the enrolment tab to complete the process online.

Dates for your Diary

Term 2

Week 2

(Parent Teacher Interviews Wed-Thurs)

Thursday 29 April

3D & 3A Swim School
(29 April – 24 June Thursdays ONLY)

Friday 30 April

Scripture
Winter PSSA

Week 3

(Parent Teacher Interviews Mon-Thurs)

Monday 3 May

PAIR Program Begins

Tuesday 4 May

Trash Free Tuesday

Thursday 6 May

3D & 3A Swim School

Friday 7 May

Scripture
Winter PSSA

Week 4

Naplan Year 3 & Year 5
(11– 21 May)

Monday 10 May

1S & 1V Gibberagong Excursion

Thursday 13 May

3D & 3A Swim School

Friday 14 May

Scripture
Winter PSSA

Uniform

From next week, all students are expected to wear their **winter uniform**, including their tie for both boys and girls. These photos show our expected winter uniform. We ask that all parents adjust ties and show their children how their tie should be worn so that they are correctly sitting around the collar. The start of each term is also a good time to double check that all hats, jumpers and jackets have names clearly marked. Our lost property is sorted on a weekly basis, and items which have names clearly identifiable can be easily returned to students.



Keeping Healthy Throughout Winter

At this time of year, students may start to pick up colds. We have learnt a great deal about hand hygiene, reducing physical contact and blowing noses, sneezing and coughing appropriately to minimise infecting others. Please remind your children how to keep themselves and others well. Of course, a healthy diet, plenty of sleep and sufficient exercise also help students to stay well.

Cross Country Carnival

Last Thursday, we held our cross-country carnivals for all students K-6. Despite concerns early in the morning with poor air quality, the day cleared to be a lovely, sunny day. Our students ran with enthusiasm and cheered others, encouraging them to keep going. We congratulate those students who gained a place and will go on to represent our school at Beecroft Zone Cross Country carnival. We extend our thanks to all of the teachers who organised the events and also to the parents who assisted during the event.

Julie Torney
Deputy Principal

A Final Message

As this is my last week at Oakhill Drive before retiring, I would like to extend my gratitude to parents and the wider school community for their support and friendship during my time here. It has been wonderful working with you all over the last 11 years, whether as part of workshops, meetings, special days and events, or just as an informal chat in the playground or at the gate.



It is with mixed emotions that I say goodbye to Oakhill Drive. I have loved working here and feel very fortunate to have had a job where I am surrounded by caring and dedicated school leaders and teachers; and a community that values and supports the education of the whole child. I will miss the staff, students and parents; however, I am very proud of all the amazing things that we have been able to achieve together. At Oakhill Drive, we prioritise wellbeing and relationships alongside learning, and over the last 6 years, I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to lead this initiative here, with the guidance of others, and the enthusiastic support of staff and the parent community.

It is my hope that you continue to support the relationship-based education approach that is so successful at Oakhill Drive and so important for your children. It is very true that 'it takes a village to raise a child' and we value the strong partnership that we have with parents. With strong foundations in wellbeing and positive relationships, children from Oakhill Drive will certainly thrive throughout their lives.

For me, I look forward to new adventures, opportunities and more time with family and friends in the future, however I will always smile when I remember my years at Oakhill Drive.

Thank you and best wishes to you and your families.

Helen Paris
Deputy Principal

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



This month on Oakhill Drive SchoolTV - Raising Girls

“We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back. We call upon our sisters around the world to be brave – to embrace the strength within themselves and realize their full potential.” – **Malala Yousafzai**

Raising girls in today’s modern world can be a difficult path for parents and carers to navigate. These days, girls are transitioning to puberty a lot earlier than they used to and the physical, psychological and emotional changes they experience are challenging. As a result, by mid-adolescence, girls are twice as likely to develop mood disorders more so than boys.



Some parents and carers may feel uncertain about how best to support their daughter through the ups and downs of adolescence and how to keep the lines of communication open. With the rise of social media and technology, mental health difficulties in girls are increasing as often they are faced with online images that make it difficult to see themselves as acceptable. Ensuring a daughter’s opinions are heard and her views listened to, will go a long way towards making her feel loved and supported as she tries to establish her own identity.

In this edition of SchoolTV, adult carers will attain a clearer picture of what girls are wanting from their adult carers and how best to support them through adolescence. 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-girls>

Helen Paris
 Deputy Principal

School Notes

It is important that parents are aware of how we communicate our news and updates of important and immediate school notes and notifications. Not only do we publish in the school Newsletter, we also post information on our school website and via the Skoolbag app.

The majority of hard-copy notes and permission slips get distributed to the students to take home. These notes are also pushed to the school website, under the “School Notes” tab, to print off from home. Notes and notifications are also sent via the Skoolbag App. Please load this onto your mobile phone and/or electronic devices and ensure to select the logo and choose which Grade/Year your children are in and any extra-curricular activities, such as choir, dance, sport etc that your children are part of. That way you are always in the know of changes, cancellations etc.

Notes Due	
Parents Assisting in Reading (PAIR) Student Volunteers	Wednesday 28 April
1S and 1V Gibberagong Environmental Excursion	Monday 3 May

Winter PSSA

Term Week	Round	Date	Netball Bus 1		Soccer Bus 2		AFL Bus 3		Newcombe Ball Bus 4	
			Location	Opposition	Location	Opposition	Location	Opposition	Location	Opposition
Term 2 Week 2	1	30 April	Kellyville Netball Courts		Bye	Bye	Hills Centenary Park Field 2	Samuel Gilbert	Samuel Gilbert School	Samuel Gilbert
Term 2 Week 3	2	7 May	Kellyville Netball Courts		Dural Park, Quarry Rd, Dural	Beaumont Hills	Hills Centenary Park Field 3	Castle Hill	Oakhill Drive School	Kellyville

Cross Country Carnival

Congratulations to all students who participated in the Cross-Country Carnival last Thursday.

Huge thanks to all parents who helped as course marshals, resulting in the day running smoothly.

Ribbons for the Years 2-6 carnival will be presented during the Week 4 assembly.

Year 3 Teachers
Cross Country Organisers

Interrelate Program Stage 2 & 3

This year, the interrelate program goes online! Interrelate is an annual family program that empowers students to understand their body and to have a positive healthy relationship with their body. We strongly encourage participation with these online courses for students in Stage 2 and 3 as they provide valuable information on puberty, personal safety and protective behaviour using language your child understands and can relate to. To find out more, click [HERE](#)



Mrs Jones
Interrelate Co Ordinator

Mother's Day Stall



Check out the Mother's Day Stall listed on Flexischools and make shopping for Mother's Day simple for all mothers and grandmothers.

There are a variety of Mother's Day packs at very reasonable prices. Limited stock so get in quick.

Last orders will be closed off at 5pm Tuesday 4 May. Packs will be delivered to your child's class by Friday in time for the weekend.

Staff Car Park

At Oakhill Drive Public School there is **no parking available onsite for parents**. We ask parents to use the two gates on David Road to enter and exit the grounds. This does not include the driveway gate. It is not safe to walk children through the car park. **Please do not walk through our car park. We have some carers in our school e.g. grandparents who may not read the newsletter. Please advise them of this information.**

Jenny Maddalena
School Administrative Manager



Sustainability News - Trash Free Tuesday

We are trying to decrease the amount of waste and litter at ODPS. It is great to see more students are using the compost bins in the classrooms. Thank you for continuing to provide students with nude food on Trash Free Tuesdays, by using reusable food containers, cutlery and drink bottles.

Eco Club

Eco Club students meet at lunch time every Wednesday to discuss ways ODPS can be more environmentally friendly. Eco Club students also help with our Return and Earn program and other sustainability initiatives. Students are taught to use the black tubs on the playground for recycling their plastic bottles, cans and juice poppers.

Kitchen Gardens

The 2021 ODPS Kitchen Garden program has officially relaunched!

Classes in Year 3 will be involved this year, starting with 3S, 3V and 3/4P. The school has invested \$20,000, to fund an additional teacher who co-teaches with each class. Mrs Weigand co-writes the learning program with the classroom teachers, prepares resources and coordinates the logistics with Mr Bleakley.

One of our future goals is to raise money for an outdoor kitchen that students can use. To help our school reach this goal, we invite teachers, parents, carers and community members to enter the Kitchen Garden competition run by Network 10 and Coles. The prizes include \$5000 cash for the school to create a Kitchen Garden, teacher resources for Kitchen Gardens, plus a \$500 Coles voucher for the person who nominates the winning school.

To nominate our school, go to:

<https://10play.com.au/masterchef/win/nominate-your-school-to-win-5000/c210412gaire>

The competition closes 12/07/2021 at 23.59 AEST. Entrants must be 18 years and over to enter. Total prize valued at up to \$6,050 AUD.

Full terms and conditions at <https://10play.com.au/win>

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Weigand
Kitchen Garden Teacher



Opportunity Class Application Information for 2022

Online applications for Year 5 placement in an opportunity class in 2022 opened on **Tuesday 20 April** and close on **Friday 7 May**.

Late applications cannot be accepted.

The Opportunity Class Placement Test will be held on **Wednesday 21 July 2021**.

Read **[Applying for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2022 External link](#)** for information about the process and important dates.

Students are offered placement in opportunity classes based on academic merit. The results obtained from;

- reading, mathematical reasoning and thinking skills tests in the Opportunity Class Placement Test
- a ranking based on primary school assessments in English and Mathematics are combined to calculate an individual student's placement score. A selection committee is convened for each school with an opportunity class, to determine placement of students.

If you have any questions re the application process, please contact Hollie Brito (Stage 2 Assistant Principal) or your child's class teacher through the school office.

Hollie Brito
(Stage 2 Assistant Principal)

Canteen News

HOT CHOCOLATE NOW AVAILABLE



ONLY \$2.00 Available at Recess & Lunchtime

Helen, Liz and Jenny
Canteen Managers

Uniform Shop

Orders continue to be available through Flexischools. If you order an item that you no longer need or wish to exchange please return the item in the plastic bag it was delivered in, enclosing a note with instructions including student's name, class and your phone number and return to the office. Unworn items are to be in the original packaging with labels intact to receive a refund or exchange.

Keep an eye out for second-hand items which are listed on Flexischools as they are received by the Uniform Shop. The items are regularly updated.

Once you order a second-hand item, please email the uniform shop on odpsuniforms@gmail.com to advise the size you have purchased.

Georgina Brown
Uniform Shop Coordinator



**Learn from our experienced Educators and
register now for our next 'Tricky Talks'
online evening sessions on
28 April 2021 at 6:00pm – 8:15pm.**

Places will be limited so we encourage early registrations. **Registration fee is \$35.00.** These online programs are suitable for children between Year 3 to Year 7, based on the parent's discretion.

Thank you for downloading our Tricky Talks conversation starters, "Where Did I Come From?" and "Preparing for Puberty".

As a parent, one of the most awkward conversations to have is the chat about puberty or helping your child understand where they came from. So why not hear from our experienced Interrelate Educators and learn strategies, tips, and tricks to help? With generations of experience helping parents tackle the hard conversations and the awkward questions, let us support you!

We know the importance of learning with your child! That's why participation in our "Where Did I Come From?" and "Preparing for Puberty" online programs are for you and your child. Our expert Educator will approach the topics of puberty, personal safety and protective behaviour using language your child understands and can relate to.

Click here to register <https://events.humanitix.com/interrelate-family-evening-program-28th-april-2021>

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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