Thursday, 4th February

KEY DATES:

FEBRUARY 2016
5 No Assembly
5 Foundation students commence - 8.50am - 12.30pm
8 Foundation students start full days - 8.50am - 3.30pm
22 Swimming Carnival
24 Whole School Athletics Day
25 School Photos

MARCH 2016
4 Immigration Museum Excursion - Year 5
24 Last Day Term 1 - 2.30pm dismissal

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to the first term of 2016. I trust you had a terrific break over Christmas and New Year with your family and are all looking forward to a wonderful year ahead.

I have had cause to do a lot of reflection over the holidays. As some of you already know it wasn’t the most peaceful and restful of breaks for me. I woke up on the first Saturday of the holidays to find my home full of smoke, nothing like smoke to get you out of bed fast! To cut a long story short, the capacitor in my evaporative cooler on the roof had exploded causing a fire in the unit. As a result, the fan was pushing the smoke through the ducts and into the house, but this kept the smoke low and so the smoke detectors weren’t triggered. It was just by the grace of God that I woke, as it was predicted that within another 15 minutes my home would have been well and truly alight.

The following weekend my home on the Great Ocean Rd at Wye River was destroyed in the Christmas Day bush fires. The fire was so fierce that there is nothing left, just absolute devastation of such a beautiful part of the world.

And then finally during that same week, Ruby, our school dog became exceptionally ill and nearly died. She was admitted to the Vet hospital with the terrible words of….. ‘she may not make it until morning’.

As you can see, not the kind of break I was expecting. However, things could have been much worse. My home in Melbourne could have been destroyed (losing two homes in one week), people could have lost their lives in the horrendous bush fires and Ruby could have died. Thankfully, Ruby is fine and has been diagnosed with Addison Disease which gratefully can be managed through medication. So when you look at it like that, what a lucky woman I am!

School Philosophy
Orchard Grove Primary School is committed to providing a safe, nurturing environment that engages curiosity, promotes learning, personal growth and wellbeing for all students. We strive to develop adaptability and resilience so students can become valued members of the local and global communities and be prepared for future life experiences.

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We all know that life is not a fairy tale and bad things do happen that sometimes we can’t control. What we can control is how we react. I was very blessed over the past weeks to have terrific support from friends, colleagues, family and this wonderful school community. I know there are others in our community who also have had trauma this last holiday and our school ‘family’ is often where we get the most support. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage us all as the Orchard Grove PS community; we can really make a difference in the lives of one another. A kind word, a helping hand etc. can all help along the way, when things are not going as we would like. To have strong support is often what is needed to keep us buoyant and assist us to see that ‘this too will pass’ and that we can get through this. So here’s to a fantastic 2016….. I for one am certainly looking forward to a great year ahead!!

Now as you are very much aware there is always lots of information to take in during the first days of the school year. You will receive quite a few ‘set up’ notices in these first weeks and the newsletter will provide important information as well, so please take time to read all of these notices.

It is so exciting to meet new families and new staff, re-connect with old friends and colleagues and look forward to the year together. Our staff have planned an engaging ‘start up’ program this year entitled ‘in@ogps’. This program explores our school values, the behaviours we expect of our students and staff and sets the compass for the year ahead.

Student engagement and well-being has always, and continues to be, the shared commitment of us all here at Orchard Grove and it is fabulous to see all classes starting the year with many creative activities exploring what it is to be an Orchard Grove student and teacher.

For those who are new to the school and as a reminder to us all, the school values are respect, integrity, working together, fostering growth and valuing diversity. In the coming newsletters we will look at the positive behaviours associated with these values and would ask that you discuss these with your children at home.

In time, more information will be shared and discussed with regards the eSmart, You Can Do It program; positive education/strengths based programs, Stride programs and peer mediation. There’s much to look forward to in 2016.

On Friday our new little Foundation (Prep) students will be starting school. Over the last week these little ones have been going through an assessment process to gauge where they are academically, so that we can start teaching at their correct point of need. We will be having a ‘Tissues and Tears’ morning tea in the staff room for the Foundation parents at drop off time. So please help direct any Foundation parents in the right direction on Friday morning so we can spend some time together.

The following Friday 12th February will be our first Assembly. We will be doing our formal induction of our Student Leaders for 2016. This assembly will be followed by a morning tea for these students and their parents to celebrate the occasion. We still have a number of book packs in the office which means that there are some students who still don’t have their books for class. If this applies to you, please come and see Lauren in the office, pay your school fees and pick up your child’s book bag. We need a minimum of $100 paid for you to receive your child’s supplies and then Lauren can organise a payment plan for the remainder if you need to.

Just a couple of alerts for you to keep in mind; starting the Week of 15th February we will be running the Information nights about your child’s new year level and the following week beginning 22nd Feb we will be having the Get to Know You Interviews. Just keep a look out for the notices regarding dates and times.

Finally, you would be aware from the media of some hoax bomb scares that schools around Victoria have been receiving. The Police believe that they have worked out the source and investigations are continuing. However, it is important that we are ready with our emergency procedures for any such event. We organise regular drills to evacuate the school or put the school in to a ‘lock down’ situation. The staff are briefed on these procedures and there are practice drills scheduled each term. Our first drill will be an offsite evacuation (assembly area – school oval) next week.

In the light of the hoax threats, our approach here at Orchard Grove PS is that any such event would be taken seriously until we are given the all clear by the Police and/or Department of Education. Therefore, we had a briefing this week with all staff to discuss this present situation and to inform them of the procedures that will be put in place if the need arises. Our attitude at all times is to keep students, staff and visitors safe at all times.

Well, that’s all from me for this week.

Have a lovely weekend with your family.
Talk soon.

Glenda Harry
Principal

PAYMENTS DUE AT THE OFFICE
• 2016 Contributions - Final instalment - due by 5th February 2016

BOOKPACKS
There are still quite a few bookpacks to be collected. Please see Lauren at the office with payment.

CANTEEN NEWS
It’s great to see everyone settling into a new school year again. I hope it’s a great one for everyone, especially the students. Well, the canteen is up and running again, with the same Summer Menu. The canteen roster is in progress, but some extra help is always appreciated. In particular, I would like to encourage the new parents to the school to come and volunteer their help on canteen days. There is no previous experience required and it’s a great way to meet and connect with other parents. You are all welcome to come and see us in action, and decide if you would like to include your name on the roster.

Canteen runs between 9.30-1.30, but even one hour help is appreciated, as many parents are busy or work during these hours. So, please contact me if you would like to join our friendly group. And many thanks again to the parents who continuously give up their valuable time to come and assist me.

Please ensure that the information on your child’s lunch wallet is correct, with this year’s class on it.
Happy 2016 everyone.

Sophie Polites
Canteen Manager
0407 853 812
sophiep62@hotmail.com
Welcome to another year of PE and Sport. Term one is a busy term with many activities and opportunities for students. The Swimming Team try out forms came home with interested students last week. If you are trying out please return these by 9am Monday 8th February to Mrs Molnar. No late forms will be accepted.

House Athletics will be on Wednesday 24th February. We need parent helpers from all year levels, in particular years 3-6. If you can assist on the day please email Kate on enticott.kate.k@edumail.vic.gov.au. No experience is needed and there are lots of different jobs on the day, from helping with events to chaperoning the students.

TEAM VIC TRIALS for under 12 state teams are coming up. This is a program for elite students playing in representative level teams. If you are interested in your child nominating, come and see Kate Enticott for more information.

Enrolment forms are available at the office.
Parent Helpers 2016
(How can I get involved at OGPS?)

One of the aims of our Parents association is to provide Parents with the opportunity to participate and contribute to the wellbeing of the Orchard Grove Primary School Community and the education of their child. Parental involvement helps make our school run smoothly, and keeps the special community spirit alive. This information sheet is to let you know of some of the ways in which you can be involved in the school life of your child.

In 2016 we are moving to online rosters and it will be the parents responsibility to book in the dates and events that they are able to help out with. The online system also sends out automatic reminders one week before and one day before the event.

We also have a closed website which will give alerts to new events, notices, and any information that is posted.

Bronwyn McIlroy
Parents association Coordinator
OGPSPA@gmail.com

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>How often?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sick Bay</td>
<td>Change, wash &amp; return the bedding in Sick Bay.</td>
<td>Weekly - usually Friday afternoon</td>
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<td><a href="http://ogps.ivolunteer.com/firstaid">http://ogps.ivolunteer.com/firstaid</a></td>
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<td>Term 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>2 people to collate printed newsletters ready for distribution.</td>
<td>Wednesday 2.45pm – 3.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uniform Shop</td>
<td>Filling orders for uniform items and distributing to classrooms.</td>
<td>Thursdays 9.00 – 10.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>Assisting Canteen Manager prepare lunch orders</td>
<td>Mon, Wed, Fri 9am – 1.30pm</td>
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<td>Contact Canteen Manager <a href="mailto:Sophie62@hotmail.com">Sophie62@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Library helpers</td>
<td>Tidying shelves, returning &amp; covering books etc.</td>
<td>Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 9.00 – 9.30am</td>
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<td><a href="http://ogps.ivolunteer.com/libraryroster">http://ogps.ivolunteer.com/libraryroster</a></td>
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<td>Term 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mothers’ &amp; Fathers’ Day</td>
<td>Help set up, selling &amp; pack up stall.</td>
<td>M. Day May 2nd F. Day September 1st</td>
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<td><a href="http://ogps.ivolunteer.com/mothersdaystall">http://ogps.ivolunteer.com/mothersdaystall</a></td>
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<td>Trivia Night</td>
<td>Parent only event. Collect items for silent auction, help set up on evening.</td>
<td>Saturday night July 23rd</td>
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1ST MONTH INTRODUCTORY OFFER $80 UNLIMITED CLASSES

2 FREE trials
FREE 1st year membership fees
FREE administration fees
FREE Grading Book (upon renewal after 1st month)
TOTAL value worth $150

HEAD INSTRUCTOR
GRANDMASTER JOON NO
8TH DAN

JOIN TODAY AND SAVE $150

JOON NO’S TAEKWONDO

TWENTY GREAT REASONS
1. Boost Socialisation Skills  2. Encourage Non Violent Conflict Resolution
3. Learn to Set & Achieve Goals  4. Learn Valuable Life Skills  5. Foster Self Discipline
6. Promote Physical Fitness  7. Stress Relief  8. Instill Sense of Respect
9. Increase Self Esteem  10. Improve Flexibility  11. Improve Listening Skills

LOCATIONS
BENLEIGH : John’s Anglican Church, 824 Centre Road, Bentleigh
BERWICK : Berwick YMCA, 79 Manuka Road, Berwick
BRIGHTON : Brighton Recreation Centre, 93 Outer Crescent, Brighton
BURWOOD : Burwood East Primary School, 401 Blackburn Road, Burwood East
DANDENONG : 14 Birch Avenue, Dandenong North
DONCASTER : Bulleen Heights School, 221 Manningham Road, Lower Templestowe
KEW : 1st Kew Scout Hall, 177 Willsmere Road, Kew
MITCHAM : St John’s Parish School, 494 Maroondah Highway, Mitcham

WEBSITE : www.joonnaostaekwondo.com.au
EMAIL : joonna007@hotmail.com
MOBILE : 0417 317 970

Celebrating 35 Years 1981-2016
Junior Basketball Club
Come and play Saturday Basketball
Registration Day Winter 2016

When: Saturday 13th February, 2016
Time: 9.00am-4.00pm
and
Tuesday 16th February, 2016
Time: 5.00pm-7.00pm
and
Friday 19th February, 2016
Time: 5.00pm-7.00pm

Where: Slater Reserve Stadium,
Grosvenor Street, Blackburn North

Enquiries to:
info@blackburnbasketball.com.au
or
Mobile: 0431 559 893

Play Footy at Blackburn in 2016

The Blackburn Junior Football Club invites you to come and play football with us in 2016. We are a family based club where the emphasis is on player participation, development and fun.

Registration Day is on Sunday the 14th February, 2016 between 11:00am and 1:00pm at Morton Park, Central Road, Blackburn.

On Registration Day you will also be able to meet the coaches, buy club merchandise, undertake mouthguard fittings and participate in the boot swap.

The Club’s current policies and 2016 registration pack can be viewed on the Club’s website: www.blackburnfc.com.au

Pat Mannix, President, Blackburn Junior Football Club