Principal’s Report

It is difficult to believe that we have reached the end of term 3 already – and what an eventful term we have had. We began the term with the excitement and enthusiasm that goes along with a huge school performance. The buzz around the school, the anticipation and the thrill of performing in front of a very large audience create some of the fondest and long lasting memories our kids will have as they grow and move through the school system, and into adulthood. Of course the performance is of such a magnitude that it requires literally hundreds of hours of planning, preparation and polish! I would like to thank our dedicated staff for their commitment to this school and to your children. And in general, I would like to thank our staff for their pure drive and dedication that they demonstrate on a daily basis in the pursuit of educational growth. It is heart-warming to hear the conversations around improving children’s learning outcomes and to watch teachers apply a variety of techniques, many honed over years of teaching experiences, to elicit change in attitude and improvement in student results.

The teachers are very well supported by our SASS and Ancillary staff. I would like to thank Cathy Gillies, Fiona McNamara and Julie Gold for the terrific assistance they provide the teaching staff. The work they do helps to keep the school running smoothly. I want to thank them for their hard work. Our School Learning Support Officers – Leanne Leahey, Kellie Frecklington, Wendee Corby, Kylie Bennett, Jo Neighbour and Sue Roughton – do an outstanding job and provide enormous support for the teachers and students that they care for and I would like to thank them for their wonderful approach our students. Equally – our dedicated cleaner, Trish Bowman, works tirelessly to keep the school looking clean and beautiful. She is also a smiling and welcoming face around the school and it is a pleasure for us all to work with Trish. John Visser, our GA, is ever present to get those odd jobs and gardening/lawns looking great.

Our sandpit project is moving along nicely. Last Friday, 10 tonnes of washed Sydney Beach sand was delivered and dumped into the pit. A number of eager and helpful students volunteered their muscle to help shovel the sand around the sandpit area, evening out the huge mound of sand. I would especially like to thank Brody, Oscar, Jassu, Justin, Ethan, Jack, Tyrone and Jessica.

The fence that arrived last week to be erected around the sandpit is the incorrect model and is being returned for the correct fence style. It should be ready to install during the first week of the holidays. The cover will also be ready by the end of the holiday period. When the children return to school, we will give access to the sandpit, based on classes (one class per day) until we determine that the excitement and newness wears off and we will relax the rule as time progresses and the level of demand falls.

I have enjoyed seeing the smiling faces of our infants classes having fun with the new chalk boards on the side wall of Mrs Press’ classroom. I would like to thank Mr Cook for having the great idea to purchase the boards and Mr Visser for his hard work in fixing these to the wall in preparation for their use. We have decided to make this an “infants only” activity whilst the newness of the boards makes them particularly exciting prospect at lunchtimes – and to allow the older kids time on the boards later in term 4 when the excitement dies down!

I am pleased for, but saddened to announce that Ms Hawke has been offered an Assistant Principal role at Glenroi Heights PS for the duration of the 2015 school year. Ms Hawke will complete her
teaching duties at Orange East PS at the end of this school year and will commence her new role from the start of 2015. She has been a highly valued member of our staff here at OEPS and she will certainly be missed – especially by those children she has taught here. We wish Ms Hawke all the very best at GHPS next year.

The Students Leaders met with me last week and we had Pizza and a terrific conversation about some ideas for future directions next term. Firstly, the Leaders will commence the sports equipment program at lunch times starting from yesterday. They have prepared a new roster and will be lending out sports balls on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. The Year six students also discussed possible gifts from Year 6 and one idea was to help the school purchase soccer goal posts for one of the playgrounds. To help raise the money, the Year 6 students will be holding a “Slushie” day twice next term. Apparently we have a “slushie” machine here at school and the interest in enjoying a slushie on a hot summer’s day, along with the need to raise some money for the Year 6 farewell and their World Vision sponsored child, has “sealed the deal!” More news about that fundraising venture next term. The Leaders also raised a hope that we might commence the “talent shows” that were part of school life going back a couple of years. The staff think this is a great idea and have agreed to support the re-introduction of lunch time talent shows. Next term, starting in week 3, each stage will have the opportunity to put together a performance and practice at lunch time. The winner of each stage will perform at the weekly assembly. Early Stage 1 – Week 3, Stage 1 – Week 4, Stage 2-Week 5 and Stage 3- Week 6. Sounds like a lot of fun. Lastly there was some discussion around freezing cold weather and lunchtime play outside. I have spoken with the executive and we have agreed that we will assess each freezing cold day based on the level of precipitation, the wind chill factor and temperature. If it is deemed too cold, we will have playtime inside. This is a formalisation of a process that has been happening on most freezing cold days already. We would also encourage parents to make sure that kids are sent with plenty of warm clothing though, as it has been noted that quite a few students arrive at school on those particularly cold days without enough warm clothing.

NAIDOC Week – We will be celebrating NAIDOC week over the course of week 2 next term. We are planning a number of events during the week and our ATSI students will be attending a special assembly on Monday 13th October as well. Some of the activities will include the Girri Girri games on Tuesday 14th October 10 – 3pm (All kids in Year six – ATSI and Non-ATSI), some cooking with Kylene Wright in the school kitchen and a school assembly on Thursday 17th October from 2pm where we hope to have some of our ATSI kids involved in a dance performance. It should be a wonderful week celebrating our indigenous kids and the richness that we all enjoy being part of this special cultural week. More detailed information will be sent home in week 1.

I would like to thank Mr Neal and Mrs Press for giving up part of their Saturday afternoon to show the busload of Rotary and interested ladies and gentlemen who visited a number of schools to look at how they were incorporating sustainability through school vegetable gardens and cooking in school kitchens. They were very impressed with our set up and thoroughly enjoyed their experience at Orange East PS.

Lastly, I am pleased to report that, upon discovering that the infants building is not fitted with safety RCD switches (in the event of an electrical cord being cut etc the power trips immediately) the Department of Education and Communities have agreed to rectify this matter immediately and these will be installed as a matter of urgency before the students return from holidays – making the electrical outlets in the March St building very safe. Kudos to Kevin Schurmer of our properties directorate for his assistance in having this matter expedited quickly.

The school has recently purchased a new ride-on lawn mower. The existing mower is therefore not needed any further and we are putting the mower up for tender. I am inviting any interested person who wished to tender for the ride-on mower to submit in writing, in a sealed envelope, an offer for the mower. All tenders will remain in the sealed envelope until Friday 19th at 9:00 am where all offers will be opened by Ms Gillies and Mrs Gold. The winning tender will be accepted (Minimum of $350) and, upon receipt of payment, the transaction will be completed. (bank cheques, direct electronic payments or cash only).

Mower information: The ride-on mower is a MTD Yardman model number MTD LT 18.5-42. It has a 42” cut and an 18.5 HP V Twin Briggs &
Stratton engine. It has a 7 speed transmission (including a reverse gear). The mower was purchased from Central West Mowers and Chainsaws of 121 Endsleigh Avenue, Orange on 25/11/2003 for $3565. The original receipt and manual is available. The mower has been serviced regularly. It has had recent work completed to correct a steering issue. To our knowledge the mower is in good mechanical repair and is functioning as it should. It is being replaced under our assets replacement policy. Any person interested in tendering a

mower will be advertised in the local paper for a fixed price

Steve Wilkinson
Principal

School News
Tee-ball Gala Day ~ has been rescheduled to this Friday 19th September. Canteen facilities will be operating at the venue on the day.

Assembly Awards ~ congratulations to the following students who received a sticker on their award sheet ~ Lachlan Crossman, Zahra Barber, Jasmine Doyle, Darius Thurtell, Bella Rawson-Blake, Lillianne Lear, Sarah Hunter, Rubie Hunter, Willow Fisher, Ben Gold, Jessica Field, Taylah Leahey, Sam Hack, Lui Ferris, Luci Moller, Mia Ferris, Medea Ferris, Felicity Van Doorn. Also to Anuska Panth and Robyn Yates who received their first sticker, Jordana Thurtell, Lilly Hunter for completing their 50 certificate, Joseph Hathaway, Mark Selmes, Jake Tinson and Brandon Bouffler for completing their 100 certificate and finally Preston Parker for completing his 150 certificate.

Principal Awards ~ congratulations to Phoebe Child, Mitchell Milton, Kyra Bennett and Rob Taylor who all received a Principal Award.

PBL Assembly ~ the stage 2 & 3 PBL assembly will now be held on Thursday 18th September (due to rescheduling of the tee-ball carnival). The assembly will begin at 2.00pm in the school hall followed by the whole school PBL stage prize draw at 2.45pm under the cola

Assembly ~ there will be NO full school assembly this week due to Stage 2 & 3 PBL assembly.

School Survey ~ it would be appreciated if the School Surveys that were handed out last week, could be returned to the office by Friday 19th September.

Dance Costumes ~ a reminder that all dance costumes MUST be returned by this Friday 19th September to your class teacher.

Energy Show ~ On Wednesday 17th September students from Stage 2 and 3 will be attending a science presentation titled “The Energy Show”. The presentation is being conducted by the CSIRO in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Orange. Please note change of times ~ students in Stage 2 will be leaving at 9.15 returning 10.30 and Stage 3 will leave at 10.15 returning 11.45. Parents are advised that the students will be walking to and from the PCYC on this day.

Playgroup ~ last week at playgroup, the children enjoyed the creative and sensory play. We had paintings of rainbow puzzles, paintings of dads and paintings of gardens. If you and your children aged 0 to 5 years would like to join the fun please come on Tuesday’s from 1.30 to 3pm in the Old Library of the school. Please bring a piece of fruit to share. For more information phone Kelly on 6393 8600. Last day of playgroup 17th September, first day back 14th October.

Eisteddfod DVD ~ parents are able to order Eisteddfod DVD’s for $10 per dance group. Please place money in an envelope with your child’s name and class by this Thursday 18th as the order will be placed on Friday 19th September
**Student Profile**

Name – Christopher  
Class – KC  

My best mates are … Kurtis & Lachie  
My favourite food is … Spaghetti Bolognaise  
I wouldn’t eat – I like all the food my mum makes !!!  

After school I really love to … play with my toys – Star Wars  
If I was down to my last $5 I would buy … a toy  
One thing I really can’t live without is … my mum and my dog Shelby  
When I grow up I want to … be a firefighter  
The best thing about being a grown up would be? … going anywhere I want and getting stuff I like.  
How old is old?.... 20  
One thing I would do if I was Prime Minister for a day … I’d tell everyone to do their job well.  
A handy superpower would be … Superman - flying