Principal’s Report
A big welcome this week to our new Kindergarten students who commenced their first day of ‘big’ school today. Ms Stokes, Mr Rae and Mrs Press have been conducting the BEST Start Assessments for these last few days to gather valuable information on the student’s abilities which is used to develop and guide programming and classroom learning activities. A very exciting time for these boys and girls as they embark on the beginning steps in their education! Thank you to the wonderful work of our Kindergarten staff who have spent much time planning and preparing for our newest Safe, Respectful Learners. Kinder students will be attending school until 2:30pm for weeks 2-5 inclusive. Kinder students from K/1P will be sent to Ms Stokes at 2.25pm each day for this time so as not to disturb Mrs Press and will exit from class KS.

Thank you to those students, parents and staff who attended our school swimming trials on Friday. These trials must be run in order for students to qualify to attend the District Swimming Carnival which is scheduled for Thursday 26th February. I was very proud of the way the students competed with some great rivalries and sportsmanship. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of Ms Croker, Mrs McKay and Mrs McNamara in organising this event.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome three new staff members to our school. Ms Philippa Hughes has been appointed as our Instructional Leader for 2015-16 as part of the Early Action for Success (EA4S) program. This is a program specifically designed to enhance and support the development of students in the Kindergarten to Year Two classes through extensive teacher professional learning and the building of high quality collaborative programs and practices. Ms Hughes comes to us with a wealth of leadership experience and will be a highly valued member of our team over the next two years. Ours school’s inclusion in this program and the appointment of Ms Hughes are very exciting developments for OEPS indeed. Week One also saw the commencement of Mrs Lisa Pulbrook in the role of Interventionist as part of the EA4S program. Lisa will be working Monday to Wednesday for first semester and comes to us having taught out at Molong CS, where she is held in very high regard. Lastly welcome Ms Emily Scott who completed her internship at OEPS in 2014 as well as some casual days. We are fortunate to be able to include Ms Scott in our 2015 staff as she was being actively sought by other local schools late last year.

You may have noticed that the Friday whole school assembly time has changed. As a school we are making a strong commitment this year to limiting interruptions of our core learning time up until 12pm but particularly before recess. For this reason the whole school assembly time has changed to 11:40am, immediately after recess. This change was made to accommodate infants sport to run immediately after this assembly and not to impinge on the morning teaching block. Stage 2/3 sport will be held in the session after lunch for the majority of those classes. Please note that Infants sport will occur in the middle session and Primary sport in the afternoon.

Next week, Monday 9th February, at 2pm a photographer from the CWD will be taking photos of our Kindergarten students as part of an annual feature “Big Steps for Little Feet”. It is important that the media permission notes are returned before this date so that ALL our Kinder kids can be involved. This is also a good opportunity to remind ALL parents that these forms need to be returned promptly, as they contain a number of permission statements and also valuable information in regard to parent/emergency contact details, etc. The student leaders will also have their photos taken on this day.

Significant work has been undertaken around the school over the last few weeks and in the latter part of Term 4. Some of the significant improvements you may have noticed include the replacement of the tile roof on the March Street building, the reroofing/insulation and gyprocking of the Spring Street verandah and the resurfacing/turfing and irrigation of the top playground. Over the coming weeks I will begin to open the top playground to small amount of
traffic, increasing as the term passes. This week infants students will be given several times to use this space. While we are all keen to use this space we are cautious to allow the turf as much time as possible to get established.

Glen Bourke  
Principal  

School News  
Student Information Sheets ~ these are being sent home today to each child. Please complete all four pages, and sign in each area required and return to school as soon as possible.

Assembly ~ There will be a full school assembly this Friday 6th February. PLEASE NOTE a change of commencement time to 11.40am. All welcome to attend.

Kitchen Fundraiser ~ “spider drinks” will be sold from the canteen on Thursday 12th Feb for $1 each, with proceeds going towards the kitchen program.

P & C News  
Clothing Pool ~ Clothing pool will be open each morning from 8.55am – 9.15am and 2.55pm to 3.15pm for this week and next week.

Canteen ~ the school canteen is open each Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Community News  
Rock the Rim ~ basketball clinics are being held this Sat 7th and Sun 8th Feb at Sir Neville Howse Stadium  
Orange City Junior Rugby Union Club ~ are holding registration days on Fri 13th Feb from 5.30pm-7pm and Sun 15th Feb from 4pm-6pm at Waratah’s Pride Park. Further info from www.orangecityjuniors.rugbynet.com.au or Tony on 0435 025 181 or Deryck on 0427 621 96.

Orange Emus Wallas & Juniors Rugby ~ registrations are now open for U/7’s-U/11’s and U/13’s to U/17’s on Fri 20th Feb from 5pm-7pm and Sun 22nd Feb 10am-12pm at Emus, Woodward Road, Orange. Phone Derek Scott on 0427 913 203 or Keryn Phillips on 0421 210 492 for more info.

Hockey NSW’s ~ are holding a program for U/9’s and U/11’s in February and March. Registrations at www.hockeynsw.com.au.

Orange Waratah Junior Football Club ~ are holding registrations on Sat 21st Feb from 10am-1pm, Sun 22nd Feb from 2pm-4pm and Sat 28th Feb from 10am-2pm at Waratah Sports Club. More info on www.orangewaratahjuniorfc.org.au.

Orange Roosters Junior Rugby League Club ~ are holding registration days on Fri 6th Feb from 4pm-8pm and Sun 22nd Feb from 12 noon at Max Stewart Oval, Sieben Drive. Phone Nathan Griffiths on 0401 536 899 or Shaune Munday on 0437 009 477 for more info.

Dates to Remember  
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<tr>
<td>17th</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting @ 6.30pm</td>
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<td>26th</td>
<td>District Swimming Carnival</td>
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