Principal’s Report

Firstly, a save-the-date request for our Meet & Greet/Family BBQ. We will be holding this important event on Tuesday, 24th February from 5-7pm. Over the past few years this has been a highly successful evening where we welcome new families and all other families at Orange East and take the opportunity to come together as a school community. As before we are continuing with an open information session providing parents & community an opportunity to find out what goes on at Orange East, in the hall from 5pm – 6pm. Each class teacher will front a stall to showcase some of the things that will be happening in their class this year. Then, at around 5:45pm the Family BBQ will kick-off with food, drinks and possibly other activities for the children. The evening gives the kids a chance to catch up and parents the opportunity to mix and mingle, to meet staff and other parents/members of the community. Thanks to the P&C for their support of this important event.

I received some exciting news late last week that our school has been successful in a grant submission made to Philmac last year. Philmac has approved the school to receive $3500 to support the work being conducted on the top playground. We will be using these funds to assist with the cost of acquiring a bore to secure a water supply for use on the various gardens and lawns around the school. This week sees the top playground open to infants and primary students on an alternating basis every recess as well as classes for Friday sport. From all reports the students are very much enjoying the wonderful new top playground.

Over the course of the past week there has been some confusion amongst parents/caregivers as to the system we are using for the distribution and use of stationery packs purchased late last year. The reason for differences in classrooms as to the distribution of equipment is to support students to manage their belongings, particularly in the younger years. As students progress through the school they are generally given more responsibility for managing their own equipment.

In many cases, class teachers use school equipment or purchase additional items out of their own funds to ensure that all students are adequately resourced. I support teachers in their aim to manage classrooms and student equipment effectively however, should your child be in Years 1-6 and you wish for this equipment to be given to the child for self-management simply ask your child’s class teacher. I have purchased pencil cases to be given free to students should they require one to hold their belongings. If you choose for your child to manage their equipment please ensure, if not already complete, that all items are labelled.

A reminder that the assembly time has moved to straight after recess, at 11:40am. This week we will also be presenting the ribbons from the school swimming trials.

Lastly, a quick reminder about returning Student Information Sheets for 2015 and the attached permission slips, particularly the e-Student Privacy Agreement. The prompt return of this information is vital to the school and teachers. Also, please ensure that all sections are completed and signed. We only have 70 outstanding, which is a great effort! Also, if any family details change throughout the year, please ensure that you advise the school office.

Exciting news!
Last week we accepted an offer from Woolworths North Orange to provide fresh fruit for our students throughout 2015. Woolworths will also be assisting with catering on our school 'special days'. We are very grateful for their generosity and excited about the support it gives our students.

Glen Bourke
Principal
School News

School times ~ bell times are as follows:
8.40am – teacher on duty (children should not arrive prior to this time unless on an early bus);
9.05am – bell rings for assembly at COLA;
11.10-11.40 – Recess; 1.10-1.50 Lunch;
3.10pm – End of day

Gate times ~ Please be advised that all external school gates are closed at 9:15am each day with the exception of the Spring St gate. Gates reopen at 2:15pm until the end of Week 5. From Week 6 they will be reopened at 2:45pm.

Office hours ~ the office is open from 8.30am to 3.30pm and is closed at recess from 11.10-11.40. If needed enquiries can be made at the staffroom at recess but we ask that these be kept to a minimum.

Choir ~ auditions for the OEPS choir 2015 are being held this Thursday 12th February and Thursday 19th February at lunchtime in the school library. A fun extra-curricular activity for students who enjoy music and performing. This is open to all K-6 students. Parents / carers need to complete a permission form (available from Mr Meares, the school office or the website). Audition is to sing a song or part of a song (pop song, nursery rhyme, advertising jingle). Students need to demonstrate basic pitch and a reasonable recall of words.

Dance ~ 2015 Dance Program will be starting soon. Notes have gone home today to each child in Years 1-6.

Maths ~ invoices are being sent home today. This fee includes the Mathletics fee for 2015.

Absence Notes ~ booklets are being sent home to each family today. If your child / children are absent, these should be completed and returned to school when your child returns.

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

Assembly Awards ~ congratulations to the following students who received a sticker on their award sheet ~ Rose Wilson-Byrnes, Ethan Gersbach, Kayla Goodacre, Macey Paul, Mason Madden, Leah Madden, Hannah Johnson, Charley Christoff, Ben Gold, Jackson Sladek, Skye Dent, Cooper Fitzpatrick, Sophie Ash and Nevaeh Graham. Congratulations also to Abby Johnson and Blair Morris for completing their 50 certificates. And a special congratulations to Tyler Dent and Noah Warren for completing their 100 certificates and Lachlan Ash for completing his 200 certificate.

Principal Awards ~ congratulations to Gabriel Gkounelas, Ebony Rawlinson, Caisey Gow and Anuska Panth who all received a Principals Award.

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. There are still some new school bags available for purchase at a cost of $40.

Ties ~ OEPS ties are now available for purchase at Orange Clothing only at a cost of $25.95. Although not a compulsory part of school uniform we are encouraging students, particularly senior and school leaders, to wear these items.

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

Community News

Orange Ex-Services Soccer club ~ are holding sign on days on Sat 21st Feb and Sat 28th Feb from 1.30-3.30pm at Calare Public School. Registrations also available online. Contact Dale Lee on 0413 892 982 for more info.

Orange Tigers Australian Rules Football Club ~ are holding sign on days on Sat 14th Feb and Sun 15th Feb at McDonalds Bathurst Road and McDonalds North Orange from 12noon til 2pm and Thurs 26th Feb from 4.30-6.30pm at Orange Ex-Services Country Club Oval. More info phone Kassie on 0413 655 132.

Bloomfield Jnr Rugby League Football Club ~ are holding registrations on Sun 15th Feb at Brendon Sturgeon Oval from 10am to 4pm. A sausage sizzle and jumping castle will be provided for children on the day. More info email bloomfieldjrlfc@hotmail.com.

Dates to Remember

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>17th Feb</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting @ 6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th Feb</td>
<td>Meet and Greet</td>
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<td>26th Feb</td>
<td>District Swimming Carnival</td>
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Important Information

for all Parents & Caregivers

I have a quick message in regards to assisting staff in implementing some new precautions for students in our school with a diagnosed medical condition. This year we have several students in our school who are Anaphylactic to all forms of nuts. **What this means is that these students are highly allergic to all nuts and such contact could trigger a severe and life threatening reaction.** The school has put a number of measures in place to ensure the safety of these students at all stages of the school day. With this in mind, I am asking parents to assist the school in maintaining a safe environment in a few simple ways:

- All lunch boxes, drink bottles and bags to be labelled with your child’s name – this will help ensure that there are no mix-ups with students having similar looking equipment.
- Where possible an alternative sandwich spread to peanut butter is used on sandwiches, etc. Information from ASCIA (Australian Society of Immunology and Allergy) suggests that this is one of the most high risk food substances due to the age of the children and the sticky nature of peanut butter.
- Talk with children about the importance of not sharing food or drinks of any kind while at school.

Thank-you in anticipation of your assistance with the steps listed above. Over the coming terms I will include information as part of our newsletter about allergies and Anaphylaxis in particular. Please find following some quick facts in relation to food allergy basics taken from www.allergyfacts.org.au. If you require any further information do not hesitate to contact the school office.

**Glen Bourke**

**Food Allergy Basics**

- A food allergy is an immune system response to a food protein that the body mistakenly believes is harmful. When the individual eats food containing that protein, the immune system releases massive amounts of chemicals, triggering symptoms that can affect a person’s breathing, gastrointestinal tract, skin and/or heart.
- Symptoms of food allergy can include; hives, swelling of the lips, face and eyes, swelling of the tongue, breathing difficulty, abdominal pain, vomiting or a sudden drop in blood pressure. If left untreated, these symptoms can be fatal.
- It is estimated that up to 2% of Australians, including 1 in 10 children*, have food allergy and some of them will experience a life-threatening allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).
- There are more than 170 foods known to have triggered severe allergic reactions. Examples include kiwi fruit, banana, chicken, mustard and celery.
- Currently, there is no cure for food allergy. Avoidance of the food is the only way to prevent a reaction.
- Adrenaline is the first line treatment for severe allergic reactions and can be administered via an auto-injector called the EpiPen® or the Anapen®.
- Food allergy is the leading cause of (severe reactions) anaphylaxis outside the hospital setting.
- Approximately 10 people die from anaphylactic reactions each year in Australia.


Permission is granted to make copies of this document for educational and awareness raising purposes only.

Source: Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (Last updated Aug 2012)