Principal’s Report

A reminder to save the date for our Meet & Greet/Family BBQ next week. 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.

Over the course of the past weeks, I have had a few enquiries as to whether playgroup will be continuing at Orange East this year. With the school increasing to 11 classes this year unfortunately I have had to place a class in the space formerly used by the playgroup, amongst other things. This has necessitated some creative thinking for 2015. This year we will be running a parent’s cooking club in our new student kitchen. The cooking club will operate every Monday from 9:30am until 12pm. This program will operate through a joint project between Orange East PS and Schools as Community Centres (SaCC). Mrs Rachel Livingstone will run the parent cooking club to develop ideas and skills in cooking nutritious and budget friendly meals, with guest chefs attending on occasion. We will also have a School Learning Support Officer (teacher’s aide) present to do craft and reading activities with any young children who come along with parents. This program is free for parents and will run in five week blocks. Please see the attached flyer and complete the bottom expression of interest if you are interested. We will only take eight (8) parents for the first five week block, on a first in basis. Participants must be able to commit to at least four out of the five sessions. Our first cooking session will commence on Monday, 23rd February (next week).

On Tuesday 10th February our student leaders, Ella, Jack, Ashlee, Ashton, Keely & Chase represented OEPS at the 'Poetry in the Park' breakfast, a special event which was held as part of the Banjo Paterson Festival. The students entertained an audience during the breakfast, reading poems by famous Australian poets including "Mulga Bill's Bicycle" and "Old Botany Bay". We thank the Rotary Club of Orange for inviting our students to participate in this event and also Miss Croker for training the students and organising the excursion.

It has been wonderful to see so many parents, caregivers and extended family members each morning coming into the school to drop the students off. I feel this gives our school that unique feeling of being an important part of our community and a welcome place for our students to come each day. With the number of people gathered under the COLA, the morning assembly can be a little difficult to maintain the attention of the students. Please be mindful when the morning duty teacher talks to the students, where possible to keep little ones quiet and noise to a minimum during this minute or two. It is very important that students settle and move to class in a calm way as this leads to focused classrooms right from the beginning of the day. I look forward to seeing you down on the COLA some time soon.

As mentioned throughout last year, all schools are now expected to implement rigorous attendance policies. This includes monitoring whole day and partial school absences as well as patterns of non-attendance. The policy requires all student absences to be explained either verbally via phone call or written note as soon as possible after the absence. With life being so busy it is not hard to overlook these notes/phone calls. For this reason
the school is sending reminder slips and letters to parents to assist in this process. Students with significant absences or patterns of non-attendance without explanation may be contacted by the Home School Liaison Officer which can result in a Personalised Attendance Plan. Overall Orange East has an excellent attendance percentage which is highly beneficial in the progress and learning of our students. Thank you to all parents who support these procedures and ensure their children are attending school regularly. If you have any concerns or questions in regards to the procedures please contact myself or Miss Croker through the school office.

Some food for thought in regard to attendance:
1 day a week = 10 days a term (2weeks - gone!)  
1 day a week over 1 year = 1 term - gone!!  
If this pattern starts in Kinder & continues through to Yr6 almost 2 years of learning is gone!!  
If students miss days of learning they reduce the chance of achieving to their academic potential.

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 25 outstanding, which is a great effort! Also, if any family details change throughout the year, please ensure that you advise the school office.

Glen Bourke  
Principal

School News  
Swimming Champions ~ congratulations to the following students: Junior Boy – Caleb Ford; Junior Girls – Isabel Tinson and Lacey Browne; 11years Boy – Chase Carnie; 11years Girl – Montanna McIlwain-Browne; Senior Boy – Jack Morrison; Senior Girl – Keely Ford. The District Swimming Carnival will be held on Thursday 26th February – we wish our swimmers all the best.

Parent Helpers for KS ~ Ms Stokes would like parent and community helpers to assist with L3 Reading Groups in KS on Monday 9:15-10:15am, Tuesday 9:45-10:30am and Wednesday 9:15-10:15am. If you are able to help please contact Ms Stokes and join in the fun!

Choir ~ auditions for the OEPS choir 2015 will continue this 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 last week to each child in Years 1-6. If you wish your child to participate, please return note and money as soon as possible.

Maths ~ invoices were sent home last week. This fee includes the Mathletics fee for 2015. Please attend to payment as soon as possible.

Assembly Awards ~ congratulations to the following students who received a sticker on their award sheet ~ Joseph Hathaway, Brock Anderson, Charley Christoff, Ebony Rawlinson, Jasmine Doyle, Willow Fisher, Isabel Tinson, Brandon Bouffler, Mitchell Crossman, Tait Britten, Lachlan Crossman, Layla Barrett, Ella Barrett, Felicity Hack, Riley Dane, Sophie Thornberry, Hannah Thornberry, Tyler Gow, Caisey Gow and Jayden Leahey. Congratulations also to Luci Moller for completing her 50 certificate. And a special congratulations to Jai Anlezark for completing his 100 certificate and Rachael Anderson and Georgie Barrett for completing their 150 certificates.

Principal Awards ~ congratulations to Owen Hamels, Nevaeh Graham, Jessica Healey and Leyton Frecklington who all received a Principals Award.

P & C News  
Clothing Pool ~ Clothing pool will be open each Wednesday from 8.55am – 9.15am and 2.55pm to 3.15pm. 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**

**Ex-Services Hockey** ~ will be holding a sign on day on Sunday 1st March from 10am-1pm. More info phone Makita Kennedy on 0437 640 209 or Gail Kennewell on 0452 636 785.

**Bowen After School Free Activities** ~ are being held at the Bowen CTC, Carriage Cottage, Spring Street each Thursday from 4pm-5pm. Thurs 19th Feb will be Martial Arts with Rolly Tandang.

**Free After School Sport** ~ Soccer is being held on Monday 23rd Feb at Margaret Stevenson Park, Spring Street from 4pm-5pm for children aged 8-18 years and Tuesday Basketball is being held at Glenroi Oval, Maxwell Avenue from 4pm-5pm on 24th Feb and 10th, 17th and 24th March.

**Dates to Remember**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<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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<tr>
<td>26th Feb</td>
<td>District Swimming Carnival</td>
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**Student Profile**

Name – Ben
Class – 5/6N

*My best mates are … Jack and Ashton
My favourite food is … tacos
but I wouldn’t eat – brussels sprouts if you paid me!
After school I really love to … ride my horse Max
If I was down to my last $5 I would buy … fuel for my car
One thing I really can’t live without is … Mum and Dad and Max
When I grow up I want to … be a mechanic
I would really like to be like … my brother Tyler
because … he builds mini-trucks
How old is old? … you never get old
A good book I’ve read lately is? … Middle School - the worst year of my life
A handy superpower would be … speed
I know it’s not fashionable but I really love? … Farming simulator