Principal’s Report

To start the newsletter this week I would like to congratulate Jack Morrison and Tanisha Symons who competed at the Western Swimming trials last week as part of the Orange District team. Jack managed to place 17th in the 50m Freestyle and Tanisha came in 5th in her 50m Freestyle event. These are fantastic results against some very talented swimmers and I would like to congratulate them on representing our school with pride.

While on the topic of exciting achievements, I would like to congratulate Brock Anderson and Tyler Tatnell who competed in a holiday chess competition in January. Both boys competed to their best, with Brock achieving a second place in his division. I look forward to having a game against the boys to test their skill! Later in the newsletter you will see an update about our school chess program. I would like to congratulate Mr Meares and Mr Cummins for their commitment to this important program in our school.

A reminder that all gates, with the exception of the Spring Street gate, are locked each morning at approximately 9.15am. If by chance a gate is closed, but unlocked, you can gain access throughout the day, however, please close it behind you. This is to ensure the safety of students, particularly if they are at risk of absconding from school grounds.

Thank you to parents and community members for the kind donation of home readers over the past weeks, particularly the Hamels family. With such an influx of wonderful books we are desperately trying to cover them so that they are available in our home reading program for other students to enjoy. Please enquire at the office if you are able to assist.

While on the topic of home reading, parents at last week’s assembly would have noticed the new system we have put in place to encourage all students across the school to take part in this valuable reading practise at home. At the Friday Assembly each week, students who have reached a milestone (Club 25, 50, 75, 100 or beyond) will be drawn out for a random small prize.

Congratulations to Evelyn Parkes who received a movie ticket in the first draw. At the end of next term as a major Semester 1 prize, students who have reached Club 75 and beyond will go into the draw for a special family meal at a local restaurant. Please note: students must be at least at Club 75 by Monday, 22nd June (Term 2 Week 10) to have their name in the draw. I would like to thank Mrs Hewitt, Mrs Carrigan and Mrs MacLean for this exciting new initiative.

As you are likely aware, the Camp Quality Education Show will be coming to the school next Monday. The program has been used in schools for 25 years to help children and teachers learn how to create a supportive school community for children affected by cancer, whether they are living with cancer themselves or have a family member living with cancer. The program consists of a live, educational performance focusing on cancer education, optimism, friendship, tolerance and a suite of educational resources for students and teachers. A reminder that a permission note was sent home last week and must be completed and returned to school for students to be allowed to attend. Please contact me should you have further enquiries or concerns.
Lastly, over the past fortnight you may have noticed a number of casual teachers in the school replacing our regular classroom teachers. Predominantly, these days have been used to gather executive and stage teams together to collaborate, plan and develop the quality of all teaching programs, particularly Literacy and Numeracy. Our school aims for a very high quality of teaching and learning and these days, although disruptive, are absolutely essential in the way we engage and meet the needs of our students. All teachers are expected to work closely together with quality teaching practices and student learning at the centre of our focus. Our Kindergarten to Year 2 teachers are also currently all being trained in the L3 Program (Language, Literacy and Learning). This program is an explicit and systematic way of teaching core literacy skills for K-2 students. Teachers must complete 12 half day professional learning sessions across the year as part of this program. Over the coming weeks I will put more information in regarding this program in the school newsletter.

Glen Bourke
Principal

School News

Class Helpers ~ K/1P would like some helpers for L3 groups each Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri from 9.15am-10.15am and Tues from 10am-11am. If you are able to assist, please see Mrs Press.

School Chess ~ Chess has commenced at Orange East Public School for the 2015 year. Everybody who wants to learn this timeless and fascinating game is welcome to come along at lunchtime on Wednesdays.

This term we are practicing our skills with a view to playing competitions both within and outside the school during the winter months. We will be choosing teams in Term 2 for the NSW Junior Chess League District Primary Competition and expect to be very competitive this year.

Several Orange East chess players have been entering the School Holiday Junior Chess Tournaments at St Barnabas Church Hall in East Orange. These tournaments are great practice as they are very well run and the standard of play is excellent. Brock Anderson and Tyler Tatnell represented our school in fine style at the last tournament in January, with Brock coming second in the hotly contested U12 division. His State-wide rating of 412 now makes him one of the best Primary players in Western NSW. Congratulations Tyler and Brock!

Medications ~ just a reminder that if your child needs to have medication of any sort at school, either from prescription or over the counter, that it must be taken to the office by a parent or carer and a permission to medicate form completed. Students are NOT permitted to have any medication, other than Ventolin, in their pockets or bags.

Volunteers ~ as a Work Health & Safety requirement, visitors / volunteers to classrooms are required to sign in at the office prior to going to the rooms.

Assembly Awards ~ congratulations to the following students who received a sticker on their award sheet ~ Mitchell Crossman, Zaylee Quinn, Tyler Gow, Reagan Allan, Antonia Van Doorn, Riley Dane, Ashton van der Velde, Sophie Ash and Layla Barrett. Congratulations also to Lachlan van der Velde for completing his 50 certificate. And a special congratulations to Ebony Rawlinson and Linley van der Velde for completing their 100 certificates.

Principal Awards ~ congratulations to Cooper Byrnes, Darius Thurtell, Isaac White and Kosta Gkounelas who all received a Principals Award.

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

P & C News

AGM ~ the next meeting of the P & C will be the AGM to be held next Tuesday 17th March at 6.30pm in the 2M classroom (end room of the Admin Building), followed by the General Meeting. All welcome to attend.

Clothing Pool ~ Clothing pool will be open each Wednesday from 8.55am – 9.15am and 2.55pm – 3.10pm. Ties are available to purchase at a slightly reduced rate. Also, there are still a quantity of school bags available for $40.
Community News

NetSetGo ~ is an eight week introductory program for netball for children aged 5-7years. Start date is Wed 18th March at PCYC Neball Courts from 4pm-4.45pm. Online registration at www.ntsetgo.asn.au or contact Emily Callaway on 0419 761 975 for more info.

Canobolas Rangers Football Club ~ are holding sign-up days on Fri 13th March at Canobolas Public School from 3pm-4.30pm and Saturday 14th March at Orange Public School from 12 noon – 2pm for mixed teams from u/6’s to u/12’s. More info from Tery Parker on 0428 602920 or Ben Manson on 0417 157 110.

Birth Certificates ~ voluntary University of New England Enactus students have raised funds from business, government and others to provide a “free” NSW Birth Certificate service. They will hold sign-up days in Orange at the Wambigi Indigenous Community Links Centre at 8 Oxley Place Orange on Tues 17th March from 10am-3pm and at The Carriage Cottage Orange on Wed 18th March from 10am-3pm. You will need Drivers License or RTA ID card, Medicare Card or Centrelink Card and Credit or Debit Card as forms of ID. Phone 63631857 for more info.

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Student Profile

Name – Lexie-Fae
Class – KR
My best mate is … Charlie
My favourite food is … Spaghetti Bol but I wouldn’t eat – cornflakes if you paid me!
After school I really love to … go home and play with my dog Shelby
If I was down to my last $5 I would buy … lollies
One thing I really can’t live without is … my teddy
When I grow up I want to … be a vet
I would really like to be like … my Mum because … she buys us donuts
How old is old?…. 23