



OATLEY WEST Lantern



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18
DEC

Talent Quest

18
DEC

P & C Meeting 6:30pm

19
DEC

Year 6 Graduation

19
DEC

Students Last Day

30
JAN

2019—
Students Yr 1—6
Return to School



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*The School by the park –
Great Kids, Great Teachers, Great School!*

MR NASH'S CORNER



*Merry Christmas
from us all here at
Oatley West Public School*



FIVE MINUTES WITH ANGELA CHALKIOTIS



6 Years at OWPS

Favourite thing about OWPS -

Great schools cannot exist without great groups of kids, and the diversity of our kids is what makes our school so great. **We live, work and learn together!**

Favourite OWPS event – The SRC School Disco is one of them of course! It's a unique opportunity for students to socialise with their peers in a fun, comfortable and encouraging environment. It's a good excuse to party!

Favourite TV Show – I enjoy watching any renovation shows, such as The Block and Fixer Upper. I love seeing old things new and seeing the potential in every project – no matter how hard it may seem in the beginning.

Favourite Place to Holiday – Greece can't be beaten for the culture, the nightlife, the fresh seafood, the relaxing taverns and some of the most beautiful beaches.

Favourite Food – I love all foods but eating chocolate is one of my favourites as it always makes me feel better especially when I am feeling tired or stressed. Just the smell of chocolate is enough to induce my brain waves to a relaxed mind. Chocolate is a reliable daytime pick me up and so the way to go!

Principal Nash continued

SRC LEADERSHIP DAY

Last week I had the privilege of escorting the SRC Seniors on a leadership day to the Suncorp Corporation in Sydney. Many thanks to James Gyton for arranging the visit to his company.



We heard a presentation in the board room by James and watched an interesting PowerPoint presentation about Suncorp. We were also lucky to speak to two graduates of the company, Tim who was online from the Brisbane office and Amy who visited us in the boardroom in Sydney. The SRC asked some very mature questions about their careers and their cadetship at the company. We had lunch on the rooftop terrace overlooking Darling Harbour and played Frizball in the lunchroom. We travelled by train to the city and all SRC were so independent that I felt I was the one being taken on the excursion! :)

BUSY WEEK

It was certainly a busy week last week with our special Presentation Assembly for 3-6 and then K-2 on Wednesday, Year 6 Farewell on Thursday evening and the Christmas Concert on Friday. It was great to see so many parents and visitors at the school for these events and especially the large amount of parents at the Christmas Concert on Friday. Always a winner and a great way to finish the year on such a high.

I wish to congratulate all of our students for their attention and pleasing attitude during the presentation assemblies and attention during all of the formal activities at school this year. They made me a very proud principal.

Principal Nash continued

END OF 2018 SCHOOL YEAR

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for such a successful year. This has been an extremely busy year at school with many departmental initiatives and changes in curriculum, our approach to teaching & learning and systems management.

We strive to keep our school culture positive, regardless of world events and negative news reports that hit us daily in the media. To this I would like to thank all of my staff here at Oatley West Public School. Our teachers are dedicated, professional people who come to school every day well prepared and organised.

My job is to ensure they have everything they need to be able to bring the best possible teaching to your children within the guidelines of the Department of Education and the budget allowances we receive.

To our school Administrative staff, which includes our Office, General Assistants and School Learning Support Officers, again a big vote of thanks for the work you do to support students, teachers and the community.

Our P&C and all the sub-committees support me in my endeavours to bring the best possible education to our school. They rally a huge amount of people across all the committees and in turn raise funds to provide much needed resources for our children.

I must also mention the parents of the School Club that sits separately from the P&C who also feed much needed resources into our school.

Special thanks to all of our Volunteers including Scripture, Ethics, P&C, Classroom Helpers and our special Tutor Program (our Silent Army).



In Term 3 our school went through an External Validation process. The visiting Principal's agreed with our assessment of the school and validated our evidence. This entailed a lot of time for the school team both school and personal time and I thank them for their professional approach to this procedure. It certainly proved that we are on the right track and doing well at Oatley West Public School.

We continue to achieve academically and on the sporting field and I was so proud at the two musical evenings held recently. Our performing arts including percussion drums, all three bands, our dance groups, choirs, recorder and orators all did extremely well this year. Our aim is to educate a well rounded student and this area of the curriculum certainly goes a long way to providing this.

We live by our School Values, our school motto of Learning to Live and Living to Learn and sort our problems by using the Restorative Justice method. We strive for a growth mindset. This works, our kids respond.

I don't think there is a teacher here who doesn't love coming to school, because all our students give us everything they can in their learning each and every day. They take responsibility for their learning and work with teachers to achieve great things. Our school is noted as being one of the best, a high achiever, a school people want their children to come to. Most of this is because of our students, the effort they put into their learning and the pride they have for their school.

I thank the efforts of our Prefects and Captains—the SRC Senior Team who have done such a great job this year and to all of our elected classroom SRC students. You've all done a great job and certainly left a huge legacy for the 2019 incoming team to follow in your footsteps.



FAREWELL MRS INNES

We farewelled Mrs Innes who has retired from the Department of Education after being at our school for 29 years. I presented Mrs Innes with her retirement medal and letter from the School Education Director at the Awards Assembly on Wednesday. Mrs Innes has requested her address be added to the Newsletter so that parents and students she has been associated with will also know of her retirement and sentiments after a full career in teaching. Below is her address:

Hello parents and carers. My name is Gabrielle Innes and I retired from teaching in October this year. I have taught at Oatley West Public School since 1989, so that's 29 years! Martin Ballantyne and I were the longest serving teachers at this wonderful school until 17th October and now he holds that title by himself!

A lot of you won't even know who I am because I haven't taught your children. But I have been part of the fabric of this school for a long time. Some of you will know me, eg parents of 2GK last year, of 3G and 4G classes over many years and some K-2 parents from 2016, if I provided learning support to your children with their reading. But many parents from the nineties and the 00's knew me well and their children would now be adults raising their own children, some of whom I have chatted to when they drop off or collect their kids from school.

I began my teaching career at Badgally Public School in Claymore, with all classrooms being de-mountables. Then after travelling overseas for 8 months I taught at Heckenberg Public School, Green Valley. The system in those times allowed one to earn points depending on the degree of difficulty teaching in communities with some challenging circumstances.

Eventually I applied for a transfer and was appointed to my first preference, Oatley West Public School! For all those years Oatley West has been my second home and the sense of belonging and job satisfaction has been wonderful!

Overall, I found Oatley West students to be delightful, enthusiastic and clever! I thoroughly enjoyed teaching the children in my care at Oatley West, and it has been a very rewarding career!

But whether teaching Claymore children who were up against it, Heckenberg kids who appreciated whatever I was able to do for them or Oatley West students who were confident, capable and well supported by their families, teaching has allowed me to 'make a difference'!

To watch a child 'get it', whatever concept is being explored, is so rewarding and to devise specific strategies to help a student overcome a learning difficulty and see their delighted faces when they taste success is equally rewarding.

Teaching is a challenging career and for most of my career I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and effort overcoming it! To watch students fascinated by what you are saying or showing and motivating them to become fully engaged in group work such as literacy circles or independent tasks is such a buzz! Kids chasing you in the morning because they've looked inside the classroom and think they've solved the brainteaser, (yes Mrs Laurence, something I adopted from you!) or watch their faces when you read them a story that they become totally engrossed in, is delightful! Spending a whole year together allows one to develop a special relationship with your students, one of trust and mutual respect. There's a whole lot of learning happening but also a lot of fun.

Oatley West kids are great kids which is a wonderful reflection of their parents and grandparents! They have been nurtured so beautifully by their families, their teachers and the support offered by the broader community.

I have befriended many colleagues over the years, some of whom will be lifelong friends. Their skills and nous astound me but most of all their commitment to doing the best they can for their students is unwavering.

I will miss teaching at Oatley West Public School after all these years. But, sometimes, one's health and well-being need to take precedence over everything else. It has taken me a long time to realise that, but I have accepted it now, and I am moving forward into the next stage of my life's journey.

Thank you, Mr Nash, for allowing me to include this in the newsletter and thank you, parents and carers, for reading it and perhaps passing it on to friends or acquaintances whose children attended OWPS in the 90s and 00's.

Thank you

Gabrielle Innes

Many thanks Mrs Innes.

I would like to personally wish everyone of our families a great Christmas break and look forward to working with you again in 2019



Paul Nash
Principal

CHESS



VectorStock

20 students competed in the chess tournament on Monday 3rd of December. All students showed excellent sportsmanship and skill. Well done to all the participants.

Trophy winners

1st place - Luke C.

2nd place - Alexander Z.

3rd place - Tenzer P.

Medal winners

Primary medal - Hugo A.

Infants medal - Ian C.

Kindergarten medal - James L.

Mrs J. Kritikos



FATHERING PROJECT



Save the Date

We have locked in two dates for Fathering Project events. Please save the dates:

Term 1 - 25th Feb

Term 2 - 27th May

They are both Monday evenings starting at 6pm.

More information will come for Term 1 early next year.

Miss Benita

LIBRARY NEWS

OVERDUE LOANS

Thank you to all the families who have returned their Library books. A final notice will be sent out tomorrow. Please return your Library books.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT THE STATE LIBRARY

Creative workshops, tours of the magical Mitchell building and special events.

<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/learning/kids-and-families>



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT THE OPERA HOUSE

The 91 Storey Tree House – Andy Griffiths

<https://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/visit-us/bring-the-kids.html>



THANK YOU

Many thanks to the wonderful group of parents who cover our Library books and come in to shelve on a Friday afternoon. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Merry Christmas

Rita Fitzpatrick and Holly Blake

3/4 HB AT THE DIG

Last week, 3/4HB had the opportunity to participate in a staged archaeological dig at school. Mr Waugh explained correct excavating technique and introduced the activity. Groups of 3 were each assigned a grid piece on the dig and they set to work.

Firstly students found various objects and structures, which they sketched and made predictions about. Back in the classroom they researched their objects, made connections and then reported back to the class on what they believed they had found. The students loved working on the dig, had fun and learned lots. Thanks to the organising teachers for making this experience possible.

Mr Burr *Classroom Teacher*



P & C NEWS

Tomorrow evening, Tuesday 18th December, at 6.30pm OWPS P&C will hold our final General Meeting for 2018 in our School Library. All welcome to come along.

I would like to wish all of our school community a safe, joyous and relaxing Christmas break. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered in our P&C this year, we are enriched to have such a vast group of people that support our P&C by helping in Canteen, Uniform Shop, School Banking, Community Festival, Music Council and on the general P&C community, your time is highly appreciated. A special thank you to those that take on a leadership roles within these committees, the extra time you dedicate creates a wide range of opportunities for our children and we are able to financially support our school to provide additional resources. The value of this is immeasurable!

Nic Portois

P&C President

oatleywestpublicschoolpc@outlook.com

CommuniTree @ Oatley RSL

Over the festive season, if you are popping into Oatley RSL, please vote for the tree KH and KB classes have proudly decorated with handmade santas, painted ornaments and used maths skills to construct "tinsel". Oatley RSL is donating \$500 for 1st and \$250 for 2nd and 3rd. Last year, KW decorated our tree and won \$250. Miss Hillsley used this money to purchase a multipurpose whiteboard table which is used for reading groups in KH. We would love more of these tables!



UNIFORM SHOP

Manager – Sia Coelho

Enquiries: scoelho@inet.net.au.

Our final trading day for the year was last Thursday, 13th December. **Uniform Shop will reopen Thursday 31st January, 2019.**

Thank you – Many thanks to Bee MB who volunteered at the Uniform Shop last week.

To all the parents who have volunteered their time at the Uniform Shop throughout this past year, your support has been greatly appreciated.

Wishing everyone at Oatley West a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

