FROM THE HEAD OF CAMPUS

I hope your family is refreshed after the holidays, although I know sometimes we use this time to catch up on big jobs and the time can pass without us really getting any time to relax. However you spent the holidays, it was good to see the students return for their final term this year.

Term 4 is traditionally a time when teachers focus on finding out what their students have learnt this year and giving them and their parents’ feedback on their progress and goals for the future. This assessment process is about the students demonstrating their understanding and skills and is not about passing or failing tests and examinations. I would encourage all parents in their conversations with their children, particularly in Senior School, to have this perspective about assessment tasks. Use the assessment process as an opportunity to reflect on growth in knowledge and skills and identify areas of weakness for improvement.

This week some Junior School students were given the opportunity to give their input into the development of a new community space in Oran Park. The Oran Park Town Development Team has recently lodged a development application with Camden Council to build Doohan Reserve, a large regional sports complex with a variety of uses including sporting fields, tennis courts and an all abilities playground.

In collaboration with the Touched by Olivia Foundation, this playspace will cater to everyone in the community, regardless of their age or ability. The Development Team would also like to invite parents and friends of the College to complete the online survey to further assist them in designing a playspace that will meet the needs of our community. The survey can be accessed at surveymonkey.com/r/playoranpark and will remain open until 6 November, 2015.

I hope you enjoy reading through this new look issue of The Life which highlights the range of learning activities and events going on throughout the College.

Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19:13-14

Naomi Wilkins
Head of Campus
**DATES**

**JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**Week 3**

Monday, 19 October
- Years 3-6 West Tigers NRL Fun Day
- Kindergarten 2016 Orientation

Wednesday, 21 October
- IPSSO Training (8.10 am)
- IPSSO (12.00 pm Game 1, 12.50 pm Game 2)
  - Oztag - C’Town Showground, King St
  - Basketball - St Peter’s AS

Thursday, 22 October
- Prep Blue Excursion

**Week 4**

Monday, 26 October
- Kindergarten 2016 Orientation

Wednesday, 28 October
- IPSSO Training (8.10 am)
- IPSSO (11.35 am Game 1, 12.50 pm Game 2)
  - Oztag - OPAC
  - Basketball - OPAC

Thursday, 29 October
- Prep - Year 2 Tabloid Carnival

Friday, 30 October
- Prep Red Excursion
- Prep - Year 6 Assembly (Item by Y1/2R, B, W)

**SENIOR SCHOOL**

**Week 3**

Thursday, 22 October
- Year 8 Visual Arts Excursion

**Week 4**

Friday, 30 October
- Year 7 2016 Orientation
It was great to see all students return to College after the break with smiles on their faces ready to begin a new term. Students shared their holiday experiences with enthusiasm and many of them told of exciting adventures.

Last Monday afternoon, Prep students began the ‘Flying Start’ orientation program for Kindergarten 2016. There were many excited faces at the Kindergarten rooms as our Prep students joined in with others who will be joining the College next year. We look forward to seeing them over the next three weeks as they continue in the program.

Kindergarten began a modified gymnastics skills program for Sport whilst Years 1 and 2 embarked on a swimming program for the term. IPSSO and College sport resumed (Basketball and Oztag) and it is pleasing to see students learning how to co-operate and work together as a team.

I have been reading some interesting articles on how students thrive in the school setting and a few staff members are undertaking a course on how to cater for students who struggle with sensory processing. Values come from home and school, and here at College we encourage students to take ownership for their learning and to accept others’ differences. Over the course of the year, staff members have been looking out for students who display the College values. From the beginning of Term 4, the focus will be a different value each week.

This week we have been taking special note of students who have demonstrated co-operation, both in the classroom and in the playground. We encourage our students to respect each other, to take responsibility for their actions and to foster positive relationship skills. We look forward to introducing our ‘Citizen of the Week’ award at our Junior School Assembly.

Mrs Cathy Grant
Coordinator Junior School
Kindergarten Blue

Oink, moo, neigh!

This week Kindergarten Blue finished off our unit on farms by making our own farm animal to take home. This was something we were all very excited about doing and if you ask us we can tell you all about our animal and its name.

As part of this unit we learnt about the people and families that live on farms, animals that live and work on farms, as well as the food and materials that come from farms into shops. We know how apples, milk, bread and wool come from the paddock into our shops.

Year 4 Red

Year 4 has had a busy start to Term 4 and many of our activities this term have centred around water.

We started the term doing teambuilding activities in our own version of ‘The Game’ where groups participated in various physical and mind games, including a water dress up relay.

In Literacy we used our senses to describe water and used these descriptions to develop similes and metaphors for water e.g. ‘water is like liquid glass’. This week we have been researching the water cycle and have created dioramas to help us explain the water cycle to others. We found it very interesting that we are drinking the same water that was around when the world began!

In Science we conducted an experiment to try and find out which colour car is the coolest by using thermometers to measure the temperature of water in different coloured tins after leaving them in the hot sun.

In Christian Studies we even learnt how Jesus did his first miracle by turning water into wine at a wedding (in John Chapter 2), which led to the disciples believing in Him.
At Oran Park Anglican College our Vision is ‘Growing and Nurturing Excellence, Wisdom and Service’. Our motto is ‘of greater worth than gold’ which signifies the value we place on faith in Christ. As part of the educational journey we have the curriculum content we need to deliver and we also have what is commonly referred in educational circles as the ‘hidden curriculum’.

The hidden curriculum refers to the unwritten, unofficial, and often unintended lessons, values, and perspectives that students learn in school. While the former consists of the courses, lessons, and learning activities students participate in, as well as the knowledge and skills educators intentionally teach to students, the hidden curriculum consists of the unspoken or implicit academic, social, and cultural messages that are communicated to students. The hidden curriculum is described as ‘hidden’ because it is usually unacknowledged by educators and the wider community.

At our College we don’t have a ‘hidden curriculum’ we have a transparent one! Serving others is clearly imbedded in all our programs and also part of our vision statement of ‘Service’. Serving others is an important message in today’s society where our children are exposed to media that sends a message that ‘it’s all about you’.

Senior School students have committed to sponsoring a child through the ‘Compassion’ program.

MEET OUR SPONSOR CHILD…

Miss Josselyn Gomez is 10 years old and lives in El Salvador. She lives with her grandmother. Her duties at home include doing odd jobs and cleaning. There are two children in the family. Her grandmother occasionally works as a labourer. Due to low income her family struggles to survive. For fun, Josselyn enjoys playing with dolls and running. She attends church activities and Bible class regularly and is in primary school where she is making steady progress.

A Year 7 student recently put it so eloquently… “Mr Moynan, I will now have to start being responsible as I am now a foster parent of Josselyn”...

We are keen to help Josselyn receive the assistance she and her family needs to see her grow and develop through our partnership with Compassion.

Steve Moynan
Coordinator Senior School & Marketing
**Year 7 Visual Arts**

**Still Life Prints**

Year 7 studied artworks that contained objects in Term 3. They then created a two colour reduction foam print of an object.

Naomi Wyatt

**Year 7 Science Excursion**

**Symbio Zoo**

Students learned about the conservation of endangered animal species and why zoos are beneficial to the wider community.

Angus Geoghegan
Resilience

Some children are resilient by nature – their temperament helps them to be mentally and psychologically tough. You know those children. They get straight back up after a setback or disappointment. Rejection in the playground doesn’t faze them. Unfortunately, not every child has such natural resilience.

The good news is that most of the research shows that resilience can be nurtured and developed, particularly when parents themselves are resilient and they actively foster it in their children.

Resilient children share four basic skill sets - independence, problem-solving, optimism and social connection.

Building Resilience

From a resilience perspective, parents need to coach children through some of their more challenging moments and reviewing what they may have learned for next time. Avoid solving all their problems for them.

You can promote a lasting sense of resilience in your children by:

- Having a positive attitude yourself. Your attitude as a parent impacts on their ability to bounce back from some of the difficulties they face. Make sure you model a ‘you can do it’ attitude for your child when he meets some of life’s curve balls.

- Look for teachable moments. Many childrens’ learning opportunities are disguised as problems. Make the most of these opportunities so that children can grow and learn from some of the challenges they face.

- Make children active participants in the family. Active participation in a family develops the self-help, problem-solving and independence skills of kids that are necessary for resilience.

- Build childrens’ coping skills. There are plenty of strategies you can pass on to children to help them cope when life doesn't go their way, including acceptance, getting away for a while, and normalisation.

Promoting resilience in children is not a single event but a continuous process that requires adults to be supportive and empathetic when things don’t go their way. It also requires you as a parent to have an understanding of resilience, so you have faith in yourself, and your child’s ability to cope.

On Saturday, 12 September, four students represented Oran Park Anglican College at the Camden Interschools Equestrian Carnival. The day dawned bright and sunny and the atmosphere was a buzz!

Ella Fin, Leah Veld, Mae Alden and Emily Alden looked stunning in their Showing Attire and all horses sparkled in the sun!

Each rider won some ribbons throughout the day, with Ella winning the Age Champion award for Year 2 and the highest Overall Point Score in the Primary Division.

Well done girls and we look forward to building the profile of the Equestrian Team at Oran Park Anglican College!

Congratulations to Naomi Wyatt who is in Year 7 and successfully completed her Classical Ballet Exam with the Royal Academy of Dance London, England.

She sat the examination on Thursday 8 October. This entailed ‘all Ballet exercises and bar work’ along with her ‘free movement dance and character dance’.

During the school holidays, Naomi also completed in the Glenn Wood Tap Examination at Level 7. She achieved an exceptional result and was awarded a Distinction. Naomi is seeking to successfully complete Grade 9 in two more years which is the highest examinable level achievable.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Bunnings BBQ

On behalf of the P&F committee, I would like to thank all the parents who assisted with the running of the Bunnings BBQ, Saturday, 10 October. Without the continued support of parents, the P&F wouldn’t be able to run these events to benefit the College.

Clothing Pool

If you require uniform items or have some good quality second hand uniform items you no longer require and would like to donate, you can contact the Clothing Pool Coordinator via email – pandf@opac.nsw.edu.au. The P&F regret to inform that there is limited stock and some items are currently unavailable.

Next P&F Meeting

The next P&F meeting will be held Thursday, 5 November 2015 at the Administration Staffroom from 6.45 pm. The P&F invites all to attend.

The P&F welcomes your offers of assistance, suggestions and feedback for future events and fundraisers and can be contacted at any time via email – pandf@opac.nsw.edu.au.

Our students are the beneficiaries of the generous support given by family, friends and the community. The P&F are appreciative of this generous support and the ways it can assist in the continued growth and development of our College.

Matthew Saliba
LOWES
SPECIAL PROMOTION FOR
ORAN PARK ANGLICAN COLLEGE

SPECIAL SALES
DAYS X 2
AT LOWES STORE – NARELLAN STORE
Saturday 21st – Sunday 22nd November 2015

RECEIVE 15% DISCOUNT
Off the regular price on all uniform items for
Oran Park Anglican College

PLUS

BONUS EZY-WAY 5% DISCOUNT
additional for Lowes Ezy-Way customers

OR 5% REWARDS
Lowes Rewards Card holders receive in-store Gift Vouchers
to the value of 5% of their purchase

PLUS
Lowes will pay your school annual 5% rebate on every
uniform purchased in-store.
Triple P
Positive Parenting Program

A free, 7-part series workshop designed for parents of teenagers

The course includes information on:
• Positive parenting
• Encouraging appropriate behaviour
• Managing problem behaviour
• Dealing with risky behaviour
• Implementing parenting routines

Dates: 19th & 26th October, 2nd, 9th and 23rd November
Workshops are once a week with telephone support sessions included.

Time: 5.00pm – 6.45pm

Where: Oran Park Town Sales & Information Centre
Cnr Oran Park Dr & Peter Brock Dr, Oran Park NSW 2570

For information and bookings, please contact the Reconnect Program on
(02) 4629 5170 or (02) 4629 5137

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