FROM THE HEAD OF CAMPUS

“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.” (John Dewey). We often speak about what students will be able to do when they leave the College and the presumption is that they will have learnt what they need to know to get a job and be a success. Lifelong learning is now regarded as one of the most important competencies a person can possess. To be a lifelong learner we first must believe that we have the potential to change and grow through application and experience. We need to have a growth mindset which is when students understand that their talents and abilities can be developed through effort, good teaching and persistence. Lifelong learning requires embracing opportunities to learn and there are some strategies we can cultivate if it doesn’t come naturally:

- View challenges as opportunities for growth
- Accept responsibility for your own learning
- Have confidence in yourself
- Be aware of how you learn and use the learning tools that work best for you.
- Use technology to your advantage
- Teach or mentor others
- Keep learning fun
- Design personal learning goals

We are seeking to encourage students to have a positive attitude towards learning both at the College and beyond. We need to ensure the language we use with our students models a growth mindset and students can recognise their personal growth and set goals for the future.

On Tuesday, 1st December we will have our annual Celebration Assembly at Camden Civic Centre where we acknowledge the achievements and efforts of the students at the College. This will be our final year as a whole College, as we will have outgrown our local venues. I invite everyone in our community to come at 5 pm to celebrate the wonderful growth that has happened in the College this year.

“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another.” Romans 12:14-16

Mrs Naomi Wilkins
Head of Campus
**JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**Week 7**
- **Monday, 16 November**
  - Year 1/2 Swimming
- **Thursday, 19 November**
  - Prep 2016 Orientation
- **Friday, 20 November**
  - Year 1-6 2016 Orientation
  - Prep - Year 6 Assembly (Y3/4 Item)
  - Private Tuition Music Concert (4.00 pm - 6.00 pm)

**Week 8**
- **Monday, 23 November**
  - Celebration Assembly Rehearsal
  - Year 1/2 Swimming
- **Tuesday, 24 November**
  - Tiger Tag (selected students only)
- **Wednesday, 25 November**
  - P&F Festival Meeting (Offsite)
- **Friday, 27 November**
  - Prep - Year 6 Assembly (Y6 Item)
  - Year 6 Celebration Dinner

**Week 9**
- **Monday, 30 November**
  - Year 3/4 Road Awareness Program
- **Tuesday, 1 December**
  - Quizworks (2.15 pm)
  - Celebration Assembly Camden Civic Centre, 5 pm
- **Wednesday, 2 December**
  - Volunteers Morning Tea (10.30 am)
  - Year 5 Excursion
- **Friday, 4 December**
  - Last Day Term 4

**SENIOR SCHOOL**

**Week 7**
- **Tuesday, 17 November**
  - Year 7/8 Tiger Tag (selected students only)
- **Friday, 20 November**
  - Year 8-9 2016 Orientation
  - Private Tuition Music Concert (4.00 pm - 6.00 pm)

**Week 8**
- **Monday, 23 November**
  - Celebration Assembly Rehearsal
- **Tuesday, 24 November**
  - Tiger Tag (selected students only)
- **Wednesday, 25 November**
  - P&F Festival Meeting (Offsite)
- **Friday, 4 December**
  - Year 6 Celebration Dinner

**Week 9**
- **Tuesday, 1 December**
  - Quizworks (2.15 pm)
  - Celebration Assembly Camden Civic Centre, 5 pm
- **Wednesday, 2 December**
  - Volunteers Morning Tea (10.30 am)
- **Friday, 4 December**
  - Year 7/8 Excursion
  - Last Day Term 4
Volunteer Helpers Morning Tea

Date: Wednesday, 2 December 2015
Time: 10.30 am
Venue: Oran Park Anglican College Administration

If you have helped out at the College in anyway (excursions, in the classroom, at events etc) we would like to say ‘Thank You’ with a delicious morning tea.

Babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers are welcome.

RSVP to the College Office by Wednesday, 25 November 2015.
It is hard to fathom that there are only fifteen teaching and learning days until the end of the College year! Teachers have nearly finished compiling reports for Semester Two and have been delighted with the progress that students have made both academically and socially.

Many opportunities exist for literacy and numeracy development around the home, in the shopping centre, whilst travelling or playing sport. You could encourage your child to help with building a vegetable patch, assembling a flat pack item using instructions or preparing a meal or baking a sweet treat that requires accurate measuring. Children will benefit from reading a newspaper where different information is presented in a variety of formats, reading and reciting poetry, scanning junk mail then composing and tallying a wish list, watching documentaries, timekeeping and analysing statistics at a sporting match or comparing sale items at the shopping centre.

Most importantly children learn from conversations. Our lives as adults are hectic and so often we miss golden opportunities to chat with our children. Taking a few moments each day to discuss literacy and numeracy experiences will strengthen your child’s understanding and help make the connections between what they learn at College and everyday life real.

Each child is unique and has different needs. When forming classes for the following year, teachers take into consideration a number of factors. We make placements primarily so as to create optimal opportunities for classroom learning and we acknowledge that new classes and stage groupings will provide students an avenue to make new connections and friendships. As we look ahead to 2016, if you have any information regarding your child and their learning needs that you would like us to consider, please email me (cgrant@opac.nsw.edu.au) by Friday, 27 November 2015. Please note that while all information will be taken into account, we cannot guarantee that specific requests will be met.

We are excited to welcome students to three Kindergarten classes next year. This growth means that our classroom resources will need to expand accordingly. If you have any toys/games that are still in good condition and no longer being used, such as dress up clothes (adult clothes are good for this as well because they can go over College uniforms), toy cars, trains, plastic animals, tea sets, dolls, construction toys, puzzles etc and would be willing to donate them to Kindergarten, could you please drop them in to the College office? Thank you!

The next few weeks will be exciting as we conclude our learning and focus on Christmas. Year 6 students are preparing to conclude their Junior School years and move on to Senior School. Thank you for your support in helping them raise funds at the Bake Sale to go towards their Celebration Dinner at the end of November.

Mrs Cathy Grant
Junior School Coordinator
In the classroom with Mrs Worthington

1/2 Red are having a great term and it is fantastic to see the progress we have made.

In Mathematics we have been doing lots of practical activities to find the volume and capacity of containers and the mass of objects.

We have also been busy writing instructional texts.

We had great fun making fairy bread and writing a procedure on how it was done. The best part was eating it!

In the classroom with Mrs Ferdarico

In Kindergarten Red, we have been participating in our Oz Animal Olympics as part of our learning in Mathematics. Students helped to plan events, make team name cards and work out the order of participants. We have a medal tally and are looking forward to participating in another few events to complete our graph of gold medals and to see which team will be the champions.

We have also been doing some very scientific thinking about forces and how things move. Students have enjoyed asking wondering questions about various objects placed on ramps and then experimenting to find out what happens.
Teachers as Tour Guides….

I am sure that both students and parents are relieved with the examinations now completed. I would like to thank all the parent helpers who volunteered as examination readers and to Mrs Humphreys for organising the special provisions to assist some students. The examinations may be completed but staff are still busy marking, entering data and formulating the report comments.

One of the purposes of giving examinations is to allow the students the opportunity to communicate their level of mastery of the course material. We are looking for their ability to demonstrate an increase in conceptual understanding and their fluency with the technical processes needed in various problem-solving situations. Examinations are one component to gauge a student’s retention of information. It is also a time of recognition and sometimes celebration of where students were and how far they have come along the ‘educational journey.’ Let’s be honest, not all students are able to easily achieve straight ‘A’s, however, I think as teachers and parents we need to rejoice in the different areas for each and every individual student achievement…whether it is academia, sports, spiritual, music, art or social, we want to ensure that every student is achieving their true potential. The big question is, how do we do this?

Proverbs 9: 10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

I like to think that a good tour guide is a metaphor to describe a teacher. A tour guide seems to radiate valuable knowledge and insights. They are helpful and encouraging. They keep you safe, keep you on schedule and prevent you from distractions. They point out depth, texture and connections and highlight hidden areas to make them more obvious.

As teachers we don’t just aim to tell students about a topic; we try to take them on an ‘educational journey’ and guide and try to inspire them. Allowing students to try and sometimes not achieve the desired outcome can be a huge step in the educational journey. We want to show students what they can’t see yet, get students to start to identify and start discerning right and wrong. We don’t want students to be passively sitting in their seats watching a movie whilst the world goes by. We want our students connected, focused, engaged and actively uncovering the stories beneath the surface, the details and connections which weave a tapestry of greater meaning and understanding on how they can contribute back to the world and be inspired.

Taking children through the journey of education requires some level of arduousness, yet should be exciting, exhilarating, pioneering and adventurous.

Mr Steve Moynan
Coordinator Senior School & Marketing
Relationship skills are important for children and teenagers to develop. Learning positive friendship skills can help us to feel happier and more confident, thereby improving overall wellbeing.

Parents and carers are the most important teachers when it comes to developing friendship skills. As your children become teenagers, you will remain an important coach to help them with increasingly complex relationship issues.

By taking the role of “coach”, you can help children use new skills in real-life situation. Coaching involves prompting, reminding and encouraging (but not nagging!) children to use the skills they have learned.

Here are some tips to help your child develop positive friendship skills:

1. Invite children for play dates

Having friends over to visit helps children to establish friendships and practise their social skills. It also provides an opportunity for you to provide on-the-spot coaching for children as they develop their friendship skills. Providing positive guidance and helping to structure activities (without taking over!) can be very important when establishing new friendships.

2. Talk with children and teens about what is happening for them with their friends

Find a relaxed time, like the drive home from school or after dinner, to talk about what is happening in your child’s or teen’s friendship group. By doing this, you let them know that you are interested in their wellbeing. This can also be an opportunity to share some of your experiences and to help them solve any problems they might have.

3. Encourage positive, relevant strategies

Parents can talk about and encourage friendly and cooperative strategies that can help their child to develop friendships. For example, encouraging children to negotiate or compromise when trying to solve conflicts with peers is a strategy that is more positively received by their friends than aggression or verbal threats.

4. Take a problem-solving approach

Parents and carers don’t need to have the answers to all of their teen's problems. You can support your children to think through a problem for themselves by talking with them and asking some useful questions.


Mrs Clare Calderwood
College Counsellor
Junior School
This week, students from Oran Park Anglican College attended a Mini Roos Gala Day hosted by Football NSW. It was a great day where students were able to participate in a non-competitive small sided Football tournament. Having Year 2 join in was really special and we enjoyed having them with us. We are really thankful to the staff at Football NSW for running such a fun day for our students.
2016 Autumn Fair

The P&F held their November meeting last week, where planning commenced for the 2016 Autumn Fair. The Fair will be held Saturday, 2 April 2016 at the College. Please mark this date in your diaries, the P&F will be seeking volunteers to assist on the day as well as donations for the silent auction and P&F Cake Stall. More details will be given as they become available.

2016 P&F Annual General Meeting

The P&F would also like to remind parents of the P&F Annual General Meeting which will be held in February 2016, date to be confirmed. At the AGM, elections will be held for the role of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. The P&F are taking nominations for these roles and encourage all parents to be involved.

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.

The P&F welcomes all offers of assistance, suggestions and feedback 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
President
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.