



THE LIFE

Issue 1 | 5 February 2021

Welcome back to our vibrant learning community. We are having a wonderful start to the new school year with more than 100 new students commencing at the College and 13 new staff. Over the holidays we improved the landscaping in our Senior School playground adding a passive recreation area and opening up the new turf area for active play. The new Staff and Student Services centre is nearing completion with all teaching staff now relocated to their new workspaces. Next week construction will begin on our next Senior School building which will have six general learning areas, two science labs, two technology classrooms and a Year 12 common room. This project has the support of the NSW State Government who are providing us with a Future Education Infrastructure grant.

As we continue to grow our facilities and community, we need to make adjustments and evolve the way we do things. We appreciate your support and patience as we manage these 'growing pains'. Our decision-making is also undertaken amidst the COVID-19 safety guidelines. Our top priority continues to be the provision of a caring, quality Christian education in a safe and supportive environment. It is wonderful to see our students settle back into class routines and forming new friendships. Change is a normal part of life and students develop their resilience as they learn to navigate these seasonal and annual changes. It's understandable that children will be nervous as they anticipate changes and as adults we need to coach and encourage them to respond positively when they are uncertain of the outcome of a change. Our mindset going into a new situation has a significant impact on our response and we provide the most support for our children when we encourage optimism.

I am so excited about a new Wellbeing initiative being trialled this term in Stage 2. See over the page about our newest staff member, Molly the cavoodle.

Just as we have learned that the Camden Show has been cancelled this year, we are also unable to run our annual Oran Park Festival in May. However, this year we are going to run our first stand-alone College Open Day on Saturday 6 March. We will be running tours of the College with live and static displays to showcase our wonderful learning community. Pencil this date into your diary as there will be opportunity for student and parent participation.

Have you checked out our new [website](#)? There are a number of videos which display our students' love of learning and what's on offer at the College. The website is also home to useful information about College life both for prospective and current families.

We pray you will join in our optimism for the year ahead; that despite the challenging world we live in our children have the opportunity to learn in a Christian community, where they are cared for and known, and encouraged to engage and excel.

Please enjoy reading the articles included in this week's edition of 'The Life'.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declare the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11



Mrs Naomi Wilkins
Principal

College News

Introducing our Wellbeing Support Canine

We are very excited to introduce a new member of staff to our College! Her name is Molly, and she is an 8-month-old Cavoodle (King Charles Cavalier x Poodle). Molly is completing training to become a Wellbeing Support Canine.

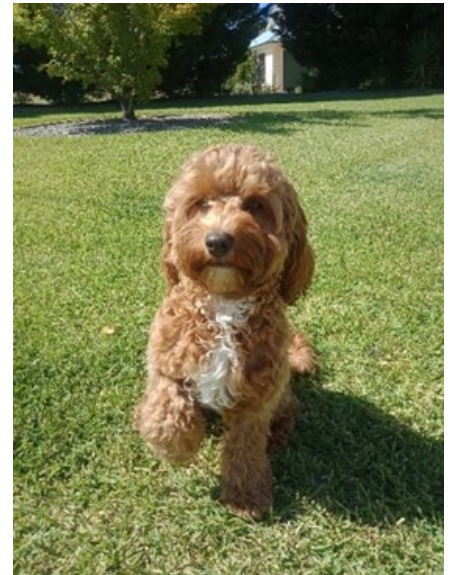
Wellbeing canines offer unconditional love and support without judgment. They are known to promote a sense of calm and assist children to feel confident and talk. They give permission for children to be themselves.

Molly will attend College each Wednesday morning in Term One, supporting Year 3 and 4 students with emotional needs and providing a friendly face to read to.

It is understandable that there may be some concerns about students who are allergic to or fearful of dogs. Molly will be well groomed and bathed regularly and no student will be made to be near Molly if they do not want to be. Permission notes will be sent home and any students that are not able to be near Molly can indicate this on the note, Molly will only be in contact with students who have permission.

She has a calm and gentle nature, and her training teaches her to be settled when working with students. Molly will always be with her handlers who understands her behaviours.

We hope you will join us in welcoming Molly to our College Community and embrace all that she has to offer.



College News

Uniform Shop - Ranier

Below are the opening times for the uniforms:

Shop Opening Times (during Term 1)

Mon: 8:00am – 10:30am

2:00pm – 4:30pm

Tues: 2:00pm – 6:00pm

Wed: 8:00am – 10:30am

Sat: 9:00am – 3:00pm (2nd and 4th only)

Trading hours subject to change. Check website for latest update.

Shop hours will be extended during busy times. Please see the contact details below.

Contact numbers: 02 8337 7201 or 02 8337 7290

Website: shop.ranier.com.au

Email: custservices@ranier.com.au

Address: Unit 5/6 -8 Porrende Street, Narellan, 2567



College News




School Banking Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Banking will commence on the 11th February 2021.

Please drop off the Dollarmites deposit books at Parent Reception before school.

Three ways to open a Youthsaver account for your child.

-  **Apply online at commbank.com.au/schoolbanking**
-  **Log on to your CommBank app** (if you bank with CommBank)
Head to the menu on the top left corner, select 'Products & offers', then 'Bank accounts' and 'Student & youth accounts', scroll down to Kids and tap 'Open account'.
-  **Visit any CommBank branch**

What you'll need

You'll need an Australian residential address and personal identification for you and your child. You can use a birth certificate, passport, driver licence or citizenship certificate.* If applying in branch, please bring along your child's birth certificate and/or any applicable Court Order to help us identify you as the parent or legal guardian.



Your child will receive a Dollarmites deposit wallet when you open a Youthsaver account in branch, or in the mail if opened online. They will use this wallet to make their School Banking deposits.

Things you should know: As this advice has been prepared without considering your objectives, financial situation or needs, you should, before acting on the advice, consider its appropriateness to your circumstances. Full terms and conditions for the YouthSaver account are available at commbank.com.au and should be considered in any decision about the product. If you have a complaint in respect of this product, the Commonwealth Bank's dispute resolution process can be accessed at 13 222. Commonwealth Bank of Australia ABN 48 125 125 124. The CommBank Youth app is free to download however your mobile network provider charges you for accessing data on your phone. The CommBank Youth app is available on iOS operating system 11.0+ and Android available via the Google Play Store. Terms and conditions apply. You can set this up when applying for a new account. Existing customers simply visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking and follow the steps. Only one child can log on per device for security purposes. **If the child is under the age of 18, the Bank will accept one of the following documents as acceptable identification as follows: Birth certificate issued by a foreign government, the United Nations (UN) or an agency of the UN; Citizenship certificate issued by the Commonwealth; Citizenship certificate issued by a foreign government; Note: If written in a language not understood by the person carrying out the verification, the document must be accompanied by an English translation from either a translator at the level of Professional Translator for direct currently accredited by the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters Ltd (NAATI) or another accredited translator who currently holds an equivalent accreditation; Identity to the Australian government owned National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters. Where a parent/legal guardian is a signatory to the child's account, they are required to be identified to the acceptable identification standard.

ADVERTISING IDENTITY



CommBank School Banking is available at your school.

For over 85 years, the School Banking program has provided a fun, engaging way for Australian children to learn about the value of money and smart saving.

Get your child involved

To get started, all they need is a Youthsaver account. They can then make regular deposits at school on School Banking day and be able to participate in our exciting Rewards Program.

Track their savings

Your child can track their savings through the School Banking Savings Tracker or the CommBank Youth app, which is available to download from the App Store. It helps teach children real-life money skills, in a fun and secure digital environment.

Raise funds for your school

School Banking isn't just helpful for your child. It's also a great fundraising activity, as CommBank provides your school with financial support through our School Banking Contributions Program.

Stay tuned for more

Get ready to meet the Dollarmites and receive more School Banking information when your child starts school.

To find out more visit
commbank.com.au/schoolbanking



College News

College 'Kiss and Go' Areas for Pick up/Drop Off

The College's 'Kiss and Go' areas are designed to allow quick pick up and drop off of students in the morning and afternoon, and to ensure that traffic flows smoothly at peak times.

The following rules are in place for this area:

- This is a no parking area
- Parents must remain in the car at all times
- Students must enter and alight from the kerbside of the car, with their bags
- Cars must move along the pick-up line as directed by the duty teacher



To use this area, students must be able to independently and safely move from the car, with their bags.

If your child is not able to do this, please use the parking provided and walk them into the College grounds.

The 'Kiss and Go' areas are supervised in the afternoon between 3.10-3.30pm and in the morning at Junior School only between 8.20-8.40am. The teacher on duty is there to assist students where necessary and to help with a smooth traffic flow.

'Kiss and Go' zone rules are there to ensure the safety of students and adults. ***Cars must not queue beyond this zone during the morning or afternoon, as residential traffic and buses become obstructed.***

We do understand that peak pick up and drop off times can be busy. However, please be respectful and patient when using this zone, so that we can provide a safe and positive experience for all members of the College and Oran Park community.

Changes to South Circuit carpark from Monday 8 February

With construction of the new Senior School building commencing the South Circuit carpark will no longer provide parent carparking before / after school. This carpark will be available for staff and OSHClub parent drop off / pick up parking only.

We apologise for any inconvenience and are planning for an additional carpark on Redman Grange to be built later in the year.



Term Dates 2021

Term 1 (10 weeks)

Monday	25 January	<i>Staff Development Day</i>
Tuesday	26 January	Australia Day Public Holiday
Wednesday	27 January	<i>Staff Development Day</i>
Thursday	28 January	Term 1 Commences Transition meetings
Friday	29 January	Year 7, 11-12 commence Kindergarten commence
Monday	1 February	Years 1-10 commence Prep Red (3 day) commence
Tuesday	2 February	Prep Blue (2 day) commence
Wed-Fri	3-5 February	<i>7-11 Camps</i>
Saturday	6 March	College Open Day
Thursday	1 April	End of Term 1
Friday	2 April	Good Friday Public Holiday
Monday	5 April	Easter Monday Public Holiday

Term 2 (9 weeks)

Monday	19 April	<i>Staff Development Day</i>
Tuesday	20 April	Term 2 commences
Sunday	25 April	Anzac Day Public Holiday
	11 - 21 May	<i>NAPLAN Online Test Window</i>
Monday	14 June	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Friday	18 June	End of Term 2
Monday	21 June	<i>Staff Development Day</i>
Tuesday	22 June	<i>Staff Development Day</i>

Term 3 (10 weeks)

Monday	12 July	Term 3 commences
Wednesday	15 September	Year 12 Graduation Assembly and Valedictory Dinner
Friday	17 September	End of Term 3

Term 4 (10 weeks)

Monday	4 October	Public Holiday
Tuesday	5 October	<i>Staff Development Day</i>
Wednesday	6 October	All students commence
Monday	15 November	Mid Term Break students/ <i>Staff Day</i>
Tuesday	7 December	<i>Celebration Assemblies</i>
Wednesday	8 December	End of Term 4
Thursday	9 December	<i>Staff Development Day</i>



Parents & Friends Association

The P&F regards our College families and friends as partners in the process of educating students at the College.

At Oran Park Anglican College there are many opportunities for parents and friends of our College to be involved and these include Parent Information Evenings, Assemblies, Book Fairs, Concerts, Musicals, Events, Oran Park Festival, Carnivals, Open Days, Sausage Sizzles, Breakfasts and more...

The College is very appreciative of the multitude of others ways in which parents, grandparents, family and friends assist the College and teachers, at carnivals, with reading, craft and sporting activities etc.

The College's Parents and Friends Association play an important role in developing the College Community, making new parents feel welcome at College, events, fundraising and generally enhancing the quality of the learning environment.

Our students are the beneficiaries of such generous support. All parents are encouraged to join the Parents and Friends Association and become active participants in the life of the College. Donations of goods, services and time as well as trade and professional expertise are appreciated and accepted with gratitude.

We would like to invite you to our Annual General Meeting for 2021, please see below for details:

Notice of Parents & Friends Association Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 16 February 2021

Time: 6:45pm (After K-2 Meet the Teachers)

Venue: Senior School Library

During the AGM, Committee positions will be elected for 2021.

There is also a [Facebook page](#) that you are welcome to join.





JUNIOR SCHOOL

Welcome back to College for 2021! It has been lovely to be out in the playground this week and be greeted by so many excited smiling faces. On Monday we welcomed back over 500 students in the Junior School, and I have heard many interesting accounts of the holidays. It seems that despite some travel and gathering restrictions, many of our College families managed to spend time together in an enjoyable way.

Over the Christmas break, my family welcomed a puppy into our household. While he brings us much joy and laughter as we watch his antics, we are working hard to teach him how to be part of our family. Thankfully he is very cute, but he is also very energetic and he loves to chew and lick. We are all on a bit of a learning journey as we navigate this change together.

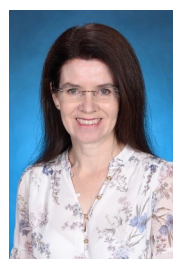


We all respond to change differently. Some people embrace change and seem to take it in their stride. Others find change paralyzingly stressful. Regardless of the way we feel about change, it is something that we all face. I think that the events of 2020 have forced us to face change in new ways. Change is part and parcel of the way we live, and as parents we want to be able to help our children manage change well. I have been very encouraged as I have seen many of our children looking out for those students who are new to the College this year and experiencing a high level of change. Starting a new school can be a daunting experience, but having some friendly faces and kind classmates certainly helps with the settling in process.

With the easing of some COVID restrictions, we have some important events planned for Term 1. Over the next two weeks we will be running two Meet the Teacher Nights which will provide an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and see the classroom. As we need to limit numbers on campus, the 3-6 Meet the Teacher night will be held on Monday 8 February, with K-2 parents having the opportunity to come on Tuesday 16 February. I encourage you to be a part of this event, which is an excellent opportunity to find out more about the year ahead from your child's teacher and meet other parents from your child's class. We are also looking forward to the resumption of the IPSSO sporting competition and Carnivals this Term.

This term promises to be an interesting and exciting one – full of new learning opportunities for all our students.

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9



*Mrs Jenny Squire
Deputy Principal -
Head of Junior School*

Prep - Blue & Red

The Prep children have had a very settled start to the new school year. It has been pleasing to see them mixing well, beginning to make friends and becoming familiar with our room and routines.

We have enjoyed working in the various learning centres in our classroom and playing together in the playground. We look forward to a happy year of creative learning, personal growth and accomplishment for each student.

These photos give just a glimpse into some of the activities with which the children engaged during the past few days.

Mrs Shepard



Kindergarten

We are excited to welcome all Kindergarten students to the start of the year and are very proud of the way they have settled in during our Orientation Program.

Students participated in numerous play activities and enjoyed making new friendships across the grade. We also spent time listening to stories and completing craft activities. We look forward to working together with parents and students and are excited for all the learning they will be participating in throughout the year.

Mrs Ferdarico, Mrs Finlay, Mrs Mills & Miss Busch



Year 1

Year 1 have had a wonderful start to the year! They have settled in well and are excited to learn and experience all that Year 1 has to offer. We have been busy learning about nouns and whole number!

Year 1 have been working on restorative practices and how we can make the right choices not only in the classroom but also in the playground. We have also learnt about how we can win the "Friendship Game".

Mrs Hills, Mrs McGarry, Mrs Taj and Mrs Trotman



Year 2

Term 1 has begun and we are getting to know each other in our classes for 2021.

Our term began with students coming to school, many in the new uniform, and all looking fabulous. New and polished shoes, hair ties to match the new uniform and socks to match were the order of the day!

Year 2 teachers have worked hard to prepare exciting and relevant programmes for our students.

We have played some "getting to know you" games, learnt the names of our classmates, enjoyed time to learn and also played outside in the sunshine. In Mathematics we are learning about Whole Numbers.

Art is a much loved subject and we are beginning some wonderful pieces of artwork. Sport this week will be at school and we will enjoy playing in our class groups. We are looking forward to swimming starting on the 11 February.

Literacy continues as a strong component of learning and we have commenced our Writing for 2021.

In PD Health we are revising the Rules of Assembly, the Playground, the Sensory Garden and Lining up. We are also learning about "The Friendship Game". This is a course taught across the grades in Junior School.

A busy, happy start to 2021 has been experienced by all of Year 2.

Mrs Whary, Mrs Davis, Mrs Presbury and Mrs Trotman



Year 3

Year 3 are excited for all the new possibilities of learning this year. We have settled quickly into our new classes and enjoyed building positive relationships.

Year 3 have reviewed the College Values of Collaboration, Compassion, Craftsmanship, Curiosity and Courage. We have also revisited Restorative Practices to ensure student wellbeing and given each student strategies and techniques to resolve conflict.

Year 3 also joined together this week to work with friends from other Year 3 classes to participate in a variety of fun activities.

Miss Lee, Mr Baker and Mrs Watkins



Year 4

Welcome to Year 4 2021!

The Year 4 Team were eagerly anticipating the arrival of our students. We had planned for first week activities to allow everyone to work collaboratively and think critically on a week long STEM challenge activity.

The students also focused on responsible behavior within spaces located in our playground and if a small problem arises to think on 3 simple questions to come to a resolution.

What an amazing week of what promises to be an action filled year.

Mrs Dunn, Mr Plunkett and Mrs Keen



Year 5

What a great start to a new year for Year 5!

We are enjoying getting to know our new classes, making new friends and starting our great learning program for Term 1. We've just begun our English program and are looking forward to learning about the themes and ideas in the great story, Paper Planes.

One of our first topics in Science is discovering how to code on our own computers. In History we will be learning in more depth about the early years of Australian colonies.

Next week we can't wait to get to Camp Wedderburn where we are all excited to swing into action (possibly on the flying fox) and enjoy some quality friendship building time.

Mr Mitas, Mr Chapman, Mrs Langley and Mrs Snelson



Year 6

Year 6 have had a great start to the year. It has been very exciting catching up with our friends again and finding out about our new classes and teachers.

We have done activities to get to know each other and find out new things about our friends. We have begun our learning programs and are looking forward to getting into routine with our classwork and College life.

We cannot wait until we go on camp next week!

Mr Barber, Mrs Smith and Mrs Worthington



SPORT

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Years 3-6 Swimming Carnival

What a great day we had at our Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 4 February. It was so wonderful to see our students participate so well. Congratulations to all who were all involved.

Students have been notified if they have qualified for the Zone Carnival. The Zone Swimming Carnival will be held at Prairiewood Leisure Centre on Monday 1 March.



IPSSO 2021

2021 sees the return of the IPSSO Competition. Students will have the opportunity to trial for representative selection on Monday 8 February (Years 5 and 6) and Wednesday 10 February (Years 3 and 4). The following sports are available for students:

- Mixed oz tag (boots may be worn)
- Mixed cricket
- Girls football (boots and shin pads may be worn)
- Mixed basketball

If students would like to do College Sport, they will have the opportunity to choose their sport of choice next week as well.



Mr Chapman
Junior School Sports Coordinator



SENIOR SCHOOL

I don't think I have ever been so excited for the school year as I am in 2021. Partly due to the year we would rather forget, (2020) but also because of the way we as a College, continue to develop. Our new strategic plan hangs on the three strands, Growing in Christ, Growing as Learners and Growing our Community. We know that as a College our priority is to serve our students and families and as we strive for excellence in education, we do so in light of the knowledge that the world we live in is God's world, and that all learning is intrinsically connected to Him and his creation. Learning and faith formation are not mutually exclusive. If God is truth, then as we grow as learners, we can't help but be drawn toward the divine, growing in Christ, growing as learners.

Our College community continues to grow rapidly as we welcome over 75 new students and their families to the Senior School. Our students head off on camps this week to a range of locations across Sydney and the south coast. Camps are an integral part of ensuring students are well connected in the College community, developing friendships, skills and character as they encounter challenges that take them out of their comfort zone and build their resilience and independence.

We have some important events coming up this term which I would like to draw your attention to.

On Tuesday 9 February at 6pm, we have our Meet the Teacher night for parents of Year 7 students and new members of our community. This is an opportunity to hear about our approach to teaching and learning, wellbeing and pastoral care in the Senior School, along with a chance to meet your child's PC teacher and ask questions about the year ahead.

At 7pm that same evening, we invite all Year 10 students and their parents to our Service Learning Education evening, where we will present the range of service trips available to Year 10 students at the end of Term 4. Places for some trips are limited so it is vital that all Year 10 students and at least one parent attend this event.

On Tuesday 16 February, we have our 'Thriving in the HSC' night for students in Year 12, at 6.30pm. All Year 12 students and their parents are encouraged to attend as we work together to support our young people through their final year of school. Information will be presented on career pathways, ATAR and University entry, Wellbeing and Pastoral support.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events and to a fantastic year of learning and growth for every member of our community.

James 3:17 *"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere".*



Mr Michael Newton

*Deputy Principal -
Head of Senior School*



SPORT

SENIOR SCHOOL

MISA Secondary Sport 2021

We have kicked off 2021 with a bang for sport this year! MISA trials were completed this week! Team lists will be emailed out to all students in the secondary College. As we have grown in number, OPAC is able to field teams in every age division which is incredible as we are still considered 'a small school' in the MISA association.

Secondary Swimming Carnival

The Secondary Swimming Carnival is on Monday, 8 February at Camden Pools. It is a compulsory day. Please attend in your house colours – it is not mufti! If you do not have house colours in clothing, please come in your sports uniform! It shall be a wonderful day!



*Mrs Clisdell
Head of PDHPE Senior School*

OPAC Fitness Centre

The OPAC fitness centre will be open outside of College time from week 4. A timetable will go up outside MP1 to notify you of the times. Please ensure you have completed the pre-questionnaire for your child to participate in the fitness centre lessons.

Our College is proud to deliver the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Program. Each year, students in Year 9 are invited to begin the Bronze Award, and this week students completed their practice hike by walking the Coastal Track on school camp.

One student that is looking forward to completing the Bronze Award is Maddison Palmer. Maddie is excited for new experiences with her friends, learning new skills, and facing (and overcoming!) challenges. For her Award, Maddison has come up with this plan:

- Skill: cake decorating (major - 6 months)
- Service: assisting with younger children participating in Net Set Go at her local netball club (3 months)
- Physical recreation - training and playing games with her netball club (3 months)

Maddison has been able to have netball, which she already plays, contribute to her Award. It also has given her the opportunity for her service activity.

All students in Year 9 who have expressed interest in completing their Bronze Duke of Ed in 2021 will have a meeting next week at lunch time. All other students in Years 10-12 currently completing their Award are asked to continue logging their activities and await announcements regarding meetings.

Any new students to the College are invited to speak to Mrs Chow if they are interested in joining the Program.

