From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wild storm we experienced on Sunday evening. For those of you who have been in the playground this week you will have noticed all the limbs which have fallen, blocking paths, damaging fences and even one of our classrooms. We have had to relocate Kinder Blue and although the building was declared safe yesterday we have decided to keep this class out until the building is repaired.

The Brain Man, John Joseph will be visiting Oxley Park Public School at the beginning of Term 2. John will work with teachers on our school development day, then our Stage 3 students on Tuesday 29th April and our Stage 2 students on Wednesday 30th April. If there is enough interest we will also offer an evening session for parents on Tuesday 29th April at 6.30pm.

So who is the Brain Man? John is an inspirational speaker who travels all over the world teaching adults and children about the brain and how we learn. He explains through multimedia and engaging activities how our brains make sense of external stimuli to organise our thoughts and remember important information. John explains what our brains look like and how we need to care for our brain to optimise our learning potential. The students participate in some physical and mental challenges, make models and even have the opportunity to cut open a sheep’s brain to identify the parts. This is only a small part of the day but the students usually love the hands on biology lesson and are provided with gloves and all other required equipment. We do understand however that some parents would prefer their child not to participate in this part of the presentation. If that applies to you please indicate on the tear off slip in this newsletter and return it to the child’s class teacher. The cost of these presentations is being covered by the school as the messages about learning and care for the brain are considered extremely valuable and we do not want any student in Year 3 to 6 to miss the opportunity.

At the end of this term we will be farewelling another of our long term teachers, Mrs Jenny Turner. Mrs Turner has been appointed to Northmead Public School which is much closer to her home and more convenient with regards her family. She will be sadly missed at Oxley Park for her contributions over the past 11 years in particular in the area of Dance. I am sure you will join us in wishing her all the best at her new school.

regards,

Delphine Annett
Principal

Calendar

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
<th>Stage 1 Power House Museum Excursion</th>
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<th>Week 11</th>
<th>Easter Hat Parade Preschool – Yr 2 Stage 2 Excursion Anzac Day Assembly Yrs 3 – 6 @ 11.20am</th>
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<td>April 9</td>
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<th>Term 2</th>
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<td>April 28</td>
<td>School Development Day ( staff only)</td>
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<td>April 29</td>
<td>All students return.</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>Learning with the Brain in Mind Yrs 5 &amp; 6 Learning with the Brain in Mind Yrs 3 &amp; 4</td>
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Notes sent home this fortnight:

Have you returned? Publication of images (exemptions only) Yr 6 T-shirt orders (Yr 6 only) Scripture classes Powerhouse Excursion permission note & $18 (Yrs 1 & 2)

Curriculum Corner

Our teachers are this afternoon meeting to develop new units of work from the Australian curriculum for History. This syllabus is not yet mandatory in our schools but our teachers decided to trial it in 2013 and are now developing the final units to be implemented in Term 2.

Show and Tell by 6S and 1H

In Accelerated Literacy, 6S have been learning to write sentences like Ian Trevaskis, the author of Edge of the World.

On Saturn near the gas giant Jupiter, meteorites blazed past its giant colourful rings. Ice and dust shot through the icy cold atmosphere and an asteroid plummeted towards the hot radiation of the Sun. By Favour

In the beach under the amazing waves, fish danced and swam into the soft blowing seaweed. Seashells floated across the salt filled water and old crabs were fighting over shells at the very bottom of the sea. By Tianna
On the lawn near the farmhouse, the dog barked loudly under the tree. A rabbit trap snapped shut in the vegetable garden and the stars shone in the night sky. By Jacob

In the city near the big blue harbor, music echoed through the busy streets. A school of fish swam under the wooden deck and bottlenose dolphins leaped under the shiny Harbour Bridge. By Riley

At the beach under a palm tree, birds tried to peck coconuts under the leaves. People swam through the water and they splashed about near the dark cave. By Chelsea

On the beach near Sydney Harbour, crabs scrambled into shells. Children smiled beside the beach hut and dogs trudged through the wet sand. By Joey

In Adelaide Street near the school, students sank into the squishy, messy mud. Trees fell onto the wet grass and birds flew into the open air. By Minna

XOs at OPPS

The XO laptops have become another important learning tool for our students. It is wonderful to walk into classrooms and hear and see the learning buzz which is often centred around the use of the XO.

As many of the applications require students to listen to the sound from the XO, be it talking in the Speak program or instructions when using Mathletics, many children have purchased a pair of headphones which they keep at school for XO use.

If you have not already purchased some headphones for your child to use and keep at school, please feel free to do so. We ask that the headphones be clearly labelled before coming to school. Headphones can be purchased for quite a small cost, and we would suggest buying a cheaper pair rather than a more expensive pair for school use.

Show and Tell by 1H

1H wrote recounts, reflecting on a stormy weekend.

On the weekend there was a big storm.
First big black clouds came.
Next lots of rain and lightning fell.
Then there was little drops of rain going down the window.
Finally it stopped and went away and we all cleaned up.
By Taylor

On the weekend there was a storm.
First it rained and it got in my garage.
Next it hailed and wind came.
Finally it stopped and it was normal.
By Ava

On the weekend there was a big storm.
First I heard big sounds.
We went to look outside.
Our swing set fell on the trampoline.
Our backyard flooded.
By Tahlia

On the weekend there was a big storm.
First heavy rain came and wind came.
Next the rain broke my satellite dish.
Finally when we woke up the rain was gone.
By Liliana

On the weekend there was a big storm.
First there was a hole in the roof.
Next the water came in.
Finally my dad put the bucket under the hole.
By Koshin

Easter Hat Parade

The Easter Hat Parade for Preschool to Year 2 will be held on Wednesday 9th April 2014 starting at 9.20am in the assembly area in front of the hall. Parents are most welcome to attend and encouraged to help their children make a hat to wear at the parade. Normal classes will resume at the completion of the parade.
Grandparents Day & Harmony Day

A big thank you to all our families and friends who joined in on the fun of Harmony Day and Grandparents Day. It was a joyful celebration of two important days in the school year. We loved seeing so many people at the school!

Thanks goes to Mrs Jurisic, her team and the families who donated international food for a lovely morning tea. Also to Mrs Kisbee, Mrs Lott and the preschool dancers who were well prepared by parent, Mrs Lakisa. Thank you also Mrs White, 2I and 2A who entertained us with their lovely Polynesian song.

We were grateful to our grandparents who shared their treasures and those children who spoke in front of our assembly. Lastly, thank you to the enthusiastic teachers and their pupils for their wonderful displays. Remember: YOU+ME=US and Grandparents make life grand!
Cross Country Reminder
The Cross Country is being held on the 2nd May for students 8 years old and above. It would be a good idea to start training in the holidays ready for the event early next term.

2014 University of NSW competitions

LAST REMINDER
We are offering all students from Years 3-6 the opportunity to participate in a range of competitions run by the University of New South Wales in the areas of:

- Computer- $8.80  Tuesday, 20th May, 2014
- Science-$8.80     Wednesday, 4th June, 2014
- Writing-$18.70   Monday 16th - Friday 20th June, 2014
- Spelling-$12.10   Tuesday, 17th June, 2014
- English-$8.80     Tuesday, 29th July, 2014
- Mathematics-$8.80 Tuesday, 12th August, 2014

All students will receive a certificate and an individual student report indicating which questions they answered correctly.

Please discuss with your child which competition or competitions he or she may want to enter. Indicate on the permission slip below which competitions will be entered and send the money along with the note to the front office by the end of Term 1.

Please be aware that the Computer Competition is completed with pen and paper and NOT on a computer. Both Spelling and Writing incur a larger cost as they are not marked by a machine.

Please note Stage 3 campers will be given an opportunity to catch up on any missed competitions.

× 2014 University of NSW competitions
I give permission for my child ________________ of class ___________ to participate in the following competition/s:

- Computer- Tuesday, 20th May, 2014 ($8.80)
- Science – Wednesday, 4th June, 2014 ($8.80)
- Writing- Monday 16th - Friday 20th June, 2014 ($18.70)
- Spelling – Tuesday, 17th June 2014 ($12.10)
- English – Tuesday, 29th July, 2014 ($8.80)
- Mathematics – Tuesday, 12th August, 2014 ($8.80)

I have enclosed the payment of ____________ required for the selected competition.

Signature parent/ caregiver ______________________

Date ______________

Young Leaders Day
Some reflections from National Young Leaders Day:
I now know all about leadership. One thing I learnt is nothing great, cool or long lasting ever started out that way. Ideas need to be developed and take a lot of work. Carly
I liked learning about leadership. Joshua
My favourite part of the day was when Coen spoke about his story and the challenges of living with cystic fibrosis. I also liked when the author Andy Griffiths told us about when someone stupid enough glued the cracks in the shower and turned the shower on. Megan
I learnt that every great leader started at the bottom and rose to the top. My favourite part was when Andy Griffiths showed us the next treehouse book. Amy
My favourite thing was learning how I could write a narrative. Junsung
I liked listening to other people’s stories and learning how to be a better leader. Jorja
I liked having my photo taken with the author Andy Griffiths. Ravnit
I learnt not to be afraid to share your dreams. Daniel
My favourite part of the day was learning about Coen’s story. Riley

P & C News
Easter Egg Raffle
The P & C again this year will be holding an Easter Egg raffle. We are asking for donations of Easter Eggs for the Easter baskets. If you would like to donate eggs they can be left at the canteen or front office. Thank you.
Our raffle will be drawn on 9th April so please return your tickets ASAP

Mothers Day Stall
Any donations for the Mother’s Day stall on the 7th May can be left at the canteen.

AGM
Congratulations to our new office bearers for 2014.
President:  Mrs Rebecca Joy
Vice Presidents:      Ms Belinda Spears
Secretary: Ms Sarah Mackenzie
Treasurer: Mrs Karen Borg

×  The Brain Man – John Joseph
I would like to attend the John Joseph, parent workshop on Tuesday 29th April at 6.30pm
Name: ...........................................................
Ph contact: ...........................................................

×  I DO NOT want my child to participate in the brain dissection aspect of the Learning with the Brain in Mind Program.

Student’s Name: ...........................................................
Class .........................
Parent’s Signature: .........................