OBERON PRIMARY POST

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ISSUE 1, TUESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY, 2021

I acknowledge the Wauthaurong people as the traditional custodians of this land and pay my respects to the Elders, both past and present, and extend that respect to all indigenous people.

A note from Mr McCoombe...

Dear Families,

We have all had a wonderful start to the year at Oberon Primary School. Last week and then again this week, was a terrific start to the school year. It was fantastic to see the smiles on the faces of the students and also the parents as they made their way into school. After a challenging year in 2020 our focus is for the students to have fun at school and enjoy their learning. Thanks again to the staff for all their preparation and work to make it a smooth start and to the families for getting the students back to school.

As everyone would be aware Mr Augerinos has taken a leading position at the AEU for 2021. Mr A has been a fantastic Principal at Oberon Primary School for 13 years and has put in an enormous amount of work to create such a wonderful school. I know he is sorely missed by the students, parents and staff however I am in contact with him daily, so he still has a close connection with Oberon. I would like to personally thank the School Community for such a warm welcome to Oberon over the past three weeks. The culture and community spirit at the school is simply amazing, so again, thank you. I have come to Oberon from Bellbrae Primary School where I was Assistant and Acting Principal for nine years. I have been so impressed by the students, staff and families at Oberon and the importance they place on creating a safe and enjoyable atmosphere that promotes exciting learning opportunities.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new families this year. We thank you for choosing our wonderful school and look forward to a strong partnership with you in your child's education. This year we have 38 Prep students and we are pleased to report they are all settling in nicely. The first year of school is a huge milestone and a very special time for students and their families. I look forward to spending some quality time in each class as I get to know all of the children at Oberon. Please stay tuned for further details regarding the Welcome BBQ as we cover all bases in making sure we are COVID compliant.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at the school or drop into the office for a chat!

Stu McCoombe

FIRST DAY OF PREP 2021

TERM 1 DIARY DATES

February
10th Parent Teacher Interviews
12th Whole School Assembly
13th National Apology Day
17th Parent Teacher Interviews
26th Whole School Assembly

March
5th Student Free Curriculum Day
11th Summer Lightning Prem
12th Whole School Assembly
19th National Close the Gap Day
21st Harmony Day
26th Whole School Assembly
1st Whole School Assembly
1st End of Term 1

2021 Curriculum Days
Term 1: Friday 5th of March
Term 2: Monday 24th of May
Term 3: Monday 23rd of August
Term4: Friday 26th of November

Grade Structures & Staffing

This year we are pleased to welcome Mr Stuart McCoombe who will be our Acting Principal for 2021. We also welcome back the lovely Miss Tashara Neville from maternity leave.

Our 2021 grade structure and staffing is:
Foundation (Prep J) - Mrs Natalie Jardine
Foundation (Prep G) - MR Michael Grozdanovski
1/2T - Mrs Tozer
1/2N - Miss Tashara Neville
1/2F - Mr Rory Fraser
3/4C - Mr Henry Crofts
3/4S - Mrs Shilo Stewart
4/5/6NW - Mrs Jo Neal (Mon-Wed)
& Mrs Hollie Williams (Thurs & Fri)
5/6B - Mr Jamie Brown
Art - Miss Brooke Uebergang
Digital Technology - Mr Mat Dawson
Phys Ed - Mr Mat Dawson
Learning Specialist - Mrs Jo Neal
Assistant Principal - Mrs Karina Darling
Acting Principal - Mr Stuart McCoombe
Education Support Staff - Tracey Czarnuch, Michelle Le Maitre, Lyn Bailey, Kate MacPherson, Janice Trait, Laura Aylmer and Aaron Vacirca.
Admin Staff - Bonnie Van der Zee, Mairead Vaughan, Tracey Czarnuch (Term 1) and Kirsty Duynhoven (from Term 2).

Hats! Hats! Hats!

Oberon Primary is a Sun Smart School. All students require a broad brimmed hat from 28 January until the 30th of April and from September the 1st until the end of Term 4.

Spotlight on...MR McCoombe!

This is your first year with us, how are you enjoying your new school?
I am really enjoying Oberon Primary School! The students, staff and families are fantastic and have been very welcoming. Mr A was right when he said it is the best school in the world!

As a principal and leader, what is important to you?
The Wellbeing of staff, students and families is extremely important. Working together to create a safe and welcoming environment where everyone enjoys coming to school is another important role for a Principal.

If you weren't a principal, what would you be?
I have always loved sports so I would have loved to be playing AFL for the Cats or Cricket for Australia however they remained big dreams!

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?
I enjoy spending time with my family. My wife Andi and twin boys Nash and Reid (who have started Prep this year in Torquay) all love going to the beach, so we spend a lot of our time there when the weather lets us!

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parent-Teacher Interviews will be held tomorrow, **Wednesday the 10th of February and next Wednesday the 17th of February between 2:00pm and 6:00pm**. All students have now received a slip with their confirmed interview time. On these days, students will have a reguar school day until lunch time. After lunch they will participate in specialist classes and be dismissed from school as usual at 3:15pm.

Building Works Update

We are pleased to announce that the new school hall is complete! The external ground surrounding the hall has been resurfaced and the fencing will be removed shortly.

We look forward to showing this space off at the Welcome BBQ. Stay tuned for further details, including the time and date.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

A reminder that we have second hand school uniform items available for sale. All items are located next to the office / outside the sick bay and can be purchased for a gold coin donation at the office.

Lost Property

Our lost property collection is located next to the Second Hand Uniform shop (between the office and the sick bay). Please take a moment to ensure that your child's belongings are all clearly named. A huge thank you to our wonderful Parent Club who do a wonderful job returning any named items to their owners on the last day or each term.

School Crossings

There are four school crossings manned by City of Greater Geelong crossing supervisors that are used by our students. They are located on High Street, Dorothy Avenue, Corio Street/Torquay Road and Settlement Road. Many thanks to our supervisors, Julie, Michael, Brian and Mrs Sparrow for keeping our community safe.

We strongly encourage all students and parents utilise these crossings for your own safety. Please have a conversation with your children regarding safety when walking to and from school.

GR8 PEOPLE

As a new year begins at Oberon our focus for gr8 values is **Caring.** We care in so many ways and at school we will focus on these ways and how each and every one of us can contribute to ensuring that others are cared for and made to feel happy, safe and valued. We would love families to also discuss the values at home and how you as a family care for each other and your family, friends and even strangers that you interact with.

Family Discussion Starters for around the dinner table at home...
How well do we know our neighbours?
Did people in the past know their neighbours better than they do now? Why?
What is the kindest thing that anybody has ever done for you?
What is the kindest thing you have done for someone else?
Is there a community organisation that we could volunteer to help?

Seesaw

Last year all classes trialled the Seesaw application as a communication tool between school and home. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive (from parents/carers, students and teachers), so we have decided to make this the official communication tool this year. As such, students will no longer have a physical school diary.

Teachers will check Seesaw during working hours on school days. Please allow for a 48 hours turnaround as teachers spend most of their day in the classroom with your child and can often only respond to messages at the end of the school day. **For any urgent matters, we encourage you to contact our lovely admin staff in the office.**

Please scan this QR code for instructions on downloading this app.

COVID Update

We continue to carefully monitor the Covid-19 situation. We act on the direct advice of the Department of Education and receive updates weekly, or at times of need.

Below is the current advice from the Department of Education:

- Children under 12 years of age and students at primary school or attending an OHSC program are not required to wear face masks.
- School staff are not required to wear face masks while teaching or caring, but those who wish to do so, can. Staff must wear face masks in indoor areas of the school when not teaching or caring.
- Visitors (aged 12 years and over) must also wear masks when indoors.
- Visitors must sign in and out at the office.
- Enhanced cleaning of high touch-point surfaces continues to occur during the school day.

We appreciate your support in keeping our school safe and in line with the Covid-19 health advice and guidelines.

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

To be eligible for the CSEF, you must be a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government Victorian Primary School on the first day of term one or the few day of term two. Eligible parents must be a holder of a Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) OR Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder OR be a temporary foster parent.

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student. Primary school student rates are $125 per year. The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

The program for 2021 closes on 25th June 2021. If you are eligible please call to the school office to collect a form. Please return the completed form to the school office as soon as possible.

Extend Outside of School Hours Care Program

Oberon Primary School has partnered with Extend Before & After School Care, reknowned as one of Australia's largest family owned and operated outside of school hours care provider.

After school care is provided from 3:15 – 6:00 from Monday to Friday during the school term. We are currently seeking expressions of interest to determine the need for a before school care program.

Please scan the QR code or visit the link provided on the first page of this Skoolbag notice to register your interest in 'Before School Care'. The survey closes this Friday, the 12th of February.

~ OPS Parent Club News ~

Welcome all to 2021. We can't wait to get going on what will definitely be a great year. We have hit the ground running in this first term, so keep a look out for Plant Bulb Drive order forms and Special Lunch notes in the next coming weeks.

Parent Club will be hosting a Welcome morning tea on Friday 19th Feb at 9am for anyone that is interested in joining us this year. We would love to see lots of new faces, from any year level. *(Due to constant changes in Covid restrictions location at school will be confirmed closer to date, keep an eye out on Skoolbag)*

I thought I would take this time to introduce Parent Club to our newer members of our school community. Below are some common questions that people ask:

Who Are We?

Parent Club is filled with volunteers from within the school community like parents/carers and grandparents from Prep through to Grade 6.

What Do We Do?

Some of the events we are involved in planning and/or hosting include Special Lunches, Grade 6 Grad, School Disco, Fundraisers, Carol's Night, Book Club and Walk to School Day Breakfast.

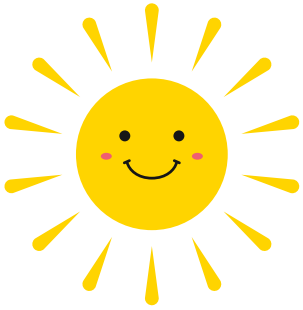
Is Parent Club for me?

We do understand that life is busy and we have other commitments. But we are always very flexible, so come to one or all meetings and help out only when you can! It's not all work.....there are many laughs and cups of coffee involved too.

Why Did I Join?

I joined Parent Club 7 years ago when my son started Prep. I wanted to get to know the other parents/carers and how the school ran. Little did I know at the start that I would make so many friendships over these years and have the opportunity to get know the teachers and staff on a less formal platform. Why do I keeping doing it.....I love the smiles you get from the students during these events, it's so nice to bring some extra joy to their school days.

~Marcia, PC President~



Icy Pole Sales

Zooper Dooper icy poles are sold in the school at lunch time in Term 1 and Term 4 when the weather hits 25 degrees or above in Geelong. The cost of an icy pole is 50 cents, with a maximum of one sale per child, per day.

We anticipate that sales will begin later in Term 1 or once School Captains have been announced.

2021 School Council and School Council Elections

Thank you to our existing School Council members for their continued dedication to Oberon Primary School.

This year we will have 2 parent positions becoming available for membership. Existing members can renominate or any other parents can nominate (self-nominate or be nominated by another person) for the positions. If there are more nominations than positions available, an official ballot will be held.

This year we have two parents whose tenures will expire. The parents in these positions are able to renominate for these positions. Please refer to the below table which outlines the time frame for nominations.

School council election process and timetable *OBERON PRIMARY SCHOOL*

Event	Date
a) Notice of election and call for nominations	Tuesday 9th February 2021
b) Closing date for nominations	Tuesday 16th February 2021
c) Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted	Thursday 18th February 2021
d) Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	Monday 22 February 2021
e) Close of ballot	Monday 1 March 2021

THE EDUCATION STATE

SCHOOLS

School Council Elections - Information for Parents

WHAT IS A SCHOOL COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

WHO IS ON THE SCHOOL COUNCIL?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected DET employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category – members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. Department employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

WHY IS PARENT MEMBERSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

DO I NEED SPECIAL EXPERIENCE TO BE ON SCHOOL COUNCIL?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. Councilors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term one each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO STAND FOR ELECTION?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term one each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

Department employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Parent Webinar: Building Secure Attachments With Your Child

How parents can build, promote and gain a deeper understanding of secure attachments with their children

Committed to Childcare Conferences is excited to host their first webinar for parents: "How parents can build, promote and gain a deeper understanding of secure attachments with their children"

The webinar is suitable for all parents, carers, grandparents, extended family members and anyone who has a close relationship with children and young people. Everyone is welcome to participate in this webinar.

From the early years to teenage years, children and young people require a secure and safe base from where they can explore their world.

This is provided by parents, grandparents and extended family members who are available, dependable and responsive to their needs.

During this 90-minute webinar we will explore:

- Attachment from birth to 18 years.
- Attachment theory and the significant impact of positive attachment on the relationships and connection between you and your children.
- What a secure attachment system looks like and what it means to children and young people.
- Insecure attachments, symptoms of attachment disorder and the impact they have on the brain function of children and young people and how it relates to behaviour and social relationships.
- The need for strong attachment when children and young people are exposed to the impact of "big T" and "little t" trauma systems.
- The links between biology and behaviour, including a fundamental understanding of cognitive and biological self-regulation strategies.
- The Circle of Security – where are you on The Circle?

The knowledge that we will share with you throughout this presentation will assist you in ensuring that the best interventions and support systems are implemented for you and your child, as well as understanding why some well-intended interventions won't work.

Attachment provides a safe and secure base that remains important throughout the lifespan of all people. It allows us to assist our children to connect and regulate in times of challenge and plays an important role in developing adaptability and resilience.

Event details

Date: Thursday, 25 March 2021.
Time: 7pm to 8:30pm AEST. The webinar will be broadcast from near Sydney, Australia.
Price: $50 per person, including GST.
Speaker: Heather Irvine-Rundle, clinical psychologist and director of The Read Clinic.
Location: Online webinar. Registered guests will receive an email with webinar details the week before.
Book tickets: https://committedtochildcareconferences.com/how-parents-can-build-promote-and-gain-a-deeper-understanding-of-secure-attachments-with-their-children/

Scan here to book

Year 7 Enrolment Information Evening

Wednesday 10 March, 2021 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Open Day

Thursday 11 March, 2021 with tours at 9:30am or 10:30am

Selected Entry Advanced Learning Program Information Evening

Tuesday 16 March, 2021 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm

For further information, contact Damien Toussaint (SEALP enquiries) or Chelsea Bright (general enquiries) on (03) 4243 0500 or matthew.flinders.girls.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

THE ACADEMY SEAL OF ACCREDITED SCHOOLS

MFG

Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College

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