Writing the newsletter gives me an opportunity to reflect on the many things that go on in our busy school. It is often difficult to select which great news stories to share with the school community, the past two weeks have really been fantastic and the following are just some of the highlights.

Meet the Teacher sessions were very successful with more parents attending than we could have hoped for. There were lots of positive comments about how the year has started and parents who attended said they felt well informed about the learning and routines for their children. Thank you all our teachers and support staff for your efforts in planning for and hosting the sessions. All parents should have received an emailed class newsletter that outlines the learning for Term One for their child. The curriculum newsletter also included specialist lesson times as well as your class teacher’s email address. If you did not receive the email please contact your class teacher or the office.

It was great to see so many parents and friends at our first assemblies for 2017. With a junior and senior assembly we are able to target our messages better to suit the age of our students. There was a clear focus on both assemblies and that was Positive Behaviour for Learning. Developing a positive, safe and supportive school is crucial for us here at Oxenford State School. The PBL framework sets clear expectations and supports students to develop skills that are not just important at school but for life. Students have really embraced the new reward system and the new signage has really embedded PBL into Oxenford State School.
This year Reading has been identified as one of our school improvement agendas. This involves ensuring that all teachers and support staff are delivering effective reading programs to all our students. Over the past week all OSS staff have had a full day of professional learning which has focussed on creating a common language for reading, identifying reading behaviours and strategies that students require for each year level and creating reading activities that cater for the needs individual students. To support teachers and support staff we will also have reading coaches in classrooms every day providing on-going feedback. We can’t stress enough the importance of reading across all year levels. Please encourage reading at home.

Prep teachers planning for reading
Mapping and tracking every student’s reading progress at OSS.

Schools are staffed and resourced based on the number of student enrolments on the 8th day of the school year. Our official day 8 numbers were 562. Our enrolment gave us 23 teachers for 2017. To reduce from our 24 classes we disbanded 1/2N and 2/3W and placed students across the other Year 1 and 3 classes and formed a straight Year 2 class. Moving students at the start of the school year is not ideal and we are extremely grateful to the families who were involved for your support. All 23 classes are now settled. Below is an overview of our structure:

On Friday February 24th at 2.10pm there is a whole school assembly. The assembly will focus on leadership and we are excited to be presenting badges to our 2017 Student Leaders. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Should you have any questions about items in the newsletter or suggestions that can support our school please don’t hesitate to contact me shadw1@eq.edu.au

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR LEVEL</th>
<th>CLASSES</th>
<th>STUDENT NUMBERS</th>
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</thead>
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<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
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<td>3 classes</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
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<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>3 and ½ classes</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kind Regards

Shirley Hadwen
This year the children at Oxenford State School continue to earn “hoots” for demonstrating our three school expectations – Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be a Learner. Already this the children have received 21,380 hoots for demonstrating positive behaviours.

What’s new for 2017?

This year we have introduced the Hoot Shop! Children need to collect hoots and save them up to purchase some awesome prizes. Thirty eight children have already made a purchase this year. Some children are already proving to be great savers and have got their eye on the 17 completed Owl Card reward of Deputy’s Deputy! Check out the full list of prizes below. If you would like to donate small items for our lucky dip (pens, small bouncy balls, stickers etc are ideal), please deliver these to the office.

The PBL Team
Homework

In Term 1, our junior school (Year 1-3) will participate in a home reading program. As appropriate, students will receive 2 books at their level for the week. These will be changed weekly and can be supplemented with the books the children borrow during Library time. Parents seeking additional readers are welcome to use their local library.

Teachers will ensure that the books provided are at an ‘easy’ level. Reading at home needs to be enjoyable and not a time for struggling and arguing. Harder texts are given at school under the guidance of the teacher. Reading at home should be an opportunity for your child to practise a fluent reading voice. Parents should use these opportunities to ask lots of questions about the text to check that their child is understanding what they are reading.

- Read the book many times - Don’t panic if your child brings a book home they have previously read or has the same book for a few nights in a row. Praise your child for how well they can read the text now. Reading the same book each time, can be a different experience each time, have a different focus for each time you read it with them such as focusing on the punctuation or focusing on the storyline.
- Understanding the text - The most important part of reading is to be able to understand what you have read. Quite often teachers encounter students who demonstrate beautiful oral reading skills, however, they are unable to correctly answer questions about the text. Parents need to ask lots of questions starting with ‘why’ and ‘how’ about the text and encourage their child to tell them about what they have read in their own words.

TIPS TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR HOME READING

BEFORE READING:
- Talk about the title of the story and what they think might happen in the book.
- Talk about who the characters may be.
- Go through the book and talk about each page. What can you see? What is happening?
- Find any words they already know and discuss any very tricky words that come up.

READING THE BOOK:
- Let your child read the book the whole way through without interrupting. If your child stops and looks at you, ask them to have a go at using one of the reading star strategies to help them through.
- Use reading prompts to help them if they get stuck.

AFTER READING:
- Discuss what happened in the book and ask them to retell the events in order.
- Tell them something they did really well (e.g. I like when you made that mistake on this page and then you fixed it and said ….. How did you know to fix it?)
- Go back and find a mistake they made and discuss it with your child (e.g. On this page you said….. Did that make sense? Why not?)
- Ask various levels of questions about the book to help with comprehension (Where does the story take place? Which is your favourite part of the story and why? Predict what you think is going to happen next. Why do you think this? Why did the author choose this title? What genre is the story and how do you know this? Have you ever been in a similar situation to a character in the book? What happened?)

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, HAVE FUN!

Reading is fun and we want the children to LOVE reading! If your child is getting upset or frustrated, put it away and come back to it later.

If the book is too difficult or too easy, make an appointment with your child’s teacher to ensure the appropriate level and text is sent home. There is often a reason why your child’s teacher is giving texts that are easier to read or texts that are a little challenging.

Praise your child for their fantastic effort!

Ruth Hester
Curriculum
**District Swimming Trials**

Today, Brooke G (5M) competed in the Broadwater District Swimming Trials at the Southport Aquatic Centre in the events of 50 Metres Freestyle, Backstroke and Breast Stroke. All the best Brooke! Due to the timing of this publication, Brooke’s results won’t be available until next newsletter.

**District Netball Trials**

On Tuesday 28 February, the Broadwater District are conducting their Netball trials for girls born between 2005-2006. If you believe your daughter is an extremely talented netball player (at representative standard), and would like them to be given the opportunity to attend this trial, please get in contact with me as soon as possible.

The Broadwater District are also conducting trials for Rugby League (Boys only), Basketball (Girls & Boys), Soccer (Girls & Boys) and AFL (Boys only) later this term so please watch this space for further details regarding this.

Yours in Sport,

Mr Tim Stark

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**Music News**

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.” – Plato

Oxenford is full of life and imagination within the Music Program. All lessons and ensembles are now up and running with the sweet sounds (yes, even from beginners) of singing, strings, woodwind, brass and percussion coming from the music rooms throughout the week. If your child is participating in the instrumental music program this year, can you please ensure they have their instrument and music book at school on the appropriate day and that they are aware of what time their lesson is. For those students interested in joining choir, it is not too late to sign up. Rehearsal times are: Junior Choir (years 1-3) Monday at second break and Senior Choir (year 4-6) Tuesday at second break. Please encourage your children to come along and enjoy some fun music making. There are no auditions for these choirs.

There is a slight change to classroom music lessons this year with each year level looking at a different topic either for the year or per semester. Students have responded to this change in a positive way and there have been some wonderful discussions taking place. The topics for Semester 1 are:

- Prep – Let’s Sing and Play Together
- Year 1 – Save the World
- Year 2 – Music in Our New World
- Year 3 – Let’s Celebrate, Let’s Remember
- Year 4 – Songs of Australia
- Year 5 – Going to the Movies
- Year 6 – Around the World with Music

As always, if you have any questions about the Oxenford Music Program please email or arrange a time to meet with one of our friendly staff.

Miss Jacinta Morris (Classroom Music and Choirs) – Monday to Thursday
Ms Stacey Bolton (Instrumental Music - strings) – Monday
Mr James Henshaw (Instrumental Music – woodwind, brass, percussion) – Tuesday all day and Wednesday afternoon.
New Year, New Details? See the office.
Moved house? Changed phone numbers? Please inform the office of any changes to your child/ren contact details. It is important that we have the most current details for your child on file. Thank you

Money Window
As per usual we are open for Money on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:30am – 10:00am. We are now taking payments for:
- Voluntary contribution (receive a diary with first $20 payment)
- Music Levy (for students in the band)
- Senior Shirts (Year 6)

Office Hours
Office hours are 8:00am—3:30pm
Children need to be collected prior to 3:30pm
If you are going to be running late please inform the office.

Hard copy of Newsletter
As you know we distribute the school newsletter electronically. To order your emailed electronic version of the newsletter you should ensure your email details are correct at the office.

The QSchools app is a convenient way to receive up-to-the-minute information from and about schools. The app is designed to integrate with school websites, and allows users to see when news, events and newsletters are posted to their selected school website.
The school community can also receive emergency announcements such as natural disasters and school closures through the app. The QSchools app will be particularly useful to parents who have students in different schools, as the app manages updates from multiple schools in a single view.
All Queensland state schools are searchable via the app.
Find out more about QSchools and download the app today.

Our school photos will be taken on the 7th of March 2017
For the convenience of our school community, school photos can be ordered online or via the office. Orders placed online DO NOT require an envelope, cheque or payment on the day of photo collection.

1. Stills/High Quality Photos can be ordered online or via the office. To ensure a steady flow of photos day, online orders for Stills/High Quality Photos will be cut off at 12:00 pm the night before our photo day, to allow all students that require Stills/High Quality Photos to be printed. Stills photos can still be ordered after the online cut off date by contacting the office from the day of photo collection and making payment on the day of photo collection.
2. All online orders should be placed on or before our due date for photography.
3. The online code above may also be used to order sports and other group photos.

All orders placed online will be delivered to the school for collection.
P & C News

Our next meeting is tomorrow afternoon (Friday 17th Feb) at 5:00pm in the school staff room.

Everyone is welcome!

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our request for volunteers in the tuckshop, all assistance is invaluable in keeping the tuckshop available and affordable.

Tanya Harris
President

Scholastic Book Club

Thank you to everyone who purchased from issue 1, every order earns coupons for teachers to purchase more resources.

Issue 2 will be out early March.

Meet new people... Make friends... Unleash your creativity!...
Your children will LOVE seeing you at school!
There are plenty of reasons to get involved!

Due to families moving on to high school or parents returning to work, the OSS P & C Association has a number of exciting positions currently available, roles that will look GREAT on your CV!

At the Annual General Meeting in March all positions become vacant and the next team will be elected to build on the great foundations of past P&C committees. You can be part of the next chapter! New people mean new ideas, the more the better.

Please do not hesitate to ask how your skills and experience can be used to help the continuing improvement of our great school.

"When parents are involved in their children's education at home, they do better in school. And when parents are involved in school, children go farther in school and the schools they go to are better" (Henderson & Beria, 1994).
COMMUNITY NEWS

CREATIVE DANCE INDUSTRIES

COME AND DO HIP HOP AFTER SCHOOL ON MONDAYS IN TERM 1!

Every Monday 13/2 to 27/3 in the Oxenford State School hall.
Prep to Yr 6  3:10 - 3:50 pm  $56

To register and pay online go to:
https://dancestudio-pro.com/online/creative

Or cash in full at the end of the first lesson
Contact Beth 0413 313 072
creativedanceindustries.asd@gmail.com

Academy Programs

For entry into Year 7 in 2018
EXCITE Academy Program: High Performance Maths, Science, English and Humanities
Additional Academy Programs: The Arts, E4E - Education for Entrepreneurs, Sport, Japanese

HELENSEVALE STATE HIGH ACADEMY
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