I would like to begin this last edition of the school newsletter for 2016 by thanking you all for helping to make our Christmas Concert so special. It was lovely to see the many students and their families, including some grandparents, join in on the fun and the Christmas spirit that was evident throughout the concert. We were a little lucky with the weather and thankfully the storm passed quite quickly!

My thanks to Mr Stark and Mrs Radley for their hard work on the day of the concert and to all class teachers and teacher aides for their contribution. Thank you also to the P&C members and other parents who assisted with the Lucky Draw, your efforts were appreciated by many. I spoke to some of the Lucky Draw prize winners who were delighted to go home with some terrific prize packs and vouchers! My sincere thanks to the local businesses who donated the various prizes. The support they give our school is very much appreciated.

The generosity of our families never ceases to amaze me. The ‘Gift Giving Tree’ was very well supported, with many lovely presents being donated on the night. My sincere thanks to all who gave so generously and to Mrs Simpson for organising this charitable initiative.

Our recent Swimming Carnival was a great culminating event as our class swimming lessons came to an end. The venue was ideal, and perfect for our Years 4 – 6 carnival. It was great to see quite a few parents cheering on from the sidelines. The students are to be congratulated on their sportsmanship and general enthusiasm, with many students participating in all events. Bradman House was the overall winner on the day and there were Age Champions for each age group – please see Mr Stark’s section for their names. Thank you to Mr Stark for organising this event and to all staff for their invaluable assistance. Well done everyone!

When you look back over the past twelve months there have been many special events and reasons to celebrate students’ successes. As well as experiencing the wonderful learning opportunities at Oxenford SS on a daily basis, all classes have participated in excursions and incursions, have
enjoyed sporting carnivals, performing at the Eisteddfod and competing in ICAS and the Premier’s Reading Challenge. The Year 6 students attended camp and we all enjoyed either participating in, or watching, Oxenford’s Got Talent. We have also seen the continuation of the Active School Travel program, which has been a positive initiative within the school community. Of course, so much more has happened throughout the year, but I think you’ll agree, these were all worth noting at this point.

On behalf of the entire Oxenford staff I would like to wish our Year 6 students all the very best as they move on to High School. Our special Graduation Ceremony planned for this evening is an opportunity to acknowledge this important milestone in their educational journey with family and friends. I trust that their time at Oxenford has given them the much needed skills to approach secondary school with confidence and optimism. Students, good luck, do your best and make your parents proud!

Whilst on that note, I have it on good authority that another ex-Oxenford student has been awarded a Leadership position at Helensvale State High School for 2017. Kristyn Fuller has been awarded Vice Captain of the Junior School, much to her family’s delight. Congratulations Kristyn!

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all staff for their dedication and hard work throughout this year. These people all make a valuable contribution to the team and are responsible for the happiness and success of our students, your children, at school. I see the extra things they do on a daily basis that is over and above what is expected of them in their roles and feel very fortunate to have been their leader.

At the end of this year, Mr Dale Stanley, Ms Helen Mego and Mrs Jenny Duncan are leaving Oxenford State School, to teach at other schools within the region. Mrs Robbie Pim, who has been working as a Special Education teacher, is finishing up at the end of the year also. Mrs Lyn Slatter has made the decision to retire and will not be returning. On behalf of the whole school community I would like to thank these teachers for the amazing contribution they have made during their time at Oxenford and wish them well in their new positions, and in Lyn’s case, in retirement. We have four new teachers transferring in, Mrs Wendy Nolan, Mrs Sandra Gutierrez, Mrs Carole Kendall and Mrs Kim Maroske. We look forward to welcoming these people to Oxenford and know they will love working within our school community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the P&C, led by Tanya Harris, for their amazing efforts, including the running of the tuckshop, the uniform shop and all catering and fundraising that they have organised this year. You make such a huge difference in the school and should feel very proud of what you have achieved. I would also like to thank you, the parents, for your ongoing support and loyalty towards our school. A strong working relationship between home and school really does make a positive difference and your children certainly benefit from it. Thank you.

I am happy to announce that the Principal coming to Oxenford at the beginning of 2017 is Mrs Shirley Hadwin. Mrs Hadwin has a wealth of experience and skills in education, having worked in various Gold Coast schools for many years. I know you will welcome Mrs Hadwin warmly and help her to settle into the Oxenford community.
Deputy’s Desk

Time flies when you’re having fun and working very hard. 2016 has been a very busy year for all of your children. This has been a very successful year for all students with many great achievements academically and in personal growth. As a teacher it is always extremely rewarding to see students grow each year into someone who will one day contribute to society.

I would like to thank all our staff and parents for making this year so successful. We all make a great team at Oxenford. Over the course of the holidays, I would encourage all students to read regularly and to practice their number facts. I would also suggest that the students have technology free days. Have a restful break and I look forward to seeing you all in 2017.

Class allocations

Teachers have worked hard to create class lists taking into account the needs of all the students. All students learnt of their new class and teacher on Wednesday for next year. Parents are urged to have faith in this year’s teachers who have placed all children carefully. If your child is concerned about moving from their friends, please remind them that it takes very little time to make new friends and this is a skill we all need to learn. If we never give them the chance to meet new people and make new friends they would really be missing out. Each group of friends and each teacher adds something to our personality and so it is important to have a positive attitude about new opportunities. If your child is concerned about their class please reassure them and let them come to terms with it rather than ask immediately for us to reconsider the placement.

Lost property

Please check the lost property bins in the office if your children are missing items. All items will be donated to charity at the end of the year.

Dani Radley
Deputy Principal
Many thanks to everyone for their support of The HUB over the past twelve months. We continue to evolve to support the diverse learning needs of the children who directly access our support. I recently shared with our staff that it is my goal for “The HUB” to be viewed as a school wide support system for children, parents and staff, rather than just a physical classroom that sits on the top of the hill. I sincerely thank The HUB team, without their dedication to the children of Oxenford State School, I wouldn’t be able to ensure that the children attending this school received the excellent support that they receive.

At the end of each year, change is inevitable. Many children will have received a “Countdown Calendar” to support their transition into their new year level. Please contact me directly if your child did not receive one and you feel that they would benefit from one.

While speaking of change, Miss Robbie Pim will be leaving us at the end of this year. While we are sad to see her go, we are also very excited for Miss Robbie, who has been offered a permanent position at another school.

Positive Partnerships

Positive Partnerships is very excited to be offering a 2 day Parent/Carer workshop in Brisbane Central on the 21/22 February 2017. Please refer to the registration flyer for more details.

Damien Nielsen
HOSES
positive partnerships
Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

Free Two Day Workshop for Parents and Carers
Brisbane Central
21 & 22 Feb 2017

Positive Partnerships is coming to a location near you!

Join us for 2 days of learning with other parents and carers of school aged children on the autism spectrum, designed to help you foster productive school, family and community relationships to provide the best kind of support for your child. Our workshops are for parents, carers and grandparents wanting to understand more about autism and learn practical strategies using evidence based resources to help maximise their young person’s learning.

What will you gain by attending this workshop?

- An increased understanding of the impact of autism
- Further knowledge about how to develop effective partnerships with your school
- Information to help you access further support both inside and outside of school
- An opportunity to be part of a support network where you can share strategies and experiences with other parents/carers
- An understanding of a planning tool that can be used to share key information related to your child

Workshop details

Venue:
Boulevard Gardens
284 Witton Road
Indooroopilly QLD 4068

When:
Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 February 2017
9.15 am – 3.00 pm (Registration from 8.30 am)

Catering:
Morning tea and lunch is provided. Please advise any dietary requirements upon registration.

Register Online:
positivepartnerships.com.au  Registrations open 8 December 2016 and close one business day prior to the workshop. Register early as places are limited!

Questions:
If you are not able to register online please call the Positive Partnerships Infoline: 1300 881 971 or email parentcarer@autismspectrum.org.au

The Positive Partnership Initiative is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training through the Helping Children with Autism package and is delivered by Autism Spectrum Australia. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the view of the Australian Government or the Department of Education and Training.
Exploring Mathematics at Home

Suitable Strategies for Students Years 3 – 5

You may feel that the maths your child is doing at school may be different from how you were taught but you will still be able to support your child in many ways. There are lots of activities you can do at home, using everyday items to help explore a variety of maths concepts with your child.

Money

* Encouraging children to think about money, saving money and considering how they spend money are important skills for all children to develop.

* Encourage your child to work out how much change you will get after buying something.

* Investigate costs for family trips together. For example, a visit to a theme park may include transport costs, entry ticket costs and food costs.

* Discuss saving money for presents or something your child may want to buy.

* Work out how long it will take to save this much if they get a small amount of money each week.

* Negotiate increases in pocket money as percentages. For example, a 5% increase would be how much money per week?

* Encourage your child to save a percentage of their pocket money or birthday money, and work out how much this would be. For example, how much money would you have if you saved 40% each week?

* Calculate together how much a mobile phone costs per month. How much is spent on messages and how much on phone calls?

Weather Maps

* Visit a website or look at the weather maps in the newspaper.

* What is the difference between the minimum and maximum temperature for each day?

* Find a seven-day forecast then record the actual temperature for each day and compare. Was the forecast accurate? What were the similarities and differences?

* Use the information on the weather website to explore differences in weather from your area to others. How much rain do you get compared to others? Are there differences in temperature?

Recipes

* Collect and read recipes and discuss the use of fractions, millimetres and grams. Encourage your child to make accurate measurements using measuring cups and spoons.

* Discuss how you would double a recipe. Encourage your child to record the new measurements for the recipe.

* Identify the temperature and cooking time on the recipe.

* Estimate the cost to buy all the ingredients to make the recipe.

* Make a list of the abbreviations used in the recipe and then write them in full, for example, L for litre, mL for millilitre, tsp for teaspoon, tbs for tablespoon.

Catalogues

* How would you spend $40 from a catalogue? How many products can you buy for $40?

* Select five products from the catalogue then calculate what the cost be if there was a 50% sale. Does it make a difference if you add up the items and then deduct 50%, or if each item is reduced by 50% then totalled?

* What is the best value sale item in the catalogue? Can you explain your reasoning?

* What are the cheapest and most expensive items in your catalogue?

* Compare the cost of a product across different stores using different catalogues. What did you find?

Timetables

* Can you identify your starting point on the timetable?

* What is the earliest and latest time to travel on this route? What is the difference?

* How long does it take to travel the entire route?

  * How many stops are there on this route?
Swimming Carnival

Last Tuesday 180 Year 4-6 students travelled to Coomera Anglican College to participate in our annual Inter-House Swimming Carnival. In what turned out to be a perfect day weather wise, all of our students competed to their fullest potentials in many races across the day. I’d like to make an extra special mention to our Age Champions for 2016:

9 Years – Brooke G & Noah D
10 Years – Hannah F, Sienna W & Tony H
11 Years – Daesyn C & Ethan A
12 Years – Tegan K & Ashton R

The mighty Bradman House were crowned Inter-House Swimming Champions for 2016.

I’d like to thank all of the parents and family members we had at the pool throughout the day who supported our final sports carnival for the year. Your presence is always recognised by myself and all of our participating students. I’d also like to recognize the efforts of all of the Oxenford Staff who ensure the day ran as smoothly as it did. Finally, all of our competing students need to be acknowledged for their amazing efforts inside and outside of the pool throughout the day. The day only ran as smoothly as it did due to all of the student’s efforts.

National Athletics Championships

In the last weekend in November, Lewis Symonds (4/5W) travelled down to Sydney to compete in the National Athletics Championships at the Olympic Stadium in Homebush. This was the second year in a row of competing at the Nationals, so Lewis was mentally, physically and psychologically prepared for what was required of him. All Lewis wanted to do was to improve on last year’s efforts and try to throw a personal best effort.

It gives me tremendous pleasure to announce that Lewis did throw a personal best effort in the 11 Year Boys Discus Final (39.19 Metres) to win gold by over two metres. A massive congratulations Lewis to you and your family; you all deserve the accolades because you all work so very hard every day at training. Another National Champion from Oxenford. Sensational effort Lewis.

Yours in Sport,

Mr Tim Stark

Music News

And that’s a wrap! I would just like to thank everyone (students, parents and teachers) for another wonderful year of music making at Oxenford. It has been a year full of singing, playing instruments, learning new rhythms and notes and some fabulous performances. The Oxenford Music staff would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday season and we are looking forward to what 2017 will bring.

Jacinta Morris
Music Teacher
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<tr>
<th>Yr Level</th>
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<td>Peyton-Jet G</td>
<td>Ameira H</td>
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Lost Property
Please stop into the office and have a look through the lost property bins to see if any of the items belong to your child. All lost property remaining at the end of this Term will be donated to good will.

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.
P & C News

Thank you to everyone who has assisted the P&C this year in all the different ways we assist the school.

Thank you to all the school staff for your care and efforts with our children. We hope you liked your presents our Santa’s helpers left for you!

We wish everyone in our school community a safe and happy Christmas and holidays.

See you all in the new year!

Tanya Harris
President


Uniform Shop Hours

Follow our Facebook page for updates to the hours for pre-term 1 hours.

Wednesday Jan 18th
8am—9:30am

Thursday Jan 19th
4pm—6pm

Friday Jan 20th
8am—9:30am
&
3pm—5pm
We are excited to introduce Anna Durward the new coordinator of Oxenford Helping Hands before and after school care. Anna has recently relocated to the Gold Coast to embark on her career in Education. Anna has worked as a Nanny for over 15 years, worked with disadvantaged women and children in Indonesia, has been teaching movement classes to young children, studying Steiner education and her masters in teaching (primary). Anna brings a lot of passion and experience to the service, she is very positive, enthusiastic and a team player. She has a lot of exciting things to bring to the service to engage the kids in a holistic and collaborative manner. She looks forward to meeting all new and existing parents and wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy new year.

Best regards,

Anna Durward
Coordinator
Helping Hands Oxenford
12/12 Monday
CREATIONS DAY
Create box creations
Play dough creations
Lego creations!

13/12 Tuesday
TEAM SPORTS DAY
Wear your sports clothes
Team challenges
Relays

14/12 Wednesday
Enjoy a movie with your friends

15/12 Thursday
Learn to be your own super hero and how to save a life

16/12 Friday
MESSY DAY
Team games, cooking and messy crafts

20/12 Tuesday
JINGLE ALL THE WAY
Wear your Christmas clothes
Christmas dance moves
Christmas music

21/12 Wednesday
CHRISTMAS COOKING
Create chef’s hats
Christmas cookies and Rocky road

22/12 Thursday
WATER PLAY
Bring a towel and change of clothes and join in our water play

23/12 Friday
CHRISTMAS PARTY
Photo booth
Christmas carols

9/1 Monday
2017 NEW YEARS PARTY
Fancy Dress
Party Games
Karaoke!

10/1 Tuesday
Challenge your friends in the inflatable Gladiator Arena

11/1 Wednesday
SUPER HERO DAY
Dress as your favourite super hero
Face Painting
Create your own story!

12/1 Thursday
Enjoy a day of mini golf
Frisbee or putt putt

13/1 Friday
GAME SHOW DAY
Bingo
Apple bobbing
Game challenges

12

Oxenford State School
90 Michigan Drive
Oxenford QLD 4210

Oxenford Helping Hands
From $1.25

This program is flexible to the children’s needs and wants on the day.

All children attending must bring a broad brim hat, water bottle, wear closed in shoes and sunsmart clothing. Morning and afternoon tea supplied. Children must bring their own lunch daily.

Excursions: Children to bring morning tea and lunch unless specified otherwise.

0458 008 319
oxenford@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au
If you’re aged 6-10 years old, then come and join us at AWLQ for a fun day full of animal related activities. Get a ‘behind-the-scenes’ tour of the animal refuge and vet clinics, cuddle some of our special dogs and cats and learn about how to care responsibly for your best furry friends and more!

BOOK NOW FOR DEC HOLIDAYS
HURRY! PLACES STRICTLY LIMITED!

For more information call 55099034 or email: education@awlqld.com.au