Thursday 14th February, saw Oakey State School hold their annual swimming carnival and what a day it was! The weather was perfect, the students were keen, the staff were helpful and the parents were cheering! A big thank you to all the staff, parents and helpers who made the day a success. Thank you to Mr. Harycki who played a massive part in organising the design and layout of the program.

Congratulations to the students who tried their best, cheered for their house and had a great day – well done!!! By the smiles on all the faces, students had a great day.

The swimmers competing for age champion was again part of our program and there were some fierce competition throughout the day. The results for the day were:

- MITCHELL
  - 10 yrs Girls: Chloe Ganata
  - 9 yrs Girls: Poppie Collins
  - 11 yrs Boys: Darcy Lees & Brendon Haupt
  - 12 yrs Boys: Cody Lucht
  - 13 yrs Boys: Blake Williamson
  - 10 yrs Boys: Val Ganata
  - 11 yrs Girls: Autumn Turnbull
  - 12 yrs Girls: Kyona Mitchell-Hood
  - 13 yrs Girls: Ashlyn Knauth

The House Champions trophy and the House Spirit Award were fiercely contested throughout the day. The results for Oakey were overall house champions with a total of 311 points. Congratulations to all Oakey competitors.

The swimmers competing for age champion was again part of our program and there were some fierce competition throughout the day. The results for the day were:

- OXLEY
  - 10 yrs Girls: Val Ganata
  - 11 yrs Boys: Blake Williamson
  - 9 yrs Girls: Poppie Collins
  - 11 yrs Girls: Autumn Turnbull
  - 13 yrs Girls: Ashtyn Knauth
  - 10 yrs Boys: Blake Williamson

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- MITCHELL
  - 10 yrs Girls: Chloe Ganata
  - 9 yrs Girls: Poppie Collins
  - 11 yrs Boys: Darcy Lees & Brendon Haupt
  - 12 yrs Boys: Cody Lucht
  - 13 yrs Boys: Blake Williamson
  - 10 yrs Boys: Val Ganata
  - 11 yrs Girls: Autumn Turnbull
  - 12 yrs Girls: Kyona Mitchell-Hood
  - 13 yrs Girls: Ashlyn Knauth

The House Champions trophy and the House Spirit Award were fiercely contested throughout the day. The results for MITCHELL were overall house champions with a total of 311 points. Congratulations to all MITCHELL competitors.

As a parent of a young child, you are probably more concerned about your child’s progress in reading than in any other subject taught at our school. To achieve in Math, Science, English, History, or any other subject, your child must have reading skills that are developed to the point that most of them are automatic. He or she can’t be struggling to recognize words in a school textbook when he is trying to read quickly to grasp the meaning of the text. In other words, children must learn to read before they can read to learn.

Why Should Parents Encourage Children To Read?
Many parents recognize the value and enjoyment of reading to their young children but perhaps are not clear about how they can help their children become better readers. Because reading is so important to children’s success in school, parents can and should help their children become interested in reading and encourage growth in their reading skills. Young children develop a more positive attitude towards reading if they experience warmth and close contact with their parents while reading.

What Are Some Ways To Encourage Young Readers?
The most important thing to remember is that reading should be an enjoyable experience. The following activities can help you stimulate your child’s interest in reading.

- Talk with your child before he learns to read. Talking with your child before he even speaks will help him learn important language skills. Most children need strong oral language skills if they are to develop as readers and writers. Using short, simple sentences, you can talk about your daily activities, what he or she is seeing and doing, their environment, sizes of objects, the shapes of signs, and so forth.

- Read to and with your child at least 30 minutes each day. Your child will gain awareness of the conventions of reading (left to right, top to bottom), and even the very young will gain vocabulary. Running your index finger under the print as you read will help your child notice that printed words have meaning. Gradually you can ask her to identify letters and sounds.

- Sing songs and recite poems and rhymes that have repetitive sounds. Repetition makes it easier for your child to pick up on the patterns in the sounds you make.

So remember:

"If you can read, you can do anything."

Dave Bosworth
Principal.
Many people have been asking me what I do, so I thought I’d break it down for you. A School Chaplain is a safe person for young people to connect with at school, providing a listening ear, caring presence, and message of hope. The school chaplain provides an additional adult role model in the school and complements other support services in the school such as those offered by the Guidance Officer and the Well-being Coordinator.

School Chaplains care for students struggling with a wide range of issues, including: family problems, confusing relationships, friendship issues, peer pressure, self-esteem issues, bullying and stress and anxiety. The partnership between the school and the Chaplain, supported by local churches, businesses and community organisations, provides a network of local support and assistance. These positive relationships help young people to face issues, and provide hope, connection, meaning, and purpose.

The Chaplain is part of the Local Chaplaincy Committee that is held once a month to ensure the chaplain is supported. The Local Chaplaincy Committee meetings are on the 3rd Monday of the month at 4:00pm in the High School Administration Building. You can support our local School Chaplain and the Chaplaincy Committee by attending the AGM on the 18th March 2013. It would be great to see you there. For more information please contact Justin Trigg on 0490 026 766.

**Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st March</td>
<td>School Disco 6—8:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th March</td>
<td>Chaplaincy Committee AGM @ OSHS 4:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th March</td>
<td>End of Term 1 Good Friday—29th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th April</td>
<td>Start of Term 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th April</td>
<td>Anzac Day Public Holiday</td>
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**Please Note:** PHONE MESSAGES

Parents calling at 2:30pm onwards for students messages cannot be guaranteed these will get though to the student.

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**Tuckshop will be open again on Wednesday 6th March**

Information regarding Tuckshop will be published in upcoming newsletters.

Tuckshop operates on Wednesday, Thursday & Fridays.

**SUN SAFETY** is IMPORTANT NO Hat—NO Play!

NO Caps allowed—Broad brimmed or Bucket hats only

**ARE YOU READY TO DANCE, JIVE AND SHUFFLE?**

Then you’re ready to join in the fun at the

**Oakey State School Disco**

Only for students of Oakey SS

**Date:** Friday 1st March

**Time:** 6:00—8:00 pm

**Venue:** Oakey State School Hall

**Cost:** $5.00 (includes a popper & chips)

Tickets must be Pre-purchased from the school office before the disco.

GLOW STICKS & OTHER GLOW ITEM WILL BE ON SALE

Money raised will go towards the Year 7 2013 Sydney-Canberra Snow Trip

Return your form and money to the office ASAP!

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**Oakey Junior Rugby League Club**

**Seeking Players & Officials**

Players Under 7 to 16 years required - The Club aims to give players more playing time than most other clubs in the competition so come join 2013’s most successful club.

Officials Positions available for referees, coaches & water runners - training & courses paid for by the Club

**Contact**

President Jason Lee 0422 849 935
Secretary Kathryn Winkens 0413 866 044
Registrar Julie Redding 0447 485 505

**Family & Community based Club**

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**School Arrival and Departure**

In the interest of supervision and safety, children are not to arrive at school before 8:30 am and should be collected/ have left the school grounds no later than 3:15pm each day. No supervision for students is offered before or after school. Our staff are extremely busy in the mornings and afternoons with curriculum preparation, meetings and administrative tasks, and therefore are not available to supervise early arrivals or late departures. Thank you for your support and understanding; it is greatly appreciated.

**School Newsletter Distribution**

To reduce the cost associated with the production of the school’s weekly newsletter, we have stopped sending home a printed copy to the youngest student at the school. To keep up to date with what’s happening at the school, the newsletter can be accessed via the following options:

- View online via the school’s webpage: www.oakeyss.eq.edu.au
- Parents/students collect a printed copy from the school office or tuckshop.
- Email: receive an electronic copy via a weekly email—to activate your interest to receive the newsletter email please send an email to admin@oakeyss.eq.edu.au.

In most cases the Newsletter should be available each Wednesday.

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**Homework Club**

Homework Club started this week and is held on Mondays and Wednesdays and continues until Week 8. Any new enrolments to Homework Club will need to complete a form available from the office.

If your child is at school but will not be attending a particular session, please ring the school on 4692 0333. This will ensure that both you and our staff know where your child should be.

Parents or guardians are very welcome to attend to assist their child or to see what activities and resources are available. Sessions run from 3:15 to 4:15 in the Library.

Richard Ashley (Head of Curriculum) Naomi Garthe (Literacy Coordinator)

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**Tuckshop**

Serviettes, sauce, tea, coffee, sugar, eggs, milk.

Expressions of interest to volunteer and non-perishable donation can be left at the office.