Oakey Show Food Stall
The Food Stall at the Oakey Show (Saturday 14/03/2015) is a major fundraiser for our P&C. A note was sent home previously asking for parents to man the stall on the day. If you are able to volunteer any time on Saturday please contact the school office.

We are particularly looking for parents to help with the lunch rush between 10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m.
Any offers of support would be greatly appreciated.

Parent Teacher Interviews
Parent Teacher interviews will be held in the school hall on Tuesday April 28 (Term Two, Week Two). This year we will be using an online booking system for the interviews. If you do not have access to the internet at home you will be able to contact the school office to make your appointment.
Further details will be provided in future newsletters.

Every day counts at Oakey State School
Are you giving your child the best chance of success at school? At Oakey State School every day counts. It is a legal requirement that students attend school every day unless they are sick.

Going shopping, celebrating a birthday, visiting family, staying up late and being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school.
Research shows that if your child has a record of good attendance, they are more likely to achieve high results in the future. If your child is away, you need to let the school know the reasons beforehand, or within two days of returning to school.
All student absences will be closely monitored by the school. Please make every day count and set your child up for success at school.

Current Attendance Rates
Prep 94.1%  
Year One 94.1%  
Year Two 94.0%  
Year Three 93.4%  
Year Four 92.8%  
Year Five 92.5%  
Year Six 90.0% (This figure needs to improve Year Six!)
Our school target for the year is an overall attendance rate of 95% or higher.

Have a great week,

Scott Pacey Principal
ICY CUPS
The Year 6 Students will be selling icy cups on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, till the end of term 1. The cost is 50 cents each.

Students of the Week
Congratulations to the following students for the great job they have done at school during last week. Bravo and keep up the good work!

Prep—Year 3:
PA—Ruby, PB—Indie-Lee, 1A—Mitchell & Harmony, 1B—Lachlan, 2A—Harrison, 2B—Jorja, 3A—Ebony

Year 4—6:
4A—Xzy, Bree, 4B—Brooke & Tarlee-Rose, 5B—Amber & Nick, 6B—Brendan, T1—Shakira & Jacob

20 Gotchas:
Mitchell, Brakley, Coen, Emily, Hayden, Liam, Montana, Frankie, Aisha, Justine

Student Word List certificates awarded to:
Red: Benji
Yellow: Jenny, Mia & Sienna
Steps into Prep Playgroup

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Steps into prep playgroup is up and running.
The program is run from Yumba, (Cnr Lorrimer & Campbell Streets).
This program is for students who are enrolling in Prep at Oakey State School.
Pre prep children come along with a parent to engage in fun activities, craft and learning.

Weekly School Wide Behaviour Focus

This week our Positive Behaviours for Learning focus is on our eating areas and eating times. The whole school expectations are for eating areas and times to be – organised, safe and structured for students and supervisors with explicit expectations that are to be followed to and all students being Safe and Respectful. Lessons as well as discussions with all happened across the school yesterday. After chatting with classes, particularly in the year 3 and 4 areas, the students feel that there has been a big change in their understanding of appropriate behaviours after the lessons. At home you may want to chat about some social skills such as waiting until your mouth is empty before talking. Thanks for your support!

Tuckshop News:
The Tuckshop offers GLUTEN FREE chicken nuggets and wraps. Please see Dorrelle at the tuckshop to discuss what other options may be available for a Gluten fee diet.

SWIM TEAM REPRESENTATIVES

Congratulations to Darcy, Jayden and Cruz, who represented us proudly as part of the Inner Downs Swimming Team last Wednesday. Well done, we're very proud of you. The boys said they had a fantastic day and enjoyed every minute, which is great to hear.

HEADLICE ALERT

Please be aware that there have been reported cases of head lice in the school. Please check you child’s hair regularly and treat immediately if lice are found.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

THIS Thursday 12th March.

Please remember to bring your photo order envelope to school.

There is a late fee for those that wish to order school photos but did not hand in an order envelope on the day.

Tuckshop Helpers Needed

We would love to have some volunteer helpers to assist with preparation and serving at the tuckshop. If you can’t spare a whole day, just a couple of hours would also be most welcome. The P&C are also looking for people to help with the BBQ at the Oakey Show on Saturday 14th March 2015. Please complete and return the note that was sent home, indicating your availability or items you’re able to donate.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST AN OVERSEAS EXCHANGE STUDENT
Learn about another culture, learn a new language or perhaps improve your culinary skills
Hosting – An Experience for Life
Student Exchange is looking for host families across Australia to welcome overseas students into their home.
Visit www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student or call 1300 135 331 for more information

YEAR 6 CANBERRA TRIP
A reminder for those going on the Canberra trip in September. The next payment of $250.00 and the insurance form is due by Friday 13th March, 2015.

NAPLAN 2015
In week 4 of next Term our Year 3 and 5 students will be involved in the annual National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing. Testing will be over the three days of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 12th, 13th and 14th of May.
While most students are expected to participate in these tests, some children with special needs may receive some support during the test and some children may be exempt or withdrawn from the test.
If you are concerned about your child completing the NAPLAN tests, please contact your child’s teacher or myself soon.
Enclosed in the newsletter for year 3, 5 & 7 students is the NAPLAN information pamphlet.
You can also access the NAPLAN website at: http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support.html
Richard Ashley
Head of Curriculum

PAYMENT DUE BY DATE
On each excursion / camp permission form we nominate a return and pay by date.
Parents and carers are asked to adhere to the payment due by dates. If payment is not received by the due date, students may not be able to participate.
The school requires payment, especially for the larger excursions like camps to be made on time. These excursions often require deposits and payment prior to the actual event and the school does not have funds to cover the shortfall.
The school does offer the option to set up a payment plan so that you can make smaller regular payments over a period of time prior to the event. Please assist by having the correct amount of cash as we don’t always have change, the school does have EFTPOS.
If you would like to make payments via direct bank transfer please see our office staff for further details.
Setting up a regular bank transfer amount could be helpful for those families that would like to put a bit aside on a weekly/fortnightly basis than rather pay one large amount by

SCHOOL HATS
Please make sure your child comes to school with their own hat, as we don’t have spare hats available for students.
Make sure the hat is clearly named so if misplaced we can return it to the rightful owner.
Students that don’t have a hat are not allowed to play outside.
Next term the school will have reversible hats for sale. These Blue hats can be reversed into the students school house colour (red, blue, green or yellow). They will sell for $15.00.

GIVE AWAY—Computer Table available for pick-up. If interested please phone Jill—4691 1659

TURNING OFF THE ELECTRICITY GRID IN YOUR HOME: HYBRID PV SYSTEMS
The Toowoomba City Library and The Alternative Technology Association are hosting a solar energy information session presented by Stan Jonsson (Solar Centre) at the City Library, 618 Ruthven Street at 6.30 pm, Tuesday 24 March.
Stan Jonsson is a Clean Energy Council accredited Installer/Designer for off grid solar PV systems and an accredited designer of grid connected residential and commercial solar systems.
Tickets are free and available from the Help Desk at the Toowoomba City Library. A light supper will be provided. Doors open at 6.15 pm for a 6.30 pm start.
What is NAPLAN?
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?
NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of a school’s assessment and reporting process; they do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

What will be tested and how?
NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. The content of each test is informed by the national Statements of Learning for English and mathematics, which underpin state and territory learning frameworks. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a text in response to a prompt.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task are available on the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au

Who will run the tests?
NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or principals. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

How can I help my child prepare for the tests?
NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students have already been learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. If you have any questions about your child’s preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?
All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant coexisting conditions, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your state testing authority can give you more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.
2015 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

Registration Form

Please return this form to the school by Friday 27th March.

I give permission for my Child ____________________________________________ of ________________

Child’s name

Class

to participate in the following 2015 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

Please select the subjects you would like your child to enter:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject/Paper</th>
<th>School Years</th>
<th>Official Sitting Date</th>
<th>Entry fee, incl. GST</th>
<th>Fee enclosed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>3 – 10</td>
<td>19 May 2015</td>
<td>$ 8.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>2 – 12</td>
<td>3 June 2015</td>
<td>$ 8.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>3 – 12</td>
<td>15-19 June 2015*</td>
<td>$18.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>3 – 7</td>
<td>16 June 2015</td>
<td>$12.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>2 – 12</td>
<td>28 July 2015</td>
<td>$ 8.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>2 – 12</td>
<td>11 August 2015</td>
<td>$ 8.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| TOTAL            |              |                      |                      |             |

Students should sit on the official sitting date for each subject to be eligible for UNSW medals. However, your school may choose to sit at another time to fit in with other school activities and routines.

* Students may sit Writing anytime in the week beginning Monday 16 June. However, all students in your school should sit on the same day.

Please find enclosed $__________________ total entry fee.

Amount

Name of Parent/Guardian ____________________________________________ Date ____________________

____________________________________
Signature of Parent/Guardian
Dear Parent

The University of New South Wales is offering your child an opportunity to participate in the *International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)*.

ICAS assessments have taken place annually in schools for over thirty years and in 20 countries. Educational Assessment Australia (EAA), who design and deliver the assessments, is the not-for-profit arm of the University of New South Wales.

**ICAS:**
- is an annual skills development assessment program in key areas of learning for students in Years 2-12; assessments are available in Computer Skills, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing
- gathers performance information through a 30–60 minute supervised in-school test
- provides a continuous, independent and comprehensive record of a student’s performance, and maps their development over the full period of primary and secondary schooling
- enables the progress of each student to be mapped in each skill against their previous performance, demonstrating personal improvement no matter the starting point
- uses fellow students’ results as a reference point; results are mapped against all students sitting at the same year level in Australia
- provides an excellent preparation for national testing
- enables students at all levels of ability to participate; ICAS contains questions designed to specifically explore the abilities of students of all standards – this includes those of both lower and higher levels of achievement
- medals are awarded to the top students in each subject in each school year in each state when sufficiently meritorious and the test was sat on the official test date
- achievement certificates are awarded to all students at a range of levels:
  1. **High Distinction** to the top 1% of students
  2. **Distinction** to the next 10% of students
  3. **Credit** to the next 25% of students
  4. **Merit** to the next 10% of students
  5. **Participation** to all other students
- results are available to parents and students online; these online reports and analyses remain available indefinitely. ICAS reports indicate which questions were answered correctly, compare student performance to that of the other students tested and are highly suitable for inclusion in a student’s portfolio for future tertiary entrance or job opportunities
- entries are administered through the school, so teachers can also access the information

To enrol your child in ICAS, please complete the registration form below and return it, with your entry fees, to school by Friday 27th March.

For more information about ICAS go to www.eaa.unsw.edu.au, contact Customer Service on (02) 8344 1010 or send an email to info@eaa.unsw.edu.au

Your child can also prepare for ICAS using Practice Online. Practice Online tests are available for English, Mathematics and Science. Find out more about Practice Online at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/practice-online

Yours sincerely

Dr Sofia Kesidou
Group Executive
Educational Assessment Australia

Scott Pacey
Principal
Oakey State School