Every Child Matters Every Day
At Officer Primary School we hold the following values – the four “R’s” for all members of the school community.
- RESPONSIBILITY
- RESPECT
- RESILIENCE
- RELATIONSHIPS

As a staff, we make a commitment in 2015 to make these core values part of our explicit teaching on a routine basis.
We invite parents as well to engage in teaching and living by these values.

Date: Friday 17th July, 2015

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Dear Parents and Friends of OPS,

Welcome back to Term 3! I hope that you found time to enjoy some family time during the break from the school routine. The students and staff have returned with enthusiasm and excitement for the term ahead.

FACILITIES UPDATE
During the holiday break works were completed to replace and provide additional pathways to improve access to our school buildings and grounds. Fortunately we were successful in gaining funding for this through an application to the Accessible Building Program. This work has provided safer access for pedestrians and a welcome facelift to the front of the school.

Other work that has been completed is the replacement of the broken downpipes on the south side of the junior building in an attempt to resolve our drainage issues in that area. One of our parents, Andrew McDonald, has provided us with support and advice regarding this work and through a colleague Andrew was able to access donated materials from Tradelink in Pakenham to complete this work. Although we have still not quite resolved the issue, we do have functional downpipes that will be able to carry the water away once they are connected to a functional storm water outlet.

FIRST AID TRAINING FOR STAFF
During the holiday break thirteen members of staff gave up a full day to attend training in Level 2 First Aid. We have now established a roster utilising the trained staff to cover First Aid duties during recess and lunch breaks. I am most grateful to our dedicated staff for giving up their personal time to undertake this training. The courses are costly and if we have to cover staff during the school term to attend this training we are very limited in the number of staff we are able to train. We hope to be able to run another training program next year so that all of our staff will have these valuable skills.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS
Families should have received a notice this week offering them the opportunity to make an appointment to participate in Parent Teacher Interviews on Monday 27th July or Tuesday 28th July. These interviews are intended as a follow up to the Semester One reports distributed at the end of Term 2. They provide families with a chance to clarify questions they may have about their child’s progress and plan for how they can best work with the school to support their child. Teachers are keen to meet with all families. If you have not received notification of these interviews I encourage you to contact the class teacher to ensure that you reserve an appointment.
PARENT CONCERNS AND SOCIAL MEDIA
In recent weeks it has been brought to my attention that some of our families are making use of social media to raise concerns that really should be dealt with between the family and the school, rather than aired in an environment where the audience is not in possession of the full picture. This use of social media can lead to a distorted view of our school and how we deal with problems. These comments often seem to find their way back to the school, with some personal references having the potential to cause grief to staff, students or community members. I would ask that you bring any concerns that you may have to our staff so that we have the opportunity to work through them with you.

The school does have an officially sanctioned Facebook page that has proven to be a very successful means of communicating current news and events. Families can make comments on this page which are moderated by an administrator. This page is the only page that has the permission of School Council to utilise the Officer Primary School name in its identification.

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN PROGRAM
Woolworths have invited us to participate in their Earn and Learn Program again this year. This program will enable us to source new educational resources for our school cost free. The value of resources will be determined by the points earned through the collection of Earn and Learn Stickers. In the past families and friends of Officer Primary School who shop at Woolworths have supported our school to get some great resources.

From Wednesday 15th July to Tuesday 8th September, we are collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers. You will get one Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco and gift cards). Place the Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheet and when it’s complete, the Sticker Sheet can be dropped into the Collection Box here at the school.

At the end of the promotion, we’ll be able to get some great new equipment. The range is extensive and offers lots of items ideal for our students – including resources for Maths, English, Science and some fantastic fun supplies for Arts & Craft, Sport and for our library. If you’d like to know more visit woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn

SCHOOL COUNCIL
With the recent resignation of Sarah Sudweeks from School Council, we now have an additional casual vacancy on School Council for this year. If you are interested in nominating for this position please contact me at school.

Families are reminded that school assemblies will now be held on a Monday morning. We plan to hold these assemblies on the basketball courts in front of the junior building (weather permitting). We hope to see you on Monday!

Regards

Lynne Brenner
Principal
Parents & Friends News

Wow it's term 3 already, hope you all had a lovely break.

To all the families that requested the free tickets to the Melbourne Vs North Melbourne game in August, we were fortunate to receive enough tickets to cover all requests. Details will be sent out next week to those families.

Rapid Tune Pakenham (Ph 5941 5355) have been a great supporter of our school over the past 2 years. Please see the attached flyer with the special offer they are running at the moment, but make sure you tell them you are from Officer Primary School to redeem the offer.

Term Activities
Chocolate Drive:
This term our major fundraiser is the Chocolate Drive. Precommitment forms are due back by Monday 20th July. Chocolates will then be distributed on Friday 24th July from 2.30 to 3.15pm. A great place to sell these is at your workplace. A three week selling period will apply.

Community Activities:
In the month of September, we will once again be holding our Fathers Day Stall, School Disco, & Hot Dog Day. More details will follow next month.
**PE/SPORT NEWS**

**Important Sporting Dates Term 3:**
Please mark these dates in your diary.

- Fun & Fitness-a-thon - Tuesday 21st of July (11.30 to 1.30)
- Hooptime Year 5&6 - Thursday 23rd of July (8.50am to 3.00pm)
- House Track Athletics - Friday 31st of July (9.00am to 1.30pm)
- Hooptime Year 3&4 - Thursday 6th of August (8.50 to 3.00pm)
- House Field Athletics - Friday 7th of August (9.00am to 1.00pm)
- Swimming Program - Weeks 5 & 6 (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday)

**REMEMBER - ALL SWIMMING PERMISSION NOTICES NEED TO BE RETURNED, PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DON'T INTEND ON YOUR CHILD ATTENDING**

**AFL Clinics in PE**

For the first 4 weeks of term, the Prep - Grade 2 students are lucky enough to be involved in Football clinics run by AFL Victoria. Please ensure students have appropriate footwear for their Monday PE sessions.

**Hooptime**

Our Hooptime basketball program is fast approaching. Please ensure permission forms and payments are returned to the office as soon as possible.

**Fun & Fitness-a-thon**

We unfortunately had to reschedule our Fun & Fitness-a-thon due to weather conditions. It will now be scheduled for Tuesday the 21st of July. We are in need for parent helpers. If you are able to spare some time on Tuesday from approximately 11.00 to 1.30, could you please return the form below - it would be much appreciated!

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**Fun & Fitness-a-thon**

☐ Yes, I can help out from 11.00 - 1.30 for the Fun & Fitness-a-thon.

Name: ___________________________  Child Name: ___________________________
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Guess what? We have been given the opportunity to foster an elephant. We are going to be following its growth and health with a history of the elephant and how it came to be at the elephant orphanage.

Our elephant is called Sokotei. SOKOTEI is a male. He arrived at the rescue centre on Wednesday, October 2, 2013. He came from Samburu National Reserve. When he arrived he was approximately 5-6 months, he was rescued after his mother's tragic death. He can be a bit of a bully at times and chase the other elephants around.

We will have a display in the middle school corridor with all the information about Sokotei. We will be sending art work to the elephant orphanage to be put on display.