

UPDATE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents and Friends of OPS;

I hope that you have all had a great holiday and found some time to spend relaxing with your families.

I have enjoyed my break, particularly some of the lovely weather that has allowed me to spend some days reading in a shady spot and other days working around my house and garden. I also spent about ten days in Echuca on the river with my extended family and had lots of fun.

Julie and I have been back at work this week along with other staff who have dropped in at various times to get their classrooms ready for the students next week.

Our new playground has been installed and is just waiting on the soft-fall to be installed so that it will be ready to go on Tuesday. It is looking fantastic! We have also had a lot of other maintenance completed around the school grounds and by Tuesday the school should be looking great.

Early this week I had some surprising news from Mr Corbett who informed me that he has been successful in securing a one year fixed term contract as a Science specialist teacher at Hampton Park Primary School. He will commence in this position as of Monday next week - 29th January. Although we will be sad to see Duanne move on, we are all excited for him to be able to pursue an area about which he is passionate.

Duanne's news has created a vacancy for us, 0.5 class teacher of Years 3 and 4 and 0.5 Digital Technologies specialist. I have worked on a plan to fill these positions as soon as possible and have decided that splitting the roles maximises my chances of getting the best outcome for both roles.

For the class teaching role I have arranged to increase Emily Christodoulou to full time. This means that she will continue in her Phys Ed role for the first half of the week and then step into the role of class teacher in the 3/4 class for the second half of the week. Both Emily and Laura are very excited about this plan and are confident that they can work together well.

Although Emily's experience at our school has focused mainly on the specialist Phys Ed role, she is trained as a generalist teacher and over the last few years at Officer she has worked regularly at both our school and others as a CRT on her two 'days off.' The students have a great deal of respect for Emily and I am sure that the students in this class will be very excited about this news.

With regard to the 0.5 Digital Technologies role, I am liaising with our CRT agency to fulfil the role temporarily while I proceed with the process of advertising the position as this could take up to four weeks for us to finalise. It has certainly been a busy week!

Please remember that school starts next Tuesday for all students Prep to Year 6. Parents of Prep students are asked to bring their children to the classroom to help settle them in. Other students in Years 1 to 6 can meet their teachers at the line up points; Years 1 and 2 at the front of the junior building and Years 3 to 6 at the front of the main building.

I am looking forward to seeing you all!

Lynne Brenner
Principal