Principals Message
Last Wednesday several of our staff went through a day of training in a program called PBL. PBL stands for “Positive Behaviour for Learning.” It is a program that is in operation in hundreds of schools across the country, including some schools here in Tamworth. PBL puts in place structures that allow all students, staff and parents to have a clear and consistent message about how the school operates so that everyone can work together to focus on the core business of schools, learning.

Over the next few weeks our PBL team will be implementing a range of projects aimed at getting ready to start 2014 with a set of clear school values, rules, reward systems, and behaviour management strategies to ensure every child and adult in our school is focused on learning.

This week you would have received a parent survey. This survey is our way of getting input from parents and carers about what values they wish our school to promote. As part of the survey we are asking parents to select 3 words that best represent the values you would like to see in the school. Also we are asking for suggestions for a symbol or phrase that can represent OVPS. Students will also be asked to complete a survey so that we can collate all the data across our school community.

We look forward to seeing what values our school wishes to promote and will keep everyone up to date once changes are ready to be made. Have a great week.

Luke Norman
Principal

Kindergarten Transition
Our new kindergarten students for 2014 have had a very settled start. Miss Dawson, Mrs Purdy and Mrs Murray have done a wonderful job introducing the new students to school life. We are looking forward to our orientation morning on Friday 15th November. We hope to see all of our 2014 kindergarten parents and carers at this event.

Tjupurrurru
Last Thursday our school was fortunate enough to have a performance by Tjupurrurru and his flute-playing off-sider Eflic. This was without doubt the most amazing performance we have seen in quite some time. Students, staff and some parents were entertained and informed about culture, music and various other topics from Tjupurrurru and the music he created was simply superb.

We would like to thank the Troutman family for connecting us with Tjupurrurru. It is always a pleasure to have such talented, humble and personable visitors in our school.
First and foremost, thanks must be given to the small group of dedicated parents that attended our October meeting – we had just enough for a quorum! Even though we haven’t the man-power (or dare I say woman-power?!) that we want or indeed need, we have some very exciting things on the horizon for the school. All our activities are designed to be engaging and fun as well as raise much needed funds for the school, to ultimately, improve your children’s experience at OVPS.

Not only do we exist to raise money but the teachers need us to help them make decisions on the way school is run. This month we talked extensively about a lot of things including the election process for our school captains, staff training, school security and the appearance of our school as a whole. Notably, the condition of the school oval is now nothing short of amazing, due to the wonderful work of Mr Davidson, and I’m sure the whole school is very thankful.

We have only one more P&C meeting this year on Wednesday 27th November before we wrap up for the Christmas break. There are still some great things to look forward to including the release of the 2013 Year Book, thanks to Mrs Smart and Mrs Sharples; Deadly Day on Thursday 28th November, thanks to all concerned; and the Carols in the Courtyard (my favourite!) on Tuesday 17th December.

I feel grateful to have landed in and be part of such a great school.

Best wishes,
Jayne McCarthy
Treasurer
Clothing Store Co-ordinator

Leaving School Grounds
As part of our PBL program we are looking at how our students leave school each day. Parents may have noticed an increase in the number of teachers at the top gate each afternoon. To ensure the supervision and safety of our students all classroom teachers are now walking their students to the top gate each afternoon. Students catching buses will walk to the library where they will sit quietly until their bus arrives and students walking home will walk with their class until they head to the bottom oval.

These changes are being made to have a safer method of students leaving school. No students will be leaving school through the internal doorways. Parents are asked to wait either at the top gate, just inside the gates where seats are provided or in the OLA near the top car park.

VANDALISM
Recently we have had several serious incidents of vandalism in the school. There have been several items of graffiti removed from various walls and some students have forced various items such as cans, toilet rolls and tennis balls down the toilets, causing thousands of dollars in repair bills.

As a result staff are now reminding all students that break times are for eating, using the bathroom and relaxing before going back to learning. The external toilets will now be locked until 8:45am each day and will only be open during breaks. Any student who requires using the bathroom during lessons must be issued with a toilet pass by the class teacher. We are aiming to not only reduce the incidents of vandalism but also focus students’ attention on the core business of schools, learning.

We appreciate the support of our families in this matter as these acts of vandalism are very serious indeed. Should any student be caught vandalising school property the school will be imposing consequences and in the case of costly repair bills we will be forced to seek financial restitution. Please encourage your children to respect all property.

Deadly Day
Coming up on the 28th November is our next Deadly Day. This is going to be an amazing day full of great activities for our students to participate in.

We are inviting all of our parents to come in on the day to take part in the activities along with their children. We will be having a BBQ lunch at lunchtime and parents are welcome to come along and enjoy this with our students. Students will be eating food that they have prepared in group sessions and there will be plenty of sausages of everyone else.

A raffle will be drawn on the day and tickets will be for sale for 50c each. We hope to see as many people at OVPS on Deadly Day to help us have a great day of education outside of the classroom.

See you there.
Parent – Teacher meetings
At OVPS we are aware that the most important relationship besides the student-teacher relationship is between the parent and the teacher. We encourage parents to contact their child’s teacher for updates or to raise any concerns that they may have. If you are unable to catch the teacher at the top gate of an afternoon you are able to ring the school and leave a message, they will contact you to arrange a time to discuss your child’s progress with you.

The relationship between parents and teachers is vital for academic success and children value the connection made between school and home. It promotes good work habits, shows your child that you are interested in, and place great value on their education and ensures a productive and positive relationship between the school and the family. Our staff are all here to support the children in our care each day.

Breakfast Club
Breakfast club runs 3 times a week at our school on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning from 8:45am. This is free and is designed to give students a healthy start to the day that incorporates foods to help students concentrate during morning lessons.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Smith Family for their cereals, Dairy Farmers for the milk and Bakers Delight in City Plaza for their very generous donations of bread. Please support our sponsors whenever you can and tell them thanks from Oxley Vale.

We would also like to thank the Oxley Vale Community Church for the volunteers who give up their time free of charge for this service. We ask that parents and student express their gratitude to the volunteers, they are very gracious in giving up their time. If your child attends the breakfast club can you please remind them how important it is to use manners and show gratitude. It is the little things that keep these programs running in our school.

School App
We have been waiting a long time for our school app to come from an idea to a reality. I have been told by the app developer that our app should be ready early in December. The app will be iPhone and Android friendly and will be a great way for the school to send messages, keep calendars up to date, send reminders, have parents request meetings, inform the school of absences, download notes.

We will inform everyone as soon as the app is complete and ready to install on your device.

Go 4 Fun
In the next few weeks a new program will be running after school. The University of Newcastle has approached us to run a program called "Go 4 Fun". This program will run on a Monday afternoon at school from 3:30pm until 4:30pm for students and from 4:30 to 5:30pm for the parents of the students involved.

It is aimed at providing a good mix of healthy activities and healthy eating. The program is free and will provide participants, students and parents, with a range of incredible (and some edible) resources. And, it is totally FREE!

Keep an eye out for application forms coming home very soon.

Tamworth Regional Council
Royal Life Saving Society’s Swim & Survive

South & West Tamworth Memorial Pools
9 Day Intensive Swim Program
6-16 January 2014
20-30 January 2014
3-14 March 2014

30 Minute Lessons - 12th & 13th November 2013

Need more information please contact your local pools or www.swimandsurvive.com.au

One of our proud sponsors of the Breakfast Club is Bakers Delight in Tamworth City Plaza. Please support this organisation.
Our next Yarn-Up meeting will be on Wednesday 6th November from 9:30-11:30am in the staffroom.

Topic for discussion will be our 2013 Deadly Day.

Thank You

Yarn-Up