Karangi Public School Cross Country

Our school cross country will be held tomorrow Tuesday 10th March commencing at 9am. Students are reminded to bring their hat and a water bottle. Students may bring in joggers if they wish to wear during the race but these are to be brought to school in their bag with correct uniform to be worn to school. Parents are welcome to attend.

From the principal's desk

Every week I am reminded of what a special place we have and the wonderful values being developed in our students.

A group of our wonderful swimmers travelled to Lismore for the North Coast PSSA Swimming trials with Bella Teale and Tayah Teale performing particularly strongly and gaining selection in the North Coast PSSA team travelling to Sydney to compete at the NSW Championships. Congratulations girls, it will be a wonderful experience and is a just reward for all your hard work and commitment. A small team attended the NC Tennis trials last week with Charlie and Ruby Pade gaining selection. Our school PSSA Knockout competition tennis team will be competing against Woolgoolga Public School this Thursday, good luck team!

Eight of our students from years 5 & 6 attended a debating enrichment day held at Nana Glen Public School and were fortunate to refine their understanding of debating with teachers from Orara High School and students from the other Orara Valley Schools. Their fine behaviour was certainly noticed – well done! Students will now be involved in debates via Video Conferencing with other OVLC Schools culminating in the Great Debate to be held at Glenreagh Public School on the 24th March. Many thanks to the parents who were able to volunteer their time transporting our students to and from the debating enrichment day.

Orara High School are keen to assist in transitioning students and preparing them for their future high school years enthusiastically providing many opportunities for our students to experience. On Thursday 19th March all students in years 4 and 5 will travel to Orara High School to participate in a variety of ‘taster’ lessons. Orara High School is covering the cost of the bus, Miss Wood and Mrs Lee will accompany the students and a permission note will be sent home soon.

As I have visited classrooms during the week I have noticed how settled your children are and how engaged they are in their lessons lead by our very dedicated teachers. The students all look fabulous in their school uniform right down to the black shoes and shoe laces, thank you for ensuring your child is in full uniform even with the challenge of drying clothes in the persistent wet weather we have been experiencing. I have also had the pleasure of listening to the beautiful singing as all students in years 3-6 participate in choir every Friday, it reflects a beautiful tone across the school.
With the ground drying out classes have begun their daily fitness and cross country practice again. Please ensure your child has their school hat every day as they need this to participate in any outdoor activities. A water bottle is also an essential item, with many classes encouraging student to keep their water bottle on their desk for regular sips. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our school cross country this Tuesday morning, as you come along to cheer on your own and all the other children who participate.

Our Orara Valley Learning Communities major excursion is currently being organised to Canberra for later this year. This excursion is an annual highlight for Year 5 and 6 students. Expression of interest forms have been sent home for this excursion. It is vital that these forms are returned, along with a $50 non-refundable deposit, so that the school is able to determine exact costs and ensure the viability of these excursions. The cut-off date for expressions of interest is 13th March. After this date I will be compiling deposits and information from all OVLC Schools and this will guide the decision on the viability of the excursion as well as final costing.

Mrs Clark and Mr Macpherson have been seeking and organised new awards for our Friday assembly and fortnightly behaviour merit awards. These will be delivered to school this week and in use at this Friday’s assembly. They have a much more professional appearance reflecting the pride we feel in our students.

Our school held our school Clean up Australia Day last Wednesday. It was fantastic to see the students out in our playground cleaning around the school. What was more pleasing to note was that rubbish was very hard to find on the day – obviously a great job being done by our students and cleaner as they show respect for our school grounds.

You may have noted we have had to cordon off the wooden stairs leading to the oval. They have deteriorated to the extent students and staff have fallen. I have been assured work will begin on replacing these with concrete steps this week.

Our demountable for class 3/4 has been unavoidably delayed due to the heavy and persistent rain we have had over the initial weeks of school. Thank you everyone and particularly class 3/4, Miss Wood and Mrs Turnbull as we have had to continue to utilise the library as a classroom. I have been informed work will begin on siting this new demountable early this week.

Please help our wonderful and very busy canteen volunteers by separating your child’s orders into a recess order bag and a lunch order bag. Also clearly label if it is to be a lunch or recess order. As you can imagine our students are keen to both order, and buy over the counter, every Friday and it becomes very busy, separate labelled bags is one strategy that will streamline your child receiving the correct order at the right time.

NUTS: Please remember our school nut minimisation policy. We have a number of children in our school who are anaphylactic to nuts and children who have other family members who are also anaphylactic to nuts. Nuts and nut products sent to school creates a stressful, and possibly life threatening, situation for these students. Please help keep them calm and safe by leaving nuts and nut products to enjoy at home. If you accidentally forget, your child will be asked to select another option from their lunch box, or if this is not possible, eat in a separate area and be supervised washing their hands afterwards.
This term the students have been studying rainforests. They have identified the processes of energy transfer within the rainforest, events that affect the balance in the rainforest ecosystem and have used writing to develop their own ideas and present opinions concerning rainforest conservation issues.

The unit has spurred on discussions about energy conservation which has prompted some students to think more carefully about how they can help minimise their energy consumption within their own home. Something as simple as turning electrical items off at the power point can save energy and therefore save you dollars.

Within our own classroom we have thought of ways to conserve energy and have ensured that all fans, lights and the white board are turned off before leaving the room. This term the children will compare their own household electricity bill before and after the energy saving initiative to see which household can save the most electricity over a 3 month period based on a percentage of the previous bill. It should be an interesting fact finding mission; one I am sure will bring out the competitive streak in some.

**ART**

The students produced some great art examples of the rainforest with the focus being on depth and the creation of shadows using shading. The students used pencil, crayon and water colour paints to complete the task. I was impressed with the students’ efforts; so too were they.

**Rainforest Poetry by 5/6**

*The birds are flying by above the canopy.\nThe nest is up high from predators like me.*

*The loggers are cutting the trees down so we should give them a kick.\nBut I guess we need medicine for the people who are sick.*

*The sound of searing chainsaws echoes in my ears.\nSeeing the devastation almost brings me to tears.*

by Zeke

*by Kaiden*
WEEK 6 MERIT AWARD WINNERS
(Clockwise from above)

K-2 Merit Award winners

Yr 3-6 Merit Award winners

Music Award Winners

P&C NEWS

Tonight is THE night!!
Our P&C AGM is happening - all welcome of course! Starting at 6:30; we hope to see lots & lots of new & not-so-new faces there :) 

Still needing a couple of volunteers to coordinate the Mother’s Day stall - this is more about the opportunity for our children to purchase their special surprises for their special mama or nana than anything else :) The children love it! If you can help out that would be very much appreciated! Please call Suzanne Webster to let her know.

Have you taken the P&C Meeting Time survey? Go on; we are aiming to make the meeting times as convenient as possible to as many people as possible :)

Remember year 6 shirt orders are available to be placed now - thanks once again to Nardia Pade for coordinating this!

Final Word: "I would rather walk with a friend in the dark, than alone in the light." - Helen Keller
Donna A on behalf of the Karangi P&C X

CAR RALLY

On Thursday 26 March our school will have a unique opportunity to view the Sids & Kids Rally Cars as they travel through our picturesque Valley. In fact the P&C is hosting a luncheon for all the rally drivers . . . so we are seeking HELP from all those talented parents who like to cook. If you are able to provide a cooked dish, salad or desert on the day please contact Suzanne Webster : 0459 791 528
suzannewebster01@gmail.com
NIT ALERT
Parents please check your child’s hair regularly as head lice are on the move at the moment.

Head lice  The facts

- about 23% of primary students have head lice at any one time
- anyone can catch head lice regardless of their age, sex, or how clean their hair is
- head lice move from one person's head to another via hair
- head lice do not survive long when they are off a human head
- head lice do not live on furniture, hats, bedding or carpet
- head lice have built up some resistance to head lice treatments

Treatment
- daily combing of white hair conditioner using a fine tooth comb is effective in getting rid of head lice and eggs (nits)
- school communities may need to hold 'check and treat' or Nitbuster days where everyone learns about and starts treatment on the same day.

Tips for parents in reducing the spread of head lice

As infestations are particularly common in primary schools, it is best to choose a treatment that can be used over time. There is no single solution to eradication, only persistence.

- regularly check your children's hair
- teach older children to check their own hair
- tie back and braid long hair
- keep a fine tooth head lice comb in the bathroom and encourage all family members to use it when they wash their hair.