From the Principal

Last week I was in Sydney attending the annual NSW Primary Principals Conference. The Minister, The Honourable Adrian Piccolli, addressed the Principals earlier last week around the major education reforms that are taking place in NSW. These include a new way of funding schools based on student needs rather than student numbers. This is a welcomed initiative as many Principals have been advocating that the current way of funding schools does not adequately address students who require additional support. The Minister also spoke at length about the strategies this government is putting in place to attract the most outstanding high school students into teacher training. This and other strategies will support the commitment to have the very best teachers in our schools. At Anson Street School we have been very fortunate to have been able to select our staff through a rigorous merit selection process.

Last week we celebrated NAIDOC Week. Students from Anson Street participated in the community March and celebration activities in the forecourt near the library area. NAIDOC is an annual event which celebrates Indigenous culture and communities. These occasions help build our community’s capacity and understanding of Indigenous cultures and our heritage. Special thanks and congratulations to the organisers of the NAIDOC celebrations.

Tomorrow, Tuesday 29 October, the school will have a very special occasion to celebrate the donation of specialist therapy equipment to the school from Niagara Therapy. All parents and caregivers are especially invited to this unveiling in the school gym followed by morning tea in the school cafe. The therapy equipment has been specifically designed and built for a school setting. Niagara Therapy is a national company which supplies equipment to therapists, hospitals and other medical facilities and has a commitment/charity branch supporting children in special schools throughout Australia. We look forward to seeing as many families as possible.

Sailing has commenced for the summer season and, as in the past, most of the sailing will be held locally at Lake Canobolas. There will be some occasions to broaden the experience for the children to travel to Lake Burrendong. All children at the school will have the opportunity to go sailing in the specially designed Access Dinghies. The Dinghies have many safety features and we encourage family members to visit the Lake when your child is sailing. The staff responsible for the sailing program all have Yachting Australia Instructor qualifications. The staff are required to undertake reassessment and accreditation processes periodically to maintain their Instructor level qualification.

Enjoy your week,

School Noticeboard

STAFF MEMBER OF THE WEEK

Julie Hudson – Class 2 Teacher

Qualifications: Diploma of Teaching, Bachelor of Early Childhood, Master of Inclusive Education with Distinction.

Experience: I have been teaching at various schools in the Western Region for over 20 years. I have been a Teacher Librarian, a Preschool Teacher and a Special Education Teacher and now I am one of the Assistant Principals here at Anson Street School.

Why I like working at Anson Street School: I believe every child has a right to a quality education where they can experience all opportunities available to them. Anson Street School offers every student a myriad of experiences and activities to extend their learning and to involve them in the community of Orange. I enjoy watching the younger students grow and develop and the older students mature and accept responsibility. No two days are the same at Anson Street School and it is great to see the happy smiles as the students arrive in the morning. I am proud to work with a dedicated staff who share responsibility and encourage the best in the students they teach.

Advance Notice for Year 12 Graduates and their Families

2013 GRADUATION

This year the Year 12 Graduation Celebration will be held on Thursday 12th December at the Orange Ex-Services Club.
“Fit for Summer” Challenge
Commencing this week (Week 4) we will be presenting a challenge for students to “Get Fit for Summer”. Our aim is to use a whole school approach to encourage students to improve their fitness and promote healthy living. The program will run for 6 weeks – Weeks 4-Week 9 inclusive. Classes will commence each morning with 10 minutes of fun exercise using “Hearty Fun” – a program designed by the Heart Foundation and aimed at children. The Healthy Eating Challenge will encourage students to eat a piece of fruit/vegetables (eg carrot sticks, salad) during recess and lunch and to drink a glass of water rather than cordial or juice. Stickers and Certificates will be awarded as an encouragement and children gaining 3 certificates will be entitled to a healthy fruit slushie. The Walking Group challenge will encourage students to walk during recess and lunch. Certificates will be awarded for attaining different levels over the period of the challenge: 50 laps = Blue Certificate; 80 laps = Silver Certificate; 120 laps = Gold Certificate. Names of students who are the top 3 Achievers of the Week in each category will be in the School Newsletter along with a “Tip of the Week” to encourage families to support the “Fit for Summer” challenge. In the process we hope the students (and staff) will have fun!

Rev’d Anne, School Chaplain
Jenny Kempson, Physiotherapist

Tip of the Week
Rewards at home
Reward your child by spending quality active time together: eg going for a walk around the block or to the park (make it fun by trying to skip, jumping over cracks in the path or by walking with dolly steps). Children enjoy seeing their parents playing too – maybe take a ball to kick with them in the park or play "hide & seek".
Don’t reward your child with takeaway food or lollies.

STUDENT SPECIAL TRANSPORT SERVICES RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS AND CARERS
It is the responsibility of parents/carers to contact the relevant Special Transport Service (bus or taxi) if students do not require transport on a particular day.
Transport can be cancelled by contacting: CareWest Bus Service 6362 6554
Orange Taxi Service 131 008

Absences
Please ensure a phone call or a note explaining your child’s absence from school is given as soon as your child returns. If no explanation is given the absence is entered into the computer as an “unexplained” absence. If too many unexplained absences occur for a particular student it is then followed up by the Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO).

Community News

Teen Time
The program, funded by ADHC and operated by Orange City Council, is based at Anson Street School in the hall.
The after school program operates from 3.00 – 6.00pm during term time and from 8.00am – 6.00pm during vacation periods. There will be a maximum of 9 students supervised by 3 members of staff (employed by Orange City Council).
Brochures are available from the school office. Please contact Teen Time Coordinator, Ms Margi Garretty, on 6393 8617 or 0418 403 367 for all enquiries.

Education Matters
Do you have a child with a disability who will be starting school 2014/2015? Now is the time to start planning! Do you have a child with disability already at school? Are you aware of the different ways your school can support your child?
Lisa Whittaker from the Dept of Education will be giving an overview of the different types of support available through the public education system. Topics include: Learn about the options available – mainstream school or special school, What are the Dept’s disability criteria? Find out about regional placement panels and their role, Does your child need special equipment? Are there supports available to assist with transport to and from school? What are Learning and Support Teams? and How can we support with special needs as they progress through the education system?
When: Thursday 14 November 2013
Time: 6.30 – 8.30pm
Venue: Orange Ex Services Club
RSVP: By Friday 1 November to Suzi Welch on 6360 1455

Resourcing Families
Individualised Funding in NSW – What it could mean for you
Individualised funding opportunities are becoming more available for people with disability in NSW. Resourcing Families is a statewide initiative that works with families that include a family member with developmental disability. It provides information, ideas and resources about developing a positive vision for the future, building informal supports, establishing networks, creating community connections and having more choice and control within people’s lives.
When: Thursday 21 November 2013
Time: 10am – 12pm
Venue: Ex-Services Club, Orange
Bookings are essential – phone: 1800 774 764

School Uniform
School uniform is compulsory at Anson Street School and the school asks all parents and carers to support this policy.
Polo shirts (both short and long sleeve), polar fleece jumpers, skort (a skirt/shorts combination for girls) and limited size rugby jumpers can only be purchased through the school – they are not sold elsewhere.
If you would like to purchase any of these items please request a uniform order from the office. Payment options include cash and cheque.
If you are unable to purchase uniforms due to financial difficulties the school has limited funds available through the Student Assistance Scheme. These forms can be requested from the office and all applications are kept in strict confidence.