OGPS



**WHAT’S HAPPENING ...**

***2022 Term 1 Dates***

**28th January** - School Development Day (no students)

**31st January** - School Development Day (no students)

**1st February** -Year 1 – 6 Students start school

**1st - 4th February** - Preschool Ladybugs and Butterflies start (refer to your letter received advising of start time)

**2nd & 3rd February** - Kindergarten start (refer to your letter received advising of start time)

**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT Mrs Helen Morgani**

It is with great pleasure that I address you in the last edition of our paper newsletter. With close to 650 followers on Facebook and over 95% of families connected to Seesaw, we share school news, students and staff success stories and announcements in real time. While a paper newsletter served a purpose at one point in time, it is now obsolete.

We have had a remarkable year despite a whole term in lockdown where students and staff learned and worked from home. OGPS excels in many things and one thing is for sure, *when the going gets tough, we work and stick together!* I am immensely proud of the resilience and dedication of students, staff and parents showed during this time. I know that we can and will handle any challenge that comes our way.

It was sad not to be able to have parents onsite for end of year events, but this did not mean our students missed out. With the return of face-to-face teaching so late in Term 4, we decided not to hold our annual Presentation Day, instead celebrating learning across the school in COVID-safe, stage-based assemblies. Each student P-6 received a Learning Champion medallion because this year, they earned it! Year 6 ended the year with a Fun Day and a special graduation ceremony. In addition, special awards normally presented at Presentation Day were still handed out including Dux, Premier’s Sporting Medal, Fairfield RSL scholarships, South-West Connect and Kannemyer awards.

At this time of year, staffing is always busy. It is with great pleasure that I share that Ms Alex Ricci and Ms Diane Safrglani were successful in gaining permanent Assistant Principal positions through merit selection. Ms Ricci and Ms Safrglani have been relieving in their roles for three years. Merit selection is a rigorous process and both leaders are worthy and deserving of their positions. Please join me in congratulating them.

Ms Lauren Hagarty was successful in gaining a permanent classroom teacher position through merit selection at our school. Anyone who knows Ms Hagarty will attest that she too is worthy of this appointment. Ms Hagarty was the recipient of the Auburn Network Award for the category of Early Career Teacher. Her commitment to our school and her own learning is to be commended. Please join me on congratulating Ms Hagarty.

#### Week 11 Term 4 2021

The Department has also appointed us two new permanent teachers under the Graduate Recruitment Program. We have met one teacher, Ms Chloe Moon. Ms Moon has met the team, had a tour and is excited to be started with us next year. Our second appointment is pending, and I will introduce you to him or her in 2022.

Staff movement at this time of year is very common in all schools across the state. Ms Samantha Oude Vrielink, Ms Schalo and Mr Ben Richmond have decided to take up other teaching opportunities. Ms Oude Vrielink and Ms Schalo have worked at our school for many years. I wish them the very best in their new schools. Mr Richmond started with is in 2020 right after completing his teaching degree. I know the skills, knowledge and the experiences he has learned at OGPS will serve him well in his new role. Best of luck to Ms Oude Vrielink, Ms Schalo and Mr Richmond.

We also farewell Ms Katkar who has assisted in the library to aid with administrative work.

In response to the interruptions COVID has had on learning for the last two years, we are Looping classes in Stage 1, 2 and 3. Relationships are fundamental to learning and we thank parents and staff for their support of this innovative and contextual idea. Where possible, students in Year 2 will have the same teacher they had in Year 1, students in Year 4 will have the same teacher they had in Year 3, and students in Year 6 will have the same teacher they had in Year 5. Movement in schools is inevitable so there may be a few staffing and student changes, but we have tried to loop as best we can. You will be informed of your child’s class and teacher next year.

**Goodbye to the 2021 Leadership Team**

As the year comes to an end, I’d like to sincerely thank our captains and prefects. In the short time they have had to perform their official duties, it has been a pleasure watching them grow in confidence and maturity. We wish them all success as they move forward to the next stage of their schooling.

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| Thy Tran  | Captain |
| Fatma Kattar  | Captain |
| Mariam Allouch  | Prefect |
| Tasneem Awad  | Prefect |
| Abdullah Malas  | Prefect |
| Mahmoud Awad  | Prefect |
| Aya Alazaizi  | Prefect |
| Mariam Habib  | Prefect |

**Welcome to the 2022 Leadership Team**

As we look toward a new year, OGPS will once again be proudly represented by a new incoming leadership team. In 2021 our leadership team will consist of 2 captains and 6 prefects:

The elected team for next year are:

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| --- | --- |
| Jacob Ali | Captain |
| Aya Dabbousy | Captain |
| Rayan El Ali | Prefect |
| Ayaa Naboulsi | Prefect |
| Grace Tato  | Prefect |
| Reem Kattar  | Prefect |
| Justin Ater  | Prefect |
| Bader Rifai  | Prefect |

Congratulations to these students and best wishes for next year!

It has been an honour and a privilege to have served the OGPS community for another year. I’d like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. Merry Christmas to our members of the school community who celebrate at this special time. I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.