



Orana School Bulletin

ISSUE 8, 3 JUNE 2010



Forthcoming Events

June

- Wed 2nd Primary Sports Day, 11am-3pm, Hill Oval
Fri 4th Class 10 Excursion to Sydney, 6:30am-7:30pm.
Fri 4th Twilight Concert, 5:45-7pm.
Mon 7th CI9 excursion, Refugee Realities, 12 - 2pm
CI8 excursion, Refugee Realities, 1 - 3pm
Wed 9th High School Tour, 2-3:15pm, SRC
Thurs 10th CI9 & 10 Japanese excursion to Cowra, 8:30am - 5pm
German Exchange Parent Info evening, 7-9pm, SRC
Mon 14th Public Holiday

Delightful Open Days

We were open on two days this year in order to make the school accessible to as many people as possible. The display in the Senior Resource Centre gave a rich picture of the comprehensive nature of the curriculum. From early childhood to Class Twelve the journey was impressive. It was good to see parents from the primary classes coming to find out about the High School and Senior College. This year we are preparing for a larger than usual enrolment of students from Class Ten into the Senior College. We are keen to hear what courses students want to pursue and to see how we can cater for all their needs. Please enquire if you have any questions at all.

Before school early in the morning there are often lots of kangaroos in the grounds. It has come to my attention that there are sometimes children here too. Students need to be supervised when they are on School grounds. Teachers come on duty in the mornings at 8.30. This is in order to care for the children who arrive from then on. Please make sure that your children do not arrive at the School before duty starts.

John Davidson
School Director

Senior College Report

"Alice", the play, was a stupendous success. Performed at the McKillop Theatre in Wanniasa by the Senior Drama class it was filled with energy and verve; filled with humour, acting and dancing it was Senior Students at their very best. It will be matched by the students who present their Visual Art or Design and Technology work at the exhibition on the 18 June. It is matched on a daily basis by the quality of work presented in classes and the level of questions they have about the world.

Most of the students in Class 12 will be sitting a trial AST (Australian Scaling Test) in the next few weeks as part of the preparation for the real AST which is held in September. This test is challenging. You are welcome to try some of the questions! It is held over two days in which the students complete a multiple choice test, a short answer test and writing task. The test is used to statistically moderate between colleges as part of the process for ranking students who wish to enter university within two years after leaving school. The test is a good, reliable test which ensures that all ACT students are not statistically disadvantaged by their choice of college.

Whilst the test is useful for moderating, it does not measure many of the attributes which we value, such as independence, capacity to ask questions, to plan their work and to bring it to completion and above all creativity. These attributes will be visible to you when you come to listen to the students present their Class 12 Projects in November.

Over the years a persistent question has been about the performance of our students at Year 12 as if it is a property of the school, but it is a property of the students. Statistically one could not dare to predict the performance of one small group of students (and by small I mean less than 250) based on the performance of their predecessors. So each year, a unique and special group of students submit to being ranked. What has been reassuring is that the students know themselves; they aspire for what they can achieve. Over the last few years, everybody who wanted a place at university has achieved it, some doing so with ranks in the 90s and others with ranks in the low 70s. Other students have followed quite different and successful pathways.

In the meantime, we are just celebrating the quality of the students' performances and enjoying the moment.

Richard Broughton

Disco Glow Take a Bow

Thank you to everyone who attended Disco Glow on 21st May and made it into such a great night for a worthy cause - everyone agrees that they had fun dancing the night away and almost \$600 was taken for tickets and sales on the night.

Special thanks to the teachers and parents who helped out, to the Biscuits Crew (the really super DJs who volunteered their time and talent), Chameleon Ice Cream, Nova, Greenhills Farm and Bakers Delight (Weston).

And congratulations to Stars of Hope who came up with the idea and made it happen! Stay posted for future inspirations.

I will not be at Orana for the rest of the term as I will be travelling to Europe to attend international meetings in Stuttgart being held from Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June. As I will meet with colleagues who work throughout the world in close connection with Waldorf (Steiner) Schools, I will be enquiring about festival celebrations and pastoral care in different schools and different countries.

After Stuttgart I will travel to Jaerna in Sweden to spend time with our daughter Rose. There are 3 or 4 Steiner Schools in the area, and a colleague who has worked in a number of countries, so I will also ask questions and see what's happening there.

In early July I will return to Canberra, and be back at school from Tuesday 27th July. The days I will be at school will continue to be Tuesdays and Wednesdays unless I am working interstate.

With best wishes to you all for the rest of the term, and for the winter break.

Cheryl Nekvapil
School Chaplain

Computers for Orana

Orana School has received \$34,000 worth of Federal Government funding for the purchase of 34 computers under the National Secondary School Computer Fund (NSSCF). This Fund was set up to provide secondary students in Years 9 to 12 with new or upgraded ICT.

This funding allowed the School to reach the target ratio of one computer to two students (1:2). We also received \$40,500 additional funding to cover costs generated by the implementation of this program.

The next stage of implementation of the Federal Government plan is to increase the ratio of computers to one computer per student (1:1). This offer was turned down by Orana School. This plan is part of what is now called the Digital Education Revolution (DER).

The School chose not to go ahead with 1:1 ratio partly because of the cost of maintaining such a large amount of computers. The additional computers would have to be laptops which have high maintenance requirements. This, we know, has been the reason why at least three other independent schools haven't taken up the offer as well.

The other motive for turning down the DER Funding is that the Steiner School way of teaching is served well by the 1:2 ratio and we will continue to deliver the curriculum in ways that don't involve the use of computers in all aspects.

Orana School is very grateful to the Federal Government for the funding it has received and to the Block Grant Authority for the administrative support it provided during the implementation process.

Marie-Anne Gigon
Resources Administrator

School Capital Works and Building Fund Donations

In 2009 the School carried out capital works projects in excess of \$1,027,000, the largest project being the School Amphitheatre costing approx. \$400,000 and \$240,000 on Building Education Revolution (BER) projects.

While the School did receive some government funding, there was a capital income shortfall of over \$400,000 which was taken from the School's cash reserves. Donations to the School Building Fund for 2009 were \$37,971, of which \$20,000 was donated by the P&F Association. Donations to the School Building Fund as at the end of April 2010 were \$1,345.

In 2011 the School will commence building the new School Hall with an estimated cost over \$3.6M. The School has been successful in obtaining a BER grant of \$3.1m, with the balance coming from school reserves or being borrowed to enable the completion of the Hall.

As the financial year draws to a close we would like to remind families that **donations to the Building Fund are tax deductible**. The School needs capital funds raised through donations to build new facilities. The priority at the present stage of the School's growth is to provide extra

space for the specialist activities such as Handwork, PE, Learning Support and Music. At this time of year all donations to the Building Fund will be gratefully received. The more contributions we have to the Building Fund, the less funds the School has to borrow. This means we do not have to have additional increases in fees to meet the funding commitments.

Education Tax Refund - Don't forget to claim

How do I claim the Education Tax Refund in my tax return? If you don't lodge a tax return, it is possible to claim on a separate form or over the phone. If you use a tax agent, make sure you ask them to claim for you.

The Education Tax Refund lets you claim up to 50% of eligible education expenses for school children. If you are eligible, you can get back up to \$375 for each primary student and up to \$750 for each secondary student. You can claim things like text books, stationery and even internet costs.

If you receive Family Tax Benefit Part A for a child at primary or secondary school, you will be eligible. Some other people are eligible too, to find out more about this and other information such as what you can and can't claim go to www.australia.gov.au/educationtaxrefund or call the Tax Office on 13 28 61.

Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.

Peter Polkinghorne
Business Manager

School Fees

Term 2 Fees have now been sent out and the due date for payment is **Wednesday 9th June**. Please make sure your Family Code accompanies your payment so that it can be allocated correctly.

We have made some changes to Fee Payment Methods to make it easier for busy families. In addition to the previous options available, payment can now be made by credit card over the phone – just select the Finance option when you phone the school and have your credit card ready!

Another option is to pay directly into our bank account by using internet banking. Details have been included with your Term 2 Family Statement.

Please contact Liz Bell on 6287 8307 or at Liz.Bell@oranaschool.com if you need more information or you are having difficulty paying by the due date.

The Finance Team

Spring Fair Update

The P&F Committee recently finalised a review of the organisation of the Spring Fair and has made several changes as outlined below. The review was undertaken following feedback from previous years Spring Fair Committees and took into consideration that more and more parents are working and thus have less time to devote to organising the Spring Fair. In addition, the workload seems to have increased given how much larger the school community has become. There is also the factor of some small class sizes that occur from time to time.

The major part of this change is to give each class group the responsibility of organising their stall as well as running it on the day. This gives the opportunity for the parents to connect with the task and use their creativity and enthusiasm. It also allows the Class 4 parents to focus on organising the structure of the Fair.

The aims of this adjustment to the allocation of tasks are:-

- to share the organisational load across the school community;
- to match class groups with stalls as appropriately as possible (bearing in mind experience, etc.);
- to allow Class 4 parents to fulfil rosters covering operations, raffle, money collection and information stalls

Many of your Class Coordinators were able to attend a meeting to discuss the new arrangements and may have passed on some of this information already and will be able to send more detailed information very soon.

It is important to note that organising the stalls is the responsibility of the Class parents as a whole and ***must not be left to the Class Coordinators*** – their role is to pass on the information about the stall, then coordinate the filling of rosters (as previously). Most stalls will have a variety of tasks to prepare and run the stall - some will have their focus before the Spring Fair and some during.

It is hoped that these changes will provide the opportunity of creating a Fair each year that is enjoyed by everyone without putting too much pressure on a few individuals. If you have any questions or comments about these changes, please email p&f@oranaschool.com.

The P&F Committee

Orana Senior College
Design Exhibition

Opening Night Friday the 18th June 7:30pm – 9pm
Guest speaker and canapés

Open Sat 19th and Sun 20th June
11am to 2pm



Orana School For Rudolf Steiner Education
Unwin Place Weston

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Relief Help Needed

If you are interested in joining our pool of relief assistants, please email your CV along with a brief statement of previous work experience to Carmela at carmela.krecak@oranaschool.com. Relief assistants are often called upon to help in the Kindergartens and lower primary school classes.

We are also looking for parents with Reception/Front Office experience who can be called upon for relief work. On the job training will be provided. Please forward your details to Carmela.

Admin Team

Spring Fair Raffle

Thank you to the parents who have kindly donated prizes towards this years Spring Fair Raffle but we are still in need of a few more prizes. If you are keen to donate a piece of art, skill or a service it would be greatly appreciated. Please email your details to carmela.krecak@oranaschool.com.

Spring Fair Raffle Co-ordinators

Year 12 Project - Donation Opportunity

My Year Twelve Project involves examining volunteer work in developing countries. I plan to visit volunteers in Timor-Leste (East Timor) to experience their work first hand. I am organising a fundraising event which will involve dinner, entertainment and a **silent auction**. I would really appreciate any items for auction that Canberra businesses can offer. Any donations will be much appreciated and you and your business will be promoted visually and verbally throughout the evening.

I'm also looking for *the ultimate fundraising event venue* if someone out there has one in mind.

COMING SOON: Event details: Date, time and location!!!

Please call Simon Kragh, on 0433 362 600 or email me at tarzan1@netspeed.com.au

Simon Kragh
Year 12 Student

Craft 'n' Cafe

Craft 'n' Cafe runs on Friday mornings from 9:00 to 11:45am, in the Gumnut room near the School Office. Everyone is welcome!

This fortnight we are working on a range of Amigurumi figures - Japanese inspired crochet animals of all kinds. Rita Reid will lead the sessions. Even if you don't know how to crochet, it's easy enough to pick up. There are only a couple of stitches to learn, and the figures are fairly small. Teaching and materials are provided, and once you have made a couple for the Spring Fair, you'll be all set to make them for yourself too.

As usual, morning tea contributions are welcome. Thank you to the many lovely people who have provided us with eatables over the weeks. (it's worth coming for the food, even if you can't stitch!).

We still need 'machine sewers' to make up simple items such as beanbags, aprons and library bags. This is a perfect task for anyone who wants to do craft for Community Hours, but can't join us on a Friday. Email India at aelflaed@homemail.com.au if you are looking for take-home kits

Heidi Rossendell
Craft Group Coordinator

Screen Holiday

The screen has become a member of the family,
Who does it remind you of?

A baby – whose cry dominates family life,
Or a toddler clamoring for attention,
A parent who tells important stories,
A grandparent who minds the children,
Or an interesting uncle who visits occasionally.

How important are the electronic members of your family?
What could you do if they were quiet for a week or so?
What would you lose? What would you gain?

Screen Holiday Sunday 6th – Sunday 13th June