From the Principal

The Department of Education and Communities is in “planning mode” for a restructure. Yesterday, 25th February, school staff were given access to a proposed new model. Staff have until 3rd March to provide feedback as part of the consultation process. This model is the latest, and I believe final model, which we will get to look at.

At present in NSW we have 10 educational regions. Ours, Western NSW, comprises approximately 200 schools and covers the western part of the state. Each region has its own infrastructure and is able to plan for the specific needs of its students. In our case things such as our technology training centre iTeach 21 come to mind. Our region has been able to create a number of resources. Some, student based, with another example being Excel, a student extension program, and staff based like Bangalama, an Aboriginal studies centre for training staff in indigenous education. Under the model given to us yesterday the state reverts back to 4 regions, from 10. Western NSW is included in region 4 which has Albury, Bathurst, Cootamundra, Deniliquin, Far South Coast, Far West, Goulburn, Griffith, Lachlan, Orange, Queanbeyan, South Coast, Wagga Wagga, Western Plains, Wollongong and Wollongong North as its “sub groups”. Obviously in the reduction from 10 groups to 4 groups a significant number of positions which support us in schools are not retained. So in essence we go from a group of approximately 200 schools which is close knit, works well together, has proven innovative leadership and has been able to develop and deliver a significant number of outstanding programs to support our students to a group of approximately 600 schools covering what seems to be about three quarters of the state. Slightly unwieldy one would think, and the ability to make innovative change almost impossible.

I know, and have been contacted by, a number of parental and industrial groups who are extremely concerned as to the impact this is going to have on our western schools. Might I suggest that all parents pay close attention and take any opportunities to make comment on this “proposed” change. The media information I have seen is perhaps not as concise as it could be with a focus on one funding model and not the impact of the changes to operational organisation.

Last night we held the first of our information evenings for parents. This was for the infants area of the school. Tonight from 6.30pm till 7.30pm we will be repeating this but for the primary section of the school. All parents are invited to these to hear how the primary area in particular operates and some of our plans for future directions.

On Friday of last week we held our school swimming carnival. We were lucky with the weather and the students enjoyed a pleasant day at the pool. Congratulations to the champions from this carnival. The children who were successful at this now go on to the Dubbo District Carnival to be held this Thursday commencing at 4.00pm. Many thanks to everyone who assisted in any way at the carnival and to Mrs Thompson and Mrs Hall, for their organisation of the day. I was very pleased with the students efforts and attitude to the carnival, well done.

I will be at a School Education Group meeting on Friday. Mrs Munro will be acting as principal in my place.
Craig Renneberg

You may never know what results come of your action, but if you do nothing there will be no result.
- Mahatma Gandhi

Photo Envelopes

Photo envelopes were sent home last week. If you didn’t receive your envelope please check with your child’s class teacher.

Family envelopes are available from the school office.

Envelopes are due back by Tuesday 12 March.

Easter Raffle

It’s hard to believe a year has gone by since our last Easter raffle. Over the next five weeks we would appreciate any donations of Easter treats for our monster Easter raffle. Last year we made up over 40 prizes. If you are able to help with a donation please send it to the Kindergarten rooms.

Thank you for your continued support. ES1 Teachers.
Clean Up Australia Day - “Don’t be a Tosser”
Each year Orana Heights participates in the Clean up Australia Day campaign.
The annual clean up day for schools is Friday 1 March 2013. The whole school will participate in the clean up, starting at 9.30am.
We will be collecting rubbish within our school boundaries and beyond.
Students may bring a pair of rubber gloves and a plastic bag to assist in their participation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.30 – 3.30pm Uniform Shop</td>
<td>8am Exec Mtg</td>
<td>9.30am Knockout Tennis Paramount 2.30 – 3.30pm Uniform Shop</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>9.30am Clean up Australia</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>2.30 – 3.30pm Uniform Shop</td>
<td>8am Exec Mtg 7pm P&amp;C Meeting</td>
<td>2pm NRL Visit 2.30 – 3.30pm Uniform Shop</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Regional Swimming Carnival 2.05pm 3-6 Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.05pm Special Assembly (presentation of ribbons from swimming carnival) 2.30 – 3.30pm Uniform Shop</td>
<td>8am Exec Mtg</td>
<td>School Photos 2.30 – 3.30pm Uniform Shop</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12.30 K-2 Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.30 – 3.30pm Uniform Shop</td>
<td>8am Exec Mtg</td>
<td>2.30 – 3.30pm Uniform Shop</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.30 – 3.30pm Uniform Shop</td>
<td>8am Exec Mtg</td>
<td>11.20am K-2 Easter Assembly 2.30 – 3.30pm Uniform Shop</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
<td>8am Exec Mtg 7pm P&amp;C Meeting</td>
<td>2.30 – 3.30pm Uniform Shop</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12.30 K-2 Assembly 2.05pm 3-6 Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.30 – 3.30pm Uniform Shop</td>
<td>8am Exec Mtg</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Last Day T1</td>
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Mathletics
Mathletics is definitely the best tool to use to learn maths.
Mathletics helps you get smarter at Maths by having fun and learning at the same time. You get to design your favourite avatar. You can earn bronze, silver and gold certificates. You can move up to very high levels.
Also the program is organised so that it’s really easy to use. It allows you to move from each awesome level through to the test at the end. This helps you to learn.
If you are looking for a perfect way to learn Maths you should absolutely use Mathletics.  Written by 3R and 3B
Head Lice - General Note
Head Lice - they are back. Please check your child’s hair.

How to treat it
Checking whether someone is affected by head lice is simple:
- Combing the affected person's hair thoroughly with conditioner. This stuns the lice, making them lose their grip on the hair strands.
- Wipe the comb clean on a tissue or paper towel.
- Check the tissue for eggs or lice.
- Repeat these steps four or five times, combing the entire head.
- If you find lice or eggs, treat the person for head lice.
- There is a lice spray (repellent) available from the chemist.

Treatment can be done with chemical insecticides that have been specifically formulated for head lice. Some strains of head lice are resistant to certain chemical compounds. If you have treated someone with a head lice insecticide and the lice are not visibly dead within 30 minutes, then it is highly likely that they are resistant to that product and any other product with that specific active ingredient. Consult your pharmacist for more options.

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P&C NEWS

Survey
The P&C are also seeking feedback from a range of groups in the school community in relation to the school canteen and volunteering via a survey. Surveys will be provided to parents, teachers and students in Years 4, 5, 6. The Parent Survey is attached to the newsletter or you can complete it online at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VZLXXXP.

If you do the one attached to the newsletter, once complete please place in an envelope and label it P&C Survey and return either with your child or dropping it into the front office. Please remember your feedback enables us to get a better picture of what the school community thinks, provide us with some new ideas and will assist the P&C in making decisions.

School Canteen Menu
Last week the new menu went out with the school newsletter. This became effective as of this week. The P&C are very interested in your ideas about the menu so please complete the survey and provide your feedback.

Annual General Meeting – Next Tuesday Night
The next P&C meeting will be our Annual General Meeting which will be held on Tuesday 5 March at 7pm in the staff room. At this meeting the annual reports for 2012 will be presented as well as the election of Office Bearers. All new and interested people are very welcome to just turn up on the night. If you would like to know more about how it all works please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary - Deanne Davis on paul@ravos.net.au or call on 0407 418 511.

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Oakey Dokey Award Winners

Corey Norford  Lucinda Holmes  Ethan Taylor  Xavier Crowe
Kane Toomey  Alexis Higgins  Tully Pittock
Jasmine Blackman  Tianne Wells  Gracee Alvos  Asta Dundas
Connor Murray  Brock Hutchinson  Shiva Tuflasa  Bree Gavin
Bailey Petrie
**Congratulations to our Award Winners**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Honour</th>
<th>Distinction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maddison McAnally</td>
<td>Courtney Russell x2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mery Gharibi</td>
<td>Nikita Marshall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aden Lambert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eli Perkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamaryn Alchin Wheeler</td>
<td>Ryan Simpson</td>
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**SPORT NEWS**

**Orana Heights Public School Swimming Carnival.**

Congratulations to all the students who attended the swimming carnival on Friday. I have been told it went swimmingly!

A VERY BIG thank you to all the parents who assisted on the day. We couldn't run the carnival without your support. Thank you to all the STAFF who made the day run so smoothly. A team EFFORT!

**House placings.**

1st Cuthbert  
2nd Laver  
3rd Spears  
4th Bradman

**Age Champions.**

Junior Girl Champion - Kate Davis  
Junior Boy Champion - Campbell Stewart  
11yr Girl Champion - Holly Darlington  
11yr Boy Champion - Jed Chandler  
Senior Girl Champion - Kaiesha Clarke-Russo  
Senior Boy Champion – Aiden Lake

Ribbons for the first four placegetters in each race, age champion certificates and the winning house trophy will be presented at a special assembly on Monday 11 March 2013 at 2.05pm.

**DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL.**

A squad of 45 students will be representing OHPS at the Dubbo District Swimming Carnival on Thursday 28 February. All students who qualified have their permission notes and these need to be returned ASAP.

Students are to meet Mrs Hall at the pool at 4.15pm for a 5pm SHARP start.

We wish the following students all the best on Thursday night.


**TENNIS**

Congratulations Mitchell Ashford and George Munro on your selection in the Dubbo District Tennis Team. The boys are off to Bathurst next Tuesday to compete at Western Area Tennis. Good Luck!

Our knockout tennis team consisting of Mitchell Ashford, George Munro, Holly Darlington & Emily O'Dea will play their first game tomorrow against Dubbo South Public School. A big thank you to Miss Fernando & Ms Downey for all your support with coaching & transporting the players.

**SPORTS NOTICE BOARD**

There is now a sports notice board on the window near the library doors. Information about sport at school and from outside sporting groups will be placed on there. Please read on your way past.

*Thank you, Mrs Hall*