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*Securing Success...*

### **Exciting Additions to Our School Family!**

We are ready and eager to welcome an array of talented individuals who will soon join our team here at Orange Anglican Grammar School. After a rigorous season of recruitment and interviews, I am delighted to introduce them to you below:

**Ms Alice Glyde** joins us as our new Director of Primary School. Ms Glyde is a vastly experienced educator with a passion for academic excellence in the independent schooling sector. Joining us from the prestigious St Luke's Grammar School we are excited to welcome her to our school as Director of the Primary Team.



**Mrs Karen Huntly** and **Ms Louise O'Reilly** join us as Faculty Coordinators for Maths and English, respectively. Ms O'Reilly's impressive 32-year tenure in Christian schools, coupled with her national teaching award nomination for curriculum differentiation, reflects her dedication to student engagement. Not to be outdone, Mrs Huntly's experience as a Subject Matter Expert for NESAs, and a decades-long educator promises a dynamic approach to Mathematics education.

**Mrs Emma Foster** joins us as a new Pastoral Care Coordinator and HSIE Teacher. Her vibrant presence has already made a mark as she effortlessly connects with her students. Known for her understanding nature, skydiving adventures, and undeniable love for chocolate, Mrs. Foster brings a unique blend of warmth and expertise to our school.

**Ms Annique Botta** brings her diverse background in Youth Ministry, PDHPE teaching, and holistic student development to her roles as Pastoral Care Coordinator and Christian Studies Teacher. Her commitment to nurturing students' well-being is a valuable addition to our team and she joins us from the formidable St Andrew's Cathedral School.

**Mr Armand van der Merwe**, our new HSIE teacher, has a rich background in teaching across continents. From South Africa to the UK and Dubai, he brings a global perspective to his teachings. A die-hard rugby fan and passionate athletics coach, Mr. van der Merwe's expertise in Business Studies is sure to ignite curiosity in his students.

**Mrs Laura Hassell**, with her extensive experience in Senior English and History, arrives with a wealth of knowledge gained from her 14 year tenure at Red Bend Catholic College. Her passion for sports and poetry adds an exciting dimension to her teaching.

**Ms Elizabeth McGann** and **Mrs Anita Venter**, our new Primary Teachers, infuse their classrooms with 24 years of experience and fresh perspectives from South Africa, respectively. Ms McGann's dedication to supporting children through challenging experiences and Mrs. Venter's early contributions have already begun shaping positive experiences for our young learners.

In addition, we are proud to introduce **Mr George Bate**, our new Bus Driver and Maintenance Team member. With the acquisition of our first full-sized bus, Mr. Bate's arrival signals an exciting phase for transportation at OAGS. **Mrs Melanie McLaughlin** will be joining our Admin Staff as Administration & Enrolments Officer.

Furthermore, a warm welcome back to **Mrs Carrie Simpson**, **Mrs Dimity Waliki**, and **Mrs Jess Nyers-Saunders**, who are returning from their respective parental leave, strengthening our team further with their expertise.

As we embrace these new beginnings, it's also a time to bid farewell to some beloved members of our community. At the end of this year, we extend our gratitude and best wishes to **Miss Ella Reilly**, **Mrs Amanda Collins**, **Mr Nathan** and **Mrs Felicity Dobbs**, **Mr Dean** and **Mrs Nicki Johnston**, **Mrs Wendy Campbell**, **Mrs Kate St Julian**, **Mr Steve Thompson**, and **Mr David Whittingham**. We thank them for their invaluable contributions to OAGS.

I look forward to extending a warm welcome to our new staff members in 2024 and am motivated by both the current and future team that has been assembled.

Warm regards,  
**Rev Louis Stringer**  
Headmaster



# PREP NEWS

## Gratitude and Thanksgiving

In the spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving, we are delighted to share the enriching experiences unfolding in our Prep classroom. Our young learners have been immersed in lessons that extend beyond traditional academics, focusing on the joy of giving and thinking of others.

Embracing the theme of thanksgiving, the students have embarked on a special project to express their gratitude and appreciation for the community we share. We encouraged each child to bring non-perishable items into the classroom, which will be donated to a local charity right here in Orange. This initiative not only instills a sense of community but also teaches our students the importance of gratitude and giving back to those in need.

To infuse a creative dimension into this Thanksgiving celebration, our talented artists have been diligently crafting clay decorations to adorn a beautifully symbolic tree in the classroom. Each unique ornament is a testament to the creativity and individuality thriving in our classroom, symbolizing the diverse reasons we have to be thankful.

As we engage in this meaningful project, it brings to mind a fitting scripture for the season: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever" (1 Chronicles 16:34, NIV). This verse serves as a reminder to appreciate the goodness around us and express gratitude not only through words but also through thoughtful actions.

We are excited to witness the gratitude and creativity our students are showcasing throughout this initiative. It is a testament to their understanding of the value of thanksgiving and the positive impact it can have on fostering a sense of unity and appreciation.

Thank you for your continued support as we nurture not only academic excellence but also the values that shape our students into grateful and compassionate individuals.

Mr James Borgen  
Classroom Teacher





# PRIMARY NEWS

## **Primary News**

As the school year winds down, many staff, students and parents are starting to think about what lies ahead in 2024. Be assured that, along with finishing the current year well, the Primary School is very busy planning work, ordering equipment and resources, organising for classroom moves and gathering information about students to share with 2024 teachers. Students have completed a letter and information sheet about themselves to share with their 2024 teacher and we will have opportunities for students to think about the changes ahead in the new year. As part of this process, I am excited to announce a fantastic line up of teachers for 2024 in each of our class groups K-6. As a school, we are extremely proud of our staff and the knowledge, experience and passion that they each have. Our students are blessed to have such exceptional professionals to guide them in their learning journey.

**Kindergarten Coordinator** - [Mrs Jessica Xi](#)

**Kindergarten Teachers** - Mrs Jessica Xi (3 days); Mrs Dimity Walicki (2 days); Mrs Caroline Hazelton; Ms Elizabeth McGann

**Stage 1 Coordinator** - [Mr Kyle Palmer](#)

**Year 1 Teachers** - Mr Kyle Palmer; Ms Karelle Taylor

**Year 2 Teachers** - Mrs Carrie Simpson (3 days); Mrs Sharon Cloete (2 days); Mrs Michelle Pearson

**Stage 2 Coordinator** - [Mr Paul Lipscomb](#)

**Year 3 Teachers** - Mr Michael Linde; Mrs Anita Venter

**Year 4 Teachers** - Mr Paul Lipscomb; Mrs Allie Downie

**Stage 3 Coordinator** - [Mrs Erin Purvis](#)

**Year 5 Teachers** - Mrs Erin Purvis; Miss Molly Collins

**Year 6 Teachers** - Miss Stephanie Harrison; Mr Tim Herbert

**Infants Pastoral Care Coordinator** - Mrs Jessica Xi

**Primary Pastoral Care Coordinator** - Mrs Georgina Willis

Teachers are deep in the long process of placing students into 2024 classes. Individual student needs, personalities, friendships and learning preferences are all taken into consideration throughout this process and students are carefully placed into classes by their current 2023 teacher using their professional judgement based on a myriad of factors. At Orange Anglican Grammar School, we are exceptionally blessed to have amazing professionals, each with their own style of teaching, interests and strengths, and who are each immensely dedicated to the education of children. While parents may occasionally feel the need to submit requests for a specific teacher for their child, we believe that all of our teachers will offer an exceptional learning experience and, as such, are not able to take these requests into consideration. Please rest assured that we are committed to placing your child in the best possible class to maximise their learning and growth.

As has become tradition at OAGS, final class placements will be released via Seesaw in the week prior to school commencing in January, 2024. I look forward to seeing you at the many end of year events being held in coming weeks and celebrating the successful year of learning we have had across the primary school.

**Mrs Jessica Willis**  
**Director of Primary**

## Stage 1 at Huntley Berry Farm

During Term 4, Stage 1 students have been observing and learning about life cycles and how things come from farms and turn into products we use every day. A great local business that grows fruit and vegetables, sells its produce to Harris Farm Markets and turns some of its produce into jams and oil, is Huntley Berry Farm. Huntley Berry Farm is a not-for-profit business run by OCTEC. They are an Australian Disability Enterprise providing NDIS-supported employment to locals.

On Thursday 16th of November, all of Stage 1 visited Huntley Berry Farm. While at the farm the students learnt about the process the farm follows to grow their produce, as well as the variety of fruits and vegetables grown on the farm. The students got to plant some capsicum, taste a variety of fruits and feed the animals. Students were finally allowed to pick a punnet of strawberries to take home. The trip was enjoyed by all, with excitement filling the air all day. I encourage you to take your family to the farm during the January holidays when they will have a variety of berries and fruits in season to be picked.

**Kyle Palmer**  
Stage 1 Coordinator



## Stage 1 Fruit Cup Morning Tea

Week 4 was filled with fun and sweetness, as Stage 1 prepared and hosted a Fruit Cup Morning Tea as part of our Mathematics Investigation unit. Students were encouraged to use their recently learnt time skills to prepare a timetable to host the event. They were also required to work out how much fruit would be needed to make a fruit cup for themselves and a buddy, and then put together a shopping list for their group of 4 students. Some students were challenged to work out how much fruit would be required to make fruit cups for their whole class or even the whole school! How much would that cost? With current fruit prices, we realised it would be a very expensive task! The real fun, however, was in the sharing of the fruit, cutting and preparing the healthy cups to be enjoyed in the sun with their chosen buddy.

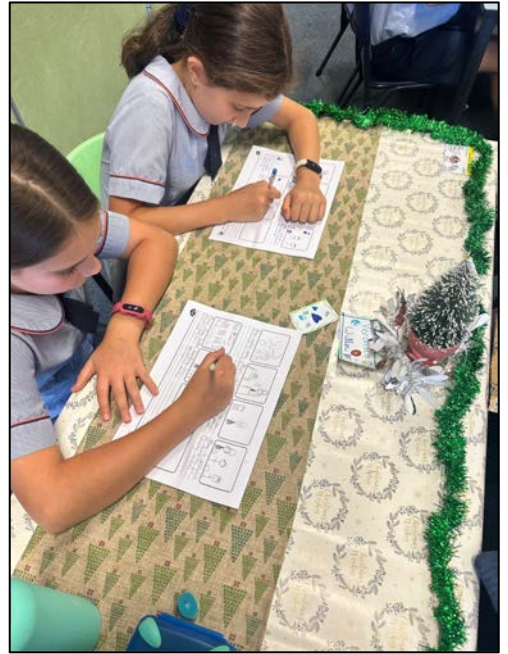
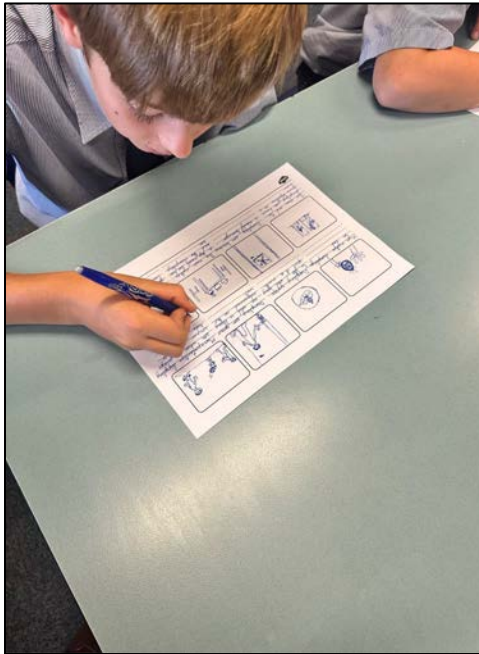
**Caroline Hazelton**  
Stage 1 Bees



## Stage 2 - Visual Literacy

This term, Stage 2 has been identifying how pictures can tell a story, by studying the many features of visual literacy. Students have engaged with techniques such as shot types, colour, perspective, framing and reading pathways in order to read an image and decipher what is happening in an image. In the past 2 weeks, students have attempted to apply these concepts to multiple silent films, focusing on how music and sounds used help the viewer understand themes and meanings from the text. As part of these activities, students viewed the Pixar short film 'Bao' and had a go at identifying the main theme. They then set about picking the 14 main parts of the story and storyboarding them with a written explanation for each part. Have a look at some of their storyboards below.

Timothy Herbert  
Stage 2 Jack Jumpers



Join us to celebrate  
Christmas!



Sunday 17 December

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLS ON THE LAWN**  
5PM AT ST PHILIP'S MARCH  
768 BURRENDONG WAY

*Christmas Eve*      *Christmas Day*

**FAMILY CAROLS**  
**THE REAL CHRISTMAS STORY**  
5PM AT HOLY TRINITY

**FAMILY COMMUNION**  
9AM AT HOLY TRINITY

**KIDS' CHRISTMAS**  
5PM AT ST BARNABAS

**FAMILY COMMUNION**  
9.30AM AT ST BARNABAS

**MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**  
11PM AT HOLY TRINITY

WWW.STBARNETS.COM.AU      WWW.HOLYTRINITYORANGE.COM.AU



**FAMILY CHRISTMAS  
CRAFT & MORNING TEA**

**SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER 9.30AM**  
**HOLY TRINITY HALL**

*followed by*

**10.30AM FAMILY CHRISTMAS  
CAROL SERVICE IN CHURCH**

Holy Trinity Anglican Orange  
Sharing Jesus For Life

WWW.HOLYTRINITYORANGE.COM.AU



# CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

## **Try String Ensemble**

Last week's rehearsal of the Primary String Ensemble was boosted by some new members coming along to see what it's like to be part of the group. Under the able direction of Angela D'Elia (violin teacher) the students all had a part to play that was suited to their level. The future looks bright for the Primary Strings. Applications for the 2024 Beginner Strings Programme will be opening at the commencement of the new school year.



## **Brass Student Concert**

Brass students of Vicky Chatterley performed as part of a studio concert in the Media centre last Thursday. They all played a solo in front of an appreciative audience of family and friends.



Auditions are under way & results will be announced soon!





# SPORT @OAGS

Contact [sport@oags.nsw.edu.au](mailto:sport@oags.nsw.edu.au)



## Rocky Trails Academy Inter-School Mountain Bike Race

On Friday 17th November 17 secondary school students were very excited to spend the day racing mountain bikes with each other after a week of exams. The inaugural Rocky Trails Academy Inter-School competition was held right on our doorstep in Orange. This was a great opportunity for OAGs to engage in our local mountain biking community which is rapidly growing!

After a little rain on Thursday night the trails were in great condition and most students completed at least two timed laps of each stage having to ride almost 20 kms over the 4.5 hours. With Mr Eltham, Mr Doyle and Mr Esson watching from the sidelines we were so impressed with the camaraderie and positive example all of our students were for OAGs. With a few students finishing in the top 15 of a very large Junior group and minimal crashes on the day (apart from a few students who wanted to hug some trees!), a great day was had by all!



Thanks to Richard McGibbon (Outer image) who provided the photos below free for each rider. Please keep a look out for future information about our OAGs Mountain Bike Team.

**Mr James Esson**  
Chaplain/Learning Support Officer

## Dragon Boating Secondary Sport Term 4

Mr Stephen Thompson has the incredibly cool supervision role each week at Dragon Boating at Lake Canobolas. The weather has been exceptional each week so far and the students are loving the experience



## Stage 2 Term 4 Sport – Basketball and Touch Football

This term, Stage 2 has been learning to play basketball (Year 3) and touch football (Year 4) with support from the NSW Sporting Schools program.

The NSW Sporting Schools initiative provides the opportunity to have professional coaches work with students to teach them the fundamental skills for participating in a range of sports.

As part of the program, Year 4 students have been working with the wonderful Jack and Cooper from Touch Football NSW to develop their ball handling and manoeuvring skills. During the sessions, the students have engaged in a variety of modified games including bullrush/touch rover, scoop relay, running lines and half-field touch. These activities have not only been a fun way to learn, but they have also provided a safe space for the children to build their ball skills and game confidence.

Our Year 3 students have been learning to play basketball with support from their school coaches, Mr Herbert, and Mr Bowtell. During each lesson, the students have been practising their dribbling, passing, and shooting techniques and have tested and developed their emerging skills and footwork through mini-games and targeted skill practise. Year 3 have particularly enjoyed the chance to play on a full court, with many of them able to hold their own using the skills they have learned.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the NSW Sporting Schools program and the coaches from Touch Football NSW for their tutelage and support this term.

**Mrs Amanda Collins**  
Stage 2 Teacher



## Year 12 Treat the Teachers

Last Friday afternoon the teachers had a social club gathering. We asked Year 12 if they would like to cater and boy did they deliver. Sausage Rolls, Chicken wings, Carrot Cakes with cream cheese icing just to name a few. All prepared with the assistance of Mrs Amanda Jewell.

No plate was left clean THANK YOU Year 12 it was simply delicious!







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