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Securing Success...

Character is like a tree, and reputation is like a shadow. The Shadow is what we think of it, the tree is the real thing. Abraham Lincoln.



Welcome back for another year at Orange Anglican Grammar School. Welcome back, that is if you are one of our many returning families. You are joined this year by a hoard of newcomers, more numerous than any other year and to all our new families I welcome you and your children to our thriving and growing school. I love the quote above, and it would seem that the broader Orange region does as well. OAGS enjoys a tremendous reputation wherever conversation turns to schools. I am frequently reminded of this when I speak to Tradies, Receptionists, Doctors, Servicemen and Servicewomen, Farmers and Educators.

'Oh, you're at OAGS are you? I've heard tremendous things about that school'.

But why is our reputation so strong? It's because the shadow of our reputation is cast by the tree of Character that we have been fostering for years. As I enter my 9th year at OAGS, I do so ever more inspired by the Character of our school. Truth, Excellence and Service permeate our social media, our strategic vision and day-to-day culture and language. You can't fake Character, because if you do, your reputation will betray you.

Another quote, predating President Lincoln by some 3000 years, describes the truly happy person to be one of good *Character*. This person is someone who doesn't make a habit of scoffing at others, mocking others or getting carried away with their own self worth and wisdom. Rather, they take seriously God's way of living and in so doing are *'like A tree planted by streams of living water'* (Psalm 1).

As I move about the campus I am inspired by the Character of our community that is casting an ever longer and more impressive shadow. So impressive in fact that Year 7 for 2025 already has more than 100 students hoping to gain a place from families that 'want in' to what we're fostering at OAGS. Such growth requires ongoing trouble shooting and recreating of processes. Your patience is appreciated as we continue to serve our community with streamlined traffic processes, the new bus route, extra class rooms and an investment in more staff and grounds personnel. We are most definitely in full swing for 2024 and I look forward to meeting more and more of you as the year progresses.

Blessings for the weekend ahead

Scott Hazelton
Deputy Headmaster



PRIMARY NEWS

Primary News

It has been wonderful to welcome new and returning students to the Primary School at Orange Anglican Grammar School over the past couple of weeks. There has been a wonderful buzz in the air as students have been settling into their new routines, reestablishing and making new connections with each other and beginning new units of learning.

This year, we have continued the tradition of naming each class according to a theme. 2024's theme is Marine Animals. I am pleased to share with you the names of our 2024 OAGS Primary classes:

Prep:

Pelicans - Bornan (3 Days)
Prawns - Bornan (2 Days)
Starfish - Burrige

Kindy:

Penguins - Pearson
Octopus - Hazelton
Coral - Armstrong/Walicki

Year 1:

Whales - Palmer
Lobsters - Taylor

Year 2:

Dolphins - McGann
Seahorses - Simpson/Cloete

Year 3:

Anemones - Linde
Clownfish - Venter

Year 4:

Barracudas - Lipscomb
Narwhals - Downie

Year 5:

Manta Rays - Purvis
Turtles - Collins

Year 6:

Jellyfish - Harrison
Marlins - Herbert

As a new member of the OAGS community, I look forward to working with all members of the School community to provide our Primary students with a wonderful year of opportunities, learning and growth.

Alice Glyde

Director of Primary School



Primary Pastoral Care

It has been wonderful to get to know and reconnect with our curious and energetic students after a long break! I am feeling privileged to be teaching every class Thrive (Personal Development and Health) this year. I am excited to work with our Year Six leaders in running our assemblies, house meetings and in all the various leadership roles they have volunteered to do to support our school. They were terrific role models of truth, excellence and service when they assisted our new students on their first day at OAGS.

I am looking forward to supporting our students as they manage change, grow in their understanding of themselves and make meaningful connections in our school community this year. Thank you for supporting our staff as they work with your children. As part of my Thrive lessons I teach the students about the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People (the children's version) using the Leader in Me program. When faced with conflicts, challenges and concerns regarding your children/our students this year, I encourage our whole school community to remember Habit 5, 'Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood'. I've seen our students using these habits wisely in managing and building their relationships. I hope you've felt welcomed to our community if you are new, and if you're returning I hope you and your children have had a positive start to 2024. If your child faces challenges through the year, please first contact your class teacher, then they will refer the issue to the Stage Coordinator and possibly to me if further support is required.

Finally, I'd like to welcome Miss Gyde as our new Director of Primary. It has been a pleasure to get to know her and I'm convinced she will be a terrific asset to our school community.

Georgina Willis

Primary Pastoral Care Coordinator

Year 4 - 'The Thing About Oliver'

"Sometimes I feel just like the glass in my fish tank - people look right through me."

'The Thing About Oliver' is an appealing, although heart-wrenching, story for children told through the voice of twelve-year-old Tilly. It seems as though her life and needs are always in second place to the urgent demands of her eight-year-old brother, Oliver, who has autism.

Integrating much of our Year 4 English curriculum this term, 'The Thing About Oliver' explores themes such as tested family relationships, perseverance and compassion, all whilst weaving in symbolism such as water and glass, exploring the relationship between the observer and the observed. Tilly is on the outside looking into her 'fish tank', a world she desperately wants to be part of but feels as though it is out of her reach.

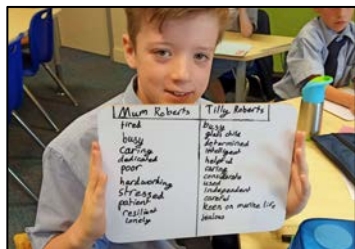


But Tilly is smart, strong, empathetic and incredibly resourceful. She is wise beyond her years – doing far more than most children her age in order to support her struggling mother. Despite not always liking her brother who has endless violent tantrums, her love for him is boundless, unconditional and is ultimately what saves the family from disaster.

Some activities that have enabled Year 4 to explore this gripping text whilst developing their English literacy skills have included evaluating the orientation ('sizzling start'), contrasting the characters of Tilly and her Mum, discussing whose point of view the text is told from, sharing our understanding of what autism can look like, exploring the use of tone, volume and body language when communicating, creating tension in a narrative, considering situations from different perspectives, as well as building our vocabulary, strengthening our reading fluency and practising handwriting, all based on excerpts from this beautifully crafted narrative.

Paul Lipscomb

Stage 2 Coordinator



Kindergarten News

This year, our start to Kindergarten involved each student coming in to attend a short interview with their teacher. This was a fantastic opportunity to 'break the ice', for the teachers to meet their students and learn a bit more about them, and for the students to be able to see their classroom, home desk and locker ahead of their first big day.

There was a lot of excitement and some nerves for our first day of big school on Wednesday 31st January. It didn't take long for students to settle as we launched straight into our first day, attending the whole school Commencement Service where the whole school gave us a lovely warm welcome.

Our students have already been busy learning under our 'Ready Set Go' programme which aims to facilitate a smooth transition into the demands of formal schooling. Over the six week programme, there is a focus on social skills, learning the routines of the classroom and settling in to the classroom. Through a range of hands-on and fun activities we have learned sounds, and have even started to read and write some three letter words! We have explored texts about starting school, and drawn pictures of our families and what we like to do at school. We counted and ordered numbers and enjoyed lots of engaging Maths activities. A highlight of this week has certainly been meeting our Year 6 buddies who we will spend time with each week.

The Kindergarten Team looks forward to sharing more of their wonderful learning with you throughout the year!

The Kindergarten Team



Primary Drama Club

What has become a central part of primary school are the drama clubs. The Infants and Primary drama clubs are a voluntary co-curricular group that occurs during break time. During the allocated time, students get a chance to engage in a number of theatre sports activities that aim to develop the dramatic skills students currently have, while also developing their confidence and skills to perform. Often these groups will learn an item to perform at the Orange Eisteddfod, where in the past the groups have performed extremely well. Infants and Primary students are welcome to attend on their allocated week with no commitment required. If the groups progress onto preparing an item for the eisteddfod, further information will be provided regarding commitment and cost.

Date: Infants students - Tuesday Week A (odd weeks)
Primary Students - Tuesday Week B (even weeks)

Venue: Media Centre

Time: First Break after eating time (approximately 11:45-12:20 pm)

Cost: There is no cost involved unless the group intends to perform at the eisteddfod (further details will be provided in this event)

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Kyle Palmer, kyle.palmer@oags.nsw.edu.au



SECONDARY NEWS

A Great Start to 2024

It has been a wonderful start to the academic year in Secondary School. With over 70 year 7 students to welcome into the school, new staff to meet, brand new classrooms to learn in and new elective subjects commencing there has been a lot going on. To give you a sense of what has been happening below is a snapshot of some of the great things that happened in just one hour, from 2:00pm to 3:00pm yesterday afternoon. Thank you staff and students for making this such a strong start to the school year.



Getting to know Mrs Huntly

At the start of this year we welcomed Mrs Karen Huntly as the Coordinator of Mathematics in the secondary school. Karen joins the OAGS community with significant experience across many years of teaching Mathematics. I took a few moments earlier out of Mrs Huntly's day, to hear how she is settling in and get to know her better.

How long have you been teaching Mathematics?

That will be giving away my age! A very, very long time! The product of 7 and 4.

What do you love about teaching Maths?

I love its language. I love how it underpins almost everything we do, see and experience. I love its structure and logic. I love its patterns and designs.

What has impressed you in your first week at Orange Anglican Grammar?

The students have been amazing and so welcoming. They are very polite and are eager to learn. The staff, too, have been amazing. It is wonderful to work in such a positive and motivated environment.

What are you most looking forward to in Semester 1?

Reconnecting with students and families I have taught in the past, as well as establishing ties with new families. I am looking forward to witnessing great learning by all students and watching each one of them flourish in our care.

Thanks Mrs Huntly for your time. It is great to have you back at OAGS. I'm confident that the school will really benefit from the passion, knowledge, drive and dedication you bring to the study of Mathematics.

Mr Tim Brown
Director of Secondary



HSC Success Permeates down

Earlier this week, our Year 12 Design and Technology students were fortunate to have Hayden Spedding come and speak to the class. Hayden completed the HSC at OAGS in 2023, came second in the state for Design and Technology and was named in the HSC Merit List. It was great to have Hayden share the secrets of his success in DT with our year 12 students and hopefully inspire them to great things in 2024.

Chess Club

This year we are again most fortunate to have the commitment and support of Mr Joe Cummins who attends weekly Chess at OAGS to teach and mentor our students in Primary and Secondary School. Any student is welcome to come along to play OR learn the game. Any questions for Primary students can be directed to Mr Lipscomb and Secondary to Mr Nye.

Next Term we run a school competition to determine the champions of upper and lower Secondary and Primary School. We also take students to represent the school at external competitions.

Master Class – This has proved to be very popular with the Secondary students who attend on Wednesdays 3.30-4.30pm to learn from Mr Cummins. The advanced skills and strategies they learn - how to use (or counter) set piece opening and defensive moves is of great benefit in competitions.

Mr Terry Nye
Chess Coordinator

TRAFFIC HELP

I am so impressed by the way that our school negotiates the challenge of pickup and drop off times. Driving around any part of Orange near schools at the start and end of day inevitably sees traffic congestion, but I continue to see OAGS punch above its weight to ensure safety and efficiency.

However, ALL parents are asked, that **wherever possible, please put your children on the bus to and from school and avoid personally driving them to school.** The more students we have on buses, the less unnecessary private traffic are on and about the campus which increases the safety of all and is mindful of our local community.

Thank you for your partnership in embracing a mantra for 2024 *'It's a must - catch the bus'*!



REGISTER NOW!

OAGS WINTER SPORT

Basketball, Hockey, Netball, Rugby
& Soccer

MORE INFO



 02 63604811

 sport@oags.nsw.edu.au





252 ARMY CADETS UNIT

Cadets News

This year will be another exciting year for the unit. We look forward to

- A new cadet leadership team plus a revised structure and job roles for the rank and staff
- Welcoming our future leaders (2024 New Recruits) in Term 1, with Year 7 joining in Term 3
- Modification and use of our two BBQ trailers that were collected from Newcastle in December - special thanks to the Wright family (Cafe Latte) for locating them
- New Radios – we are indebted to Mr Jon Ingram (a new parent to OAGS) for rescuing these from E waste and gaining official approval for the donation of over 100 old government radios which he delivered last Saturday. These will be incorporated into our training after testing and charging batteries. We can also help other cadet units that have no radios - Lithgow, Dubbo and Mudgee.

NSW Cadet Promotion Courses – These are held in January and July each year with gaining a place on the CPL course being very competitive. Courses were held at the Holsworthy Army Base for 8 Days (12-20 January). The 6 who attended were great ambassadors for the unit and made many new friends and contacts from across NSW, ACT and Norfolk Island. All qualified on their respective courses.

Adult Qualification Courses. I thank our adult staff for their willingness to spend extra time completing AAC training to gain qualifications to ensure 252 compliance with the AAC mandated governance and safety standards. Without them, our unit could not have grown and gained such a positive reputation in the local community. I ask everyone to appreciate and acknowledge the sacrifice of our adult staff and other parent helpers who go above and beyond. Volunteering to leave their family and/or employment behind and spend 8 days on a military base in Sydney to gain an AAC qualification to look after other people's children is a very significant commitment. Staff that gained the Grade 1 Module 2 qualification were

- November 2023 (Holsworthy) - 2LT Linda McGoldrick and 2LT Peter McGoldrick
- January 2024 (Randwick) – 2LT Eliot Harper, 2LT Brynn Player, 2LT Peter Reid jnr

Leadership / Promotions. We have started the 2024 year with the following promotions –

- CUO – Layla Docherty, Tom Wright
- WO2 – Ethan McAlister
- SGT – Alex Baines, Will Cooney
- CPL – Natasha Baker, Emily Brindley, Ben Lee,
- LCPL – Beatrix Merrell, Amrinder Dhaliwal, Felicity Hack, Allie Kermodie

Fees. Invoices will be emailed in the coming weeks. Fee discounts are possible for adult volunteers.

Recruiting. During February we will be accepting new recruits. It is our policy to meet with the interested student and a parent to ensure we have similar expectations of what becoming a member of the AAC and 252 ACU means (time commitment, attendance, promotion, etc) before endorsing online applications. There are two opportunities to join cadets each year (February and August).

Recruit Information sessions. We are NOW OPEN to take new cadets (Year 8-10) from any school during February. Information and sign up sessions will be held on Monday 12 Feb and 19 Feb at 5pm in the Media Centre. Students are welcome to attend (with no commitment) one Monday 4.30-7.30pm in February to gain a better idea. To expedite the process completion of the online application should be done during a Monday Parade with a staff member.

Important Dates - No Monday Parades during OAGS School Holiday breaks

6 & 7 Apr	Recruit Induction weekend & Uniform Issue
7-15 Apr	Adventure Training Award (Tasmania) volunteer
25 Apr	ANZAC DAY – march in Orange
6-13 Jul	NSW BDE Promotion Courses – selected cadets only
8-9 May	T2 Bivouac – ALL – Lewis Ponds – To be confirmed
26-28 Jul	Term 3 Biv - Cudal
21-28 Sep	AFX (Annual Camp) - Singleton

CAPT (AAC) Terry Nye
Officer Commanding
252 ACU



CHILD SAFETY at SCHOOL

CROSSING THE ROAD TO THE CAR PARK

PARENTS please keep our children safe

- 1. Hold your child's hand at all times**
- 2. Do not cross at the roundabout**
- 3. Keep to the path (highlighted areas)**



Weekend

For children 4 - 16



Get the \$50 voucher from Service NSW then call our office: 9343 0833
Use your \$50 Active Creative Kids Voucher



EARLY BIRD

Book all 4 classes & we will give your child an art stationery set. These will be given out at the program.
Book by 4.30pm Friday February 23rd for the Early Bird.

\$45 per class

- If using Active & Creative Kids Vouchers: Call our office first 9343 0833 to redeem
- Bookings: www.illustrating-man.com.au
- Click the **Cartoon Workshops** button on the home page
- Select: **Bathurst** or **Orange**

Bathurst

Saturday March 2nd - Sunday March 3rd
Raglan Tennis & Community Hall
44 Frome Street, Raglan

Orange

Saturday March 9th - Sunday March 10th
3rd Orange Scouts
3 Icely Road, Orange

Enquiries: 8.30am - 4.30pm (EST)

Calls outside of these times will be returned the following day

9343 0833

bookings@cartoonkingdom.com.au
www.illustrating-man.com.au

Mail: Suite 2, 29 Newland St, Bondi Junction 2022



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CURIOUS?

Who is Jesus?

What did Jesus do?

What does Jesus offer?

What does the bible say?



CHRISTIANITY | EXPLORED

7PM WEDNESDAYS FROM 7TH FEB
At Holy Trinity Church Hall, Anson Street
andymartin@holytrinityorange.org.au