Dear Students, Parents and Community Members

School Concert
What a fantastic concert it was last night. Congratulations to all the children performing and the teachers who worked with them. The guitar ensemble played beautifully after only a year of learning to play their guitars, the choir sang fantastic and the drummers were amazing. Thank you to all the staff who collaborated and spent many hours preparing for the concert.

Congratulations also to the students who received Recognition Awards:
Kindy: Mitchell
Pre-Primary: Ann
Year 1: Finn
Year 2: Ethan
Year 3: Grace
Year 4: Declan
Year 5: Asees
Year 6: Ashleigh

P&C
Through fundraising and with support from other parent volunteers the P&C members, in particular Mrs Rusch, Mrs Seaton, Mrs Johnston, Mrs Alexander and Miss Donovan-Mella, have reached a new level in their commitment and organization in providing a varied set of resources amounting to $13,500. This includes the playground art, Mathletics, a subsidy per child for one class excursion each year, a subsidy per child for the year 6 graduation lunch, a subsidy towards the biannual year 5/6 camp, half the cost of the shortfall for African Drumming, half the cost of the shortfall for Chaplaincy services, the sea container to store excess furniture and equipment, the licence for Jump Jam and the giant water slide for the reward day.

Volunteers
Thank you to all our volunteers who have helped out at the school, in classrooms or assisting the P&C in their fundraising activities. We appreciate all the time volunteers give to the school. Volunteers are the backbone of the school without whom the school would struggle to make ends meet.

The School Board
Thank you to the School Board members which include Mrs Simmonds, the chairperson, Mrs Johnston, Mrs Lennon, Mrs Heffernan, Miss Cole, Mr Harris General Manager of Boral Quarries WA, and Mrs Beltman, Associate Professor at Curtin University who read the information provided regarding children’s learning and help set the school’s strategic direction for the future.

2015
The end of the year is a good time to look back, to reflect on achievements and to look forward to see what we still need to accomplish. 2015 has been a year of high achievements for Orange Grove Primary School and its children. Our school vision is “to provide opportunities that challenge all students to achieve their personal best”. Orange Grove Primary School has provided these opportunities not only in the academic field but also in the fields of sport, music including instrumental (guitars, ukulele and drums) and the visual arts.

Academically, our NAPLAN results have improved this year, particularly in mathematics but we still need to improve on grammar and punctuation which the teachers are working on with the children from kindergarten to year 6 with whole school plans.

Our year 6 graduates, Daron and Chad were accepted into the Lesmurdie Extension and Acceleration program (LEAP) at Lesmurdie Senior High School. Kynan was accepted into the Academic Challenge and Enrichment Studies at Darlington Range Sports College. In the sporting field Kristen gained entry into the high performance program in swimming and Kynan into AFL at Darlington Range Sports College. Congratulations to these students for their achievements as these specialist programs are highly competitive and involve rigorous testing.

In 2015 we:
- gained Independent Public School status.
- established a kindergarten.
- were able to provide the services of sport coaches in boomerang throwing, volley ball and athletics to all children with a grant from Sporting Schools.
• were able to offer African Drumming lessons to all children in the school with a grant from Song Room and our year 3 to 6 children performed magnificently in public at two shopping centres.
• established a choir under the leadership of our music teacher Mrs Alderson who performed brilliantly at the Orange Grove Aged Care Homes and at the Zig Zag Festival in Kalamunda.
• enabled the year 5/6 children to develop entrepreneurial skills through the Kidpreneur program under the leadership of Mrs Reed, where they worked collaboratively to develop their wares and sell them to the public at Maddington Central.
• had a very successful camp at the Ern Halliday camp in Hillarys for the 5/6 children.
• were able to complete our Heritage Garden, a path through the Peace Garden and down to the Kiss and Drive with support from our industry partner Boral and Conservation Volunteers.

All these positive outcomes were only possible because of a large number of people; our staff, our volunteers, our industry partner, Boral and Conservation Volunteers. Thank you all for your support this year.

Thank You and Happy Holidays
To all the staff, I thank you for your commitment and dedication to ensure that the children at Orange Grove are provided with opportunities that challenge them to achieve their personal best.

To the year 6s who are heading off to high school, many of them have been with us from Pre-primary, I wish you all the best. There are families who have been a part of the Orange Grove School family for a long time leaving as well. They will be heading to the high school education system or other primary schools. I hope you all look back on your experiences with us and remember your time with us with fondness.

To everyone, I wish a very merry Christmas and a relaxing holiday in preparation for another year in 2016 which starts on Monday February 1 2016 for the children.

Lesley Ghent - Principal

Assembly

Farewell from the Graduating Class of 2015
Dear Orange Grove Primary School,
Farewell, goodbye, we will miss you and we hope to come round to visit you in the future. Good luck next year, have fun, we hope you enjoy our graduation present as we believe it will be useful throughout the years.

Goodbye everyone.

Scout, Ebony and Caitlin, Yr 6

Year 6 Graduation

Congratulations to our graduating class of 2016, pictured above all dressed up to attend their graduation lunch.

Special congratulations go to those year 6s who received awards in the following categories at the graduation assembly on Monday morning:

Art: Kylara
Sports: Lucy
Music: Rocky
Science: Daron and Chad
Endeavour: Lila
Citizenship: Bridie
Commitment to Excellence: Kynan

Chaplain's Chat - Skating into Christmas
Recently I went ice skating with some Yr 6 students. We had a great time. Some of us found skating easy, others struggled at first then got the hang of it, and others found ice skating just plain difficult.

However, I was particularly impressed with one student. Skating is not easy and everyone falls over at times, but this young man really struggled on the ice. Despite closely hugging the safety wall for the whole session, nothing was going to stop him from enjoying himself. His determination and perseverance was inspirational. His willingness to keep going to see a task through was a strong example of resilience.

As the busy, and at times relationally strained, Christmas period unfolds, please be encouraged to ‘hang in there’ just like this young man did. If we are honest, the festive season can sometimes be a bit hard to bear. Ironically, the original story of Christmas is more about love and peace, than stress and anxiety.

May we all resiliently ‘hang in there’ until Christmas whilst being filled with the love and peace of this important time of the year.

Merry Christmas everyone!!!!!!!

Mr C,
Chaplain at Orange Grove Primary School
Our Generous School Community

December’s value of the month was ‘generosity’. As a practical example of generosity our school community donated toys and food to the local Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. At our recent assembly we presented a large trolley of donated items to representatives of the Salvation Army Church in Gosnells who will distribute these to local families in need this Christmas.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who made generous donations to this worthy cause. You have made a difference in your local community and our school’s contribution was significant.

Merry Christmas everyone! May your festive season be filled with love, joy, peace and hope for the coming year.

Mr C,
Chaplain at Orange Grove Primary School

Gifted and Talented Programs

Children with exceptional academic ability and creative talent thrive in our Gifted and Talented Programs. These unique academic, arts and languages programs provide a challenging curriculum designed to bring out the very best in your child.

Available at 17 select public secondary schools, including a fully selective academic school and an arts college, your child will learn alongside like-minded peers and will be taught by teachers with expert skills and knowledge.

If your child is going into year 6 in 2016, applications are now open for entry into Year 7 Gifted and Talented Programs in 2017. Limited places may also be available for children going into years 9, 10 and 11 in 2017.

Giant Waterslide

Here are some photos of our students enjoying the Giant Waterslide on Rewards Day. Thank you to the P&C for funding this fantastic event and for organising a Parents Day Off Lunch.