

Newsletter

22 July 2025

Upper Orara Public School

Term 3 Week 1

Upper Orara Public School community acknowledge the traditional custodians of the Gumbaynggirr land on which we stand and pay our respect to the elders past, present and emerging.

From the Principal's desk!

Ginnagay ngujawiny (Hello everyone),

I hope everyone has had a happy holiday and are excited to return for another jam-packed term of learning.

This term we will be celebrating Education Week with a fun filled morning on Tuesday 5 August. Students will be participating in tennis lessons at school with coach Allan Pade each Friday during weeks 3-8 and our end of term assembly and monster raffle draw will be taking place on Thursday 25 September.

Students and staff will be diligently preparing for our annual drama performance, which will take place in two sessions: one at 10am and another at 5:30pm. Please mark your calendars for this special event on **16 September 2025**. Staff and students hope families, extended family and friends can join us at one or both of these performances. Year 6 students have a Taster Day at Orara High School on 19 August, and the Dental van will visit our school later in the term. I wish everyone a fantastic fortnight and look forward to catching up with families at some of the events outlined above.

GOLF EXCURSION

On the final Friday of the school term, students from K-2 and 3-6 participated in an enjoyable golf day! Our adventure began with a bus ride, and upon reaching the driving range, we divided into three groups. Guided by instructors, we honed our putting and driving skills before enjoying some leisure time at the mini-golf course. Following the golf activities, we made our way to the jetty foreshores for lunch and some fun on the playground. The students exhibited outstanding behaviour throughout the day, and a wonderful time was had by all!

2026 ENROLMENTS

We are excited to announce that Upper Orara Public School is now accepting enrolments for 2026! As we plan and prepare for our Kindergarten transition to school activities, it is essential for us to know who our future students and their families are.

By enrolling your child early, you will help us effectively communicate important information and updates regarding the transition process. We want to ensure that every family is well-informed and engaged as we welcome our new students.

If you have a child who will be starting Kindergarten in 2026, please contact the school office to complete the enrolment process. We look forward to working together to make this transition a positive experience for all!

Thank you for being a part of the Upper Orara Public School community!

2026 NUMBERS

It's that time of year when the school needs to submit expected student numbers for 2026. Providing accurate data is crucial for ensuring that funding and staffing plans for 2026 can be allocated appropriately. If you know that your child or children will not be attending Upper Orara Public School in 2026, we kindly ask that you inform the school by Friday 1 August 2025. Thank you for your cooperation.

BOOK CHARACTER PARADE

On Tuesday 5 August following our barbecue breakfast, students are invited to dress up as their favourite book character for our annual Book Character Parade. Students are encouraged to bring along the book that showcases their chosen character. Students should prepare a short response to the following questions about their character and their book.

Why did you choose this character from your book, and what do you love most about them?

Can you tell why this book and character are special to you?

PHONICS SCREENING CHECK

The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check is a brief assessment designed to evaluate students' phonics development. Conducted individually by the teacher, the check takes approximately 5–7 minutes per student, with results available immediately. Teachers will review the results and, if needed, plan targeted support that aligns with the NSW English syllabus outcomes. This assessment complements other strategies for monitoring students' progress in building essential literacy skills. The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check focuses on students' ability to blend sounds to read words. Year 1 students will take part in this screening during week 4 of this term (11-15 August).

EDUCATION WEEK

We are excited to invite you to our Education Week Open Day on 5 August 2025! Join us for a fun-filled morning celebrating learning and community.

Kick off the day with a delicious egg and bacon breakfast, followed by our much-anticipated Book Character Parade, where students will dress and model their favourite literary characters. After the parade, we invite you to our open classrooms to see the fantastic work our students have been doing. A note will go home about this soon.

We look forward to seeing you there and celebrating the wonderful learning experiences at Upper Orara Public School!

NCCD DATA COLLECTION

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005, in line with the NCCD guidelines (2019).

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disability. The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process. The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified – the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. All information is protected by privacy laws that regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information.

To find out more about these matters, please refer to the Australian Government's Privacy Policy (<https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy>). Further information about the NCCD can be found on the NCCD Portal (<https://www.nccd.edu.au>). If you have any questions about the NCCD, please contact the school.

SAVE THE DATE – END OF TERM ASSEMBLY

The end of term assembly is being held on Thursday 25 September 2025 commencing at 9:10am. There will be performances by students and our Monster Raffle draw. All proceeds will go towards helping our 3-6 students' excursion to Lake Ainsworth during term 4. Thank you to everyone who has already bought raffle tickets. More tickets can be collected from the office if required. All tickets and money should be returned to the school by no later than **Monday 22 September**.

CHANGING OPERATING SYSTEMS

Unfortunately, due to recent company changes at Compass, the school has decided to transition from our current operating system, Compass, to School Bytes. This change will occur during week 4, with School Bytes going live on Tuesday, August 12. We are collaborating with the School Bytes team to ensure a smooth and seamless transition to the new system. Additional information about this change will be shared in the coming weeks. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but we believe that School Bytes will provide a more user-friendly experience. As always the school will be available to troubleshoot and support our families during this transition and beyond.

ATTENDANCE

Last term, we experienced a significant number of student absences due to illness. The Department of Education maintains a strong focus on improving attendance, recognising its critical role in students' wellbeing, social development, and academic success. Our school has specific targets outlined in our School Excellence Plan, with Upper Orara Public School aiming to increase our attendance rate to over 90.4% of students attending more than 90% of the time by the end of the year. Currently, our attendance rate stands at 67.6% for the first half of the year. I am committed to improving this percentage over the next two terms, ensuring our students have the best opportunities to connect, succeed, and thrive. If you require support to ensure your child attends school regularly, please feel free to contact the school to discuss options.

I would like to congratulate Eddi, Hadleigh, Frankie H, and Georgie for achieving 100% attendance in Term 2. Fantastic job!

Joanne Goodenough



Students of the Week
Term 2 Week 10



Mothering Our Boys

Reowned parenting educator Maggie Dent is offering a course Mothering Our Boys in Coffs Harbour on Thursday 21st August 2025 from 6:30pm - 8:30pm (doors open at 5:45pm) at Opal Cove Resort. The event does cost \$40 and parents need to register via the website maggiedent.com/events

This course explores the unique needs of boys and provides practical strategies to help strengthen relationships, nurture emotional wellbeing, and guide boys in becoming respectful, confident young men.

Why attend?:

- *Gain a deeper understanding of how boys develop
- *Learn tools for managing emotions and behaviour
- *Discover ways to build stronger connections with your son(s)

Whether you are currently raising a boy or supporting one through your extended family or community, this course is insightful, empowering, and grounded in research and real-life experience. For more information or to enrol, please visit:

<https://www.maggiedent.com/events/mothering-our-boys-coffs-harbour-nsw-august-2025/>



**Mothering
Our BOYS**
A guide for anyone raising boys

Live event with
Maggie Dent

Coffs Harbour, NSW
Thursday 21st August
6.30pm - 8.30pm

maggiedent.com/events

POSTITIVE BEHAVIOUR LEARNING

This fortnight for PBL we will be focusing on:

Week 1 – Settling back into school routine.

Week 2 – Coming to school ready to learn.



*Orara Valley
Athletics
Carnival*





Orara Valley
Athletics
Carnival



LUNCHBOX IDEAS



Overnight Oats

Ingredients

Makes 4 250g

- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups plain unsweetened almond milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup plain whole-milk Greek yogurt
- 3 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon honey
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups old-fashioned rolled oats
- 2 tablespoons chia seeds
- Fresh berries
- 1 small banana, thinly sliced (about 1 cup)

Directions

1. Whisk almond milk, yogurt, peanut butter, honey, and vanilla in a large bowl. Stir in oats and chia seeds until combined. Spoon $\frac{2}{3}$ cup mixture into each of 4 (250g) lidded containers. Seal and refrigerate until mixture thickens, at least 8 hours or up to 12 hours.
2. Uncover jars; top each serving with berries, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup banana slices, and 1 tablespoon chopped peanuts. Refrigerate until ready to serve or up to 3 days.



NAIDOC ACTIVITIES



This year is the 50th anniversary of NAIDOC week. Its theme encourages reflection of the past, celebration of the present and hope for the future for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Students K-6 came together to participate in lessons and activities using Amplify. They learnt how stories, cultures and languages are shared. As a group they learned about the importance of the woven mat in the Torres Strait Islander culture and were taught a song by Christina Anu and her daughter Zipporah. As the final activity they found a buddy and created a paper mat or waku of their own that represented the important people in their lives through colours, patterns and symbols.





FUNDRAISING FOR 3-6 LAKE AINSWORTH CAMP

UPPER ORARA SCHOOL IS ORGANISING A FUNDRAISING EFFORT TO ASSIST STUDENTS IN YEARS 3 TO 6 WITH THE COSTS OF THEIR EXCURSION TO LAKE AINSWORTH IN TERM 4. THEY HAVE INITIATED A MONSTER RAFFLE, FOR WHICH TICKETS HAVE BEEN SENT HOME. THE TOTAL PRIZES AMOUNT TO OVER \$2500. THE SCHOOL EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO LOCAL BUSINESSES BELOW, FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THIS FUNDRAISER. WE ARE ALSO COLLECTING 100 RECYCLABLE CONTAINERS FOR THE RETURN AND EARN PROGRAM, PLEASE SEND THESE IN TO THE SCHOOL. ALL MONEY RAISED WILL BE DIVIDED AMONG THE STUDENTS ATTENDING THE EXCURSION.



UPPER ORARA PUBLIC SCHOOL

MONSTER RAFFLE

Tickets \$5 each or 5 for \$20

DRAWN OCTOBER 22, 2025

OVER \$2500 IN PRIZES

ALL MONEY RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS THE YEAR 3-6 EXCURSION



Raffle Sponsors



Term 3 2025 Calendar

Week 1 July	21	22	23	24	25
Week 2 July / August	28	29	30	31	1
Week 3	4 BOOK WEEK	5 Breakfast Book Parade Open Classrooms	6	7	8 Tennis
Week 4	11	12	13	14	15 Tennis
Week 5	18	19 Yr 6 Taster day OHS	20	21	22 Tennis
Week 6	25	26	27	28	29 Tennis
Week 7 September	1	2	3	4	5 Tennis
Week 8	8	9	10	11 Reptile World Snake Awareness	12 Tennis
Week 9	15 Dental Van	16	17	18	19
Week 10 July	22 Dental Van	23 School Musical 	24	25 End of Term Assembly	26 Last Day Term 2
Holidays Holidays					

Contacts for the school are by email : oraraupper-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au or by phone 6653 8255