

PIN OAK

ISSUE 07: TERM 4, November 7 2014



MusicArtDrama



Sports News



K-6

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ASSEMBLY GALLERIES



Headmaster's Report

TEN (PLUS ONE) THINGS I LIKE ABOUT OXLEY STUDENTS

Before I started at Oxley I was told by many people about how good Oxley students were. They were right. So even though I am still new, I think I can offer a few skewed, anecdotal, but heartfelt observations. Of course, there are exceptions to every rule, but I think that what I say below really does hold true in almost all cases about the young men and women of Oxley.

They are welcoming to new people

I have seen new students, some of whom had difficult times at their previous schools, welcomed with open arms by students here. They have been allowed to flourish and be themselves. A prospective family with a toddler was being shown around yesterday by Emma Calver and I saw more than one student spontaneously play with the toddler, take her under their wings and even show the toddler their lockers.

They are curious and have good minds

I have been teaching lots of 'big ideas' to various classes from Year 5-11. I also have an Open Entry 4-6 Philosophy Group and a Year 11 University Seminar Group. Everyone has struck me with the openness of their ideas and the quality of their thinking. The excitement in the rooms as they listen to each other's emerging ideas is palpable. The atmosphere in each of the classes is great. The high level, tertiary quality of our academic Year 11s in the Seminar Group has been extraordinary- just last week we were discussing quantum mechanics and a deterministic theory of free will in detail. These are liberal, thoughtful, reflective young people.

They get involved

Because Oxley is a smaller school there are plenty of opportunities for students to try different things they would not otherwise have gone near. As a result there are plenty of kids in Robotics, the Gould League, Maths Clubs etc. Kids pick up shotputs, javelins, flutes or hockey sticks with little initial knowledge and often surprise themselves. Seeing so many students involved on stage in the House Drama was really uplifting.

They win with grace and lose with dignity

I have seen quite a number of games over the last six months and Oxley has won about two thirds of them. When they win Oxleyans are elated and proud, but not triumphalist. When they lose they are disappointed but do not look for excuses. At all times they treat the visiting team with the respect that they deserve (except perhaps for that other rugby team who stole all our shirts from the changeroom).

They have interesting and varied ambitions

Many students have high ambitions, as revealed by our careers mentorship programme. We have lots of budding lawyers, executives and IT gurus out there. However, not everyone wants to be a banker (no disrespect to the Chairman of our Board). There are potential artists, animal handlers, vets and (literally) a circus trapeze performer out there too. It is an exciting and eclectic mix.

They are friendly

Oxleyans know how to have a conversation. We are a million miles away from the grunting that often passes for adolescent interaction. The youngest students are often chatty and forthcoming. When I ask students about their weekends, I really do get to hear about their weekends (or the sanitised version in any case). They talk about their games, or their drama performance or how their music is going. I also get plenty of advice about films, TV shows and so on. They are also ecumenically friendly to each other.

The year groups are rarely 'cliquey' and instead are open. All of Year 12 sit together as one big year group at lunchtime.

They are well mannered

Oxleyans generally look you in the eye and say hello in passing. I serve in the canteen occasionally (it helps with the Maths) and everyone is polite. This is both at school and at the various places around the Southern Highlands. A few weeks ago poor Sophia and George Dummer went for dinner at the Briars. They had me on a table on one side of them, and, completely by co-incidence, Grant Williamson at the table on other side of them. They took this in their stride and were very polite to both of us.

They are competitive (but not hyper-competitive)

The debates, public speaking and drama competitions I have judged this year have been taken remarkably seriously. People have prepared to a high level when they could easily have 'winged it'. The debate I adjudicated yesterday between Florey and Oodgeroo about schools getting involved in Facebook was well planned and executed. Students generally take exams and games against other schools very seriously. This lifts the standard. However, this competition is held at a fine balance- it does not tip over into something aggressive

They achieve at a high level

Each week in Pinoak there are announcements about our students achieving at the highest level in areas academic, sporting and cultural. I cannot list them all here. But, as an example, I handed out ICAS academic certificates earlier this week in assembly. This was a rigorous, examination in English and Mathematics run by the University of New South Wales. Only a select group of students take the test across the country and only the top ten percent of those students get Distinctions. We had dozens of Distinctions. Only the top one percent of students receive High Distinctions and we had six of these as well.

They are inclusive and there is fine feeling amongst the year groups

There are not the rigid divisions amongst the years that you find in many schools. Instead there is a much more inclusive feel. In K-6 you often see students of different year groups playing unremarkably with each other. In 7-12 the vertical House groups mean that the younger students are often talking with the much older ones. The debate I adjudicated yesterday had Year 7s and Year 11s in the same team debating alongside each other seamlessly.

They are willing to speak their minds (appropriately) and they care

The quality of the student work in Pin Oak has been exceptional. It has been well reasoned and well put. This is reflective of my own experience of the students. Quite a few of them have been willing to come to me with ideas, issues and concepts that are positive and proactive. Even more impressively, the ideas are often about social service and what they can do to help more.

All in all they are an impressive group of young people. They are lucky to have each other as they make the long and exciting journey from childhood to adulthood.



First Home Buyers

The rapid growth in house prices particularly in Sydney and Melbourne has created equity for home owners, however what about those looking to buy their first home? Recent RP data shows that house price growth has accelerated since July 2013, and that Sydney is growing at 15% a year, while Melbourne is growing at 9%. The average median house price in Sydney has grown from \$634,000 in early 2012 to over \$800,000 earlier this year. Auction clearance rates are nearing 80% in Sydney and 74% in Melbourne. Units are also seeing rapid price growth.

The current low interest rate environment and significant competition among lenders has led to a strong pick-up in growth in lending for housing. Recent house price growth has further encouraged investor activity. There is a fear that the housing market is developing into a price 'bubble' which may burst eventually, causing prices to fall, creating a knock on effect in reducing household wealth and spending.

There appear to be many factors causing this rise in prices. There is an undersupply of available housing, causing prices to rise. This may take several years to correct, due to population growth and immigration. Even though construction has been at relatively high levels for the past few years, prices are expected to remain elevated for several years due to the time lag of construction.

Some are concerned that increasing amounts of foreign investment into Australia's housing markets are causing prices to rise. Foreign investment is small in comparison to total domestic activity but is a component that is on the increase. The fear is that foreign buyers are buying these dwellings to rent out and this will eventually drive rental yields down due to an oversupply of rental properties. This may take some time to be realised as the property frenzy has crowded many owner occupiers especially first home buyers, forcing them to rent for now.

On the upside, foreign investment has the potential to create more jobs and opportunities in Australia as investment transfers from mining activity.

The local demand for housing has also been fuelled by low interest rates. The RBA has introduced macroprudential policies such as more stringent lending policies by the banks to try and cool the property market down. This is already occurring in New Zealand, where restrictions are in place for banks' lending on high loan to value ratios. So far, the RBA has raised interest rates as a means of controlling property prices as this could also have a flow on effect on slowing the already sluggish economy.

However, if these policies comes in to effect, it will affect the ability of first home buyers to purchase their first home as they would have to raise a larger deposit. This would be even harder in light of the escalating property prices and future rise in interest rates. Earlier this year, independent senator Nick Xenophon said he would introduce legislative changes to allow buyers to access their superannuation to help pay their deposit. A similar scheme is available in Canada, which allows borrowers to take up to \$25,000 from their superannuation and pay it back within 15 years. This may allow first home buyers to raise a deposit, however they may find themselves lacking superannuation funds later on.

Policies to help first home owners are being dampened. First Home Saver accounts which encouraged savings by offering co-contributions are being abolished in 2015. There is also the possibility of future changes to the First Home Owners Grant scheme which could further penalise first home buyers.

This alongside other factors such as increasing debts such as HECS will place increasing pressure on students and first home buyers for the years to come. We might have to stay put in the family home longer than we would like.

Deputy Head Learning K-12: Kate Cunich

We are constantly inspired by the achievements of our students. As well as celebrating the conclusion of the HSC we are excited to hear already of early entry offers to university. Sometimes we attribute this success all to an individual, however it is timely to remember that it takes a team to raise a child and that the young people we are so proud of are the result of much care and nurture, both from home and school.

We have been heartened to see many excited students and families in recent weeks at the Junior Production as well as at the K – 6 assemblies. Whether we are at the very beginning or the very end, or part way through the journey that is school, it is timely to reflect on the joy that it is to be a parent, a teacher, a care-giver, a grandparent. Education is a life-long activity and as long as we continue to focus on those things that are most important, we will each experience joy, challenge, reward and success along the way.

Our Year 7 – 10 students will shortly participate in a formal examination period. For many this is a most challenging time, one that is sometimes questioned by students, parents and teachers. Why do we do this to our children? Foremost in our minds should be the fact that formal testing hones a different set of skills to those encountered in the classroom.



The success will shine through the organisation of study materials, the efficient use of preparation time, the developing skill of working within a time-constraint, the resilience displayed when perhaps disappointed with a result. Making mistakes and errors in the face of challenge is something that we all encounter and the true learning comes when we encourage each other to try something in a different way and to move on with more preparation in the future. Whatever the number on the page, we know that we are more than a number and that our joint goal is to prepare our students for their future through opening as many doors to life after school as possible. Our best wishes to our students at this time and congratulations to Year 12 for finishing their marathon – well done!

Deputy Head Pastoral K-12: Peter Ayling

Top 10 Safety Tips Online

1. Always ask an adult if you're unsure of anything when you are online.
2. Don't sign up for sites that are 13+ if you are not old enough (Facebook, YouTube, Instagram etc).
3. Remember YAPPY (the personal information you should not share online) – Your full name, address, phone number, passwords, your plans.
4. Don't add people as online friends unless you know them in real life or have parent permission. Never arrange to meet an online friend without talking to a parent.
5. Remember that you cannot believe everything you read on the internet and you can't trust everything online friends tell you.
6. Choose sensible names for usernames, email addresses etc.
7. Talk to your parents about what you're doing online and let them know when you're going on the internet.
8. Know what cyber bullying is and tell someone if you think it's happening to you. Cyber bullying is when someone picks on you, annoys, embarrasses or threatens you over and over again using technology, such as the internet or a phone.
9. Protect your digital footprint: don't put anything online that you wouldn't want all your friends, family, teachers and future employers to see.
10. Treat others online the way you'd like to be treated posted

by Mrs Kathleen Morris



Members of the Scots College Pipe Band visited the school to help launch the inaugural Oxley College Pipe Band.

MindMatters

Mental health is a positive and productive state of mind that allows an individual to respond to the challenges of everyday life. When we have positive mental health we are more likely to enjoy relationships, benefit from opportunities and contribute productively to society.

However, mental health can't be taken as a given. We are all vulnerable to changes in mental health, whether relatively minor and temporary, or significant in duration and impact.

Mentally healthy students arrive at school ready to learn, cope with the many demands of the school day, engage socially and are more likely to achieve educational success.

Over the past few weeks our staff have been looking at forming strong relations with students, parents and each other. Being part of a community helps everyone to be connected and our strong pastoral care systems encourages a sense of belonging.

OH WHY OTHELLO?

By Evangeline Larsen

It is the question of all students in an English class at one time or another...why in the world are we studying this text? Old or irrelevant or not easily relatable. Last term as Year 11 embarked on the next step in their life-long Shakespearean journey, we discovered a certain 'something' in Othello that erased many people's preconceived "Shakespeare stereotypes". Here was a play that was full of jealousy, lies and psychological drama. If one chose to dig deep into the nuances one became enthralled. Consequently, in our end of Year 11 exams, to write an essay on the way in which Othello still captivates audiences today was a pleasure (or at least not too daunting!). Thus, here is a collation of some of those essays in a reinterpreted format that perhaps will inspire you to stick through those days of Romeo and Juliet...waiting for the exciting, nitty gritty, 'hard-core' Shakespeare that is to come.

Reputation is a recurring theme in Othello and one of the leading contributors to the reasons why audiences still connect with the play. Othello is a play about appetite and the hunger for power. Although this hunger for power is mainly embodied by Iago, reputation is most at stake for Othello and Cassio. Centuries later, reputation remains important, particularly with social media and advertising increasing the drive for the perfect public image. As humans we live out lives creating an image that we want others to perceive us by. So too in Othello do the characters actively participate in their own personal propaganda and when such things deteriorate through the instigation of either the self or others, there is a great price to pay.

Cassio particularly suffers under the pressures of reputation, even though he has a great desire to impress Othello and others. After being a victim of Iago's schemes, his drunken fight leaves his reputation as the General's respectful ancient, tarnished. Ashamed, Cassio struggles to confront Othello in fear that their relationship may be too damaged.

Contemporary audiences may relate to this, as bad mistakes or the past of an individual can impact their lives and relationships. Cassio feels ruined by his blunders and embarrassed at his weakness of giving into peer pressure, making a fool of himself while drunk and not being able to follow advice from others. Perhaps something modern teenagers relate to all too well! When found drunk and culpable Cassio cries, "Reputation, reputation, reputation...I ha' lost the immortal part of myself." This alludes to the belief that reputation is one and the same with the self. As a consequence, the loss of it is disastrous. Othello highlights values and concerns that are innately human and will therefore never change, it is this timelessness that makes the play enjoyable for audiences today.

“O, beware, my lord, of jealousy;
It is the green-ey'd monster, which doth
mock the meat it feeds on.”

Emilia is the epitome of the modern feminist. She is both assertive and advisory, virtues held as important in society today. In the Venetian, Elizabethan context in which the play is set, women are seen as commodities and property, to be owned by men. Emilia rejects this stereotype with her strength of character. “I will speak as liberal as the air” illustrates Emilia’s defiance of the normal, silent woman and desire for freedom. Betting with Othello whilst remaining respectful illustrates her assertive nature and role as an advice giver. “I durst, my lord, to wager she is honest” emphasises Desdemona’s innocence and Emilia’s gutsy nature in saying so. As an atypical woman, unafraid of domineering men, Emilia is a role model for women today. In a world in which women still fight for equal wages, employment rights and a voice in government, Emilia’s character remains engaging for audiences today.

Desdemona is a martyr for victims of domestic violence.

There is not a time in history in which partners have not hurt or killed the other. In Australia today one woman per week is killed by her partner – an incredibly depressing statistic. It is unfortunate that such a theme still rings true for many people, but is also why the play engages audiences because it covers topics still relevant to them.

Othello pleads in Act 5, Scene 2 that he is a “an honourable murderer, if you will: For nought did

in hate, but all in honour.” Linking once again to reputation and family honour, honour killings are sadly still relevant to today’s society. On reading this passage at the end of the play one is struck by its paradox and scary familiarity, this is indeed the root of emotional abuse. Emotional abuse is based on manipulation and is a societal issue that begins its reform in education. Consequently the teaching of Othello has ulterior motives than those solely found in the LFF (language forms and features) filled English Department!

It is of paramount importance to remember what modern audiences love to see when they watch a film or television show, or indeed go to the theatre: drama. People love lies, betrayal, jealousy and exploitation, as long as it’s not happening to them! The lies in Othello leave audiences captivated. They love to recognise the dramatic irony when Iago is described as “a man he is honest and just.” Audiences strive to pick up paradoxes and implied naivety when “Honest Iago” creates his plans. There is little doubt that manipulation a vice audiences despise but can connect with from experience is also used in Othello. Iago manipulates by picking on people’s flaws and weaknesses, whether it be gender, money, reputation or race. Iago is more than a bully; it can be argued that he has psychotic tendencies. You need only to turn on the television to see crime shows riddled with psychopaths. Audiences love these tropics and it is this timeless dramatic core that keeps Othello on our shelves and in our theatres.



Week 4 Awards

Students of the Week

K: Wally Atallah, Yr 1: Luca Colloridi, Yr 2: Georgia Pride, Yr 3: Bronte Johnson, Yr 4: Patrick Duffy, Yr 5: Madison Shields, Yr 6: Gracie Phelan

Respect Others

K: Thomas Bladen, Yr 1: Maximo Ramos, Yr 2: Stella Pappot, Yr 3: Sienna Bellis, Yr 4: Brianna Grice, Yr 5: Gabriella Maples, Yr 6: MacKenzie Johnson



Week 5 Awards

Students of the Week

K: Madeline Gordon, Yr 1: Ben Shields, Yr 2: Tom Santo, Yr 3: Patrick Muldoon, Yr 4: Isabel Feetham, Yr 5: Reece Masters, Yr 6: Connor Philpott-Tyson

Respect Oxley

K: Willa Soster, Yr 1: Lila Pappot, Yr 2: Will Purnell, Yr 3: Chloe Cassim, Yr 4: Alexandra Salmon, Yr 5: Lachlan Muldoon, Yr 6: Thom Jackson



Year 3 and 4

This term, Year 3 and Year 4 continue to work together as a Stage.

'Every week on Tuesday Stage 2 get together for maths groups. I have to follow instructions to complete different activities. I then have to follow the success criteria which is to ask questions and communicate my mathematical ideas.' - Cordelia Ison

'I can communicate my ideas with the other class and they might have different questions or answers.'- Jacqueline Worthington

Some of the questions we might ask are:

'I like that strategy but are there other strategies you could use?'

'Can you teach someone else that strategy?'

Maths groups are good because we get to do a variety of activities and it helps us get to know each other and learn new things' – Matthew Smith

In HSIE this term, Stage 2 are researching specific aspects of a traditional Aboriginal lifestyle. They are examining visual texts and reading information texts about Aboriginal Dreaming.

'Stage HSIE groups happen every Thursday afternoon, Years 3 and 4 open up their doors to work on the term's topic. We work together to learn about Aboriginal Dreamtime. This week we were able to read outside and discuss Dreamtime Legends and what they tell us about the people and the environment.' – Patrick Muldoon/ Billy Cameron.



Year 5

This week a group of Year 5 students presented their Leadership speeches at assembly. This outstanding group of students all spoke with confidence and passion about their desire to lead K - 6 in 2015. They were inspiring and insightful.



JUNIOR PRODUCTION

There you have it, the Junior Production has wrapped up for another year. I'm sure both cast members and the audience will remember 'The Visit' for some time to come due to the suspenseful storyline. A fantastic production directed by Chris Canute and starring students from Years 7-10, 'The Visit' was both a dramatic and intriguing performance.

This year's production was based around a surprise visit from Madame Claire Zahanassian, played by Charlotte Thirwall (Yr 10), to a poor town called Guellen. As the play goes on we get to know all of the town's people and their many secrets. The unexpected visit by Madame Zahanassian's has dire consequences for the town and leaves the audience wondering just how far ordinary people will go when money is involved.

The cast, Mr Canute, the band, and the production team should all be congratulated for their hard work and commitment. On behalf of the cast and production team, a special thankyou to Mr Canute for directing this year's Junior Production and giving up so much of his time to produce a particularly demanding show.

By Olivia Davies (Year 8)



SPOTLIGHT ACTRESS: Savannah Sandilands (Year 7)

PO: When did you first start acting?

SS: I started acting when I was quite young, about eight and I have done many plays with SHYAC.

PO: Could you explain what 'SHYAC' is?

SS: SHYAC is the "Southern Highlands Youth Arts Council" and they put on plays every year for the people that are really interested in acting.

PO: How was it learning your lines for the school play?

SS: Well I didn't have as many lines as other people but I did have to spend a vast amount of time reading over my lines and getting my family to be other characters so I could practice starting my lines on cue.

PO: How long did you have to take out of your personal time to practice for the play?

SS: There were lots of rehearsals for the school play, some during recess, lunch, afterschool etc.

PO: Which Hollywood actor would you compare yourself to?

SS: Nicole Kidman, I don't know why but I just really like her.

Interview By Dylan Whitelaw (Year 7)

UNSW ICAS RESULTS 7-11

ENGLISH	
REA, Toby	DISTINCTION
ROSS, Layla	DISTINCTION
ALI, Rory	DISTINCTION
ANTONIAK, Daniel	DISTINCTION
CUNICH, Zack	DISTINCTION
KOLOVOS, Gabriel	DISTINCTION
MANTON, Aaron	DISTINCTION
KNOWLES, Isabella	DISTINCTION
MACKEVICIUS, Max	DISTINCTION
DALTON, Lillian	DISTINCTION
FRANK, Robyn	DISTINCTION
PRYOR, Jaime	DISTINCTION
TORTORELLA, Jonathon	HIGH DISTINCTION
HUTCHINGS, Megan	DISTINCTION
MAIN, Eilidh	DISTINCTION
LONGWORTH, Darcy	HIGH DISTINCTION
ANTONIAK, Nicholas	DISTINCTION
NAUGHTON, Grace	DISTINCTION
VAN DER SCHALK, Lucie	DISTINCTION
LARSEN, Evangeline	HIGH DISTINCTION
MATHS	
CUNICH, Zack	DISTINCTION
DEITZ, D'Arcy	DISTINCTION
HUTCHINGS, Benjamin (Ben)	DISTINCTION
KOLOVOS, Gabriel	DISTINCTION
MANTON, Aaron	DISTINCTION
TREGENZA, Thomas	DISTINCTION
COLEMAN, Alexander (Alex)	DISTINCTION
CORRADI, Georgia	DISTINCTION
LEAVY, Erin <9>	DISTINCTION
CROKER, Emma	DISTINCTION
FOX, Isobelle	DISTINCTION
HUTCHINGS, Megan	DISTINCTION
LONGWORTH, Darcy	DISTINCTION
MAIN, Eilidh	DISTINCTION
BLAKE, Angus	DISTINCTION
SCIENCE	
GIBSON-BROWN, Zachary	DISTINCTION
REA, Toby	DISTINCTION
BAKER, Cameron	DISTINCTION
CLEARY, Ruby	DISTINCTION
CUNICH, Zack	HIGH DISTINCTION
DALTON, Kathryn	HIGH DISTINCTION
DEITZ, D'Arcy	DISTINCTION
MANTON, Aaron	HIGH DISTINCTION
ROCHAIX, Kiara	DISTINCTION
CORRADI, Georgia	DISTINCTION
DALTON, Lillian	DISTINCTION
HILL, Thomas (Tom)	DISTINCTION
MACKEVICIUS, Max	DISTINCTION
MUIR, Ryan	DISTINCTION
YANG, Celena	DISTINCTION
FOX, Isobelle	DISTINCTION
HUTCHINGS, Megan	DISTINCTION
TORTORELLA, Jonathon	DISTINCTION
WILSON, Nicholas	DISTINCTION
BLAKE, Angus	DISTINCTION

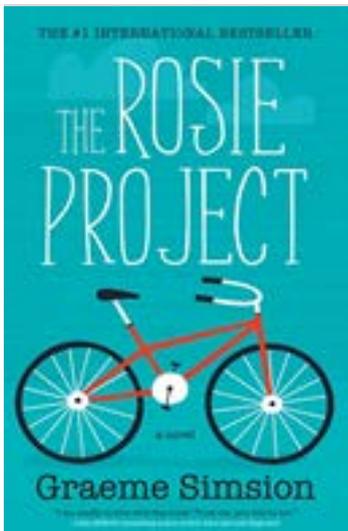


GEOGRAPHY TRIVIA DAY

On Thursday 23 October two teams of six Year 8 students travelled with Mr Dibdin, to St Marys Memorial Hall, to represent Oxley College in a Geography Trivia Day. The teams completed geography tasks based on Australiana, world features, countries and general knowledge facts. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day for all who attended and we were fortunate enough to be placed 7th and 11th. Thank you Mr Dibdin and the Geography department for making this fun day possible.

By Grace Patterson (Year 8)





Books

★★★★★

The Rosie Project

Is there a guide to finding our soul mate? Don Tillman would absolutely say so. Throughout the novel, it's implied that Don Tillman suffers from Asperger Syndrome, however he is completely unaware. He prides himself on creating a fantastic lobster salad and follows a very strict daily routine. The protagonist Don is just a man in search of his so called 'perfect' wife. But as you can imagine, searching for a soul mate is just as hard for Don as it would be for the rest of us. Struggling to find a woman who fits his criteria, most definitely not a barmaid, a smoker, a drinker or a late-arriver, he stumbles across Rosie. Rosie Jarman, unlike his idea of the ideal woman, portrays each of these traits. On a pursuit of her own, Rosie and Don have more in common than they each would have thought.

The Rosie Project is a light hearted and gratifying novel. I found the story very entertaining and would thoroughly recommend it!

By Ella Moran (Year 9)



Music

★★★★★

Caribou "Our Love"

I'm the sort of person who, when encountered with plain white bread, needs to smother it with butter and vegemite to find any sort of satisfaction in the impending toast consumption. If you consider, therefore, the album's core themes and message as the bread, and the instrumentation as the butter and vegemite, the same can be said in the context of Caribou's latest album, *Our Love*.

Because, when you hear an album start with the words "I can't do without you" looped for three minutes, the next forty are going to go one of two ways: an excellent electro-pop album with sophisticated instrumental choice (buttery toast), or a tear-inducing boring experience of soppy lyrics and self-indulgence (dry, yucky toast).

Our Love hits with a depth that would surprise many: not only is this record danceable, but also consistently delivers complex yet accessible tracks. Caribou, I'm sorry I ever doubted you. You could even go as far as to say the white bread becomes one of the most important parts: a pleasant reminder never to forget *Our Love*.

By Ruben Seaton (Year 12)



Films

★★★★★

Chef

Chef is one of the best feel good, foody comedies out there. When chef Carl Casper (Jon Favreau) loses his restaurant job, he seeks the ultimate place where he can cook new, creative and whole-hearted food. Chef Casper ventures to Miami to seek a favour from his wife's ex husband (Robert Downey Jr). Inspired by the sights and sounds of Miami, he starts up a food truck with traditional Cuban food for the everyday eater. With his son Percy taking to Twitter, Chef Casper gains the publicity he needs to draw customers to his new business and drives his truck across America, rediscovering his passion for food. Chef Casper cooks gastronomic delights that are sure to make your mouth water, and his charismatic accomplice Martin (John Leguizamo) can always be counted on for a laugh. One thing is certain, do not see Chef on an empty stomach. Featuring an all star cast including Sofia Vergara, Dustin Hoffman and Scarlett Johansson, and a brilliant soundtrack to get you dancing, Chef is a must see.

By Maddie Thomas (Year12)



PHOTOGRAPHER OLIVIA DONOVAN

PO: Where did your passion for photography start?

I used to photograph all our family holidays and then when I got my iPhone, my camera roll started filling up with photos. Then last year for my birthday my parents bought me my first camera, which is a Canon DSLR.

PO: What sort of photography are you most interested in?

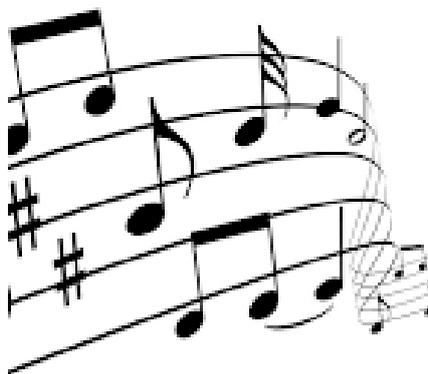
I was into macro photography at the beginning, so I had one of those lenses and now landscapes and sunsets are my favourite. I get new lenses for my birthday. I also love taking sport photos and I love shooting colour.

PO: What kind of workshops have you been involved in to further your skills?

I do workshops with Canon all the time with a group of photographers, and a Canon ambassador. I go in National Geographic competitions, Canon's competition every month and I've just entered the Photographer of the Year awards. You had to do a portfolio for landscapes, nature, black and white or portrait. I put in one for all of them.

PO: Are you looking at a career in photography?

Yes, definitely. I think I'll just start with the Canon courses and I had a few private lessons from professionals when I first started, but I prefer to learn by myself. I've become good friends with one of the Canon ladies, so she gives me tips.



SING CHOIRFEST

Two weeks ago the Oxley Choir travelled to Frensham to perform in the SING concert. SING is an annual concert where all the local choirs perform songs. Everyone was asked to sing one song each and they are all based around the theme of love. Oxley sang "All you need is love" and then all the choirs sang a song called "Why we sing!" On Saturday, the Oxley Choir had another concert that they also performed in. It was called Choir-fest and was held at St Thomas Aquinas. It was very hot but there was a big turn up. We sang two songs. One called "Ubi Caritas" and "Happy" by Pharrel Williams. Then all the choirs got together and sang: "Do you hear the people sing" and "We still call Australia home" as a finale to the show. We sang some great songs and really enjoyed these performances.

By Savannah Sandilands and Grace Newton (Year 7)



YEAR 6



Last week Year 6 participated in an excursion to Canberra, to support their learning on Government this semester. Students had a wonderful experience, with highlights including the War Memorial, AIS and Parliament House, where we had the opportunity to view question time and meet our Federal Member, Steven Jones.

Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing the funding of \$20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate programme towards those costs, which is paid upon completion of the programme.

COMMUNITY NEWS

December 2014 and January 2015

Our latest information is available on our website now with key dates for the school holidays in December and January.

Our 2 day Gingerbread House Making Course is ready to book now on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th December 9.30am to 3.30pm



Oxley P&F Presents The Annual Trivia Night

Black & White

Friday, 7 November
First Question at 7pm

\$15.00 per person or
Tables of 10 - \$150
BYO Drinks and Nibbles
RSVP by email to Gavin Low - gavin.low@gmail.com

Prizes for
Best Dressed Male & Female
Best Table Decorations
<http://www.trybooking.com/GEXT>



P&F

The Oxley College P&F Trivia Night is the next thing on the agenda. It has been running for as long as I can remember and for another 18 years before that. This year the theme is Black and White and there are fabulous prizes for best dressed female, best dressed male AND best dressed table...not to mention the actual winners of the Trivia! Tickets will be available at the door.

Dates for your calendar:

Friday 7 November 2014 – First question at 7:00pm - Black and White Trivia Night
Tuesday 18 November 2014 – 6:30pm - AGM and "Thank-you Drinks"
Friday, 28 November 2014 – 5:30pm - K-6 Christmas Carols

The textbook exchange has been modified to enhance the community spirit that Oxley College is famous for. This year textbooks will be "swapped" instead of "sold". When you drop a textbook off you will be given a token that you can "swap" for a different textbook that appears on the 2015 list, a novel, book of poetry or play.

We are very excited about this new venture as it will allow the Oxley community to share amongst each other. It should be stressed that the "Swap for Drop" will be on a first come, first serve basis. Our motto is "give with the heart and receive with an open mind."

Details to follow.

Junior Production Gallery



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

	Mon Inc: Years 5 and 6 "Moving into teens' program Year 11 (becoming Year 12) Student/Parent/Teacher interviews, Orchestra Room, from 4:00pm 10	Mon K-6 Swimming Program this week (details to be advised) Inc: Years 5 and 6 "Moving into teens' program" 17	Mon Year 10 Business Week 24
	Tue Remembrance Day Service 11.00am 11	Tue P&F AGM, 6.30pm followed by "Thank you to the P&F drinks" @ 7:15pm, Library/OLA 18	Tue 25
	Wed Year 11 Music Recital Night, Orchestra Room, 7:00pm 12	Wed 19	Wed 26
	Thu K-6 2015 Orientation Day, 9:15am-10:50am 13	Thu 20	Thu Exc: Year 9 History to Sydney Jewish Museum Exc: Year 12 Biology Workshop at Sydney Children's Hospital 27
Fri 07	Fri 7-12 2015 Orientation Day, 10:45am-12:45pm K-6 P&F Cake Staff, 3:20pm K-6 Showcase, Hoskins Hall, 5:30pm. 14	Fri 21	Fri Inc: K-6 Carols Concert, Elvo Lawn, 5:30pm Year 10 ABW Dinner, venue/time tba 28
Sat ISA Summer Sport Round 4 08	Sat ISA Summer Sport Round 5 2004 Old Oxleyans 10-Year Reunion Dinner P&F Year 1 Dinner at Esco Pazzo, Mittagong, 7:30pm 15	Sat ISA Summer Sport Round 6 22	Sat No ISA Sport 29
Sun 09	Sun 16	Sun 23	Sun 30

Upcoming events

- + MONDAY 1 Year 6 Farewell BBQ at K-6
- + Wednesday 2 December Exc: 'Wicked', Sydney
- + Thursday 4 December, Final K - 6 Assembly, 2:00pm
- + Thursday 4 December, End of Term 4 Speech Night, PE Centre, 7:00pm

Sport



TECHNOLOGY IN SPORT

Would Rodger Federer have been as successful a tennis player 50 years ago with a wooden racquet? Would Don Bradman have benefitted from the third umpire? Could Dawn Frazer have swum even faster in a high-tech body swimsuit?

There is no doubt that sport has developed significantly in the past decade due to the impact of technology on the sporting world, but is this change for the better or worse? Many argue that technological aids in sports allows for athletes to train more effectively and improve their game due to advanced and safer sporting equipment. The development of apps, video games, websites and exercise machines makes maintaining a healthy lifestyle easier than ever before, yet Australia is still considered the most overweight country. 'Hawk Eye' technology, used in tennis and cricket indicates without doubt whether the ball has crossed a certain point and wireless technology now allows officials to replay key moments in sporting games; both are extremely useful in analysing seconds and helping officials make accurate calls. The introduction of tight fitting LZR body swimsuits and super light weight track shoes have been proven to improve performance but shouldn't sport be measured by the human ability and not by a machine or specialised suit. There is constant debate as to whether these technological advancements are detrimental or beneficial, but one thing is for sure - technology will continue to develop either way.

Are becoming too reliant on technology and losing sight of the essence of sport?

By Cate Patterson (Year 10)

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK: HOCKEY



Georgia Wade (Year 9) and Harry Norman (Year 9) have gained a scholarship in the Illawarra Academy of Sport for Hockey.

MATCH OF THE WEEK: BASKETBALL



On Saturday 25 October the Oxley 14s broke a record for their ISA season against St Stanislaus. Last season the team got to 96 in a game but were four points short of the century. The game started with Oxley getting on the board early, utilising the fast break and forcing Stannies to consecutive turnovers. Oxley got points on the board early, realising they'd outmatched their opponents and had a substantial lead 10 minutes into the first half. Several steals by Rory Kennedy, Sam Sherborne and Will Cunich led to easy baskets for Dom Sutherland. Also great rebounding to Andy Guy, Connor Miller and Ben Hutchings led to more baskets for Oxley.

The 14s currently are up 2-0 this season defeating Blue Mountains Grammar in their first game 50-20.