

MAGAZINE

PIN OAK

ISSUE 14: TERM 1, APRIL 2, 2015



Equestrian Day



Poetry



Visual Art

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

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Capital Dreams and Plans (and how to afford them)

The Board, Executive and I have a number of building dreams and plans for Oxley College over the next two or three years. We still have a long way to go to achieve them - drafting, funding, council permissions and neighbourhood consultations are all in the future. However, each one of them would improve the life and education of the students here. These include:

A new classroom building for K-6 and 7-12

This block would be mainly for 7-12, but also for K-6. This new building would overwhelmingly be to replace or improve existing classrooms. We would like to take away the three demountable classrooms that sit near the staff carpark and also the Oxley Uniform Shop. We would also like to relieve some of the classroom pressure on spaces such as the Library.

Given access and planning investigations, this proposed classroom block would probably be on the side of the Elvo lawn near the library. Given its proximity to Elvo and the lawn, we would need it to be a building that is sensitive to our heritage area. We would love to theme the classrooms in the way we did with the top floor of the De La Salle building over the 2014 Christmas holidays.

Developing Bray (sporting) fields

We are planning to develop the field on the other side of the Wingecarribee River into playing fields-for rugby, football and hockey in particular. This would include a changing area. We do believe that students get a stronger sense of school pride when representing their College on their home ground. It would be terrific for us to be able to play all of our home games at 'home'.

Improving Current Classrooms

Last Christmas holidays we 'themed' and improved five classrooms (the New York Room, the Himalaya Room, the Green Room, the Steampunk Room and the Trinity Library Room). This has worked well. The teachers and students both report that they really like teaching and learning in these spaces. We would like to continue this through other classes in the College. We think that we have exciting and inspirational ideas ready to go and we are planning to involve students in this theming process.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

Canteen becoming a cafeteria area

We would love to enclose the current canteen area so that it becomes more like a cafeteria. This would be an excellent place for students to go at recess and lunch, particularly in the winter months. This will require a lot of glass (or perspex) that is resistant to cricket balls flying over from the oval on Saturdays.

K-6 play areas

We continue to have creative ideas about how to make the area in front of the K-6 classrooms even more of a place of excitement and play. Our aim is to develop an integrated indoor/outdoor learning environment that complements the natural setting and stimulates the developing minds of our students. We want to see even more physical activity, social interaction, creativity and problem solving during recess and lunch.

Tennis Courts

Tennis is a popular sport and we would love to be able to bring it back on to the school grounds. We could then offer even more of a tennis programme as well as use the courts at times for other ball games. We would love to build some tennis courts on the current Kettle Block (on your left as you drive up the main drive).

These are a lot of plans, projects, hopes and dreams. Indeed, we are even dreaming, in the longer term, of a Performing Arts Centre and are having preliminary contact with a potential major donor about this. Collectively our plans would make a big difference to Oxley. The plans have been discussed at length at the Building Committee of the Board and we have also brought in specialists to advise us about what is possible, both on a building, planning and funding front.

There are one or two important points to make here, particularly about funding, which might be new to some people.

1) Recurrent expenses V Capital expenditure

School fees in most schools cover only recurrent expenses. At Oxley, the wages of our staff come up to almost 75% of all of our income (fees and government subsidies). By the time we have also maintained the grounds, kept the IT going (just), bought paper for the photocopier and paid the electricity and water bills, there is little left for major capital works. Indeed our projected surplus this year is very thin.

If we are to build more we can't rely on our fees and the government subsidies alone. Much of the money for capital projects, such as those above, have to come from somewhere else. Unsurprisingly, the only people interested in classroom blocks, hockey fields etc for the Oxley Community is the Oxley Community. We need to turn to the same people who are, or have paid school fees already.

We want the facilities to be as good as possible for our students and your children. However, to do that we, and schools like us, have always relied on the generosity of parents who see their commitments to their child's education being a combination of fees and investing in capital giving.

There is an 'intergenerational' aspect to this as well. Our current Oxleyans are reaping the benefits of those generous people who funded the setup of the college and areas such as the Music School. This perhaps then gives a new perspective for current Oxley families for the future as well as the present. It is also indicative of how important school based fundraising programmes were and continue to be.

2) Use of pre-tax and post-tax funds.

It is significant to note too that buildings constructed from donations to a building fund come from people's pre tax incomes. Buildings constructed from school fees come from people's post tax incomes. The value difference is very stark indeed, and I will have more to say about this later in the year.

3) Different families

As with any independent school community, there are wonderful Oxley families who are struggling to find every dollar to send their child to school. There are other just as wonderful Oxley families for whom the fees are not a struggle at all. The concept of giving beyond the recurrent fees is a very different proposition for these two extremes, and for all of the families in between. We are, and will always be very cognisant of this.

4) Other charitable priorities

On a connected issue I also look forward to being able to let you know next term about a very focused charitable initiative in the developing world that we have been planning for months. We certainly take the view that it is our responsibility and privilege to also raise funds for those in need. Our charitable (developing world) and philanthropic (Oxley building) initiatives will be both important to us.

Next term the Chairman of the Board and I will be writing to all parents with more specific proposals. (It may comfort some that we do not plan to use social, educational or co-curricular gatherings of parents to also raise these issues - you will be safe on the sidelines on Saturday.) However, even at this early juncture I did want to write to you about some of the building dreams and plans we have and how we are hoping to realise them.



BIG ISSUE



Back in April 2013 when former Opposition Leader Tony Abbott spoke of superannuation, he said: "Every time a government raids people's funds, there are shades of Cyprus about it". Many years ago, Cyprus raided large amounts of money from its citizens to ensure stability. The ever-changing rules and regulations relating to superannuation are responsible for the uncertainty surrounding superannuation. However the government, in the coming years, may launch an attack on your wealth. Due to ongoing budget deficits, to the tune of an estimated \$30 billion for the 2014-15 financial year, the government may decide to fill this hole with superannuation funds.

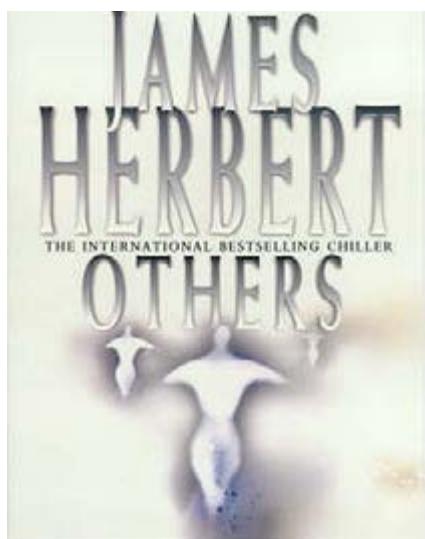
There are plans to nationalise superannuation, essentially turning it into a national asset. Superannuation is worth \$2 trillion, greater than the value of the Australian share market, and approximately 30% larger than Australia's GDP. The abolishment of the federal debt ceiling in 2009 has meant government debt has been steadily growing, projected to be \$356 billion, making the superannuation pool an attractive target. The recent Intergenerational Report expects government debt to hit \$5.7 trillion at its current rate.

A similar situation has recently occurred in Poland where the government has nationalised private pension funds to effectively reduce their debt load. In Australia, foreign temporary workers tax funds have gone missing and superannuation funds are set to follow. Citizens are being blamed for hoarding wealth, minimising tax responsibilities, placing further pressures on the budget, despite the highest income bracket effectively paying half of their income through taxes (including indirect taxes). However more will be needed than tightening the current generous superannuation concessions, scrapping negative gearing, increasing the GST and including the family home in the pension assets test.

A suggestion from many is to further increase taxes for the 'rich', unknowingly penalising themselves as the middle class and lower will be the hardest hit. Maximum contribution limits on superannuation have deterred higher income earners towards more secure investments in Self Managed Super Funds (SMSFs), family trusts and other tax effective vehicles. The super industry is also happy to restrict access to your retirement funds, benefitting from increasing management fees. Furthermore, rises to the preservation age directly benefit these two players. Any attempt to detract from this large pool will be thwarted such as suggestions in allowing first home buyers to be able to access their superannuation, however this is also in our best interest.

A recent discussion on the ABC's Insiders programme hinted at the government requiring people to take an annuity, as a reform needed to make superannuation sustainable, effectively utilising a pooling system. Those who live on, will receive an income, while the government will benefit off those with lower life expectancies, receiving the returned balance. All this makes an SMSF sound attractive, not to mention other benefits. Further changes may be announced in the Tax White Paper towards the end of the year. The first attack could be in less than 40 days with the release of the 2015 Federal Budget. There may appear to be no imminent danger but watch this space.

By Ryan Tan (Year 12)



Books



If you're not afraid of gore and a prevalent theme of sadism... 'Others' by the master of horror, James Herbert, is a highly recommendable read.

Following protagonist, Dismas, the reader is confronted with murder, challenged to contemplate an ulterior dimension to living and falls in love with physically deformed sweetheart, Constance. Herbert has explored the depths of human depravity, crossing science with the supernatural, alongside significant regard to a theme of existentialism.

This expertly paced psychological thriller takes Dismas to the end of his own existence, uncovering his true purpose in life. With the didactic notions this book holds, you cannot finish the novel without contemplating your own reality and existence.

By Celeste Cosma (Year 12)



Music



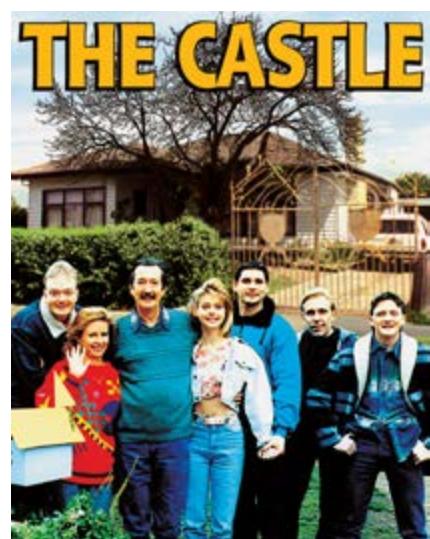
THE GROWLERS – CHINESE FOUNTAIN

For their forth album, American band The Growlers have tried to do what is expected of a band after 10 years or so, gone for a more grown-up and mature sound. I can really only explain Chinese Fountain as a cluttered sea of classic, repetitive bass lines and slurred vocals that are fused together with Mac Demarco-style guitar riffs.

Now if you know anything about Mac Demarco, he and "grown-up and mature" don't really fit in the same sentence. So maybe it wasn't the guitar that they were referring into in their 2014 interview with Great Escape Festivals where they describe their new album as being "more grown up, well polished".

As I adventured deeper into the depths of this album into songs like 'Not The Man' and 'Going Gets Tough', I am constantly searching for that sophisticated sound that they claim to have produced in this album. I find myself listening to the same old Growlers, nothing new. I listen to song after song nothing seems to impress me or stand out. There is something missing from 'Chinese Fountain', they don't have their mojo and Funkadelic-like sound that they had in their previous albums.

By Izzy Moore (Year 8)



Films



The Castle

You've most likely heard someone quote at least once from the Aussie classic "The Castle". Whether it be the famous "That's going straight to the Pool Room" or the equally famous "How's the serenity!", you've had some experience with this classic film. Last weekend my parents decided to give me an "education" and while at first I wasn't sure about the film, once I got used to the style of the plot I found myself really enjoying it. As much as I hated to admit it to my parents I found myself laughing out loud in several places!

It's hard to say what made me like it so much - maybe it was those classic one-liners, the unforgettable characters, or maybe just the "vibe" of the whole thing.

The film follows the story of a family who are battling against a company who wants to buy the land their house is on and build on it. The family bravely fights to keep their home because it holds so many memories that are dear to them.

I would strongly recommend this as a great family movie. Although it is rated M and does contain some coarse language, it still shows what can be achieved through pure determination, grit and love.

By Jemima Taylor (Year 8)

K- 6 NEWS

Head of K-6: Justine Lind

All good things must come to an end.....

A place of welcome.....

We have begun the year with a firm commitment to enhance our sense of connectedness with all members of the K-6 community and beyond! Term 1 is always a vibrant time in a school calendar as students and staff a-like, bring high energy after the renewal of the extended Christmas break. By the end, we are all a little less vibrant and ready for some time on the lounge with a good book!

Last week our Service Learning energies were inspired by a call to action by Bronte Johnson and Grace Hardy in Year 4, who were moved to respond to the plight of the Vanuatu people in the wake of Cyclone Pam. They spoke to us at our K-6 Assembly explaining the devastation to the small island community and about the loss of the tranquil tropical life style. We created a heartfelt message of Oxley ELVO using gold coin donations from all students in K-6. Our collective efforts raised \$ 327.00.

"It feels really good to be part of the membership of Oxley College because everybody is there for each other all the time, supporting and encouraging you." Grace Hardy

"I felt proud of myself and everyone at Oxley for caring enough to donate their own money to help others in Vanuatu." Bronte Johnson

A place of wonder.....

It has been wonderful to begin the process of interviewing members of our Kindergarten class of 2016. Students and their families are generous in their praise of Oxley. What is palpable to all as they encounter Oxley for the first time is the sense of openness and warmth and of our glorious grounds. Several parents have commented on the pride the students clearly have for their school as indicated by the lack of litter, care for the environment and presentation of their uniforms each day.

It is valuable instruction for me, as we contemplate initiatives intended to enhance the living and learning landscape of Oxley, that what is valued is preserved and that what is already distinctive is protected. Your teachers have already begun planning new and engaging units of learning for next term with a view to incorporating "Bigger Ideas" and a greater

sense of choice and autonomy for students. These attributes enhance the motivation and development of the skills of life-long learning and independence. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term at Oxley and anticipate the term ahead with wonderment and awe at what our teachers and in turn, their students will achieve.

A place of wisdom.....

It is with regret that at the end of this term, we will farewell Mrs Christina Marsh who leaves us to pursue other opportunities within the education field that will also allow her to spend time with her aging parents in the UK. As a founding member of our K-6 staff, Mrs Marsh has been instrumental in the establishment of our junior classes and made significant contribution through her roles as Curriculum, Pastoral and Visible Learning Leader. Her dedication to her own class as well as a variety of Co-curricular Groups and all students K-6 each year is reflective of her incredible passion and compassion and will be sorely missed. We extend our sincere appreciation to Mrs Marsh on behalf of our community and wish her every fulfillment in her next endeavour.



K-6 Term 2

Special

Chicken Noodle Soup
(\$2) for sale every Friday
recess in the
K-6 Playground



welcome wonder wisdom



Week 9 Awards Week 10 Awards

Students of the Week

K: Kallan Rendell,
Yr 1: Noah Byrne,
Yr 2: Bryn Wiseman,
Yr 3: Georgia Pride
Yr 4: Cordelia Ison
Yr 5: Finley Miller,
Yr 6: Sophia Cheaib

Respect Oxley

K: Matilda Pope,
Yr 1: Zahra Lim,
Yr 2: Bella Carpenter,
Yr 3: Emma Scott
Yr 4: Billy Cameron
Yr 5: Alex Salmon,
Yr 6: Reece Masters

Students of the Week

K: Barnaby Jensen,
Yr 1: William O'Callaghan,
Yr 2: William Gilbert,
Yr 3: Sienna Soster,
Yr 4: Dominic Cooper,
Yr 5: Poppy Jensen,
Yr 6: Sophie Kearney

Respect Others

K: Claudia Carpenter,
Yr 1: Aislinn Kenny,
Yr 2: Ava Ritchie,
Yr 3: Oliver Deakin,
Yr 4: Elena Parker,
Yr 5: Eloise Goodman,
Yr 6: Madison Shields

The Word That Cannot Be Named, and its implications in hip-hop

Music: considered by many as the universal language, it has the ability to bring people together like few other things are capable of doing. But it also has the ability to divide people; genres, styles, lyrics and image are all catalysts for fiery debates on issues in and outside the music industry. But one elephant flares its nasty trunk more than any other in the room, and that is the issue of racism in music.

This article, obviously, could come from a more appropriate context: I, a young Caucasian male living in the white bubble of the Southern Highlands, have never felt the bite of racism personally. Instead, I feel a larger hope that my generation's actions, both conscious and subconscious, will serve to numb the edge of racism in an attempt to nullify it altogether. One roadblock stands in our way, however, and funnily enough, it's just one word.

For obvious reasons, this article won't mention the word in question, but it will attempt to be as direct as possible in debating the matter. Disguised in plain sight as 'The N-Word', the shared concern of many music-listeners, both African-American and not, is whether it is suitable to be thrown around in mainstream music – namely, the hip-hop genre – while there are still open wounds that not even decades or equality progression have been able to stitch up.

Indeed, the conflict around this word is its original context. As a strong advocate against the use of the word not only in dialogue, but also in music, television host Oprah expresses how it feels to be a product of the Civil Rights Movement, a time where "that word" was "the last thing that a black man would hear before he was lynched." This is the stark reality: this is a word formed out of hundreds of years of oppression and hateful racism. Is it right, therefore, that the youth – regardless of their skin

colour – are fed this word through headphones every day?

The abundance of the term in mainstream hip-hop is an indicator of how the word has arguably come "back into fashion" since the prevalence of racially charged rap music in the early 1990s thanks to groups such as N.W.A. (no points for guessing what the 'N' stands for). A glance at the current Billboard Rap Hits shows 16 of the Top 20 singles feature the phrase; anyone familiar with the hugely successful lead single from Kanye West and Jay Z's *Watch The Throne* collaborative album shows that artists have no problem with incorporating the word into the title either. So how can a generation of youth and musicians who are so racially aware and ready to take a moral stance accept the prominence of this hateful word?

The answer may seem bizarre: for many African-Americans, the N-word used today gives no grief (providing it comes from the right mouth). Offense is taken when the "-a" ending is replaced with its ugly cousin, "-er"; this is where the serious oppressive connotations enter. Indeed, the former phrase is widely accepted within African-American culture, wherein it is often interchanged with words such as "brother", or "dude", if you like your Jeff Bridges references. Indeed, while being interrogated by Oprah on the subject, Jay Z said that he and the rest of the African-American community have been striving to change the complete definition of the word. "People give words power," the New York rapper argues, "and what we did is that we took the power out of the word, and turned it into a term of endearment". Those in favour of this stance argue that they are able to take a word entrenched in hurtfulness and re-contextualise it; this is what makes them able to triumphantly present it in mainstream media.



“ the unconscious insertion of the word into everyday dialogue would be undoubtedly a mistake”

This comes at a time where racial tensions are simmering at an uncomfortable level still in America; the globalised world of uploaded videos means that clips of police interacting negatively with civilians – especially those of African-American ethnicity – creates an even larger divide between the people and the law, especially after the dramatic events in Ferguson, Missouri last year. Music has provided a powerful platform for hitting back at these events: Nina Simone's 'Strange Fruit' had new life breathed into it by Kanye West on his Yeezus album, while the lyrically diverse Californian rapper Kendrick Lamar tackles racism head-on in his latest single 'The Blacker The Berry', and references the classic Harper Lee novel 'To Kill A Mockingbird' in his album title. Unsurprisingly, these singles and a plethora of others are laden with the N-word; but as mentioned above, the 21st century context has diminished the shock factor of it.

But this still doesn't answer the question at the centre of this article. What should my attitudes be towards this word, that some people view as a nonchalant greeting and others view as a linguistic symbol for centuries of suffering? What should I do when I want to sing or rap along to the words of a song that's crammed with racial slurs and street names for illicit

substances? It is certain that ignoring the problem is simply not the answer; this will just lead to the word becoming even more uncomfortable and taboo than it is currently. Yet for white rappers there seems to be a tacit understanding of the respect needed: Eminem, the most financially successfully hip-hop artist of all time, sold 150 million records without mentioning the word.

Taking into account the above information, it is reasonable to ascertain that the most feasible yet sensitive conclusion to arrive at is this: a young white individual shouldn't have to censor their speech while reciting rap lyrics, but they must acknowledge that they are wearing a mask: they've entered a context wherein the original lyricist had written the lines with the experience of being part of the black culture. This acknowledgement also comes with the consideration needed to understand that the word carries different meanings to different people, and that the unconscious insertion of the word into everyday dialogue would be undoubtedly a mistake. This is a discussion revolving around respect: and an understanding that, black or white on the outside, we're all the same on the inside.

By Ruben Seaton (Year 12)

DEPUTY HEAD REPORTS



Deputy Head Pastoral: Peter Ayling

ANZAC DAY MARCH

The Anzac Day March will be held the first weekend back for Term 2 on Saturday 25 April.

Oxley College students have traditionally been involved with the Anzac Day Services held in our local area and our focus this year will be the Services held at Bowral. A Dawn Service will occur at the Bowral War Memorial at 5:50am on Saturday 25 April and this will be followed by the main Service that commences with a march at 10:35am followed by a Service at War Memorial Park commencing at 11:00am. At this Service a wreath will be laid by our Head Boy and Head Girl.

I encourage students who are in the area on Anzac Day to join in the march. This is not a compulsory event, however we have traditionally had a large presence at this event. We believe as a College this is something special that we should all attend and I hope you will be able to join us on the day.

The details are: Venue: Coles Car Park

Time: 10:00am

Dress: Oxley College winter uniform

The march will conclude at the Bowral War Memorial Park and is followed immediately by the Anzac Service. The Service should conclude just before 12 noon.

I look forward to seeing many Oxley students as we take time to pause and reflect.

Anzac Day is one of those times we pause to remember our conflicts. We reflect on the bravery, the sacrifice, the freedom, the grief and the loss. We are reminded that Anzac Day is also an occasion to reflect on our History. It is a day much associated with rituals and symbols and we have the opportunity to again reflect on the sacrifices of our forebears, including some of our own families.

We will hold our own Anzac Day Assembly at the College on Tuesday 21 April.

Student Volunteers

Throughout the year we often ask for volunteers to assist at numerous events. Below is an extract from a staff member who attended the Cross Country event.

I just wanted to acknowledge what a great assistant Dylan Whitelaw was at the ISA XC Carnival at Chevalier College. Dylan arrived on time and was genuinely keen to assist. He showed initiative constantly throughout the day and anticipated the needs of competitors and of the staff that he was working with. He was familiar with who he needed to go to for information and how to contact people, and he learnt processes very quickly. Dylan also stayed until the conclusion of the event after most people had left, helping pack up the school trailer and was enthusiastic to the very end.

It was a real pleasure working with such a responsible, diligent student and I wanted to just recognise his friendly, capable and approachable manner.

I would like also like to acknowledge all volunteers who assisted at the recent Equestrian Day.

Deputy Head Learning: Kate Cunich

Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students will be involved in NAPLAN assessment in Week 4 next term, with Year 11 sitting Half Yearly examinations in Week 3 and Years 8 and 10 examinations in Week 7.

NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programmes. Parents will receive a report indicating their child's level of achievement. Each student's level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

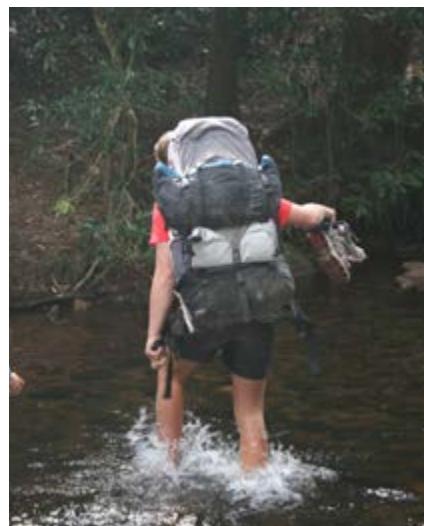
Student background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Programme. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student's right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 12-14 May 2015.

TUESDAY 12 MAY	WEDNESDAY 13 MAY	THURSDAY 14 MAY
Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) Writing	Reading	Numeracy

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



DUKE OF ED

With the mixture of gazing at the beautiful night sky with sparkling stars, the sense of achievement after conquering some pretty steep hills with heavy packs and the friendship formed with the stray dog "Geoff" or "Felipe" as the two groups liked to call him, we feel confident in saying that some great memories were made at the recent Duke of Ed hike.

This year, there were so many new students committing to the Duke of Ed programme, that the camp had to be split into two groups although both groups completed the same journey. There is a lot of preparation involved prior to attending the Duke of Ed hike; creating a meal plan, hiring packs and checking tents. This preparation took up many weeks before the hike. After school on Friday afternoon, students participating in the Duke of Ed hike jumped on the bus, eager to begin our weekend adventure. We arrived in Kangaroo Valley at the campsite that would mark the beginning of our journey.

We woke up early and hiked for most of the day, climbing up the steep hill. Through the guidance of our Lands Edge leaders and the Oxley teachers, we worked together as a team and navigated our way along the track, learning many new map and compass skills along the way. We arrived at our campsite and walked to a spring where we collected and purified water ready to cook dinner. We finished the day with games of capture the flag and

spotlight. The next day we again got up early, turned around and hiked back down the steep hill, returning to where we started from. The bus was there, waiting to return us back to Oxley.

Over the course of the three days and two nights, we walked fifty thousand steps, twenty kilometres and climbed an incline of two hundred and fifty flights of stairs. This hike would not have happened if it weren't for the efforts of Ms Smart, Mr Dibdin and Mr Campbell. Thank you for all your hard work in helping us prepare and complete one of our hikes for the adventurous journey section of our Duke of Ed award. The fun times and memories we had will stay with us for a lifetime.

By Olivia Donovan (Year 9) and Izzy Knowles (Year 10)

MUNA

The Model United Nations Assembly.

The Oxley teams' performances at MUNA were fantastic. All six students should be very proud of what they achieved in this highly competitive forum.

Russia (J Pryor, M Hutchings, A Cocks) held the floor for most of the day but gave way to China (SHCS) in the end for the major prize.

However, Afghanistan (K Allen, J Scandrett, K Scholes) was awarded the Peace Prize, which was a wonderful acknowledgement of their work.

PARK RUN

On your Saturday mornings, when you are sleeping in or reading a book, you could be running! Our community is so lucky to have the amazing organisation "Park Run" which occurs every Saturday morning, 8:00am at The Briars. Recently, Jade Gillis finished 2nd out of the women with a time of 23:31 and Mr Bevan finished 3rd overall. Well done to everyone who participated!

We would love it if more of the Oxley community could get involved! Get some of your friends to join you for a nice 5km morning run. And I'll tell you this; there is nothing better than a run in the morning to wake you up. (And maybe some bacon and eggs after you have finished...) We look forward to seeing you there!

Follow this link to register online.
<http://www.parkrun.com.au/bowral/>

If you would like to know more feel free to contact me!

By Heidi Bevan (Year 11)



Poetry Week

When judges start rating poetry performances 15 out of ten, you know they are getting into the fun and excitement of poetry. This is exactly what Oxley kids experienced during the Poetry Slam at the end of Poetry Week. The canteen area was filled with an expectant audience who sat patiently awaiting each performance. Judges were chosen at random to rate the contestants performance out of 10. There was lots of laughter and some very inspiring poets.

Thanks to the workshops we were able to participate in throughout poetry week, many budding poets have discovered their new talent. We were lucky enough to work with companies such as "Word Travels" and "The Red Room Company". In one workshop, we participated in our own mini poetry slam, where less confident poets could share their work.

Oxley also held a poetry competition. Everyone was encouraged to hand in a poem of their own. The winners from both spoken and written poems from each year have probably already been announced!

This week has shone a new light on poetry. Hopefully the workshops have wiped away the negative stereotypes and labels that people can have about poetry and the spoken word.

Poetry is more than words on a piece of paper or writing on a page. Poetry is the expression of what we are passionate about, what we love. If I had to sum up poetry week in a quote, it'd be 'anybody is capable of it, but only some of us are brave enough'. We learnt this week that poetry is breaking out of your comfort zone and delving into something deeper. Anybody can talk, but only some of us can speak.

By Izzy Knowles and Ella Moran
(Year 10)

Metamorphosis

I became a man

What was there, - the innocence, - is no more

The child, the kid, the boy that had main presence... is gone.

Disappeared into a world of brutality, violence and where age and popularity and looks determine the life of you and your peers.

Now it's all screams and violence that I hear.

Now it's all pain, weary and rage that I feel.

The constant hits and streams of blood I can't deal!

What happened... the life of a boy where nothing mattered except fun and toys?

What happened!

What happened to the games of hide and seek and digging in the sand.

Now, in my hand I'm holding the knife that cut and split apart the lives of childhood and being a man.

What isn't noticed is the rapid metamorphosis of the human mind and body from babies to corpses.

Once you're there and it's too late to go back is when you realise that something has changed... our lives have been rearranged into a way that's either good or bad but for the unlucky ones life... got deranged.

From innocence and fun to violence and struggle and the fight to be in the essence... of life.

But it's fine, because apparently what matters is what people think I am... a man.

By Cedric Hely (Year 10) as spoken at the Poetry Slam

P & F

The Oxley Equestrian Day has to date been the major fundraiser for the P&F. But more than that, the day is a wonderful example of community and cooperation.

Thank you Sally Quirico for the time and effort you and your family put into this annual event. Her months of dedication and organisation culminated in another successful Oxley Equestrian Day. Thank you also to Sally's team of parents, friends and families for giving their assistance on the day. Additionally our thanks goes to Tom Isakson and his team for keeping the humans fed and watered.

P&F Meeting: 5 May 2015. David Wright Library

K-6 Mother's Day Stall: 8 May 2015. We would LOVE to get some dads together to organise a Mother's Day morning tea. All interested please contact Cindy Pryma

cindyp@meridian.com.au.



REVIEW: OXLEY SENIOR PRODUCTION



The play was a British farce along the lines of Faulty Towers and our familiarity with the escalating disastrous situation was part of the appeal. The witty and hilarious jokes made everyone laugh out loud! It was lighthearted, a little naughty, lots of fun and perfect entertainment for the end of the week.

The props and costumes were all expertly designed and the lighting was well done. The actors did a brilliant job - their timing was excellent. I particularly liked the character of George Pigeon, watching him develop into a fully fledged ladies man willing to make "mad passionate love" to any woman he encountered. The whole cast didn't miss a beat and were wonderful to watch. When it came to an end, I didn't want it to stop. It was a brilliant play and really enjoyable. By Savannah Sandilands (Year 8)

BASTILLE DAY



This is a special year for us as Bastille Day, Tuesday 14 July (or la Fête Nationale for the French) is actually in Term 3, not in the holidays.

So we are planning wonderful celebrations at Oxley College on Tuesday 14 July, the second day of Term 3.

- It will be a Mufti Day and students will dress in blue, white and red, the colours of France. There will be a gold coin donation to participate and this money will go to charity.
- We will have French food on sale in the canteen, cooked and prepared by our wonderful Catherine Fraser and her team.
- The music at recess and lunchtime will be French and our own Mr Hughes will be the travelling minstrel, playing his piano accordion.

It would be exciting if our Francophile fathers and mothers could form a committee in early Term 2 to plan a couple of stalls for lunchtime on 14 July, maybe making crêpes or selling madeleines or other cakes. Please send me an email Roslyn.Hamilton@oxley.nsw.edu.au

AND...

In order to involve the whole of the Senior School, we invite students to.....

WRITE A THOUGHT-PROVOKING ESSAY...

• Topic : "How is it that the values of the French Revolution (which officially began on 14 July, 1789) still affects my life in the modern world?

- 800 words
- Prize \$100
- Presentation of prize will be by a revolutionary
- Due date is Monday 15 June, 2015 to Student Services
- Essays will be double marked

The winning essay will be read at assembly so that everyone can learn.

Parents, please encourage your students to participate. This is a great way to communicate with your children and to help them to form their own opinions.

Roslyn Hamilton

GALLERY



APRIL CALENDAR

 <p>There has been a slight change in the Shop opening times these holidays. They are now: Monday 13 April, Tuesday 14 April and Thursday 16 April. 8.30am – 4pm.</p>		Mon Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Hike Drama tour to Melbourne 06	Mon 13	Mon Term 2 Commences Exc: Year 11 Biology Local Ecosystem Study, Sydney 20
	Tue Year 12 DT HSC Holiday Workshop 07	Tue		Tue
	Wed Year 12 DT HSC Holiday Workshop 08	Wed		Wed Exc: Year 7 Geography to Mt. Keira Years 2-6 SHIPS Cross Country, Gib Gate 22
Thu 02	Thu	Thu		Thu
	09		16	23
Fri Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Hike 03	Fri	Fri		Fri KSG Apeldoorn Dutch visitors. 23-30 April Sport: visit by Beaulieu College, South Africa (3:30pm) 24
Sat Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Hike Drama tour to Melbourne 04	Sat	Sat		Sat ANZAC DAY 25
Sun Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Hike Drama tour to Melbourne 05	Sun	Sun		Sun
	12		19	26

Upcoming events

- + Tuesday 28 April
 - + Wednesday 29 April
 - + Thursday 30 April
 - + Friday 01 May
- Exc: Year 10 Food Technology to Gumnut Patisserie, Mittagong
 Exc: Years 5-6, NSW da Vinci Decathlon
 Exc: Year 12 Geography, Ecosystems at Risk
 KSG Apeldoorn Dutch visitors farewell BBQ, 5:30pm
 Exc: Years 7-8 NSW da Vinci Decathlon
 Exc: Years 9-10 NSW da Vinci Decathlon
 Junior Production Opening Night, Hoskins Hall (details tba)

Sport



SPORTSMAN: Ben Quirico

PO: What age did you begin horse riding?

BQ: I began horse riding at four years old.

PO: What competitions have you entered recently?

BQ: I have entered in eventing and have competed in the Australian Inter – School championships and the Nationals in Victoria.

PO: What is your favourite type of horse riding?

BQ: My favourite is cross-country because it gives you an adrenaline rush and its fun.

PO: How did you begin horse riding?

BQ: My grandma bought me a pony and I have been riding ever since.

PO: How many horses do you own?

BQ: My family owns five horses.

PO: How many hours do you ride a week?

BQ: I ride one and a half hours every afternoon and compete on the weekends.

PO: What age did you start to get serious / enter competitions?

BQ: I started to enter competitions at about 10 years old.

PO: What do you like about equestrian?

BQ: I like how it is different and as I live on a property it makes it easier for me to ride, and its FUN!

PO: Why would you recommend equestrian?

BQ: You meet lots of new people, its rewarding, and you make a strong bond and partnership with your horse.

By Bronte Smith and Riley Kennedy – Moore (Year 8)

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK Annabel Arnot

CIS Swimming



Annabel Arnot (Year 2) represented ISA in the 50m Freestyle for 8 year old girls at the CIS Swimming Carnival. Annabel came 3rd in her heat and overall 13th. This is a wonderful achievement.

Jade Gillis

Jade Gillis (Year 8) has qualified to represent ISA at the NSW CIS swimming championships on Thursday 30 April at Sydney Olympic park Aquatic Center.

TEAM OF THE WEEK

A team comprised of Oxley students coached by Mitchell Bancroft (Year 12) won their basketball grand final at Moss Vale Stadium last Friday 27 March.

SNOWSPORT SEASON



Winter has arrived and it is time to prepare for the 2015 Snowsports season. From the number of students expressing high interest in Snowsports on the Sports Selection Handbook, it looks as though we will have a competitive team. Oxley College in the past, has done exceptionally well at the Interschools Snowsports Competition, in all disciplines. Students interested in Snowsports are encouraged to view the Snowsports page on the website and download the Snowsports Information Pack and return the expression of interest form to the Sports Department.

The Snowsports link is <http://oxleylearning.org/portal/co-curricular/sport/snow-sports/>

2015 Dates of Competition

- Northern NSW & QLD Championships - July 1-4 @ Perisher
- NSW & ACT Cross Country Championships - August 25 @ Perisher
- NSW State Championships - August 27-30 @ Perisher
- Australian Championships - September 9-13 @ Mt Buller