

# PIN OAK

ISSUE 02: Term 3, August 8 2014



On the Branch



Sports News



K-6

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## Editor's Letters

Ruben Seaton

Editor

**BREAKING NEWS:** Life-saving new medicine to cure all maladies discovered at Oxley College. The medicine, aptly named 'Vitamin O', was curated by chemist/magician Professor T Bevan, in the mysterious caverns of Lab 2. Initial reports of this so-called 'miracle drug' are shady, but rumours are that it was made from a compound of veggie garden carrot juice and the sweat of the 1st XV rugby team. The effects of the elixir are staggering; tests show that it cures the deadly 'Monday-itis' disease, while when taken with a dose of Mr Craig's modern history classes, it is said to raise one's IQ by 40 points. Mass production of the drug has begun in the Oxley Canteen (along with the Oxley Burger from last issue, of course), as much-loved nurse Ms Wendy Dowling sadly departs the College, probably to pursue a career in Vitamin O manufacturing. Purchase a trial dosage from Pin Oak Pharmaceuticals of Vitamin O: 50% carrot juice, 50% rugby sweat, 100% Oxley.

Annabel Santo

Editor

I'd like to thank everyone for the incredible words of support and appreciation about the first edition of the Pin Oak; hopefully we can surpass the precedent! For this issue, we're providing you with articles concerning the new HECS arrangements outlined in the government budget as well as neophobia and cultural diversity in foods.

Neophobia is defined as the irrational fear of trying something new, and though Evangeline's article discusses the phobia relating to trying new cultural foods, one can also draw a parallel to the establishment of the Pin Oak. If Mr Parker, Miss Lanser and Mrs Calver everyone on the Pin Oak team suffered from neophobia, the magazine would not be the success that it is. So I would encourage you to try something new, whether it is a new culture's food, beginning to challenge the government's new HECS agreement, or read a column of this edition that wouldn't normally pique your interest.

# Headmaster's Report

## BOOKED UP

Oxley wide reading; 'Booked Up'; is launched this week. It is our passionate attempt to get as many students reading as much as possible.

We think that reading is one of the great joys and vital skills for life in the twenty first century. In a world awash with Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and the Kardashians, all of which require a concentration span of about ten point five seconds each, the skill of actually sitting down and reading the pages of a book is more important than ever. Reading enlarges us. It lets us into the world of the writer and simultaneously exercises our own imagination far more than any other medium. It helps us understand the world and each other. This is true for both fiction and non-fiction. And it is a great pleasure that we can take through life. I suspect I am, in the main, preaching to the choir here, but it is important to know why we at Oxley feel that reading is so vital.

So how does 'Booked Up' work?

**Selection:** Firstly, we have only selected fifteen books per year. This is enough books to have variety, yet few enough to create a critical mass of interest. When too many books are recommended, it feels so overwhelming that kids can turn off. We can 'push' these fifteen books quite hard.

We have also made sure that the books are as close to 'sure fire things' as we can get. Although not every book can be for everyone, we have done our best to pick books that have been recently or enduringly popular. I have spoken individually to many hundreds of students about their favourite books in the last few years, and this is our Librarian's, Elizabeth Antoniak's whole job. We will keep speaking with students about each book regularly. If one turns out not to be a sure fire thing, we will get rid of it and replace it with something else- based on advice from the students. We will keep refreshing the list regardless.

**Lots of copies:** Secondly we have bought eight copies of each of the books. There is nothing worse than having a book recommended to you, only to find that the one copy in the library is out. Seven copies of the book can be out and there will still be one for your son or daughter. If it turns out that some books are particularly popular, we will buy more copies of them- enough to satisfy the demand. If it means we end up having thirty copies of 'The Fault in Our Stars', then so be it.

**Sell job:** Next week we are 'selling' the books to the students in a series of 'slam book plugs' for each year group. In a slam book plug, teachers, senior students and I get one minute each to promote books from the list that we love. If we go over a minute we are gonged off by a giant gong (think the old 'rank arena' ads). We have also created a weebly website with links to all of the books.



**Olympic Events or reluctant readers:** Keen, avid and/or able readers may have already read many of the books we offer. So we have created a subcategory of 'Olympic Event' books (Bronze, Silver and Gold) which should stretch and fascinate these readers. And, of course, there is the rest of the library. We are also aware that some students struggle with reading. There is a range on the list itself, but Ms Antoniak, the Librarian, is ready to swap with some other high interest, easier language books for these students.

**Follow up:** All of the English teachers will be taking their classes to the Library each fortnight to change the books. This means there will be a constant flow. In addition, we are working on initiatives in Tutor groups (such as 'Drop Everything and Read' sessions) to keep the enthusiasm going.

Some of the follow up would also occur at home. I will separately send you an email about this next week. However, the whole scheme is more likely to work with your child if you show an active interest in what they are reading, read yourself (prominently and in front of them) and set aside a time each night where they are supposed to be reading.

It is worth noting that just because we are pushing these fifteen books per year group, it doesn't mean that other books are off limits. Indeed we want students to read as widely and eclectically as possible. There are thousands of other books on the library's bookshelves aching to be read. We hope that for many students the 'Booked Up' program will act as a gateway to these other books.

We believe that a strong reading habit is an important part of the enlightened education that Oxley is passionate about providing your child. We are excited about it and will be pulling out the stops in the next few weeks to make sure that it flies.

# Big Issue: Student Loans



The recently released 'horror' budget handed down by the Abbott government has had slightly more than temporary effects. It has left sectors of the nation believing they will be worse off with cuts, broken election promises and increases to marginal tax rates. Public dissatisfaction and fear is running high, however consumer confidence has started to marginally improve.

Various sections of the economy have begun to apparently feel the effects of the proposed budget measure. Doctors have reported a fall in appointments. Consumer sentiment has taken a hit, several ASX companies have downgraded earnings and even in our local community, one business has blamed the Federal Budget for their closure. But what does it mean for students?

The HECS-HELP scheme (formerly HECS) is a student loan offering students the opportunity to pursue tertiary education while allowing the fees to be repaid at a later date, subject to conditions.

Albert Einstein once said compound interest was the most powerful force in the universe, and university students are about to experience it. Changes in the Budget to HECS and student loans now means universities and institutions will be able to determine fees charged to students. Currently, courses are

partially subsidised but from 2016, these subsidies will be reduced.

**“Albert Einstein once said compound interest was the most powerful force in the universe, and university students are about to experience it”**

Certain courses will also see funding slashed at a higher rate than other courses. There is presently no additional interest rate on student loans, except they are indexed to inflation. Post-budget, an interest rate will be implemented on outstanding student loans. This rate would also be indexed to the 10 year Commonwealth bond rate (circa 4%, to a maximum of 6%). With many economists predicting interest rates to remain steady or even decrease slightly, the bond rate may slightly decrease, while remaining stable, but in the longer term, higher interest rates will mean lower bond rates.

Changes are also being made to the minimum income threshold requirements for loan repayments. Currently, the income threshold at which repayments start is \$56,000 in 2016, however changes will mean this will decrease to \$50,638 at a 2% rate, meaning 2% of your income will be repaid. Not only do the changes affect current and future students, but past students as well with outstanding HECS-HELP debt.

Some are concerned that the increased fees may deter students from pursuing tertiary education. This will no doubt have an effect on the fees that will need to be repaid in the future. This could pose a disadvantage especially to travellers who may take time off, but also to less advantaged students. Other factors such as the prospect of finding a suitable job may affect the time it takes for students to pay off their fees as interest accumulates on the debt. The changes are however pending approval in the Senate.

These changing conditions will no doubt have an effect on students as they contemplate their choice of courses or whether a university degree would offer them the financial security it once did to their parents.

By Ryan Tan

## Deputy Head Learning: Kate Cunich

There is no greater inspiration for a teacher than to sit with students as they have those "a-haa" moments or when they get absorbed in the flow of imagination. Last week we caught a glimpse of this at the K – 6 Assembly as Year 1 children shared their dreams through narrative. We were transported to a place of wonder:

"If I had a farm, I would have a unicorn and a Pegasus. I would fly my unicorn every day. My Pegasus would have a nice, yellow mane, fur as white as snow and as soft as a baby's blanket.

... and another burst of imagination ...

### **The weather in my bath tub.**

"In my bathtub, the water is rainbow, the shower rains green jellybeans and I have chocolate muffins for soap. When I turn the cold tap on, candy canes come out and when I turn on the hot tap, it rains hot chocolate. My bath toys are gingerbread and the towels are coated in milo, they are so warm and sometimes it's cold! Sometimes I sleep in my bath and then it's morning."

We must be ever mindful of the place of wonder and curiosity in our lives each day and as a school it is vital

to provide opportunities for students to develop and explore those big ideas.

Sir Ken Robinson is world renowned for his thought-provoking views on schools and creativity. He challenges us to protect the passion of the early years throughout the learning journey to university. As we review our programming at Oxley, we are conscious of the need to both stretch and support young minds and to this end we continue to look at ways of promoting deeper thinking.

It was very encouraging to see the healthy attendance at last week's 2015 information sessions for Year 8, 10 and 11 students and parents. We are most impressed with the way our students are approaching the making of significant decisions in regards to their programs of studies. We are keen to encourage students to set themselves a challenge that extends them beyond their expectations, to organise their time in a way that will enable the achievement of those goals and to provide encouragement along the way.

For the first time at Oxley, Year 10 and Year 11 students are participating in Morrisby testing this week as another measure to support their preparation for senior studies and their futures. The tests will explore personality, abilities and interests to aid in university and career selection. Both students and parents will receive feedback that should assist with a great understanding of self and strengths.

## Deputy Head Pastoral: Peter Ayling

### **Cyber Safety**

The Australian Federal Police give their Top Ten Tips for Our Youth. Although these tips may seem quite straight forward if our students were able to follow these simple suggestions it would help to avoid many poor decisions some students end up making. I would encourage you to have this discussion with your children and help to reduce potential issues that may arise when online.

[http://www.afp.gov.au/policing/cybercrime/~media/afp/pdf/c/cyber-safety-top-10-tips-for-youth.ashx](http://www.afp.gov.au/policing/cybercrime/~/media/afp/pdf/c/cyber-safety-top-10-tips-for-youth.ashx)

### **Developing your child's positive social values**

Positive social values – such as honesty, compassion, kindness, cooperation, acceptance of difference, respect and friendliness – foster harmonious and caring relationships between people. There are so many positive Service Learning Programs in our school and this site explores developing positive social values that many of our students at Oxley already display.

<http://www.safeschoolshub.edu.au/for-parents/your-part/developing-your-child's-positive-social-values/>



### **Oxley College Pipe Band**

We are seeking keen and interested students who may wish to be involved in Pipe Band. Do you want to learn to play the bagpipes or drums and become part of the inaugural Oxley College Pipe Band?

If we find we have enough interest we will then look to employing a Tutor to undertake the role of establishing a Pipe Band. If you are interested please email Student Services at [office@oxley.nsw.edu.au](mailto:office@oxley.nsw.edu.au)



*“There is no sincerer love than the love of food.” GEORGE BERNARD SHAW*

For all, food is the basis of life – it sustains us and helps us to conquer each day. For many, food is only this and appears to be no more important than the air we breathe or the water from our kitchen taps. We think nothing of it. We ignore that the necessity of food is merely a small portion of its importance. Perhaps you are someone who realises that food forms part of the basis of communities, families, nations and friendships. Food connects us. With a growing population and barely enough agricultural land to sustain us, it's time we really assess the future of food. However, along the way we mustn't lose sight of food's ability to develop our respect and connect us.

I have been privileged to live a life in which I have been exposed to many different cuisines and cultures. My parents believe in shaping me into a young woman who can appreciate the world as a wonderfully exciting place filled with stories, people and food. I have travelled, not extensively, but enough to appreciate the complexity of the worldwide community and discover it through street stalls in Vietnam, vendors in Laos, markets in Marseille, tapas bars in Barcelona and restaurants in Vancouver. I love visiting the suburbs of Sydney: Lakemba, Auburn, Cabramatta, Liverpool and Alexandria where one can taste the flavours of the world. It is an incredible thought that everyone in the world uses 80% of the same ingredients (I made up that statistic, but it feels like it!) and yet every country and every home creates completely unique dishes.

Last year in a Personal Interest Project I surveyed 175 people from around the world and discovered that in fact after my best efforts that food choice was not a topic one can truly categorise and analyse. That is in some ways disappointing and in some ways just as inspiring, because it shows that food is individual and unique to us all.

My survey determined 67% participants born in Australia had narrow diets as children and only 14% had wide diets, showing many have only a very small cultural range in their diets. To classify as a wide diet, participants had to record 3 or more different cultures in their descriptions. For me, these are disheartening figures for a multicultural country as I think it is sad that as children we aren't exposed to a diverse range of foods beyond our familial boundaries.

*“Neophobia is a reluctance to try new foods and as we all know, it is very common in children.”*

From my primary school days of being “the kid with the coolest (sometimes weirdest) lunch” I have witnessed the development of my friends' taste buds. As we've grown older my friends and I have become more game to try unusual options and this delights me no end. Neophobia is a reluctance to try new foods and as we all know, it is very common in children. However, it is a legitimate psychological issue in teens and adults

“not sure whether to put the bean sprouts in the pancake or the congee, ask.”

too. As discussed by psychologist writer Malcolm Gladwell, humans have a tendency to dislike and hate things that are outside of our comfort zone, to add to this we make snap judgments about new things we encounter and often we can be stuck with those first impressions for many years.

Thus, it is important to make a conscious effort to overcome these aversions to certain foods for their initially odd texture, taste or look. It is said we have to try a new food 10 times before our brain can make a proper assessment of whether we like the food or not. From my research I can conclude that our diet's change in depth and in a sense, 'colour' as we age. Between childhood and the present it seems that the number of people with 'moderate' or 'wide' diets grew. This major change is due to four chief reasons: exposure, health, a change of location and diet choice to vegetarianism or other. In my survey, almost 40% of people's diets widened considerably.

The cultural appropriation of food has come under fire of late with TV shows like Masterchef and "fusion" restaurants putting forward visages of "improving" traditional dishes. Trying new foods has to be done with a few things in mind. Firstly, research – take the time to google, read or ask about the cultures or areas certain foods have come from. To ignore a dish and consequently a person's background is dehumanising. Secondly, change is ok – the most amazing aspect of culture is that it is constantly changing and we should embrace that. As much as the "authentic" hundred-year-old version is

exciting, so is the fusion that someone created yesterday. Soleil Ho, an American freelance writer sarcastically comments on a widely held opinion, "After all, a thing can't be "authentic" if it's allowed the power to change." As long as change is backed up by research and respect, your appreciation of food from all over is perfectly justified. Thirdly, there is no hierarchy – old versus new, one country versus another, traditional versus fusion – each is of equal significance. Food outside of our comfort zone is no less important because to someone else it is special. Finally, no one knows everything – no matter how much pho you eat you will not know everything about Vietnamese cuisine and culture. Neither does a Vietnamese person. Cultures are ever changing and so complex, no one person could ever know the entirety of them, so enjoy the snippets you do know but don't overestimate your knowledge into something it is not.

May I recommend that you buy a copy of SMH Good Food under \$30 Guide (because the less fancy options are usually often the most thrilling) and make a conscious effort to change your usual Sydney haunt for a more unique option some time. Order a meal of which you don't recognise all the ingredients. When it arrives and you're not sure whether to put the bean sprouts in the pancake or the congee, ask. The waiter will be more than happy to explain it to you; in fact they will likely be excited that you even bothered to be interested. Enjoy the opportunity to be momentarily part of something different, because there is no sincerer love than the love of food.



## Week 3 Awards

### Students of the Week

K: Sienna Wimborne, Yr 1: Abi Hunt, Yr 2: Asher Biddlecombe, Yr 3: Bronte Johnson, Yr 4: Rosie Phelan, Yr 5: Rose Barnett, Yr 6: Nicholas Lamrock-George

### Respect Self

K: Harry Kean, Yr 1: Luca Colloridi, Yr 2: Luca Janjic, Yr 3: Elena Parker, Yr 4: Lily Schweitzer, Yr 5: Georgia Cheaib, Yr 6: Thom Jackson



## Year 1

This term, Year 1 are exploring all different aspects of weather, seasons and environments. The students have been writing amazing poems and stories, painting seasonal images and exploring how the weather affects plants and animals. They are improving in reading and writing and making connections in their learning.



I like sheep

Any kind of sheep  
Blue sheep, red sheep, green sheep,  
wooden sheep, fat sheep.  
A sheep in a paddock.  
A sheep on the farm.  
A sheep in the wood.  
A sheep in the tree.  
Shiny sheep, woolly sheep,  
Any kind of sheep.  
I like sheep.

By Jack Rendell



## Week 4 Awards

### Students of the Week

K: Noah Byrne, Yr 1: Maximo Ramos, Yr 2: Asher Biddlecombe, Yr 3: Oliver Janjic, Yr 4: Hamish Tregenza, Yr 5: Jack Crowley, Yr 6: Hugh Callaghan

### Respect Others

K: Jaxon Nonnenmacher, Yr 1: Lily Smith, Yr 2: Oliver Deakin, Yr 3: Maya Cleary, Yr 4: Sophie Biddlecombe, Yr 5: Olivia Pride, Yr 6: Olivia Pike



## Year 3

Year 3 have been learning about procedural texts. Students have examined purpose, audience and written and spoken features of a procedure. Year 3 have used procedures to produce origami art and they have written and produced a Year 3 book of favourite chocolate recipes!





## ALBUM REVIEW

SEA OF APPROVAL

ANDY BULL

★★★

Five years ago, Andy Bull entered a guitar-pop chrysalis after the release of his first album, *We're Too Young*, and in the time of his social isolation, the Melbourne-based singer underwent a most remarkable metamorphosis.

His second album, *Sea of Approval*, is as close to an existential journey you can get without stepping into a philosophy class. Bull chose the arduous task of writing and producing almost all of the album himself. This is a task that pays dividends in the context of the silky-voice seducer wanting to express himself, but the album often feels cluttered and lost; a fantasy where Bull is the king and his listeners are simply onlookers.

His fresh take on electro-pop is intriguing on no-doubt classics such as 'Keep On Running', but later in the album when he asks "Do I look sane to you?", you can't help but think that this isn't a rhetorical question. So, how did Andy Bull emerge from his chrysalis? Probably not as a magnificent Ulysses butterfly, but still pretty enough for you to pause and appreciate.

By Ruben Seaton



## SPOTLIGHT

ARTIST:

ED BOWYER

Genre: Electronic

**Pin Oak:** When did you start playing? What got you interested in making music?

**Edward Bowyer:** I started producing last year. It was all the really heavy bass producers who got me into it. I was just fascinated how they made all their sounds, as it was nothing like I'd ever heard before.

**PO:** What attracts you to make music in the electronic genre?

**EB:** There are just so many possibilities to explore and no sound is the same; there's just so much depth and variety.

**PO:** Who do you consider as your influences?

**EB:** There's so many... To name a few: Wave Racer, Cosmos Midnight, Daft Punk, Hayden James, Dillon Francis and What So Not. But there are so many more!!

**PO:** If you could swap lives with any musician in the world, who would it be and why?

**EB:** Wave Racer. When I saw him live he had so much energy and he has such a unique and original style. That's probably my strongest musical memory.

**PO:** In your opinion, best album of all time?

**EB:** A Daft Punk compilation album – *Musique Vol. 1* 1993-2005.

**PO:** How do you see the current state of electronic music in Australia?

**EB:** To me, it's an unstoppable force that will only grow stronger.

**PO:** Kanye West: love him or hate him?

**EB:** Love to hate him.



## INÈS GROS

The Exchange Frenchie

**PinOak: Where are you from?**

Ines Gros: Luxeuil les Bains in France.

**PO: What attracted you to visit Australia on your exchange?**

Ines Gros: It was an English speaking country in the Southern hemisphere, and looked like a good opportunity to discover a new place.

**PO: Did you always want to go on a school exchange?**

Ines Gros: Since I was younger I always wanted to live in another country and discover new places.

**PO: Describe Vegemite in one word.**

Ines Gros: Horrible, is there fish in it?!

**PO: How different is school in Australia than school in France?**

Ines Gros: Yes it is very different, French classes are more like lectures so it is more interesting to learn here!

**PO: How many packets of Tim-tams will you be smuggling back into France when you leave?**

Ines Gros: I think definitely 4!

**PO: For any student that wants to go on exchange what company did you use?**

Ines Gros: Southern Cross cultural exchange.

**PO: What is the most Australian sentence you can think of?**

Ines Gros: « Put a snag on the BBQ !»



## JORDAN ALEXANDER

The National Herefords Australia Youth Show was held at Melbourne show grounds on Thursday 10 to 12 July 2014. Thirty six Hereford Australia youth participants from Tasmania, NSW & Victoria competed for prizes across a program consisting of judging, showmanship and heifer classes over a 3 day program. Jordan Alexander, Year 8, was named Junior Champion Handler leading her heifer, Kanimbla Miss K.

The handler classes are judged on a participants ability to show and present knowledge of the heifer. Jordan won her Junior Handlers heat and was then awarded the Herefords Australia National Youth Junior Champion Handler award.

In awarding Jordan the judge praised Jordan as being an outstanding handler. Jordan was also successful in the heifer, junior judging, herdsman and photography classes winning numerous classes including Champion Photo.



## HARRY JENSEN

On Friday 18 July, I had the honor of representing Oxley College at the NSW All Schools CHS PSSA Cross Country Championships.

To reach this level, I had to successfully compete at the Oxley, SHIPS, HICES and CIS carnivals, with each event getting harder and more intense.

Over 4 months, I trained with school mates and my coach, Mr Whetton. I completed holiday training sessions at Easter and over the winter break.

Some mornings were extremely cold, even below 0 degrees, running on frost and in high wind. On a family holiday in New Zealand, I also ran on snowy rugby fields!

I ran a total of 100km in order to be well prepared. The All Schools Carnival was particularly challenging, with 82 of the very best Under 11 runners from across NSW competing. I overtook many competitors, and placed 53rd overall. The training for these events taught me to never give up, to set myself high goals and that if I prepare well I can achieve good results. Thank you to my parents, siblings and all my school mates who supported me by making cards, cheering me on and encouraging me.

Harry Jensen



## THE ARTS

### Graffiti is an Art

The streets of Melbourne are crawling with messages of peace, hate and layers and layers of neon-coloured art. With certain streets marked as official places to make into an unofficial art gallery, the lively colours are definitely insta-worthy. Hosier Lane is one of the more popular alleyways.

The art splattered on the walls consists of stencil-graffiti, paste-ups and ornate spray-painted murals. The act of tagging (writing nicknames on walls) is illegal. Even if it is next to good street art, no matter how loud it screams, the street art will always win the prize. This new wave of street art has become a culture with its worth being recognised by the public.

The walls are constantly changing; the icons a constant comment on today's politics. At one point, every artwork in Hosier Lane featured sewn lips and barbed wire for Australia's refugee policy. These statements have been given a place to stay and grow. The urban art that was once viewed as an act of vandalism has been embraced into the stylish arms of the city.

By Emma Croker



## TECH WIZARDS

### 92.5 Youth Radio

92.5 is a youth run radio station founded by Robert Barrett. In 2012 the station was only broadcasting 3-4 hours a week and had 4 presenters, now 2 years later it is broadcasting 24/7 and has 30 presenters, from a multitude of schools around the Southern Highlands. Being a presenter myself I have learnt valuable broadcasting and communication skills needed in this rapidly growing digital society. The station gives the youth the opportunity to host their own radio show in 1-2 hour slots, you are given ultimate freedom to choose the content (as long it follows the stations guidelines) and whether to host by yourself or with friends. Robert Barrett, the station's founder and manager, has 50 years radio broadcasting experience and will give you support about the equipment and correct radio etiquette that you need. The station is rapidly growing and if you would like to be a part of the community fill out a form on the station's website [www.youthradio.org.au](http://www.youthradio.org.au)

By Cameron Palmer



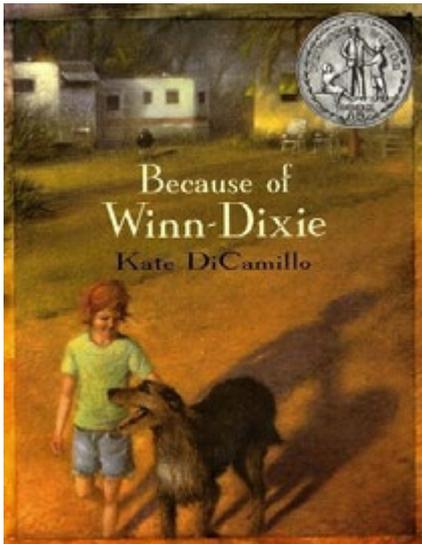
## GROWING UP

Have you ever felt like you just don't fit in? An elephant living in a giraffe enclosure? Well, as much as we want to shake these feelings off, most of the time, we can't. It's just a part of growing up. Everyone from time to time, feels 'down in the dumps'. They feel like they aren't good enough, or they can't be themselves, or they have the wrong coloured spots. You shouldn't feel like you are the odd one out. You shouldn't let the negative opinion of a few people affect the opinion you have of yourself. If everyone in this world were the same, it would be a very boring world. Where would we all be without a little bit of individuality or a few different spots!

If ever you feel like you need some support, be sure to check out some of these amazing youth websites. Places where you could anonymously ask for help and get it!

Beyond Blue:  
<http://www.beyondblue.org.au>  
Kids Helpline:  
<http://www.kidshelp.com.au>  
Reach Out:  
<http://au.reachout.com>

By Mae Stace



## BOOKS

★★★★★

### **Because of Winn-Dixie**

For all you dog lovers' out there, this is the book for you. You may have seen the posters floating around in 2005 advertising the motion picture, but until you have read the book, you will not understand the true beauty of this story.

The tale follows 10 year old Opal as, with the help of her new found friend, Winn-Dixie, she realises that she has a lot to be thankful for. DiCamillo tells this story in a way that enraptures the reader in the long walks, thunderstorms and church services that Winn-Dixie and Opal share together. This is a quick read, told gently, with strong imagery, making it feel incredibly real. This book tells the story of a dog, as a child's much needed best friend in the most delicate way possible.

This book is part of the Oxley Library's 'Wide Reading' selection. There are numerous copies available so please don't hesitate to pick it up!

By Evelyn Bratchford



## FILMS

★★★★★

### **Inside Llewyn Davis**

Underneath its somber tone, Inside Llewyn Davis is a story of hope dappled with comic moments. Based on a true story, Llewyn Davis (Oscar Issac) is a folk musician searching for a big break, longing to move on from playing in the bars of Greenwich Village, New York in 1961.

The film follows a week in the life of the singer and his battle with himself and the world around him for an opportunity. Searching for a place to sleep each night, and forever troubled by memories of his past, doubt becomes instilled in him as his musical friends explore new avenues.

Its classic period shots bring an exquisite sense of nostalgia and Davis' exhaustion at his attempts to display his talent is beautifully harrowing. Inside Llewyn Davis is a wonderful tale of dreams and struggles both to be embraced. The Coen Brother's newest film is a quiet triumph!

By Maddie Thomas



## FILMS

★★★★★

### **The Art of Getting By**

The Art of Getting By is a recent coming of age film which does not involve cringe worthy inspirational quotes on life through the eyes of a misguided teenager, but shows characters whom many teenagers in today's society can relate too. The protagonist of the film George Zinavoy (Freddie Highmore), is a troubled young man who does not believe in education due to his resounding belief on the inevitability of dying alone and the thought of life merely being an illusion. Don't let these pessimistic traits fool you though as his story dramatically changes when he befriends Sally (Emma Roberts), a gothic popular senior attending his high school. Together they experience their senior year in New York City, trying to decipher life's hidden meanings and ignite George's passion for creativity and life. Freddie Highmore and Emma Roberts bring the characters stories to the next level with their onscreen chemistry, whilst also conveying the trials and tribulations of these two young adults incredibly well. A film highly recommended for a gloomy afternoon!

By Alexia Cheaib

# AROUND THE SCHOOL



## MR BEN HICKS

Pin Oak: What brought you to teaching in Turkey?

Mr Hicks: Pure chance. Mrs Hicks and I were in London, and there was a recruitment agency that was basically just a speed dating service for teaching jobs. After one very intense afternoon and seven or eight interviews, we had a 2-year job in Istanbul.

PO: What was it like teaching in Turkey compared to Australia?

Mr Hicks: Not as different as you'd think. You realise after a while that people have a lot more in common than they have different. The hardest challenge was more dealing with the cultural challenge in adults rather than the children: I will never encounter the strangeness of bureaucracy at that level ever again. You learn after a while in Turkey not to ask 'why'; people just do things without thinking about it. There is no 'why', so you sort of have to reach this Zen level of peace with the bureaucracy.

PO: Who would win in a maths-off between Turkish and Australian students?

Mr Hicks: Ooh, depends on the question. Their curriculum is a lot more technical, so Turkish students are able to just memorise and store information when it's given to them. If it were a problem they've never seen before, however, Australians would win, because Turkish kids tend to rely on little tricks and forget about the whole problem solving part.

PO: We both know who the more good-looking students are...



Mr Hicks: Oh, Oxley hands down.

PO: What was your funniest teaching moment in Turkey?

Mr Hicks: Since I had been in London previously, I was accustomed to the fact that you never, ever touch a student – not even a pat on the back. A few days after arriving in Turkey, a big, burly Year 11 kid came up behind me, put his hands on my back, and started giving me a massage. My teacher instincts kicked in and I tensed up – and he just smiled and said "What is wrong, sir? You are tense!" and just kept going... So that was a nice entry to their culture. It's totally different there – students would hug and kiss teachers on the cheek all the time – that's how you greet people.

PO: Bonus Question... What's your favourite binge-watching TV Show?

Mr Hicks: Mrs Hicks and I got through True Detective in less than 48 hours. If that's not binge-watching, I don't know what is.



## CICERO DEBATING

### CHAIR PERSON LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.....

On Thursday 24 July, one junior team, four intermediate teams and two senior teams from Oxley College participated in the first round of the Cicero Debating Competition. This is a new debating competition for Southern Highlands schools with a focus on increasing learning and skills. The topics for the debates were interesting and challenging current issues. They included:

Junior- That we should ban tourism in national parks.

Intermediate-That we should become less reliant on fossil fuels.

Senior- The environment

While the junior and intermediate teams were well prepared and practised with arguments and rebuttal, the senior teams had to think on their feet and prepare their debates an hour before. Certificates for specific skills were awarded. Everyone who participated did well and had fun! Congratulations to our debating teams. Round 2 here we come...

By Lucie Drysdale



## UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS

It's now the season for universities to open their gates and let you see for yourself what they have to offer. Open days are a great opportunity to get a 'feel' for a particular place and visualise whether that is the place you would like to study. It's valuable for finding out about courses, accommodation and the overall culture of the university.

### 16 August

University of Wollongong

### 30 August

Australian National University

Sydney University

Canberra University

University of Technology, Sydney

### 6 September

University of New South Wales

### 13 September

Macquarie University

Year 12 students will soon receive a PIN from the Universities Admissions centre. This will allow them to select their preferred courses for university study. **The initial application needs to be completed by 30 September, but it can be changed at any point after this date.**

University of Wollongong Early Admission. Applicants will need to submit their Year 11 & 12 results and attend an interview.

By Peter Bull



## IN THE LIBRARY

### Premier's Reading Challenge

Friday 22 August

The due date for the PRC looms! All students intending to complete the challenge this year must have their books entered online by Friday 22 August. Anyone who does not know their username and password is welcome to come into the Library to pick up a copy of a record sheet with their details. We will hold a lunchtime barbeque with cake for all the students who have completed the challenge this year.

### Book Week

Week 6

Emails were sent home to K-6 families last week reminding them of Book Week in Week 6. We'll start the week with our annual Book Fair on Monday afternoon after school and on Tuesday morning before school for the stragglers. It's always wonderful to turn the Library space into a big bookshop and it's a great opportunity to buy stocking fillers for Christmas. The Scholastic Book pamphlets with details of the sale will go home with the students next week. Don't forget Book Parade on Wednesday 20 August.

By Elizabeth Antoniak



## MR PARKER'S BIG IDEAS

A few weeks ago our Headmaster, Mr Parker spoke at the Southern Highlands Writers Festival about his latest book, *Talk with your Kids: Big Ideas*.

The Festival took place on the weekend of 11–13 July at the Bradman Museum with Mr Parker speaking in a free session on the Saturday. Within minutes of the start of his talk, the seating had filled leaving many standing. The audience included members of the Oxley community.

The session was set out in an interview format. Some of the ideas that Mr Parker touched on for the most effective ways to talk to your kids were:

- The use of long car trips to discuss big topics such as law and politics.
- The use of bribery with going out for a meal to engage kids to talk with their parents.
- The repeating of the question 'why' to deepen the discussion.

The message of his talk was that you should not tell your children the whole answer but give them the tools to find it themselves.

By Kaarina Allen



## UK CRICKET TOUR

There are still places available for this exciting tour! In fact we are looking for a few more players and parents to join us. We welcome players from Year 7 (2015) and up! We have a great itinerary worked out including:

- Watching Australia v Kent Tour Match
- Watching Day 2 of the First Ashes test!
- London sightseeing tour
- Tours of and training sessions at Old Trafford and Lords!
- Historical sites such as Stonehenge, Roman Baths and Edinburgh Castle
- Millennium Stadium Tour
- Up to six tour matches against sides of similar age and ability.

At the moment we don't quite have enough for the tour to be viable. Please contact Mr Marnoch at [Stephen.Marnoch@oxley.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Stephen.Marnoch@oxley.nsw.edu.au) or Mr Dibdin at [Timothy.Dibdin@oxley.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Timothy.Dibdin@oxley.nsw.edu.au) as soon as possible if you are interested. We require a \$200 deposit (currently refundable) to confirm your place on the tour. Numbers need to be finalised in the next two weeks. We can provide you with a copy of the full itinerary. Full cost of Tour is \$5290.

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity.

Mr Marnoch and Mr Dibdin

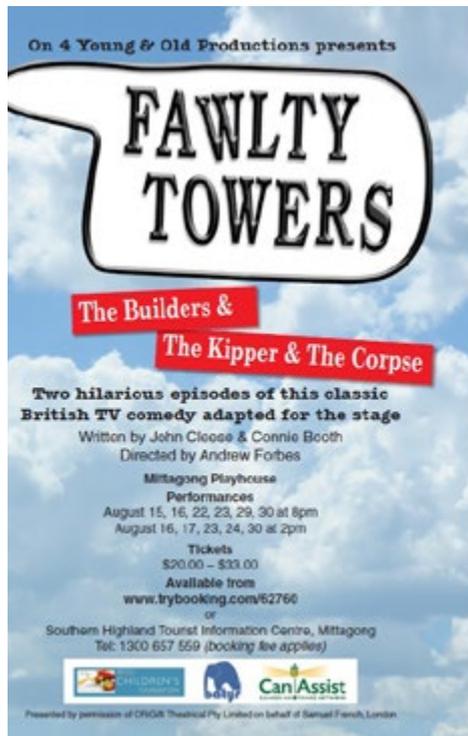


## JEANS FOR GENES

Thank you to Billie Coupland for organising last Friday's Jeans for Genes Day. This important K-12 initiative raised over \$750, which will go towards Children's Medical Research



## COMMUNITY NEWS



Thursday 14 August,  
7:00pm - Oxley College  
Orchestra Room



## P&F

NEXT P&F MEETING: Tuesday 21 October  
7:00pm

EXPRESS YOURSELF: Saturday 9 August 2014,  
6:30pm, Music Centre

I have had a sneak peak at all the K-6 student's artworks, and I have to say I am impressed! The Art Exhibition opening is on Saturday night at 6:30pm and a live auction of three artworks will begin at 7:30pm.

Thank you to Sonja at Arthead for providing the judged prizes. Her support is greatly appreciated. Also a big thank you to Ms Uliana of Gibraltar Hotel for donating the People's Choice awards.



OXLEY FAMILY DAY: Sunday 10 August 2014,  
10:30am-2:30pm, Oxley College

The day will be filled with activities for the whole family: jumping castle, tunnel of terror, photography fun, old fashion games, petting zoo, sausage sizzle and busking. We hope that all families from K-12 will take part at some point during the day. A timetable of events will be published on the P&F page of the Oxley website [www.oxleylearning.org/portal/news/current-news/](http://www.oxleylearning.org/portal/news/current-news/)

If you are seeking information on year events or anything to do with the Oxley P&F Association please follow this link: <http://oxleylearning.org/portal/oxley-community/parents-friends>



# AUGUST CALENDAR

<b>Mon</b> HICES Music Festival, Inter-House Drama, 7:00pm, Hoskins Hall <span style="float: right;"><b>04</b></span>	<b>Mon</b> Inc: Year 12 Drama Night 7:00pm, Hoskins Hall Inc: Y9/10/11/12 medical careers information session Library. <span style="float: right;"><b>11</b></span>	<b>Mon</b> Exc: Year 10 Geography Pyrmont Inc: K-8 Scholastic Book Fair 3:00pm - 6:00pm, Library <span style="float: right;"><b>18</b></span>	<b>Mon</b> NSW CIS Netballs Trials & Netball Challenge Year 8 Student/Parent/ Teacher Interview from 4:00pm, Orchestra Room <span style="float: right;"><b>25</b></span>
<b>Tue</b> HICES Music Festival, Stanwell Tops Inc: Year 1 Senior Citizen visitors <span style="float: right;"><b>05</b></span>	<b>Tue</b> Year 5-10 Surf Education PEC Year 3-11 ICAS Maths Competition <span style="float: right;"><b>12</b></span>	<b>Tue</b> Inc: K-8 Scholastic Book Fair 8:00am - 9:00am, Library <span style="float: right;"><b>19</b></span>	<b>Tue</b> Exc: Year 10 English Macbeth 4:00pm depart Sydney NSW Interchools Cross Country Skiing Championships <span style="float: right;"><b>26</b></span>
<b>Wed</b> HICES Music Festival, Stanwell Tops followed by Festival Concert, Sydney Town Hall, 7:00pm <span style="float: right;"><b>06</b></span>	<b>Wed</b> 7-12 Inter-House Athletics Carnival, half-day during sport <span style="float: right;"><b>13</b></span>	<b>Wed</b> 7-12 Inter-House Athletics Carnival all day Inc: K-6 Book Week Parade 9:00am - 10:30am Year 12 Music Recital, 7:00pm Orchestra Room <span style="float: right;"><b>20</b></span>	<b>Wed</b> Exc: NSW Science and Engineering Challenge, Newcastle Year 10 Student/Parent/ Teacher Interview from 4:00pm. Orchestra Room <span style="float: right;"><b>27</b></span>
<b>Thu</b> Year 12 Visual Arts Major Work Exhibition, 5:30pm, Music School <span style="float: right;"><b>07</b></span>	<b>Thu</b> Exc: Kindergarten Fitzroy Falls Visitor's Centre, Animal Habitats 11:00am Headmaster's Tour Year 7-8 Music Night, 7:00pm, Orchestra Room <span style="float: right;"><b>14</b></span>	<b>Thu</b> Inc: Cicero Debating Competition (Local Schools) 4:00pm <span style="float: right;"><b>21</b></span>	<b>Thu</b> Studio Concert, Orchestra Room, 4:00pm <span style="float: right;"><b>28</b></span>
<b>Fri</b> K-6 Athletics Carnival Year 9 Geography Excursion <span style="float: right;"><b>08</b></span>	<b>Fri</b> Exc: Y1 and Y5 IMAX and Chinese Gardens Excursion <span style="float: right;"><b>15</b></span>	<b>Fri</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>22</b></span>	<b>Fri</b> Exc: Y10 Visual Art, Art Gallery of NSW. <span style="float: right;"><b>29</b></span>
<b>Sat</b> ISA Winter Sport Round 10 HSC French Continuers Oral Examination 11:00am, Frensham P&F K-12 Art Show 6:30pm Music School <span style="float: right;"><b>09</b></span>	<b>Sat</b> ISA Winter Sport Semi Finals <span style="float: right;"><b>16</b></span>	<b>Sat</b> ISA Winter Sport Finals <span style="float: right;"><b>23</b></span>	<b>Sat</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>30</b></span>
<b>Sun</b> Annual Oxley Family Day 10:30am - 2:00pm <span style="float: right;"><b>10</b></span>	<b>Sun</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>17</b></span>	<b>Sun</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>24</b></span>	<b>Sun</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>31</b></span>

## Upcoming events

+ Father's Day Breakfast: Friday 5 September

+ Junior Production: Thursday 11, Friday 12, Saturday 13 September

# Sport



## CHEATING IN SPORTS

Sport is supposed to be a training ground for moulding personalities, increasing skill, leadership, teamwork, and integrity. However the world of sport today lies far from these values with cheating and dishonesty a routine. With the Tour de France finished and the yearly doping tests before the race, spectators weren't surprised to find Daryl Impey come out testing positive for Probenecid, a drug that can serve as a masking agent for anabolic steroids. Why does the world expect someone to have taken drugs in this sport? Is it because it has become the norm? With steroids and other drugs, like ephedrine, caffeine, EPO and testosterone being used, athletes find themselves in competitions against other people taking drugs to improve their physical stature for the race? With the increase of doping amongst athletes, other contestants state "I was forced to take steroids to stay in the same league as the doping participants." But cheating has become more than just wanting to win, it has become the desire for the money that comes with the win. It has become the desire for reputation and acknowledgement for being the best, not for the sport. For you, is winning more important than winning fairly?

By Heidi Bevan

## PLAYERS OF THE WEEK Cat Uliana & Georgie Wade



Last weekend of Term 2, Catriona Uliana & Georgie Wade (Year 9) were selected to represent the Southern Highlands Under 15s Hockey Rep Team. They competed at Taree and won 1 game, drew 2 games and lost 1 game. They are to be congratulated on their wonderful performance, representing not only Oxley but the whole of the region.

## MATCH OF THE WEEK



On Saturday 26 July, the Oxley 1st Hockey team played against the challenging Central Coast. The previous term the Central Coast team had taken out a win of 10-0 against Oxley however the girls were determined to fight back and try their best. The first half was close as Oxley had a lot of possession of the ball, with good defensive work by Jen McNaught and captain, April Wells. However, Central Coast was able to score a goal bringing the score to 1-0 at half time. The second half Oxley began to dominate the field and with 5 minutes left until full time, Kate McNaught scored a goal bringing the final score to 1-1.

Sports Draw link: <http://oxleylearning.org/portal/co-curricular/sport/>