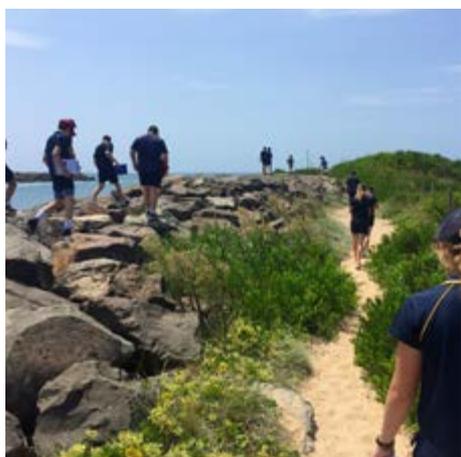


# PIN OAK

ISSUE 29: TERM 1, 19 FEBRUARY, 2016



GEOGRAPHY



GYM



K-6

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### WARILLA, WHAT A THRILLER!

Year 10 Geography Excursion

Last Monday 15 February, Year 10 students, alongside their teachers set off on a geography fieldwork excursion to Warilla/Windang Beach. In Geography, we are currently studying 'coastal management' as part of the 'issues in Australian environments' topic.

We set off in the early morning, each of the three classes travelling to different locations to study and investigate the coastal management issues at Warilla, Windang and the Lake Illawarra Entrance. We collected data such as soil samples, wind speed, temperature, plant species and light intensity surrounding coastal areas and studied the processes of longshore drift, erosion and deposition by the seaside. We finished the day with lunch at a park and a quick dip in the water up to our knees before heading home. This excursion will further help our understanding of coastal management as well as wave and beach processes in the classroom as we continue to study this topic in Geography. A big thank you to Mr Dibdin, Mrs Shedden and Mrs Hanrahan for travelling with us and making this day possible.

By Olivia Donovan (Year 10)



# HEADMASTER'S REPORT



## DRAMA

The Year 12 2015 students who were selected to perform their HSC Drama group piece in the NSW HSC Showcase OnStage have been doing extremely well. Nick Antoniak came back from a trip to Laos specially to join Monique Turczynski, Samara Low and Antonia Ryman in performing. Many of the features of the original production - the boxes and the trapdoors - were not able to be replicated for the OnStage performance and key props has also been thrown out! This required some dramatic reimagining and re-rehearsing over the last week or two, which created some very long rehearsal days. Thankfully it has all come together and the piece has been wowing audiences in the Seymour Centre Drama theatre. Oxley Drama teacher, Phil Cunich has had seven year groups to deal with - all of his classes as well as Year 13 over the past few weeks. He has also been directing the school musical and coaching a basketball team. He is heading towards a well-deserved long service leave next term.

It is worth noting that Ms Shona Apostolatas has started a Thursday afternoon Drama Club in Years 3-6. As she is RADA trained this is a real opportunity for our children. With Ms Mandy Bransgrove, the Director of SHYAC teaching the younger ones Drama and gearing up for a K-6 production again too, Drama is in good hands at Oxley.

## YEAR GROUP MEETINGS

Every year group will have had a year group meeting over the past fortnight. I had the opportunity to attend a number of them (one of them in the capacity of a Year 7 parent) and it is terrific to feel the energy in the rooms as parents hear about all of the things that are happening in the academic programme, be it the English poetry units, the Science projects, the cross year Maths innovations or our more bespoke work in Cornerstone, SWYM and Wide Reading.

It was also an opportunity to highlight the fact that all students from Years 5-12 now bring their own computers. Both students and parents have access to Canvas, our online learning system, at <http://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/learning/e-learning/>. This allows everyone to see what work is being done and also what homework is being set. It is a big step forward.

The meetings were also twinned with some co-curricular meetings in the secondary school. It was excellent to see the dozens of students (and their parents) at the Duke of Edinburgh's Award meeting. The Year 9 Nepal trip also had several meetings to update students on their trip - we now have over 25 students going in a year group of 67.



## NEPAL PARENT TRIP

Which brings me to a related point. The Nepal parent trip is still open to interested parents this October. You could watch the ten minute slide show presentation by Matthew Swait at <http://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/pastoral-care/service-learning/>. The images are worth seeing, whether or not you are interested in actually going. The trip is one that intersects with the student trip for about five of the seventeen days - in the beginning, the middle and the end - and strikes its own path for the remainder of the time.

## SPORT AND FITNESS

There has been a buzz around the sports programme this term. The before school swimming programme at Bowral pool, which last year attracted six people, has this year had forty or more people. Most of the time, this has meant that we have needed an extra bus to get all our students back to school and we regularly run out of Weet Bix! The Fitness Centre has been overflowing every morning and afternoon with kids doing aerobic workouts and/or weights sessions with the qualified instructors from 'The Shed'.

The ISA teams I watch on the weekend have been performing competitively and with real Oxley spirit. There have been some very impressive basketball results, including excellent wins from the Firsts. Recently, the Firsts Boys Basketball team defeated Blue Mountains Grammar School 60-30, and our Firsts Girls Basketball team defeated St Paul's Grammar School 37-7.

The Junior Softball team, coached so well by Nicole McGregor, have been hitting the ball out of the metaphorical and literal park with some very impressive results such as an 11-3 win against Chevalier B and a 14-4 win against Chevalier C. They also play within metres of my new parked car, which makes me nervous. The K-6 Basketball teams play with real vigour and enthusiasm on Wednesday afternoons at the Moss Vale courts, led by a phalanx of wonderful parent volunteers such as Bec Hardy, Kirsten Deakin, Sally Bernstein, Matt Duffy and Sarah Carpenter. I wish all teams well in their final game before the Semi Finals.

## THE CANTEEN

It is worth signing off by noting how good our canteen is. In a world full of unhealthy, sugar filled snacks masquerading as kid's food it is wonderful to see the healthy and appetising options available. Catherine Fraser and her team have excellent specials each week (this week was a Japanese noodle salad) as well as the staples such as the CLAM (Chicken, Lettuce Avocado and Mayonnaise) and the Egg and Lettuce sandwich with at least twice as much egg as I have ever seen before between two pieces of bread. Indeed, one of the best things about the oncoming winter is knowing that the soup will be back in Term 2. We are lucky to have Catherine and all who work with her.

# “NEW YEAR, *NEW YOU*”



## Resolution #1:

I will learn what the “resolution” means

New Years Resolutions: Helpful or Harmful?

At the start of every year, many of us jump at the chance for a fresh start, a new beginning and an opportunity to accomplish our goals. As beneficial as New Year's resolutions can be, they can also have a negative impact on our lives ... so are New Year's resolutions helpful or harmful?

Let's start with the positives. Thinking about the year ahead is a great way to reflect on your life. You can identify aspects of your life that need improvement and change your life for the better. By identifying your priorities and values and how you would like your life to be can help you set your resolutions.

Do you want to get fit? Change your career? Be a better person? Choose something that you are passionate about. This will ensure that you don't give up quickly or easily and that you stick with your resolution throughout the entire year. You have the power to change your life. Of course some things will always be out of your control but you can decide on the path you will take on the road to achieving your resolution.

At the end of the year, when reflecting on accomplishing your resolutions, you will be provided with a self-esteem boost. Knowing that you followed through with something to achieve what you wanted will leave you feeling on top of the world. This will kick start you into the next year, ready to conquer more challenges and

reach more goals.

Now for the negatives. For some people, when they try and force change in their lives it can backfire. If you try to force change in your life that you aren't ready for, it can feel like you are taking one step forward, two steps backwards. When not achieving their resolutions, people can fall into a trap of blaming themselves and believing that they are a failure. To avoid this, set resolutions that are achievable and appropriate.

It is important to keep in mind that a year is a long time. A lot can change in a year. We evolve as individuals all year round and we are constantly learning from our experiences.

Upholding the exact same goal throughout the year even if it no longer fits will un motivate you. Be flexible and allow your goals to change as you change as a person. New Year's resolutions can be motivators or critics so it's up to you to decide whether or not you think that they are helpful or harmful. I believe that setting a goal and working towards it all year long is worth the sense of accomplishment that you receive once you're finished. Even though we are a month into the new year, its never too late to create a resolution and change your life for the better.

By Olivia Donovan (Year 10)



## Books

★★★★★

### **Stargirl** written by Jerry Spinelli

If only we all felt we could be ourselves in our world trying to conform us. If only we could all break the box we're being forced to fit into. *Stargirl*, written by Jerry Spinelli is a book that focuses on the character of Susan Caraway, a sixteen-year-old girl. *Stargirl* or Susan has been home schooled up until now. When she begins at school, she is the most bizarre person Mica High School has ever come across. Yet she doesn't even realise that people perceive her as unusual. When *Stargirl* takes interest in Leo Borlock, her entire world changes and she's suddenly introduced to society's expectations, which scare her. *Stargirl* opened my eyes to this idea of belonging. I'd definitely recommend Spinelli's eye-opening novel *Stargirl*.

By Ella Moran (Year 11)



## Music

★★★★★

### **Courtney Barnett**

#### LIVE @ THE ENMORE REVIEW

Lining up to get into the Enmore Theatre waiting to witness Courtney Barnett live for the first time, I noticed something. I heard two middle-aged blokes talking about how they haven't seen anyone as authentic as Courtney since Patti Smith. I heard some gruff male voices in the distance mumbling the words to Courtney's "Pedestrian At Best". And I saw a five-year-old, decked out in merch whining to her mum about how the queue was taking too long and she "just wanted to see Courtney". This is the moment when I noticed (and I don't know how to put this lightly), Courtney Barnett is a genius. From the moment she strum the first chord to "Elevator Operator" to the second the crowd went insane for her Nirvana cover of "Molly's Lips" she had everyone captivated. In that crowd of thousands not one mouth wasn't open, dripping with awe about how she "rips up the guitar like Hendrix" and manages to make the most mundane things in life into superb lyrics and poetry.

By Izzy Moore (Year 9)



## Films

★★★

### **Joy**

*Joy* comes off as an inspirational film. It has a very slow start, making it hard to get into at first. The plot is hard to follow at times, and the characters do seem a bit boring at times but they keep the movie flowing well, by committing to their role in the story. The gradual build up to the 'resolution' of the story, I find, is frustrating, because it's as if there are two endings to the plot; this was quite confusing to get my head around. The lighting and the shots in the film add suspense. Intensity is used in effective places in the film, making it easier to enjoy. This is one of the few good factors of the film. At the end of the movie, the title character, Joy, is quite the underdog. Coming from a low socioeconomic status, she becomes successful in her ventures and everything turns out just peachy. The final scene depicts Joy in the future, when she has her own business and is wealthy. This ending is a stereotypical ending for an underdog movie. However, it is heart warming.

By Grace Newton (Year 9)

## Head of K-6: Justine Lind

***We cannot always build a future for our youth but we can build our youth for the future.***  
Franklin D. Roosevelt

In K-6 we are one school but many voices. We celebrate our diversity and the expansion to our thinking that occurs when we consider multiple perspectives. There are many avenues that we can take to empower our students to stride boldly in the pioneers' footprints into new terrain.

This week our newly created Student Representative Council met for the first time. Mr Loveday outlined the Roles and Responsibilities of the members and began their thinking around school improvement. The research into effective schools lists high student voice and active participation as one of the key factors of success. The most recent findings out of the ongoing research into Visible Learning lists student feedback to teachers as a key factor in enhancing teacher effectiveness. In terms of long term self-esteem and wellbeing, showing children that their actions can enhance the world in which they live, instils a sense of hopefulness and optimism for the future. At Oxley, we are intentional in preparing children for later life, not just future learning.

"Grace and I thought before every SRC meeting we'll need to ask the class 'What do you want?'"

Evie Year 4

"We know Emma wants to raise money for the sea-cow because it's endangered." Grace Year 4

"We want to raise money for an animal shelter." Madeline Year 2

"I think we should build a statue of Mrs Lind and Mr Parker to make Oxley more interesting!" Aislinn Year 2

"Maybe we can organise some events and class activities. We can make Oxley even better by organising games and activities at recess and lunch." Benedict Year 5

"I would just like to see everyone to be more respectful of each other. We will be able to understand each other better!" Evie Year 4

In many ways the students already have a strong sense of the potential for good that this group will be in our community. The students will represent their class for one term, providing multiple opportunities for leadership throughout the College. Kindergarten will join in from Term 2. We hope that the SRC will provide opportunities for problem solving, collaboration and inspiration as we realise a collective vision for the place of welcome, wonder and wisdom in K-6. It is also intended that the SRC will synthesise the students' ideas for philanthropy. We welcome student suggestions for charitable action but can't always respond to all the valid proposals. We hope to instil a sense of sustainable fundraising and manageable attention to areas of need within and without our community.

## Weekly Awards:

### Students of the Week

K: Brayden Anstee  
Yr 1: Matilda Pope  
Yr 2: Thomas Bladen  
Yr 3: Sasha Privalova-Pratt  
Yr 4: Dylan Davis  
Yr 5: Will Bladen  
Yr 6: Alice Gilbert



### Respect Others

K: Charlotte Gordon  
Yr 1: Cartier Dobler  
Yr 2: Mimi Legge  
Yr 3: Maximo Ramos  
Yr 4: Sienna Soster  
Yr 5: Grace Hardy  
Yr 6: Victor Van Der Schalk



### Students of the Week

K: William Kennedy  
Yr 1: Dakota Winn  
Yr 2: Madeline Gordon  
Yr 3: Madison Walters  
Yr 4: Harry Cameron  
Yr 5: Matthew Smith  
Yr 6: Hamish Tregenza



### Respect Oxley

K: Coco Sewell  
Yr 1: Neeson Greene  
Yr 2: Camille Wild  
Yr 3: Bella Carpenter  
Yr 4: Laura Hamilton  
Yr 5: Elena Parker  
Yr 6: Tom Hutchings



I am proud to introduce our student activists, the imagineers who are making history in K-6 just by their willingness to step forward with each other. Watch this space.....

# ONE SCHOOL, MANY VOICES

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## SRC

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### **K-6 Student Representative Council Term 1**

Year 6 – Alice Gilbert and James Wilson

Year 5 – Tyra Beckett and Benedict Regan

Year 4 – Evie Crowley and Grace Macquarie

Year 3 – Georgia Rapp and Chilli Sparke

Year 2 – Madeline Gordon and Aislinn Kenny

Year 1 – Barnaby Jensen and Louisa Hogan-Baldo



# On Romance and Data



## St Valentine's Day...

It really is the pinnacle of our western society's expression of love, affection, appreciation and general infatuation with another.

You will prepare to pucker up this Valentine's Day and passionately peck a lover whilst burning up to 12 kilojoules. Or perhaps a more lustful approach and smooch your beloved, exercise those 32 facial and 112 postural muscles and work off 1 cup of air-popped butter-free popcorn (150 kJ).[1]

Your companion will be subconsciously judging you as they get a whiff of your \*delectable\* pheromones and assess whether you're good enough to mate with. Your odour and symmetry will be an essential criteria in determining your attractiveness and give subtle cues to your partner regarding the state of your immune system and general health.[2]

Either way, you'll engage in the gloriously romantic exchange of up to 1 billion [1] potentially harmful bacteria (strep throat, tuberculosis and the herpes virus is \*honestly\* the sexiest thing you can give in 2016.[3])

Who knows why we do this completely useless routine. But Google knows. Google, Facebook, Youtube, The Entire Coles Chocolate Section know and are all ready to leap upon the opportunity to capitalise your need to bribe that special someone with sweets and flowers and cards and Laguiole by Louis Theirs - 8 Piece knife block set with express delivery for just \$299 (Was \$459, save \$160!)[4] that are all targeted just for you.

Ah what a remarkable time of year it is, that pleasantly familiar dissemination of opportunist advertisement.

But let us not think about the magnetising (and personalised) offers available to us like that Ecoya's Mini Madison Gift Set with Bonus Diffuser for the extreme price of \$59!

No, let us think of all those being broken up with, right as you read this. Thousands upon thousands, in heart-broken agony and pain, as their previously one-true-love turns out to be a manipulative fraud! Oh the misery!

And Facebook, the psychologist-like platform that it is, will let you share and diffuse your anger, rage, sorrow, spite, general unhappiness to everyone else.

Facebook reaps the rewards when couples break up. When they do, the platform transforms into a tool for the obsessive to creep and stalk their ex-partner. As a recent study [5] suggested, 88% of Facebook users who recently separated immediately ended up on Facebook to 'creep' (stalk) their ex-lover. 63% will revise over old posts and over-analyse them and 51% will bin any image of the couple together. 31% will make a post intended to make the other jealous.

And Valentine's Day is the jackpot for Facebook's obsessive ex-couples. David McCandless and Lee Bryon of Information in Beautiful, after analysing millions of facebook status updates, found that the weeks in the hind of Valentine's Day had the greatest quantity of breakups then any other time of year.

Now is the season for dismantlement of relationships.

## Peak Break-up Times

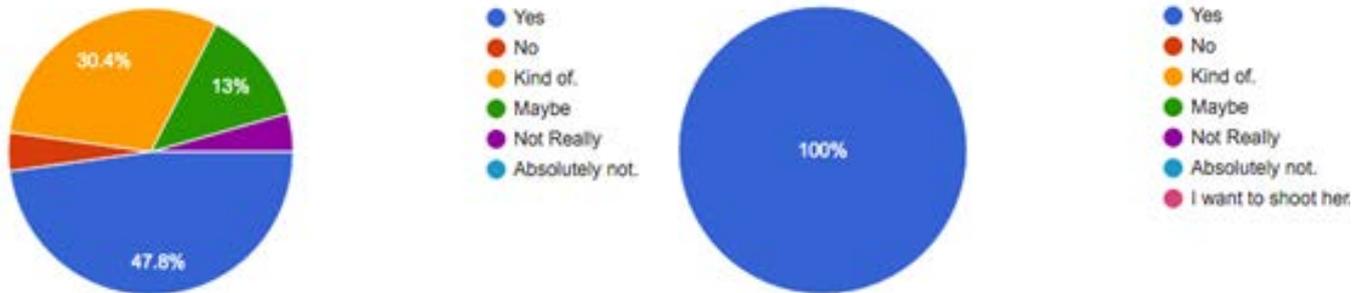
According to Facebook status updates



After hearing word of this atrocious break-up-to-stable-relationship ratio following this so-called day of love, Pin Oak has decided to investigate further - and determine the truth behind Valentine's Day.

Following in the giant footsteps of Google, Facebook, The Government, Apple, Microsoft, America's NSA and of course, the Oxley College Network Proxy - Pin Oak has begun to successfully track 10's of individuals and collect almost-five-hundred data points to provide you with the most accurate representation of a very small portion of the Oxley Community's stance on Valentine's Day.

Our analysts have determined that just under a quarter of participants are currently in a relationship with another. This 22.5% all described themselves as being happy, whilst only 48% of the single entrants described themselves as completely happy - indicative of the industry's ability to influence and impel those without a satisfying relationship that they would be better off with one. Smart move Lindt. And Cadbury. And the other ones.



(Are you happy? - Participants In a relationship)

(Are you happy? - Participants are not in a relationship)

In terms of the perceived pressure for the need to enter a relationship, 12.9% said they would be entering one as a direct result of Valentine's Day 2016.



This is enough to feed the \*Valentine industry\* a continual flow of new couples, of new relationships in which they can leech off, sucking every available ounce of energy, assets and privacy from one's life! Two thirds of those in relationships spent something on their partner this Valentine's day. They of course aren't including their personal data about their relationship Facebook sold, their combined browsing history Google amasses and their preferred viewing combinations Netflix deciphers and stores (to eventually sell you more Netflix.)

However, we do find that those in a relationship are far more generous and self-sacrificing. When given a situation where the participants had the option to save themselves, let their partner die; sacrifice themselves, let their partner live or have both of them killed at the same time, more than a quarter of single participants saved themselves only, whilst **\*\*all\*\*** of the committed participants chose to kill themselves and have the other live or have them both killed.



(Left: Participants not in a relationship, Right: Participants in a relationship, Orange = Kill both together, Red = Sacrifice yourself, Blue = Save yourself)

This is obviously a testament of the power of a stable, wholesome relationship and it's ability to alter your internal thought-processes, however it's also a testament to how these kind of relationships fog one's ability to assess a pretty clear situation and make a judgement based on their sole and natural purpose to stay alive.

Facebook, Google, Tinder, Netflix, counselling services, the hospitality industry, the pharmaceutical industry, theatres and big chocolate and a thousand other businesses have strategically placed themselves to exploit every single aspect of Valentine's Day - the pleasant and innocent and the less pleasant and heart-breaking.

By Tom Hill (Year 11)

[1]: [http://www.amjmed.com/article/S0002-9343\(13\)00186-1/fulltext](http://www.amjmed.com/article/S0002-9343(13)00186-1/fulltext)  
 [2]: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1689917/>  
 [3]: <http://qz.com/614261/the-intriguing-science-behind-kissing/>  
 [4]: <https://www.redballoon.com.au/product/gift-boxes/mens-gift-boxes/laguiole-by-louis-thiers-8-piece-knife-block-set>  
 [5]: <http://ir.lib.uwo.ca/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1938&context=etd>

# DEPUTY HEAD REPORTS

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## Deputy Head Learning: Kate Cunich

It has been a fortnight of many conversations: foremost discussions had with students, parents and teachers. As a small and vibrant community, it is these opportunities to sit and talk, to share and reflect, that make our days at Oxley so worthwhile.

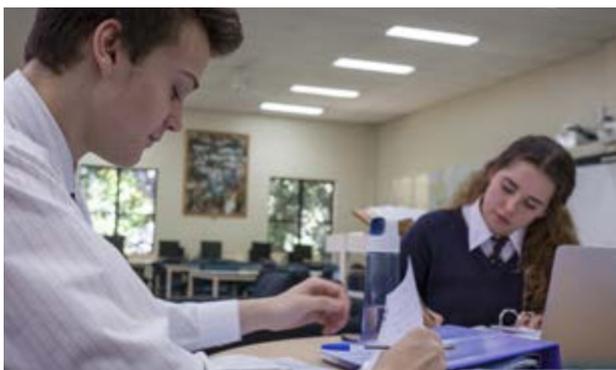
To our students first: last week saw our first Walkthrough of the year occur. During a walkthrough, Mr Hicks and I literally visit as many classrooms as we can on a given day, recording how students are learning. It is intended as a snapshot of what is happening in all classes, Kindergarten to Year 12 at that particular moment. We sit beside students and ask them questions such as "What are you learning today?" "How will you know when you've learnt it?" "How will you know when you have achieved success?"

The answers to these questions, alongside the data recorded about the types of activities underway (for example - direct instruction, the prevalence of discussion, the depth of understanding articulated by our students) provide us with rich, authentic information about the quality of learning at Oxley. We are delighted to evidence the degree of engagement, the vast array of different types of learning activities, the excitement of our students as they respond to the challenging tasks provided by their inspired and passionate teachers.

Many conversations have also been had with parents in the last week. Year 7 – 11 parents had the opportunity to be briefed by their year coordinator on Pastoral matters, accompanied by a briefing on key academic dates and strategies in place to continue enhancing learning. We were delighted to share with both new and continuing parents the increasing diversity in the range of courses on offer. Cornerstone, SYWM and Global Perspectives in particular were celebrated as distinctive Oxley offerings that set us apart. We are confident that these courses further enhance our commitment to the very best academic journey for our students. These presentations have been placed on the appropriate Canvas page to assist those who were unable to attend.

Finally, as teachers, we continue to work hard in honing our professional practice. We have already gathered together to plan our professional learning for the year. We have discussed the walkthrough data. We have celebrated those things that are already thriving and we continue the conversations of the "where to next" .

So, at the culmination of the first four weeks of the term, what a satisfying thing it is to know that we are already well on our way to another wonderful year of learning at Oxley.



## Deputy Head Pastoral: Peter Ayling

### Service Learning

This year we would like to increase our Service Learning opportunities for our senior students. In Year 8 we are looking at forming a strong connection with Tangara Special School and our Year 9 students will be involved in a programme working towards support for the Year 9 Nepal trip.

Our successful Year 7 Programme of cooking meals for those in need in the Bowral district will continue throughout 2016.

In Year 10 we will continue attending Bowral House retirement village on a regular basis. Quite often I feel our students are treated like rock stars when they visit and we thank Collette Hely for her continued support in providing this vital link to the elderly.

### Relay For Life (Save the Date)

This year we would like to get behind Relay For Life which will be held on Saturday 2 April. We hope to have a large number of Oxley students attend for several hours on Saturday afternoon. Please keep this date free and help support Cancer Research. Those who wish to camp can make their own arrangements, as a school we will march as a large group.

Please register at the following link and join the team named Oxley College.

[http://fundraising.cancer.org.au/site/TR?fr\\_id=3470&pg=entry](http://fundraising.cancer.org.au/site/TR?fr_id=3470&pg=entry)

### ANZAC DAY (Save the Date)

We would also like to remind students about the importance of attending the ANZAC March and or the Dawn Service held on Monday 25 April. Although not compulsory we do hope our students will get behind these events and give a little of their time and support our local community.

### Buskers Competition (Save the Date)

The Moss Vale Buskers Battle in Leighton Gardens is on Sunday 6 March. Some of the best musical talent will battle it out for fantastic prizes against the backdrop of the most delicious gourmet produce, food and wine the Highlands has to offer. The \$5000 prize pool has attracted a very high calibre of entrants, including two Oxley College Year 9 students, Ben Canute and Savannah Sandilands.

They will be battling it out with other very talented musicians in the rotunda in Leighton Gardens from 11:00am-1:00pm...each of them has a three song set. Judges include the wonderful Margaret Ulrich, Sam Moran from Foxtel's Play Along with Sam, 2ST's Graeme Day and legend Martin Armiger from The Sports. The celebration continues with the Bushweek Parade up main street to the Moss Vale show ground at 1:00pm where will be prize giving and an encore performance of the top three buskers on a flat bed truck centre arena of the Moss Vale Show!

All in all it's going to be a great family day out and it would be fantastic if we could get an Oxley crowd to cheer them on!



## PHOTOGRAPHY

Last year, Year 10 student Olivia Donovan entered an annual competition run by the Australian Photography Magazine to find the first ever best junior (up to age 17) photographer in the country.

The competition is made up of six categories: nature, black and white, portrait, landscape, junior portrait and junior landscape. Liv entered two portfolios and one placed runner-up and the other 6th in this nation-wide competition!

**When did you find out this exciting news of placing in this competition?**

"I found out I was short-listed late last year, and only recently found out that I got 2015 Runner Up Junior Landscape Photographer of the Year."

**Can you tell us a bit about your entered portfolios?**

"The two portfolios I entered consisted of six images each. The first portfolio consisted of images showing Sydney at Sunrise and Sunset. The next portfolio consisted of images showcasing Sydney at night."

**Were their prizes for placing in this competition? If so, what were they?**

"I won prize money and exposure in Australian Photography Magazine with my name being mentioned twice in the top 10 entries list."

We congratulate Liv on her achievement, we're sure she'll be very successful!

By Olivia Davies (Year 10)



## ON STAGE

OnStage, like many other HSC showcases, is a commemoration of student achievement. It provides a valuable opportunity for current students and teachers, to see the range of work explored by previous students who have excelled in their composition in 2015 HSC drama examinations.

Year 11 and 12 Oxley Drama students had the opportunity to travel to Sydney on Tuesday night to experience OnStage first hand and witness the work of a diverse range of talented students. A range of high schools including James Ruse Agricultural High School, Presbyterian Ladies College, Epping Boys High School, St Vincent's College, St George Girls High School, and of course Oxley College, displayed their talent to future and past HSC drama students.

The Oxley group consisting of Samara Low, Antonia Ryman, Monique Turczynski and Nicholas Antoniak performed their HSC piece Wasteland. This particular performance trailed four characters who exposed a world where plastic chokes us and survival is precarious. Happiness is fleeting, and the only jewel is a book – TS Eliot's "The Waste Land" – giving voice to a heap of broken images.

OnStage was a highly enjoyable experience to be apart of. Every performer did an excellent job of initially drawing the interest of the audience and then engaging them for the duration of their performances.

By Isabella Davies (Year 11)



## ZOE BRAIN STARS

**2016 Young Citizen of the year nominations**

Zoe Brain (Year 7) is a 12 year old with a big heart who believes that social justice is very important and has given hundreds of hours to the community. Zoe has worked with Rotary and the Cancer Council to raise money and created "Gorilla Girls". This is a team of young students that are passionate and motivated with the aim to introduce mobile phone recycling programmes into schools as a way of raising money to save critically endangered gorillas.

She has a weekly radio programme on 92.5 FM, aiming to raise awareness and encourage and inspire youth with interviews. She started the annual Burrawang Primary School Christmas concerts at retirement Villages and was awarded with the AMP Tomorrow Makers Award. Zoe is an outstanding role model and very supportive to younger students.

Zoe was nominated for the Wingecarribee Shire Council's (WSC), Young Citizen of the year. Whilst not chosen as a winner of the award being nominated as a finalist is great achievement.



# MISSY HIGGINS

## Personal Life

Missy Higgins is most famous for her albums: *The Sound of White* (2004), *On a Clear Night* (2007) and *The Ol' Razzle Dazzle* (2012). But there is a lot more to uncover about this talented musician than her career as a successful music artist. She is a vegetarian who is actively involved in saving the environment. She aims to make her tours carbon neutral with the use of green energy in her venues. Missy Higgins' love life is also more complicated than may be expected. In her Myspace account she admitted to having been in relationships with both men and women, so openly described herself as bisexual. In an interview with *Cherrie* magazine she explained: "I don't think it's necessary to have to define yourself by any label. If you're comfortable with who you are, and you know who you are on the inside, people will love you for it." Higgins is now married to Dan Lee (a playwright and comedian) and gave birth to her son Samuel Arrow Lee in January of last year.

By Isabella Knowles (Year 11)

## The meaning behind a song

As a young girl Missy Higgins had a great desire to express herself. For a talented musician, this resulted in song writing. In which her lyrics describe and depict her emotions regarding life and it's constant challenges. Higgins' 2005 single, *The Special Two*, which comes from *The Sound of White* album was written just after she'd made a mistake that she regretted. She explains that the lyrics were not only therapeutic, but also freeing; I remember someone once said to me, that lies will lock you up with truth the only key. Moreover, in her 2007 single, *Secret*, the Australian artist expresses that she was 'so head over heels in love' and she wished to shout it out to the world:

I would've shouted loud and broken through I would've given it all to belong to you

Furthermore Higgins' more recent cover of *The Drones* single, *Shark Fin Blues*, delves into the depths of the human psyche. We're introduced to this idea in the lyrics,

The captain once as able as a fink dandy

He's now laid up in the galley like a dried out mink

He's laying dying of thirst and he says or I think

Well, we're gonna be alone from here on in.

Anybody can write, the real artist is the person whose words make you feel something deeper.

By Ella Moran (Year 11)

## Concert Review

"Now you finally know you control where you go: you can steer."

It was pretty hard to imagine anything could top the stunning view and chilled atmosphere at Sydney's Taronga zoo, with the sun setting over the Harbour Bridge, the city sky line in the back ground and hundreds of people eagerly anticipating the arrival of Missy Higgins onstage. And then she played her first chord.

It was just a little bit perfect. From early tracks from her hit album "The Sound of White" to songs newly written, it soon became clear Missy is a natural performer, involving the audience with her quirky sense of humor and down to earth performance. She doesn't show off or do crazy radical dance moves, but somehow still keeps the crowd in the palm of her hand. With jokes about being on Playschool and what an honor that was, we were even treated to a round of "And they swam (and they SWAM) all over the dam!".

A standout was a new heartfelt song called "For Sammy" about her love for her new baby boy plus a sample of her new single coming out in a few weeks - "O Canada" about the plight of Syrian refugees. The back-stories behind the songs are all so interesting because Missy draws her material so much from real life experiences. Experiencing one of Missy's concerts is something that will always remain in your memory.

By Jemima Taylor (Year 9)

## School Life

Missy (Melissa) Higgins was born in Melbourne, in 1983. She has two siblings and is the youngest in her family. Missy began learning classical piano at the age of six but realised she wanted to sing when she was 12 and starred in her school musical. When Missy was 15, she wrote a song called 'All for believing' for a school assignment. This assignment earned a well deserved A and Missy ended up approaching a Melbourne record company that told her that they wanted more than just one song. In 2001, Missy's sister put her song into Triple J's *Unearthed* competition for unsigned artists. The song won the competition and was placed into the stations play list. Two record companies (Sony and Eleven) showed an interest in Missy and she picked the company 'Eleven' because they agreed not to make her into a 'pop star' and give her time off to go backpacking with her friends. In 2004, Missy's first album- *The Sound of White* was released.

By Savannah Sandliands (Year 9)

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**SUNDAY 6TH MARCH LEIGHTON GARDENS**  
 11 – 1PM BUSKERS BATTLE  
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**SUNDAY  
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**28 FEB. 12PM-4PM**

Join us for the Ultimate Relaxing Sunday Afternoon at Bendooley Cellar.

The fabulous Ella's Holiday will be here to entertain you with their signature jazz, soul and blues.

Bring your friends, savour a tasting plate or some elegant finger food and enjoy a glass of Bendooley Estate wine or perhaps something from our hand-picked European selection!

No Bookings required.

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A community prayer morning will be commencing the first Wednesday of every month, starting on the Friday 2 March. Interested community members will be meeting in The Trinity Library Room 10 from 7:30am-8:00am. All staff and Oxley families are warmly welcome. Students are most welcome, however due to duty of care, they must be accompanied by an adult.

## PIN OAK FAIR UPDATE

Books, Books, Books!

We'd love your preloved books!

An amazing bookstall is being planned for the Pin Oak Fair. We'd love any preloved books that you no longer need so we can sell them at the Fair.

Any type... gorgeous children's picture books, nail biting suspense, teary novels, gardening, how to crafty or mouth-watering cook books.

We'd love only books in good condition please!

Please box them up and bring to Oxley College and drop them at Reception in Elvo. Please email Skye Sandilands at [skye@projectsolutions.com.au](mailto:skye@projectsolutions.com.au) to let her know quantities and when they will be dropped off.

And don't forget that Volunteer Now button on the Pin Oak Fair page of the Oxley website if you'd like to help contribute in some way for the fair: <http://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/news-events/pin-oak-fair-saturday-12-november-2016/>



# FEBRUARY + MARCH CALENDAR

	<b>Mon</b> EXC: Year 11-12 Music to encore. 22	<b>Mon</b> EXC: Year 6 National Young Leaders, Sydney. Year 11, Student/Parent/Teacher interviews, Orchestra Room. 29	<b>Mon</b> EXC: Year 5-6 Science and English Discovery, Mittagong RSL. 07
	<b>Tue</b> 2016 Basketball tour information evening, Orchestra room. 23	<b>Tue</b> EXC: Year 12 DT, Powerhouse Museum. EXC: Year 3-4 Custodianship, National Park, Fitzroy Falls. EXC: Year 9 Music, St Jude Organ Discovery. 01	<b>Tue</b> Sport: HICES K-6 Swimming Carnival (Details TBC). EXC: Year 10 Science and English Challenge, Mittagong RSL. 08
	<b>Wed</b> 7 - 12 Inter-House Swimming Carnival, Bowral 24	<b>Wed</b> EXC: Year 11-12 The Armory. INC: Year 8 Medieval Fest P1-4, Room 11-12. 02	<b>Wed</b> Sport: ISA Swimming Carnival at SOPAC (Details TBC). 09
	<b>Thu</b> Sport: Year 7-12 Inter-House, all day Swimming Carnival, Bowral. EXC: HICES Debating, Shellharbour. 25	<b>Thu</b> Sport: Oxley K-6 Inter-House Cross Country 9:00AM-11:00 AM. Sport: Oxley 7-12 Inter-House Cross Country, 1:30-3:30 PM. 03	<b>Thu</b> K-6 Open Classrooms, 2:30PM-3:30 PM. PIPPIN opening night, Hoskins Hall (Time, TBC). 10
<b>Fri</b> 19	<b>Fri</b> Sport: K-6 Inter-House Swimming Carnival, Bowral. 26	<b>Fri</b> Sport: SHIPS Swimming Carnival, Oxley Host, Bowral. 04	<b>Fri</b> K-6 Open Classrooms, 9-10 AM. Photo Day (Details TBC). PIPPIN Night 2 of 5 Hoskins Hall, (time TBC) 11
<b>Sat</b> 20	<b>Sat</b> ISA Semi Finals 27	<b>Sat</b> ISA Summer Finals 05	<b>Sat</b> PIPPIN night 3 of 5, Hoskins Hall, (Time TBC). 12
<b>Sun</b> 21	<b>Sun</b> 28	<b>Sun</b> 06	<b>Sun</b> 13

## Upcoming events

+Thursday	17 March	PIPPIN night 4 of 5
+Friday	18 March	PIPPIN night 5 of 5
+Thursday	24 March	K - 6 Grandparents' Day and Easter Egg Hunt
+Friday	25 March	Good Friday
+Monday	28 March	Easter Monday

# Sport



## The Issue Causing all the Racquet

Is the world no.1, Novak Djokovic, really the best player on the planet? Or are there better players, who succumb to the temptation of vast amounts of money offered by gamblers in exchange for the player to deliberately lose? This criminal offence and act of dishonesty in determining the outcome of a match before it is played is known as match-fixing.

Less than one month ago, on the eve of the Australian Open, the tennis world was rocked. An investigation conducted by BBC and BuzzFeed News uncovered evidence of match-fixing by a core group of sixteen professional players. The investigation analysed the betting activity of 26,000 matches over a seven year period, spotting a trend in players who were continuously losing where very heavy bets were placed on them to lose. The alleged fixing is believed to be coordinated by Russian and Italian third-party gambling syndicates. Despite this conclusive evidence, world tennis authorities have taken very little action, deeming the evidence insufficient, and have decided to take no further part in this investigation. The Association of Tennis Professionals' (ATP) president is of the belief that match-fixing is at an "incredibly small level" stating that "the BBC and BuzzFeed reports mainly refer to events from about 10 years ago, we will investigate any new information".

Tennis has become a popular target for match-fixers as there are only two players involved, making it easy to influence the result of the match. However, match-fixing is also prominent in others sports such as cricket, basketball and football.

However much we confine, control and restrict match-fixing, the unfortunate reality is that it probably will always exist in sport. Wherever there's sports, there's betting, and with betting comes gamblers who seek to make financial gain at the cost of the beautiful game.

By Ted Ottaviano (Year 11)



## MATCH OF THE WEEK

The Oxley Under 14s finally broke the drought and won their first game after one and a half seasons! This achievement is a huge step forward for a motivated and passionate group of boys. It characterises the grit, determination, perseverance and resilience of the Oxley teams and encourages all others to stretch and achieve. The U14 boys team, which plays in the local Moss Vale competition, consists mostly for 10 and 11-year-old boys, playing against teams full of representative players. This result is well deserved and epitomises the Oxley sporting values. Well Done boys, keep it up!

Charlie Dummer (Year 11)