

PIN OAK

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HIKING



YEAR 10



K-6

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The Untitled

What are We?

We are Wonderers.
Forlorn in this fracturing realm.
We are Watchers.
That has a tendency to overwhelm.
We are Walkers.
There is little to be done.
We are Wanderers.
On the edge of both and none.
We are Whispers.
A fissure of estrangement.
We are Wary.
Trying to find what they meant.
We are Weary.
Turning to dissimulation.
We are Worn.
The victim of segregation.
We are Wrong.
They scorn our indifference.
We are Waste.
When it is only diffidence.
We are Waiting.
Tethered to the hedonist.
We are the Wise.
When Worst is Best.

Trapped in our Tartarus.
Declined to sit on oaken lane.
The Tree's sweetness saps us.
We drink not their watery pain.
Such a superfluous fuss.
Our 'comrades' share not this disdain.
Purity makes us poisonous.
Simply because we're hard to explain.
We wade with Tantalus.

Heed us,
For you might need us.

By Zack Cunich (Year 10)

HEADMASTER'S REPORT



With eight weeks of holidays coming up, it is important for students to think about how they are going to spend some of that time. Of course, sleeping in, kicking a ball around, swimming, watching youtube and just hanging out with friends should form a big part of it, but it shouldn't be all of it. Adults generally get four weeks a year (and often don't take it all) so students are about the get the equivalent of two years worth of leave. It is worth the while doing something worthwhile with some of that time.

I spoke with students yesterday on assembly about 'drowning in the shallows' of the internet and of all of the facile, timewasting things to do, read and watch whilst wandering its electronic corridors this holiday season. Of course there is a lot of gold in there as well, but it is easy to be distracted by the glitter of cat memes and the allergic reactions of dogs who have been stung by wasps (students actually showed me that one yesterday).

This is where the concept of the canon can come in. A canon in any area is a set of works (eg paintings of books) that are generally seen by experts and/or the public as the best in their field. If students dived into the canon of anything, they would find that they had gone beyond the wading pool of the shallows and were in the ocean of something really substantial. It would be just as rewarding and probably as much fun.

Most of the canonical ideas that I suggested on assembly took the form of a 'Best of' list or a '1001 Things to Read/Watch etc' book. Students could look at what the 'best' 50 paintings are. They could decide to read some of the 'top' 100 books of all times (I suggested Catcher in the Rye, To Kill a Mockingbird and Lord of the Flies as ones that often appeal). They could listen to some of the 50 songs of all times, or listen to some of the 10

best albums of all time. They could watch some of the movies that made the top 100 list. They could start planning trips in their adult lives to some of the top 100 destinations in the world. Starting points can be found easily on the internet or in the Bowral Bookstore.

All in all, students could spend time engaging in works that are important, substantial and very impressive. Then they can go for another swim.

I wish everyone all the best for the Christmas season. I hope that the time for everyone is meaningful and reflective. For those in our community who will be celebrating Christmas in a church I wish you joy and the fulfilment of Christmas's promise. For those who will not, I wish you all the best wishes, the camaraderie and the happiness of the season.

I look forward too, to seeing everyone back in 2017.





THE IMPORTANCE OF INDEPENDENCE IN YOUNG WOMEN

It's a Sunday morning. The A.M sun is spilling in the window and I'm sitting in my tattered desk chair with cold coffee resting in my hand. I'm doing the normal Facebook run, reading articles, perhaps doing a little stalking and I can't help but notice the mass amount of teenage girls with complaints about their relationship and friendship dramas flooding my feed. Now, before I continue, drama within friendship circles and conflict with love interests is obviously more than normal but what stunned me about the entire scenario was how worked up these young women were getting about it. From sorrowful remarks like "I don't know if I want to continue this life without you *sad face* *broken heart emoji*" to melancholy-filled comments like "Now that you're gone life just seems so pointless...", the amount of misery these girls were experiencing about these people simply astounded me. While reading these posts I kept thinking to myself "maybe it's just me; maybe I'm just strange for not getting this upset over relationship or friendship issues" but upon further reflection, I discovered that maybe there's something else entrenched within the emotions these women are feeling.

You see, there's no problem with experiencing these emotions. Love, jealousy, desolation, we've all been there in one way or another. The regular cure is a fresh page out of your diary to rant, a hardcore session of Gossip Girl and some double choc-chip ice-cream for extra comfort. It's not the feelings themselves that are the issue but the way you handle them. Whenever I'm going through a rough patch with girl issues or friendship drama, (without sounding clichéd) I always have myself to fall back on. Some of this may be contributed to the fact I'm an only child but I don't think the majority of it is. I'm confident enough in myself to know that even without certain people in my life, I'm still a whole person and eventually I'll grow to

be fine without them. I'd hate to sound like I think I'm better by saying that because this article isn't meant to be about "how much I love myself" and how "I'm strong and everyone else is weak". It's truly not.

It's about the fact that too many young women (especially), even in today's "progressive" society are being brought up with the idea that you need other people to truly be happy and fulfilled. So really, reflecting, can it come as a surprise that young women start feeling worthless when relationships fall apart or friends drift away? From day one we're told that we're going to grow up and start a family. We're told that you have to constantly surround yourself with others or you'll be forever unhappy. We're told that without other people we're nothing. Never are we told that being by yourself and loving yourself before others is alright. Growing up with these ideals can be extremely harmful in high school specifically. With school consuming young people today, many don't know a life outside of their friendship circles and romantic flings. Kids begin to adjust and feel that's all there is when that's just not the case.

Yes, I'm fifteen but I've been on this planet long enough to know that people will let you down, time and time again. I can't stress how important it is to be secure enough to let yourself be your own safety blanket when times get inevitably tough. Independence and self-love are some of the most important things to get a good grip on in high school. With independence, you learn to live for yourself and not others. With self-love, you learn to always have yourself when things fall apart. Teach yourself to be you without others around you.

By Izzy Moore (Year 9)



Books

Summer Reading

1. Let it Snow by John Green
2. The Summer I Turned Pretty by Jenny Han
3. The Gone Series by Michael Grant
4. Gladiator by Phillip Wylie
5. My Sister Lives on the Mantlepiece by Annabel Pitcher
6. The Light between Oceans by M. L. Stedman
7. My Sister Sif by Ruth Park
8. Anything by Stephen King
9. All the Light we can not see by Anthony Doerr
10. The Big Picture on the Origin s of Life, Meaning, and the universe itself by Sean Carroll



Music

Top Ten Christmas Songs

1. All I Want for Christmas is you

Mariah Carey

2. My Only Wish (This Year)

Britney Spears

3. Last Christmas

Wham!

4. Jingle Bell Rock

Daryl Hall and John Oates

5. Frosty the Snowman

Micheal Bublé

6. Mistletoe

Justin Beiber

7. Happy Xmas (War is Over)

John Lennon and Yoko Ono

8. It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

Micheal Bublé

9. Do They Know It's Christmas?

Band Aid 30

10. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Frank Sinatra

BY Tully Mahr (Year 9)



Films

Top 10 Christmas Films

1. Love Actually
2. The Polar Express
3. The Holiday
4. The Grinch
5. Home Alone
6. Santa Claus
7. A Christmas Carol
8. Its a Wonderful Life
9. Arther Christmas
10. Elf

Head of K-6: Justine Lind

The last fortnight has been filled with many exciting end of year celebrations that create stronger bonds and lasting memories in a community. From the fun of movies, adventure parks, slushy days and gingerbread cookies to the formal dinners, carols, assemblies and Speech Night, the last days of term have been scheduled almost down to every minute. We love these events and the opportunity to celebrate a year of challenging learning and outstanding individual and collective effort and achievement.

A recent article on the world economic forum entitled, Being bored is good for children - and adults, inspired me to think creatively about ways to balance the intense activity in the lead up to the end of term for my holidays and for students and their families in K-6.

The article provided a great argument for the intrinsic benefits of boredom. In a world where stimulation from social and digital sources is constant, it is vital to be able to switch off, tune out and wind down and these are all learnt behaviours. There is even a bit of social pressure for parents to ensure that their children are entertained and organised and well-travelled. Instead, we should celebrate doing nothing, being bored and the opportunity to allow children to make their own fun.

Research tells us that children provided with the experience of boredom have better imaginations, better mental health, better self-efficacy, better problem solving skills, greater creativity, empathy and resilience. In short boredom is good for us.

I remember, in my first year of teaching, asking my Year 1 students about what games they played and was totally surprised to hear a list of board games, computer games and sports. I'm not quite old enough to have expected Cowboys and Indians but I did expect to have some imaginary games reported. There was not one. No cubbies, no pretend, no role play and no free will. I usually talk about preparing our students for the future but in this, I am nostalgic for the past.

The article went on to say how for many parents, the first response to a claim of boredom is one of guilt and the feeling that they need to solve or alleviate this perceived problem. Instead it should be seen as an opportunity. Parents can prompt and guide their children through some problem solving and decision making. Some simple materials that can be used for multiple purposes will help; giant cardboard boxes or other craft items, planks of wood, bags of wool or a box of chalk.

My teacher mindset clicked into gear when reading about the cognitive and emotional benefits; "curiosity, perseverance, playfulness, interest and confidence that allow them to explore, create and develop powers of inventiveness, observation and concentration.... these provide benefits of life-long value."

Far from being one more thing good parents need to do – let this be something on your list of don'ts! Don't overschedule, don't imagine and don't problem solve for your children. It will be good for them and good for you too. I have a sense that this is part of the draw of a life in the Highlands – there is space and time and freedom to enjoy being a child and for many there are outdoor rural pastimes to distract us from the frenetic pace of the modern world. How lucky we are.

If you google this you will find lists and lists of ideas that will make it easy to turn off the computer and make your own fun! Here are some of my ideas. I'll ask you to add some to the list when we are all back at school for another year and boredom is again a thing of the past!

Top Tips to Combat Boredom

1. Build something, make something, write or paint or draw something.
2. Invent a new game with old equipment or new rules for an old game.
3. Find a novel spot and look at something familiar from a new perspective. What do you notice?
4. Re-read a book on your shelf.
5. Rearrange your bedroom, bookshelf or belongings.
6. Try on different outfits, try new combinations of clothes. Or swap some with your friends.
7. Research and create some kind of craft project or up-cycle something old around the house (ask Mum or Dad first).
8. Make a picnic and take a bike ride or climb a tree.
9. Bake, cook, stew or prepare a meal for your family.
10. Lie on the ground and look at the sky. What can you see in the clouds? This is called "cloud busting".
11. Meditate, day-dream, plan a big adventure that you will take someday in the future.
12. Read a book or watch a movie. Take a tour through different genres or years to experience some new titles and unexpected delights.
13. Make a list of "favourites" from friends and family and then try some for yourself; favourite food, sleeping position, sport, TV show, dress-up costume, poem, holiday destination, dream job, memory, Christmas present, leisure activity or thing to do when you're bored!
14. Create your own list of "Top Tips to Combat Boredom"!

Wishing all in our Oxley family a joyous time at Christmas and a very boring holiday!

K- 6 GALLERY



Getting to know Year 12 2017

Meaning of Colour (Ella Moran)

We seem to associate specific colours with certain meanings or ideas. Blue is symbolic of sadness; red the colour of passion and green assimilated with new life. However, perhaps the correlation between colour and concept is merely a preconceived belief. By that I mean, if an alien were to visit earth, I'd almost guarantee its first thought would not be: blue sky is depressing or pink is purely feminine. Perhaps, the meaning of colour limits our ability to see colours as they are: the pigmentation of a 'thing'.

What super power you choose to have (Amelia Carlisle)

I'd want that power where you touch something, for example a book, and you know all the information it holds, but you can switch it on and off as you need it. Would save me a lot of studying at the moment!

If you could have a do-over, what where and why? (Angus Webb)

We often long for moments where we can go back and change something from our past; a family fight, an embarrassing moment, a sibling's birth... But why? As a firm believer that everything happens for a reason, I believe it is these moments that shape us, that it is these moments that give us the experience needed for the endeavors we face daily, no matter how large or small. So try not to regret, try not to live in the past. If it's good, it's wonderful. If it's bad, it's an experience. If we can change our questions from "what have I done," to "what can I do next", we can enjoy our lives to the utmost.

Most awkward social experience? (Holly Jefford)

It would have to be when I was in Kindergarten and I ran into a power box. I was in the play ground talking to my best friend at the time and got distracted and ran into it. I just happened to be the perfect height, sending me right into the corner. My head was bleeding and of course everyone in a 10-meter radius saw it. For about two minutes everyone was staring at me, trying not to laugh. After I managed to get to sickbay, I had a good laugh because it's a typical thing for me. There have been many more experiences like that in the past 10 years.

If your pets could talk, what would you ask them? (Isabella Knowles)

I have so many questions! Despite our very best intentions (the use of an electric collar included), my dog Banjo is an escape artist. He goes on adventures regularly (he has been picked up from the pub, McDonalds, inside people's houses and inside kitchens of cafés - to name just a few of his destinations). I would love to know what he gets up to while he's gone, I can imagine him having some wild stories to tell!



If you could witness any event of the past, present, or future, what would it be? (Ted Ottaviano)

An event is a thing that happens or takes place, especially one of importance. If we were to rank all the events of the history of the universe on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the most significant, presently, no events are taking place would rank higher than a 2. In my honest and unbiased opinion, I believe the predominant amount of 'significant' events have, are and will be scientific accomplishments. The future contains many inevitable scientific possibilities such as: the colonisation of Mars (7), the discovery of time travel (9), or evolution of the human species (5). However; these discoveries are only theoretical. The past is where I feel the most amazing events have taken place which have shaped the course of history. The past holds some tragic events such as the World Wars (4), or the Crusades (3), but also holds some of the most fascinating scientific and social events such as: The Renaissance (5), moon landing (3), life of Christ (8) or the discovery of electricity (5). If there is one event which I would choose to witness, it would be one which occurred 13.8 billion years ago, the big bang (10). Although physically impossible, as you would literally have to be suspended in 'nothing' (or would you?!) as well as temperatures predicted to be rather 'hot', witnessing the big bang would be an amazing experience which would offer extraordinary amounts of knowledge such as, finding out how everything started, what was before, and the immediate events following. Witnessing such an event would uncover many of the secrets of the universe.

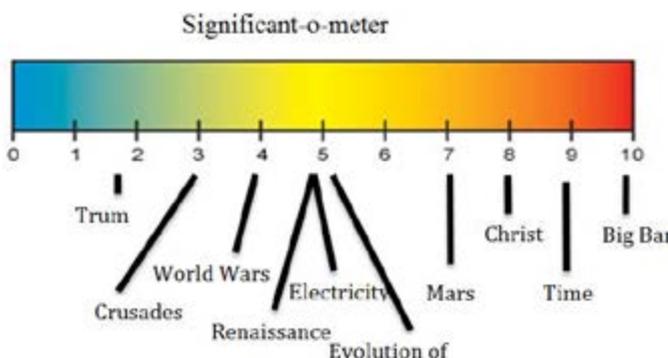


Your bravest moment? (Ashley van Beek)

My bravest moment was when I was 11 years old. My family and I went on a trip to New Zealand and we decided one day to go to a Bungy Jumping company. I ended up really wanting to do it. Contemplating whether to jump or not for about half an hour as we watched people dive from the bridge into the canyon, I decided that I was going to do it. Shaking from head to toe, I jumped off that bridge and until this day it is still probably the scariest, yet most thrilling experience I have ever had.

Describe the world in 100 years (Ellie Barker)

There will only be three languages in the world - English, Spanish and Mandarin, as current minor languages are fading at a rapid rate. It is very plausible for one single worldwide currency to arise as we are already seeing electronic currencies that can be used anywhere in the world. In order to accommodate the projected 10 billion people, nature will not be able to keep up with the heavy demand for resources, most likely resulting in oceans having to be extensively farmed and not just for fish but possibly for algae to generate renewable energy. We might also have the ability to communicate through thought transmission, anything is possible!



DEPUTY HEAD REPORTS

Deputy Head Pastoral: Peter Ayling

As the year draws to a close we were keen to survey Year 7 and see how we can make next year's Year 7 transition as smooth as possible. We asked Charlie Dummer in Year 12 to share his thoughts on Oxley College.

1. Year 7 is a long, exciting year where people learn a lot about each other and themselves. I found that looking to people in the year above helped me find my feet and realise boundaries, but it wasn't until I began looking laterally, within my year, that I began to form close friendships with people I didn't previously know - some of which are my closest friends today.

2. Different people have different interests and ideas in different areas. Diversity is key! Oxley would be very boring, and school would drag on for a long time every day if everyone was the same. The different things people connect with in this relatively small community is what makes Oxley so special.

3. Embrace everyone for who they are. It is nobody's job to mould who someone is to become. Rather, learning from people with different perspectives and different ideas will allow you to mould who you wish to become.

4. The six demanding and often stressful years of high school will become far more easy and enjoyable if the entire year creates a supportive network, leaving no one to fend for themselves.

5. It only takes one moment per day, or even week to start with, to listen to someone who you haven't spoken to, or given a chance to before. This can really help you connect with each other and learn about both other people and yourselves.

6. Not everything will click immediately. Giving time and staying open-minded when approaching new people and new ideas is key; you will thank yourself for it, eventually!

7. Finally respect, if you take nothing else out of what I have said please just listen to this. Treating each other like they belong here is the most basic element of respect. Of course not everyone is going to be 'best mates', but simply allowing everyone to say what they mean, and accepting what people have to say will create a safe and diverse environment, from which you all will benefit.

A wonderful message from Charlie. Have a relaxing and peaceful break.



Deputy Head Learning: Kate Cunich

Today we celebrate yet another special week in the life of a vibrant school! As I write, we are in the final days of school, rushing frantically toward a well-deserved break for students, parent and teachers.

As a learning community we have gone through many events this year: assessments, examinations, NAPLAN, student-parent-teacher interviews, Rites of Passage, Australian Business Week, the HSC and so many more. But the unforgettable has been to watch and nurture the growth of our students' minds, hearts and spirits. Every day, in every classroom we have had the joy and the privilege of guiding, facilitating and enjoying the challenges of learning, of thinking, of solving difficult problems, shoulder to shoulder alongside our wonderful young men and women.

This week I celebrate a significant aspect of our academic culture: the balance of enlightened and rigorous academic endeavour evidenced in the final examinations and assessments of all students in Years 7 – 12. I celebrate students who receive their papers back seeking feedback, not just dismissing an unexpected result. I celebrate teachers who have spent long, arduous hours marking, commenting on scripts, tasks and creations, and then writing considered reports that will reflect the progress they have seen in their classrooms. I celebrate the remarkable Year 12 cohort who are already proving exemplars of self-regulated learning, continuing to gather in silence in the Study Centre, completely focussed on the work that has to be done.

Families in Year 7 – 10 are about to receive a Yearly report. As you gather to read and reflect, please look first and foremost at the effort, at the learning statements and at the teacher comment. We know that effort has the maximum impact on achievement and progress, so by analysing this first, we can learn how to go forward in 2017.

Thank you to all for your trust in our educational vision and mission. It has truly been a year of wonder and wisdom at Oxley and we wish all our community a truly blessed festive season.



WILL CLARK

"I'm Will, I'm 20 and I live with Autism. I can't read or write and my speech is limited. I am recycling cricket bats with artists from around the world and creating employment for people with disabilities".

Recently, Will Clark visited the Year 9 Art class and the class was asked to create designs that will be painted onto four cricket bats. There are many different ideas and we are awaiting the vote to see which designs will be chosen! The bats will be painted during the holidays by the eager Year 9 students. For more information on this community project: <https://chuffed.org/project/willrecycledcricketbats>



EMMA CROKER

Congratulations to Emma Croker on her nomination for selection in the 2017 NSW ArtExpress Exhibition for her Year 12 Visual Art Major Work.



BUSINESS WEEK

During the Year 10 Business Week each group café competed through a virtual server, aiming to be the most successful chain after a simulated two years. Although initially guesstimation, teams gradually got a feel for it. Unfortunate Bumble Beans was never able to fully recover from a financial crisis in the first quarter, meaning they were the only team that never led.

Those not occupied with the simulation laboured to materialise the 'actual' company, along with any associated statements, reports, media and the hopefully enjoyable presentation last Friday.

While there was the occasional disagreement within and between teams, having to work through this was a valuable experience. It was a comfortable introduction to the pressures and competitiveness present in an industry in which some of us may work.

The customary Business Week Dinner/Year 10 Formal at Gibraltar Hotel concluded the week. In addition to a great dinner, hospitality guru Max Hitchins delivered an impressive and inspiring speech stressing the importance of time, altruism and passion. People were then free to congregate on the dance floor; the more enthusiastic flailing their limbs and vibrating their vocal chords.

Now, the results. The Red Team, Blitz Coffee was the overall victor winning People's Choice with 117 votes, as well as the Simulation, the AGM and the Company Report. The Marketing Award went to El Frigo and their rather memorable screeching aliens and zesty Mexican.

By Zack Cunich (Year 10)



THE DISTURBING SPEECH

On Monday 21 November a video was released on the internet by The Atlantic showing an "alt-right" leader speaking at a gathering of the White nationalist party at the annual conference of the National Policy Institute of the United States. The leader was addressing 200 attendants and at the end of his speech he shouted "Hail Trump, hail our people, hail victory!" This unleashed numerous people reacting in the crowd by giving the speaker a nazi salute of a stretched arm pointing upwards. The disturbing thing about this happening is that this group is referring to the Republican President-elect of the United States as a way of coming out of hiding with their ideas about white male supremacy. The Republican President-elect Donald Trump has made one small comment, but actually has done nothing about the response of these people which leaves us with a question of whether Donald Trump rejects all these radical ideas such as Racism, Homophobia, Xenophobia, Anti-feminism, Islamophobia and Ethno-nationalism or if Trump condones all these ideas. Overall the release of this video has been criticised as Racist and Hateful by viewers all around the world. It is disturbing that Donald Trump, the President-elect of one of the most powerful nations of the world has not raised more serious concerns.

By Tijmen Regan (Year 8)

Steve Limebeer CLASS OF 1989



Now that you're off in the big wide world, what have you made of yourself since finishing school at Oxley?

I have had the opportunity of working with some amazing people since I left Oxley in 1989. Sadly, some of these wonderful Australians have since made the ultimate sacrifice in the defence of our wonderful country. To be honest I have never really set out to make anything of myself as I think it's far more important to know you have done your absolute best no matter what life throws in your direction - that's making something of yourself.

What is your biggest achievement since high school?

I'm still working hard on it...coming to a bookstore or iPad soon...

Were these things that during high school you expected you would end up doing?

I always wanted to fly helicopters as I had a love for aviation. I would listen out every afternoon for the notorious sound of the military Iroquois that would regularly fly over Oxley. I certainly ticked this box and also a few others along the way, so I am very fortunate.

How did Oxley prepare you for your future?

Oxley taught me self-discipline and respect. Nothing

can fully prepare you for the future although good foundations make you stronger and more resilient.

Is there anybody from the Oxley community who inspired you throughout high school?

I wouldn't like to single out any particular individual, there were many inspirational people associated with Oxley.

What would you say you miss most about being at school?

Definitely the manual labours! Even though it was a punishment at the time, there were many funny moments that will stick with me for life! You can always turn a negative situation into a positive one - "we had the best cricket pitch in the Southern Highlands!"

What would you say to your fifteen-year-old self?

Listen to those who have walked the road before you. Be true to yourself, believe in your dreams no matter what and don't hold a grudge as the only person it ultimately affects is you!

Editor's Note: Steve Limebeer, a former Police Officer, received a prestigious award presented by the NSW Governor, His Excellency General David Hurley AC, DSC, for saving the life of a member of the public in extreme conditions.

LIBRARY NEWS

Reading for Pleasure

"...reading is actually linked to increased cognitive process over time."

There has been a bit of doom and gloom in the media lately over the decline in Australian PISA results for maths, reading and science. There is, however, one activity that is strongly linked to educational attainment in maths, reading, spelling and vocabulary and it does not involve study, drills, or hours of practice exercises. It is, in fact, leisure reading.

Leisure reading is not mandated reading from levelled readers, instead, it is reading for pleasure from books of the child's own choosing. It can also include reading for pleasure with a family member.

Leisure reading could even involve switching on the subtitles when watching a favourite movie. Recent

research from New Zealand has linked the use of subtitles in popular movies with increased reading engagement and achievement.

Holidays are for relaxing and a wonderful way to relax is to read a book (or even some movie subtitles). You may even find there are some impressive cognitive side effects.



SPORT COACHES REQUIRED

Due to the increased number of sporting teams in both K - 6 and 7 - 12, we are seeking enthusiastic coaches for our school teams for the 2017 Winter Season.

Coaches are sought for the following sports:

Netball
Hockey
Rugby
Football
Fencing
Athletics

Training is usually conducted on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons between 3.45pm and 5.15pm with most fixtures played on Saturdays. Teams play at Oxley College and venues in Sydney, Blue Mountains and the Central Coast.

For further information contact the Sport Department at Oxley College on (02) 4861 1366 or email your expression of interest to: nicholas.wansey@oxley.nsw.edu.au – Sports Coordinator
kim.mcnaught@oxley.nsw.edu.au – Sports Administrator
Child protection legislation requires preferred applicants be subject to employment screening.

Oxley College 2018 Academic Scholarship Programme

Junior Scholarships
are

available for students entering
Year 7 in 2018.

There will be up to the equivalent of two full Junior Scholarships for the remission of tuition fees for Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11&12 (this will be reviewed annually). A maximum of one scholarship will go to a current Oxley student.

Candidates will sit Scholarship tests at the College on Saturday 25 March 2017.

Please refer to our website <https://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/enrolment/scholarships/> for information or contact AAS direct for further information via www.academicassessment.com.au.

Scholarship registration is \$90 per person.

Closing date for lodging registration for the Oxley College AAS Academic Scholarship is

Monday 20 March 2017.

Applications after this date will attract a late fee.

P&F NEWS

Pin Oak Fair

The ripple on benefits of the inclusive, community focused and vibrant Pin Oak Fair will be felt for many years to come. We are delighted that on the day, the Pin Oak Fair takings were over \$40,000. This is a tremendous outcome for our inaugural Oxley Fair. A significant portion of this money was spent creating the wonderful atmosphere on the day which was a whole community event with something for everyone. In the spirit of giving, the surplus monies will be distributed equally between Oxley College; local youth, mental health charity - Get Around It and our sister schools in Botswana, Fiji and Nepal. Thank you again to the indefatigable Jane Crowley, her Acorn Crew and all the many parents, staff and students who helped to make this day such an enormous success.

P & F Year Reps

Thank you to the wonderful group of parents who have volunteered to be Year Reps in 2016. They have coordinated dinners, picnics, Mother's Day Stalls, barbeques, Father's Day breakfasts, lunches for grandparents and the list goes on! Their contributions have been invaluable in building a real sense of connection and community through the year groups. We appreciate their help and efforts so much. If you are interested in being a Year Rep in 2017, please let us know.

P & F Executive

A big thank you to Kate and Trevor Fair who have kept the P & F Executive ticking along in 2016. They will be joined by new members of the Executive in 2017 and we look forward to many worthwhile and enjoyable P & F events in the new year.

K - 6 Carols

A huge thank you to Gail Dennington and Wayne Pratt and all the Year 3 Parent helpers for the wonderful P & F Barbeque at the K - 6 Carols.

Year 6 Celebration Dinner

Thank you to Roz Chapman and Hanneke Stemmann for making the Year 6 Celebration dinner such a success. Roz single handedly cooked up a storm for 80 plus with such calm ease. Thank you to Mel Gilbert for all the behind the scenes help on the night and during the planning. Thank you to Hanneke for organising such a superb team of Year 5 Parent helpers: Veronica Kennedy-Good, Jaqui Cameron (hours in the sink!), Jane Dummer, Bec Hardy, Simone Kennedy, Leyla Oxley, Fiona Morrison, Camilla Mahony, Vanessa Witcombe and Gabrielle Gray.



DECEMBER + JANUARY CALENDAR

| | | | |
|--|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|  <p>Our amazing voice of Oxley, Judy Lydstrom, is retiring in January after nearly 20 years of service to Oxley. We wish her all the best in her well reserved retirement and she will be greatly missed.</p> | Mon 12 | Mon 19 | Mon Boxing Day 26 |
| | Tue 13 | Tue 20 | Tue 27 |
|  | Wed 14 | Wed 21 | Wed 28 |
| Thu 08 | Thu 15 | Thu 22 | Thu 29 |
| Fri 09 | Fri 16 | Fri 23 | Fri 30 |
| Sat 10 | Sat 17 | Sat 24 | Sat New Years Eve 31 |
| Sun 11 | Sun 18 | Sun Christmas Day 25 | Sun New Years Day 01 |

Upcoming events

Term 1 commences on Monday 30 January for all K - 12 students

Oxley Shop

Oxley Shop hours during the holidays are from 8:30am – 4:00pm
 on: Tuesday 13 December, Wednesday 14 December, Thursday 15 December
 During the New Year the Oxley Shop will be open from:
 Monday 16 January until Friday 27 January from
 8:30am – 4:00pm

Sport



SOFTBALL VS CRICKET

The rivalry is not yet over between the softball and cricket firsts teams! In the final weeks of term, the softball girls both fought against the cricket boys and beside them, to determine who the real 'oval owners' were. Disclaimer: nothing is yet to be determined. Though the boys came on strong, they clearly lacked softball skills and tactics, which the girls used to their advantage. With less than average pitching from the boys, the girls were repeatedly forced to walk bases. Their confidence seemed to tire as the girls finished the first innings with seven home. However, the boy's ability to smash the ball miles away made up for... everything else. Umpire, Mr Woff tried to support the girls, calling the cricketers out for any small error, but to our disappointment, the boys came away with the win (ONLY by two runs!) On reflection, the girls realised that 'playing easy' on the boys backfired. Stay tuned: a rematch is being scheduled for the end of the season!

Ella Moran (Year 12)

The game had a lot of meaning for the cricketers who were desperate to taste the feeling of success after only winning one game for the first half of the season. The softball girls batted first, with the cricketers taking the field and quickly finding out that pitching was not as easy as it seemed. After a few wides were thrown and batswomen were given free bases Lachlan took a screamer of a catch only to be denied for some unknown reason to the boys. The girls first innings closed when they declared at seven runs. This dismal start had the cricketers hoping to hit some boundaries and pull back the girls lead. With some powerful hitting the boys managed to pump home three runs in the innings before some reason the innings closed at three wickets rather than the standard 10 the cricket boys were used to. By the time the second innings started an increase in understanding of fielding by the boys and a change of pitcher restricted the girls to only nine runs total. This was the beginning of a momentum swing and with cricketers swing the carbon fibre willow sweetly, the cricketers jumped to the lead 10-9. With girls nervous the boys again applied pressure in the field and restricted the girls total to 12 runs after three innings. With victory in sight and power hitting still left the boys smelt their second victory of the year. When a lovely pull shot from Alex allowed for the cricketers to move from 11 to 13 the boys celebrated as their winning drought had finally ended.

Thanks to Mr Woff and Mr Staples for agreeing to the game and for their tips during the game.

Alex Coleman (Year 12)



EQUESTRIAN

Last term Hunter Taylor (Year 8) and Anneleise Wansey (Year 7) were selected to represent NSW at the Australian National Interschools. This competition was held over five days in the last school holidays, at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre. Competitors came from across Australia to represent their state, with NSW subsequently winning overall.

Hunter achieved a second in his prelim dressage test, and was also very successful in his show horse riding, doing well in both the show hunter and show horse, and placing 4th in his rider class. Anneliese did extremely well in her novice dressage tests, achieving an 8th and an 11th place.

Getting selected for the Nationals is highly competitive, and to go on and be as successful as Hunter and Anneliese is remarkable. Congratulations!

At the Equestrian Australia Nationals, Hunter Taylor was also runner-up child's Galloway.

By Rosie Bowyer (Year 12)

