

PIN OAK

ISSUE 09: TERM 4, December 4 2014



ISA AWARDS



Basketball



K-6

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SPORTS REPORTS 22 November, 2014

ISA CRICKET

Firsts played St Paul's Grammar School at home.
Lost
Oxley had first innings total of 232 and St Pauls were 7/340.
Zac Moran top scored for Oxley with 106 runs.

14 Blue played day 2 of a 2 day match against Highlanders and lost. Highlanders scored 3/205 in their first innings. Oxley scored 9/66 in their first innings.

14 White played day 2 of a 2 day match against Bowral Watsons. Unfortunately they failed to match Bowral Watsons first innings total of 256.

ISA BOYS BASKETBALL

Firsts played Blue Mts
Lost 50-25

13s played Blue Mts
Lost 37-7

17s played Blue Mts Lost 45-15.
There are a lot of new players to basketball in this team who are getting better every week.

14s development played St Patrick's College Black at home and lost 27-39. This was Mr In-gall's last game as their coach.

15s played Blue Mts
Won 34-4. They are placed 1st in their division at the end of round 6.

14s played Blue Mts
Won 58-20. It was the best team game we have played this season in front of a loud home crowd. Excellent pressure defence and passing against an improved team led to an impressive win. Quote from Coach Cunich

ISA GIRLS BASKETBALL

Firsts played SACS
Lost 29-25. They are now coming second on the table to SACS.

Junior A played Blue Mts
Won 20-13

Inter A played Blue Mts
Lost 29-7. Cat Uliana scored a 3 pointer in the last second of the game.

Junior B played SACS
Lost 30-8

Inter B played SACS and lost 31-18
They are now coming second on the table to SACS.

Junior C played Blue Mt
Won 19-11 They were 11 all at half time but managed to get ahead to win the game.

ISA SOFTBALL

Firsts - game against Barker was postponed as Barker 2 did not have enough players.

Juniors played two games at Chevalier against Central Coast Grammar School
They beat CCGS Junior B 28-7 and CCGS Junior A 23-12.

ISA AWARDS

Two Oxley students were amongst the recipients of special ISA sporting awards for 2014. As there were only approximately 20 awards for the 1300 students who attend ISA schools, this is an excellent achievement. The ISA Merit Award is given to students who have represented the ISA in a minimum of three sports in a calendar year. Two of these sports must be from ISA Saturday based competitions. Jennifer McNaught received this award for representing ISA in Softball, Hockey and Athletics. The ISA Excellence Award is awarded to students who receive three ISA Colours certificates in a calendar year and these Colours must include both a summer and winter ISA Saturday sport. A colours certificate is awarded for representing ISA in an Open sport team or for students in Years 11 or 12 who gain first place in an event at the ISA Swimming, Cross Country or Athletics carnival and then go on to represent ISA at the NSW CIS carnival. Katherine McNaught received this award for representing ISA in Softball, Hockey and Athletics where she came first in her Shot Put event.

Headmaster's Report



This week we sadly farewell three longstanding members of the Oxley College staff and one more recent arrival:

Jess Molloy

Jess has been with us part time this year helping with a number of classes and with learning support on a one year contract. She came to us from the University of Wollongong, where she graduated with a Bachelors of Education in 2009. She has been a local since the age of seven and currently has a menagerie of sixteen pets which take up most of her spare time.

Jess has been very organised, efficient and caring in this time. She has quite a following of fans in the younger years. She has thrown herself into the full life of the school, above and beyond our expectations. We wish her all the best in the future.

Catherine Hurth

Catherine Hurth will be leaving us after teaching French since 2003. Catherine was raised in Paris and went to the Sorbonne where she majored in languages and economics. However, just as she was about to embark upon a Masters Degree in Film at the University Sciences Politiques, she met a man from the Southern Highlands of Australia and threw it all in to live on Paddy's River without electricity. After a time she founded a successful business hiring boats on the Gold Coast.

Eventually she returned to the Southern Highlands and bought a house in Bundanoon where she still lives. She began teaching at Oxley in 2003. She has had extraordinary results in Beginners' French and she has contributed greatly to fluency and confidence for our senior students' oral work.

She will be sadly missed for her sense of humour, her intelligence and, as her colleague Ros Hamilton says, 'for her refusal to be bourgeoisie'.

Max Ingall

Max is leaving us after twenty three years of fine service. Max was originally a country boy having grown up near Quirindi on a wheat, sorghum, sheep and cattle farm. He began teaching at Walgett High and then spent nine years at Moree High. Nine years there drove him into the arms of AGC Finance at Moree where he dealt with insurance. One year there drove him back into the arms of education... this time at Oxley.

He began at Oxley in 1991 when the school had 273 students, three phones, no computers and no photocopier. However, there was a stick of chalk that each staff member received from the Bursar each morning, as long as they lined up for it. He has taught Economics, Geography and Business Studies well to generations of students and coached Basketball and Rugby. However, he will be just as well remembered for the wise and steady stewardship he has provided to Florey House for eighteen years. His mantra was 'participation' and this certainly manifests itself in all of the terrific things that Florey House does. He also has been instrumental in getting resources to the Korovou Village Preschool charity.

Headmaster's Report

Peter Craig

There is only once in any school's life when the very last founding staff member of the school leaves or retires. This is that moment for us. Peter has been fundamental in guiding the school to where it is today.

He was born in Rhodesia, played for the Under 21 national side in Rugby, spent time as a successful model and taught in a variety of schools before leaving and coming to Australia via (literally) one hundred other countries. Indeed, he and his wife Viv travelled around the world for six years before finally being lured from New Zealand by David Wright. Peter says the attraction of starting up a new school with his old colleague from African days was too great to resist.

He quickly rose to the position of Deputy at Oxley and was in charge of the pastoral, welfare and discipline of the students here for many years. He was respected and loved (and even a little feared) by generations of students. He began the sports and co-curricular programmes of the school and introduced the House system, all while teaching many classes of his beloved History. He coached our First Fifteen and First Eleven for many years. He was interim Headmaster for a year. Even now he continues to make milestones- in his thirty second year at the School he has become the inaugural Head of the Common Room at Oxley.

I have found his wise counsel to be invaluable as I have settled in over the last eight months. He has a deep understanding of the core of the School- indeed he was a key part in the creation of it. I look forward to being able to say more about Peter at Speech Night. The staff function and the alumni functions have been fitting sendoffs in the past week to this dedicated and fine schoolmaster. We will miss him deeply at Oxley.

Year Nine Sydney Experience from 2015

In June 2015 Year Nine will be spending three weeks in Sydney in an academic program that we have designed uniquely for Oxley. This is something that we plan to make into an annual event. In the longer term we want to make Year Nine a 'Rites of Passage' year unlike any other part of their schooling. This is a large and important piece of that program.

The cross-curricular theme is going to be 'my identity' – something close to the heart of many fourteen and fifteen year olds. We will be completing English, Science, Maths, Art, History, Geography etc units that link to this theme and students will be producing their own video about this. At the same time we will be widening out the self focus to include the homeless, the indigenous, the first white Australians, scientists and journalists.

Of course, being in the centre of Sydney, we are going to be exploiting the resources of inner Sydney each and every day and night. We have dozens of visits to universities, museums, art galleries studios (such as ABC and AFTRS) etc. There will also be 'peak' experiences such as the Bridge Climb, Bangarra Theatre and jet boat harbour rides. (We will also be in the centre of the Rocks during Vivid). All of these experiences will feed into the theme of 'identity' so that they all fit together in an educational experience which is second to none.

We will be staying at the Youth Hostel in the Rocks (where we will have a wing set aside for us) and the Woolbrokers Hotel in Darling Harbour (where we will have the whole hotel). It will be broadly from Monday to Friday, although we are looking at spanning a weekend as well. We will be speaking more to Year 9 2015 parents at the beginning of next year.

In the longer term we are looking at Year 9 having urban, wilderness, humanitarian and international focuses so that it is a year that no student will ever forget. This is so important for fourteen year olds who are in that cusp place between childhood and adulthood. The World Challenge trip to Thailand provides a taste of what is to come on the international front. This urban experience provides a very good idea of what is to come in the urban arena. We are looking forward to our inaugural trip very much.





"HAIRSPRAY", HUNGER AND HOW TO CHANGE A LIFE

I'm reading through one of my mum's blogs and have just found a link to a website that shows how many people die because of poverty every hour. There's a continuous flow of people's faces flashing up on the screen. It's 9.57pm at night and since 8.00pm 837 people have died from hunger all around the world.

It's a pretty sobering thought for a Friday night having just watched the movie 'Hairspray' with the family. "You can't stop the beat" was going through my head, but has now come to an abrupt halt. The weird thing is that today I have lived my life like any other normal day: my stomach is full and I just ate two pieces of chocolate. But for over 21,000 people, today was their last day alive. This means that one person dies every four seconds.

This number just seems so huge and hard to digest. I wonder if these people died in comfort after having a fulfilling life, surrounded by their loved ones like I probably will. I guess not - most of the faces I saw were children. It's facts like this that make us come to a halt, make us stand still with the world spinning around us. Everyone else seems to be acting the same way (my sister is still yelling mum's name at the top of her voice) but something has changed.

We have an assured future – it's almost certain that we will grow up and have a good job, with enough food and will live past the age of 20. And with Christmas looming ahead of us, we start to think about what we want people to get us and what we can give. Right now, all that seems to have come to a stop too. Season 5 of "Downton Abbey" no longer seems like such a main priority to me. But then again what can I do to help? In a world so big, with 21,000 people dying each day what difference can one person make? Sometimes the problem and the world seems so huge, it can be tempting to ignore it all together.

The thing is that if I can help even one person live a decent life, it will change their life forever. It might only be one person, but that person is still a person.

Let's reverse things for a second. If I knew that someone could potentially help save my life, but wasn't going to because they felt overwhelmed by everyone that they couldn't help, would I still want them to help me? Of course I would!

So what now?

Well since Christmas is coming up there are a number of good things to do. You could decide that this Christmas you want to give someone a pig instead of "The fault in our stars" on dvd. Okay let me explain myself... so you pay for a pig to go to someone in a developing country. And believe me one pig can go a long way, because it breeds and is sold at market so families can buy things like medical supplies. Or you could buy the gift of school books and help educate a child somewhere like India. I've been and seen for myself what a big difference school makes to children whose families are living with poverty. These students are smart and work hard – they just need a chance to succeed.

You can buy gifts like these at www.unwrapped.oxfam.org.au or www.everythingincommon.com.au. And lives change.

Of course you don't have to give up all your gifts, but why not do your best to change one person's life? Let's take it one step at a time and make a change for people around the world.

By Jemima Taylor (Year 7)

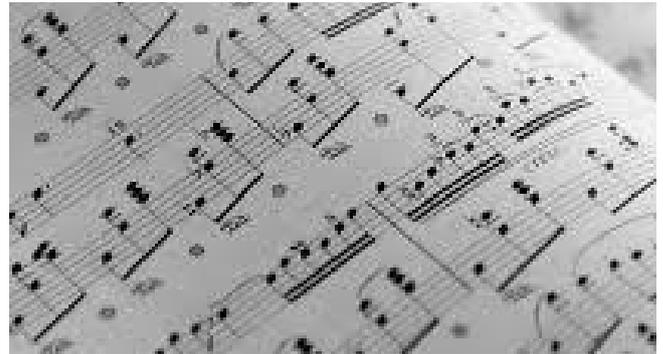
Deputy Head Reports

Deputy Head Learning K-12: Kate Cunich

It may appear clichéd but where has the year gone? As always, it is important in the busyness of end of year activities to pause and reflect, to savour the moment and to celebrate the journey undertaken.

Year 6 students spoke this week about how they have faced new challenges, developed public speaking skills, enjoyed learning and stretched themselves in different activities and situations. Year 7 – 10 students have received feedback on the effort and achievement they applied to their Semester 2 examinations. Our new Year 12 students are already well into their assessment program, displaying rigorous preparation and admirable concentration in study periods.

Parents will shortly receive reports that describe the progress of students in this final semester. We encourage conversations around the report which celebrate the positives, recognise where there has been improvement and plan for ways to address advice given. Year 7 – 10 students will begin the new year with an opportunity to set goals with their Tutor at their Academic Reflection session.



We continue to celebrate the success of the 2014 Year 12 cohort. This week it was announced that Luther Canute's Music 1 composition has been held by BOSTES (Board of Studies) for possible inclusion in the elite music showcase Encore, staged each year at the Opera House. This is a wonderful achievement for both Luther and his teacher, Mr Hughes. We look forward to the release of HSC results on Wednesday 17 December and know that many doors will open for our fine young people.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish students, teachers and parents a relaxing and special holiday break.

Deputy Head Pastoral K-12: Peter Ayling

Change Is Here !

On Tuesday morning our Year 12 students were responsible for organising and running the 7-12 Assembly. It was with much anticipation that the students were informed Change Is Coming. Over the past few weeks Year 12 have set about creating an identity for Year 12 under the theme of Secret Agents. They aim to develop a culture of pride and passion within the College. They aim to lead by example and foster a sense of positive well being for all students.

Tutors 2015

With the retirement of Mr Peter Craig and Mr Max Ingall and the departure of Miss Megan McKeown we require new staff to support and guide our students. We welcome Mr Christophe Gauchat as Head of Florey House who comes with a great deal of experience in Student Welfare and Pastoral Care. We welcome Mr Alex Hayman as a Monash Tutor replacing Mr Craig and Ms Catherine Dobner to Mawson replacing Miss McKeown.



Christmas Donations

Friday night was a wonderful celebration of the Christmas spirit in K - 6. The presents donated have been picked up by The Salvation Army and we thank everyone for their generous donations. Our students are fortunate to attend Oxley College and it is pleasing to see we can make a small contribution to assist those less fortunate at Christmas time.



Week 6 Awards

Students of the Week

K: Harry Kean, Yr 1: Bella Carpenter, Yr 2: Thomas Santo, Yr 3: Jacqueline Worthington, Yr 4: Sophie Biddlecombe, Yr 5: Bianca Gibson-Brown, Yr 6: Gabriella Wilson

Respect Self

K: Angus Dean, Yr 1: Ava Ritchie, Yr 2: William Barnett, Yr 3: Maya Cleary, Yr 4: Rosie Phelan, Yr 5: Georgia Cheaib, Yr 6: Mackenzie Johnson

K-6 2015 Leaders

Congratulations to the K - 6 Leadership team for 2015.

K - 6 Captains: Madeleine Sargeant and James Feetham

K - 6 Service Learning Captains: Tom Rapp and Ella Jackson

Chisholm House Captains: Luca Ritchie and Reece Masters

Walton House Captains: Madison Shields and Lachlan Muldoon

Flynn House Captains: Gabriella Maples and Harry Jensen

K-6 Carols



A YEAR IN REVIEW



ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Run The Jewels: Run The Jewels 2

Vibrant, dark, and confronting, Run The Jewels create music with an in-your-face energy that has been sorely missed in hip-hop this year. This LP – their second in two years – leaves a larger stamp on 2014 than any other due to a multitude of reasons: intellectual stimulation, expert production and vivid lyrics. But more than anything, Run The Jewels 2 is one of the few albums of the year that truly make you want to get off your chair and do something.

See Also: Mac DeMarco: Salad Days, The War On Drugs: Lost In The Dream

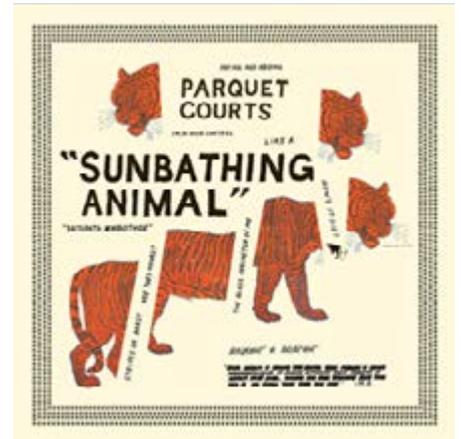


AUSTRALIAN ALBUM OF THE YEAR

DZ Deathrays: Black Rat

With a name that sounds more like an illegal weapon of mass destruction than a band name, you wouldn't consider a group like DZ Deathrays to create one of the most sophisticated and complex rock albums of the year. But their ARIA- winning sophomore record, Black Rat, delivered just that: from the first distorted bass riff of the opening track to the thumping drums to see the album out, DZ Deathrays sound like a duo with a message to prove.

See Also: The Preatures: Blue Planet Eyes, Remi: Raw x Infinity



SINGLE OF THE YEAR

Parquet Courts: 'Instant Disassembly'

Time seems to tick slower when 'Instant Disassembly' is playing. The rock in the centre of New York-based Parquet Courts' second record, Sunbathing Animal, is a slow-burning 70s call-back that plods along with a melancholic air for the best part of eight minutes, never raising a sweat. "I kept explaining that I was too tired to speak," slurs lead singer Andrew Savage, and he's right: when you're on the verge of sleep, or lying like a sunbathing animal, 'Instant Disassembly' is the only way to describe it.

See Also: Real Estate: 'Talking Backwards', Remi: 'Livin'



BEST LIVE SHOW

Kanye West: Yeezus Tour

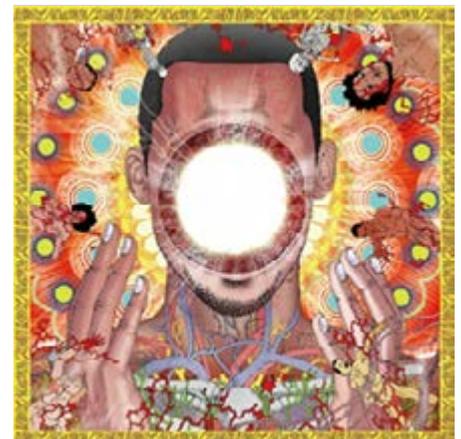
Last year, Kanye West announced in his usual arrogant tone that "Yeezy Season" was approaching. What did this mean? What was this season, and what would the weather be? I'll tell you: it was the Sydney Entertainment Centre packed to the brim. It was strobe lights and smoke machines. It was Kanye West, with Kim Kardashian in tow, dressed in costumes and masks. It was, simply, a visit from one of the most influential men in music: a blessing from Yeezus himself.



MOST OVERRATED ALBUM

Allday: Startup Cult

Year 12 of 2015 would be completely familiar with the concept of self-discovery (and if you're not, have another look at the rubric). So it doesn't take long to realise the discovery that Melbourne rapper Allday has experienced: it's totally acceptable for you to abandon your personality and genre for money and image. 2014's Startup Cult sees Allday's trademark wit and impressive instrumentals hit the chopping block to make space for uninspiring pop choruses and whining vocals.



MOST UNDERRATED ALBUM

Flying Lotus: You're Dead!

The past few years have seen revivals in forgotten genres such as post-punk and grunge, so is it not too late for jazz to make a comeback into mainstream music too? Californian producer Flying Lotus seems to have an answer: his fifth album, You're Dead! combines the intricacies of the jazz genre with the pulsing motives of hip-hop and electronic. Coupled with all-star contributions from Kendrick Lamar and Snoop Dogg, You're Dead! hits all with the existentialism that the title suggests, but none of the morbidity.

By Ruben Seaton (Year 12)



Money Vs Happiness

By Conor Lynch (Year 12)

The concept of "happiness" is fairly vague. Happiness to one person could be misery to another. However I think we can arrive at an understanding when looking at modern life through an economic lens. For instance: If you don't have any or enough income or savings, then life is incredibly difficult because we all need a source of spending in order to obtain the bare minimum necessities in life. This means that having some money or access to money is a component of achieving some degree of "happiness". In my opinion, money has to be, in some way, positively related to "happiness".

We need money to pay for shelter, food, clothing, etc. As you ascend the scale of monetary happiness, you may find that things that are likely to make you feel increasingly fulfilled, are not things that can provide you with wealth. Money can aid you in the process of ascending this scale, but it won't provide you with things like purpose, meaning, confidence, friendship, morality, family, intimacy and achievement. In fact, money is often found to be negatively related with self-actualisation and self-esteem.

There is no doubt that having more money makes issues such as living costs, school fees and supporting one's family much easier. There is certainly a level of income and financial security that makes life simpler.

Money can help and make it a lot easier to work on friendships, family, purpose, meaning, and other things that are higher up in the scale when the base is taken care of, in essence financial security. However, if you are not careful, it can veer in the opposite direction and destroy all you have worked for and create a sense of misery.

This is because it's easy to think that money is the solution to everything, thus continuing on a narrow path often leads to disappointment. Though sometimes money can also distract one from important aforementioned relationships and so they can fall to the wayside.

Experiences are underestimated in their ability to give long lasting happiness. Money can assist with these experiences, but it is not completely necessary. Research has shown that "That life experiences give us more lasting pleasure than material things, and yet people still often deny themselves experiences and prioritise buying material goods." This is because people weigh up the benefits of material goods versus experiences and as Cornell University psychology professor Thomas Gilovich suggest people say "If I go there, it'll be great, but it'll be done in no time. If I buy this thing, at least I'll always have it. That is factually true, but not psychologically true. We adapt to our material goods." Consequently, although money can buy experiences it is not the money itself that creates happiness. Research suggests that people with more money do not spend their time participating in enjoyable activities, but instead they spend it making more money and continuing on their paths to achieve their goals for wealth.

“ the cost of not being able to spend time experiencing the more beautiful things in life ”

Wealthier individuals tend to spend more of their time on activities involving higher levels of tension and stress, for example working and commuting. The trade off for spending more time saving money or earning more, is the cost of not being able to spend time experiencing the more beautiful things in life such as family, friends and other new experiences life has to offer. Research even shows that experiences provide more happiness than material goods because experiences allow us feel connected to others around us and to share moments with companions beside us.

Money provides financial security that many modern young couples do not have. According to US statistics, a common reason for divorce is constant arguments in the household about money. Studies show that couples who had more money did not have the financial induced disputes that other couples that have. Therefore, this meant they had more money to spend on themselves and each other, and did not have to waste it away or fall into debt. Couples wake up too late to the cost of high living and the cost of debt and many couples spend beyond their means, thus leading to debt. As a consequence of this young love and happiness can be inhibited by the financial stresses of adulthood.

For me, someone with aspirations to be a CEO with an Audi car and nice suits, I am acutely aware of the need to uncover the balance between money and happiness. Some people tell me that I can't have lots of money and be happy, but I beg to differ. I believe that for some people who don't share my desires for wealth and find success in other avenues achieve happiness in different manners. Whereas for others money plays a role in the ways they experience happiness, but does not totally create the happiness itself.

In conclusion, if you have enough money for your basic necessities, after that happiness no longer comes from money. If you have a great amount of money and pursue the wealth and materialistic items that it can buy, you can lose sight of the more important relationships with family and friends, which create a great deal of happiness. So is happiness really about 'having it all'? It seems that even if you have everything, life will still bring burdens and other insecurities in different ways. It appears happiness is about finding the balance between having too much and having too little, so everyone has just enough to be truly happy.



Business Week

Last Week Year 10 embarked on a week-long café business venture, doing two years' worth of work and planning in five days. Each day we had a series of decisions to make based on our previous quarters' results showing how we were doing financially, taking into consideration taxes and other expenses. We all had separate roles in our business to ensure we had everything done by each deadline, and believe me there were quite a few!

These decisions contributed to the simulation part of the task along with a brief oral presentation, business portfolio, 30 second advertisement and trade display which most of the senior school enjoyed on Friday at recess. By Friday evening, with everyone dolled up and looking fabulous it was announced that Group 5 of "Zest" café had the biggest overall score of the week. Thank you to Mrs Shedden, Mr Ingall, Ms Antoniak, Mrs Schaefer, Mr Crawford, Mr Canute, and the Maintenance staff for all their efforts during the week! By Alexia Cheaib



In Memoriam

In Memoriam: Phil Hughes (1988 – 2014)

The Australian community were brought together by the shocking news of the passing of batsman Phil Hughes on Thursday 27 November. As the sport attempts to come to terms with the tragic loss of a talented young man, Oxley students reflect on their favourite memories of Phil Hughes.

"Hughes scored his maiden first century class at the age of 18, and 100 on debut in one day cricket. I was lucky enough to watch him bat at the SCG and he was as aggressive and as exciting as always. Great to watch."

Z Moran, Captain, Year 12

"When Hughes made his debut for Australia, I remember being sceptical about his cheeky smile and youthful stance. I was forced to eat my words next match, however: against superpower South Africa he became the youngest player to score two centuries in a Test match – a record that still stands today."

R Seaton, Year 12

Philip Hughes was an amazing athlete who approached the game of cricket with fortitude, courage, and optimism. The thing I admire about Phil was his mental strength and determination towards getting back into the test side after being dropped several times. Phil will remain in our hearts forever.

R Wikramanayake, Year 7

Oxley College also sends our condolences to Sean Abbott, the bowler at the time of the incident.



Tech Wizards

Having trouble purchasing Christmas presents for family and friends this festive season? Consider these three gifts:

Tile

Remember last losing your keys or wallet? Tile is a stylish, small square device which can be attached to keys or just about anything and allows you to locate that object through your iPhone using Bluetooth. It boasts a 150 foot range (45m) and a one year non-rechargeable battery. Available for \$25 at thetileapp.com

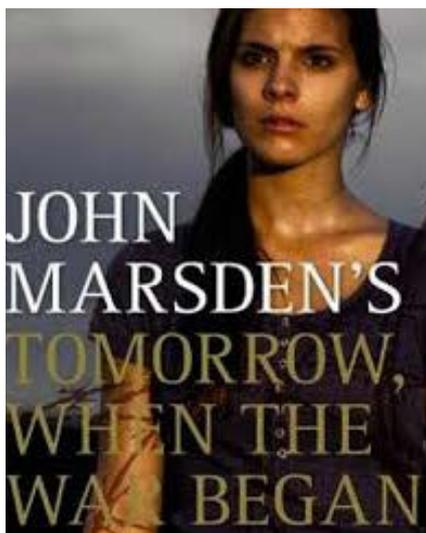
Comsol Battery Packs

Great for those moments when you have limited access to power. The Comsol battery pack allows charging of any device through two USB ports. Pack one on your next road trip or hike! Available in multiple variations, 4000mAh (\$40), 6600mAh and 11000mAh. Available at Officeworks.

Chromecast

Chromecast is an easy way to stream content to your TV through your smartphone, tablet or computer, operating through a spare HDMI port. It is similar to AirPlay available on the iDevice platform however with a little tweaking, it can be also set to stream local files. It is one of the cheapest solutions around, available for \$49 online and through various retailers.

By Ryan Tan (Year 12)



Books

★★★★★

Top 5 Summer Reads

1. The Fault In Our Stars by John Green - The Fault In Our Stars tells the story of two teens, both who have different cancer conditions who fall in love after meeting at a cancer support group. A must read for everyone!

2. The Book Thief by Markus Zusak - The Book Thief is written from the perspective of Death and tells the story of Liesel Meminger. The book is set in Nazi Germany at a time where 'Death' is extremely busy. This book is unlike any other.

3. The Maze Runner by James Dashner - The Maze Runner tells the story of a boy named Thomas who finds himself in a community of boys after his memory is erased, soon learning that he is trapped in a maze.

4. Tomorrow When the War Began by John Marsden - Tomorrow When the War Began tells the story of an invasion of Australia by a foreign power. The story is told through the perspective of Ellie Linton who is a teenage girl that has avoided capture along with her group of friends.

5. I Am Number Four by Pittacus Lore - I Am Number Four tells the story of John Smith, a member of the Garde. He is hiding on earth along with his guardian from creatures named Mogadorians. They can only be killed in numerical order, and Number Four is next on the list. This is his story...

By Olivia Donovan (Year 8)



Author: Carole Wilkinson

I believe you started writing when you were nearly 40, what inspired you to start writing at this point in your life?

It was an urge to change my life. I didn't want to work in science any more. I wanted to do something creative. It took me a while to figure out I wanted to write.

Are experiences in any of your books based on someone you know, or events in your own life?

Only in my two young adult books. Stagefright was inspired by a school musical my daughter Lili was in. Sugar Sugar was inspired by my own experience of travelling overland from England to India when I was in my 20s. Neither are retellings of actual events. I came up with new stories set in those scenarios.

Do you have any strange writing habits?

Not really. A writer's life is all about sitting in front of a computer. I like my hands to feel good when I type, so I always have hand cream nearby. When I'm writing, the strange things are what's happening in my head!

Why do you like writing fantasy books?

It's a lot of fun creating your own rules for a world and being able to give people and creatures skills and powers, to have no restrictions (until you've established the world, and then you are restricted by your own creation!)

What are you working on now?

I am currently writing a non-fiction book on climate change and the history of human interaction with the Earth's atmosphere. I am also plotting Dragon keeper 6 (trying to fit those jigsaw pieces together!)

By Savannah Sandilands (Year 7)



Films

★★★★★

Holiday Inn

When you think of Christmas movies, you immediately think of titles like 'Elf' or 'The Grinch' but one Christmas movie that deserves more credit than it gets nowadays is 'Holiday Inn'. Starring the wondrous Fred Astaire and classic crooner Bing Crosby, it's full of holiday cheer, Fred Astaire's smooth moves, and the incredible vocals of Mr Bing Crosby.

Of course the storyline is the usual love triangle but the fact that this movie is set nearly 60 years ago makes up for it and being able to see the ways of entertainment back then especially with 2 of the biggest names on Hollywood is quite an experience. The movie isn't complete without Marjorie Reynolds the object of the 2 men's affection giving the film elegance and beauty. An all-time classic that deserves more than it gets!

As this is the last issue of the year then maybe one film isn't enough for a long 8 week period, so a few other noteworthy Christmas titles include: It's a wonderful life, National Lampoons Christmas Vacation, Meet me in St Louis, The Santa Clause, and of course the Grinch who stole Christmas!

By Alexia Cheaib (Year 10)



Change- Year 12

Change is here

Year 12 have joined together to form the Oxley Intelligence Agency (OIA). By using this theme we hope to encourage you to take more pride in our school, to get involved, to follow your passions, share them with others and for us all to support school events.

A secret agent works for, never against their organisation. Every mission you take defines your existence! Throughout 2015 there will be many missions for both small groups and the whole school. This theme will be apparent in assemblies, activities during school, Saturday sport, Houses and Tutor groups. We hope that the OIA will weave its way into all facets of life at Oxley College because - this is a movement!

The OIA is not a simple thing to describe on paper, or even in person, so we are relying on our actions to explain. Our Facebook page (you don't need an account to view it) and Youtube channel are safe and inclusive ways to communicate, so please follow them to see our upcoming videos, missions and activities.



Mr Craig

Mr Craig was one of the founding staff members of Oxley College and is starting a new chapter in his life next year. He will be sorely missed and has been kind enough to share some of his stories with us.

What was the first day at Oxley like?

A long time ago, 1983, I think what struck me was how small the school was. We had an assembly at the beginning of the day there were less people in the assembly than there were in the previous class that I taught at in Kings College in Auckland. We only had 24 students at that stage.

What do you think has been your favourite memory at Oxley?

My fondest memories are essentially of students in different places whether its outback, whether it's in Holland, on a battlefield tour, whether it's on a cricket tour in the UK or Barbados, over the years I have had a lot fun seeing students enjoying themselves.

If there was one piece of advice you could to everyone, what do you think that would be?

Have a go at everything you possibly can and think outside of the square.

How do you think you will cope having worked at Oxley for so long and changing career?

I am actually looking forward to it but I will miss the students. That's what I will miss most. I won't miss the administrative work. With my experience taking school tours I am hoping to do that with my wife and we are going to take tours to India as tour guides.

By Christopher Aleksov and William Lamrock-George (Year 10)



COMMUNITY NEWS

Roxanne Spreag Memorial Garden

In 2003, 17 year old Roxanne's life tragically ended in a car accident on Norfolk Island. She was a Year 11 student in Dobell House and she shared the same current Tutor room as Mawson G1. Roxanne was described as a beautiful, cheerful bright girl who was full of life and her passing was a great shock to the college. As a tribute to her life, her Tutor Group with the help of parents and staff created a memorial garden which includes a fountain outside the PE centre. Unfortunately recently the fountain stopped working; Mawson Tutor group (NW) held a fund raising activity to repair the fountain. We thank everyone who participated and helped raise the money for Roxanne's memorial.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award
Interested Year 8 students attended a meeting last week to discuss information about the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's award. They received an Introduction Pack about the award and sign up procedures. To view and download this Introduction Pack click here: <http://oxleylearning.org/portal/files/2010/09/Duke-of-Edinburgths-Bronze-Award-introduction-pack.pdf> . For the direct link to Oxley's Duke of Edinburgh's page click here: <http://oxleylearning.org/portal/co-curricular/duke-of-edinburgh> .

In addition to this information, there will be a Duke of Edinburgh's Award information evening early in 2015. I am also available at lunch time every Thursday to assist students with logging their hours and to answer any questions.

Ms Smart
Oxley Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Canberra Area Theatre Awards Nominations

The Oxley College Senior Production, *The Wonderful World of Dissocia*, has received the following nominations in the ACTEWAGL CAT Awards: Best Youth Actor in a Featured role in a Play: Luther Canute; Best Youth Actress in a featured role in a Play: Zoe Binder; Best Director of a School Play: Phil Cunich and Best Production of a School Play. Congratulations to everyone who was involved in this fantastic production.



Leader

P&F

The P&F have been busy right to the end of the school year with K-6 Christmas Carols, 7-12 book swap, working in the canteen, and installing the irrigation system in the garden. Thank you to those parents who continue to give of their time throughout the year and the Year 9 students who successfully installed the irrigation.

The first events of the new year come around very quickly: Welcome Drinks - Friday 6 February and Equestrian Day - Sunday 29 March 2015

Numerous parent/student volunteers are required to make this day a success. You do not need any experience with horses as the jobs vary from being a runner to cooking sausages on the BBQ. Interested volunteers please email Sally - sallyq@internode.on.net. Sally requires assistance on the two days prior to the event to help set-up and the day after the event to help dismantle various courses. Baking is another way you may wish to assist this major fundraiser.



GALLERY



Sport



DREAM CRICKET

Dream Cricket is a program that is designed to enable children with special needs to be involved in cricket. A round robin of cricket inspired activities is setup to improve their motor skills and increase their self-confidence. Each activity can be adjusted to suit the ability of the participant, enabling every child to feel a level of achievement.

The program initiated at Bradman Oval four years ago and is now established in Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia. It has also been introduced into India, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

New activities are piloted at the Dream Cricket day held at Bradman Oval each October. This year, members of the Oxley College First XI joined other local volunteers to host the day for special needs children from Southern NSW.

Each cricketer was allotted a station which they ran for the morning as groups of students cycled through the activities. After lunch, supplied by Bowral Rotary Club, there was a larger group activity to organise.

The Oxley boys were quick to immerse themselves in the program and had a wonderful time. The smiles and excitement of the younger children created memories that will stay with our cricketers for a long time.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Max Loiterton has been offered a scholarship to the IAS Illawarra Academy of Sport 2015 Rugby Union Program. Good on you Max.

MATCH OF THE WEEK



The Oxley Junior A Softball team having lost to the Central Coast team earlier in the season were the under dogs going into this weeks game. They started strong and soon after home runs came thick and fast from Jasmine Irving and Grace Patterson. This was combined with excellent teamwork on the field and a swift and powerful throw from Sascha Binder resulted in an intense game and victory. The final score of 23:12 was a thrilling outcome for the girls and they are to be congratulated for their fantastic effort and improvement over the first half of the season.

TEAM OF THE WEEK

Oxley Axolotls play in the U12 division of the local water polo competition on Tuesday evenings. This is the first time that Oxley has entered a team in this division. The team is made up of players from Years 3-5 and have Mrs Ismay as their coach. Despite the awful weather nearly every Tuesday evening, they have made a huge effort to learn the game and are having a lot of fun.

