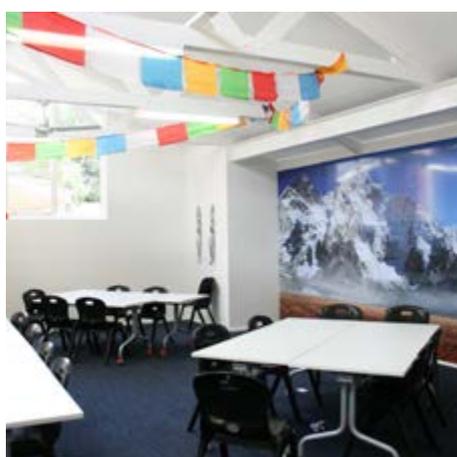


PIN OAK

ISSUE 10: TERM 1, FEBRUARY 6, 2015



Year 7 Camp



Learning



Feature

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A PARENT'S GUIDE TO HELPING OUT IN THE FIRST FEW WEEKS

We have started 2015 with a commitment to getting students to work harder and smarter.

As a part of doing this we have instituted a number of procedural changes, particularly in the area of homework and reading. I have listed below a handful of things that you can do to help us and help your children.

HOMEWORK

What we've done: We have instituted a homework timetable for Years 7-10 which sets a floor and a ceiling for how much homework students should do each night (in the Student Diary p126). Your son or daughter should have their year group's schedule on the back page of their diary.

We have included a weekly planner, and I will give advice on how to use it on the assembly next Tuesday. (p15)

We have also redesigned each page of the diary so that your son or daughter can write out how long they spend on each of their subjects each night. Tutors will be checking these pages every Monday (p16 onwards). The members of the Executive and I will also be going around to different Houses each week checking the diaries.

What you can do:

- Regularly check that your child is recording the homework into the diary and also adding it up. (p16 onwards)
- Have a look at the weekly planner (p15) and discuss their homework plan - particularly after Tuesday 10 February.
- Sign the diary at the end of each week.

The approach to homework in K - 6 will be thoroughly outlined at Parent Information Sessions next week.

WIDE READING

What we've done: You will have read about our 'Booked Up' list for Years 3-10 which we are very proud of, and can be found at: <http://oxleylearning.org/portal/learning/library/> and also at p14 of the Student Diary.) We will be continuing to push the benefits of reading widely in 2015. This includes a 'Drop Everything and Read' session each week in Tutor group, and an expectation that they read for half an hour each night - particularly before bed. Most groups have already had their first 'Booked Up' lesson in the library. We also have a section for them to record what they are reading each day in their Student Diary. We are passionate about getting good books (or at least books) into the hands of our Oxley students. What you can do:

o Create the conditions so that your child can read for at least half an hour a night - particularly during the last half hour before bed. This could include putting a reading time each night on their weekly planner.

o Check that they are writing the books they are reading into their Student Diary.

Headmaster's Report Continued



o Talk with them about books that you have loved and push them into your children's hands. (If you mainly read Jackie Collins or E.L James, don't push too hard.)

o Be interested in their books.

Academic Encouragement meetings

We are very keen for there to be a strong academic relationship between your child and his/her Tutor. As a result, your child's Tutor met your child on Monday this week to discuss his/her last report, talk about how to improve in 2015 and what goals to set. Your son/daughter should have now written out their goals into their diary on p11 and an academic reflection on p12. The Tutors will touch base regularly with your child and we will repeat these formal meetings every six months.

What you can do:

- Ask your son/daughter about how the meeting with their Tutor went
- Check over and discuss the goals they wrote with them.
- Keep tabs on the goals.

ENLIGHTENED EDUCATION

What we have done: In Years 7-10 we have implemented the subject Cornerstone, which is designed to be the heart of a liberal education. It is based on discussions, hypotheticals, and open ended questions. The students will be discussing the questions in groups in the classroom. Many of the questions are easily transportable to the dinner table.

Our focus on enlightened education should also result in this type of teaching in all subjects. Our Professional Development at the start of this year with Ms Sandy Lynch from the University of Notre Dame (and the President of the Philosophy in Schools Association of NSW for most of the last twenty years) focused on fanning the flames of discussion in all subjects.

What you can do:

Ask your child what it was that they talked about in Cornerstone this week. Get them to open up the discussions around the dinner table with you.

I also wrote to all of the Year 12 parents last week explaining how we would walk side by side with them more closely during this year. As almost all of your children will be doing the HSC here sometime between 2016 and 2027 I think that perhaps it will be of interest to all of you. I have extracted parts of the letter below:

Year 12 Study Centre

All of the students have visited this centre now. They love its eclectic, early 20th century feel and feel that it is conducive to study. As well as being available during non-teaching periods, it is open before school, recess, lunchtime and after school.

Year 12 Academic Master

Rebecca Liberto (previously from Sydney Grammar and Sherborne School for Girls in the UK) has hit the ground running and is already meeting with and discussing 2015 with students. She has addressed the whole year group too. Her office is part of the Study Centre.

Creation of individual 'Oxley HSC Success' (OHS) plans

We will be creating individually tailored success plans with each student and then meeting with them during the year about these plans. These meetings will be primarily with the Academic Master and their academic mentor. The academic mentor will usually be their Tutor, but often will be their Head of House.

Meetings for students with staff

- With subject teachers. Every student will have a one-on-one meeting with each of their teachers to discuss what mark/band they can aim for in that specific subject and what strategies they can use to maximise their effectiveness in that subject. This will give each student a 'game plan' for each subject.
- With academic mentor. This will be a preliminary session with their academic mentor at which they can really reflect on their last set of reports and begin to shape goals.
- With Academic Master and academic mentor. Ms Liberto and the academic mentor will meet with each student to shape the comprehensive OHS plan. Ms Liberto is also planning to meet as many students as possible informally before this.
- With Headmaster. At the end of the process I will meet with each student to hear about their OHS plan and their strategies for 2015.

I will also be meeting with each Year 12 subject teacher and their curriculum leaders over the next few weeks to discuss their strategies in their class to maximise each student's HSC mark.

There is much to write about the start of this year and I look forward to being able to share more with you in the weeks to come.

GLOBAL ECONOMY



Economies worldwide are struggling nearly everywhere except the US. The recent fall in the oil price from \$115 to \$45 a barrel, has sent shockwaves through the economy that few could have predicted. This in turn has created increasing disposable income for households from lower petrol prices. This is stimulating the economy through increased consumer spending. Retail sales are expected to show a modest increase in December 2014.

The Australian economy is still stagnant. The cut to the cash rate earlier this week will provide a much needed boost to the economy in areas such as unemployment, consumer confidence, inflation and lowering the Australian dollar. Economists are also predicting a further rate cut later in the year. These moves are bad news for term deposit holders. There are also concerns that lower interest rates have encouraged people to take on more loans to fund property investment. Australians may have trouble repaying loans if interest rates start to rise in the future.

A lower dollar will improve the economy locally by increasing the international competitiveness of Australia's exports. This has several benefits. A lower dollar means imports are more expensive, increasing local consumption at the expense of overseas online retailers. It also increases the attractiveness of tourism from overseas. For local companies operating abroad, the lower dollar means earnings are increased in local currency terms when converted.

Last month, the European Central Bank (ECB) announced a large \$1 trillion program of quantitative easing (QE) which is expected to stimulate the economy and combat deflation. Towards the end of October last year, the US wrapped up its QE program. This has been largely successful in stimulating the US economy and can be seen through lower levels of unemployment, improved construction, retail sales, GDP and the stock market reaching record levels. The next bull market could start to run as evidenced by recent rise in US stocks, however markets are feeling caution pending rates rises by the Federal Reserve.

With nervousness present in markets, there are still ways to benefit. While some are predicting a recession, the first in twenty-two years, others are more bullish. The improving conditions in the US, UK and Australia could have knock on effects on shares globally. However there are concerns debt and instability could continue to cause problems in the Eurozone. Buying shares which pay fully franked dividends have the benefit of reducing your taxable income, avoiding double taxation. The dividend yields of many stocks already beat the rates offered by term deposits, even better when grossed-up. I am bullish on Australian as well as US equities, eyeing technology and telecommunications stocks.

Property will likely continue its run this year due to record low interest rates, however growth may be slower due to increases in supply. Foreign investment will also play a role. Negative gearing is also being eyed, with concerns it is driving up prices for first home buyers. The price of gold has risen in the past few months reflecting anxiousness globally as it is considered a store of value, free from economic policies. Commodities could have a slower rebound than expected due to slowing demand from China. Lower commodity prices could also blow a multi-million dollar hole in the Budget, especially from Western Australia and Queensland. Russia is also facing headwinds with lower commodity prices, sanctions and high interest rates. 2015 is shaping up to be an interesting year globally.

By Ryan Tan (Year 12)

Deputy Head Reports

Deputy Head Learning: Kate Cunich

Students this week have settled further into the new rhythms that a brand new year of school brings.

From our very youngest children to those reaching their senior years, we have been delighted with the way all have returned with a renewed focus. We are very proud of our new spaces in the secondary school, classrooms that are full of light and wonder and invite students to step into a brave new world of learning.

Teachers too are refreshed and ready for action. We have been joined by new staff and we welcome and thank them for the way they have so quickly become part of the rich tapestry of Oxley. Most reassuring has been their feedback about how welcome they feel in the community of students, teachers and parents that is this very special place of learning and teaching.

We have also already heard the voice of students, particularly those who are new to the College express excitement about being here. They are being challenged to think, grapple with big ideas and approach all that they do with gusto.



It certainly seems that the year has started well and I look forward to sharing more news of enlightened academic rigour in the weeks to come.

Finally, a reminder that Information Sessions will occur for parents of Kindergarten to Year 11 students throughout next week. Each session will provide a balance of “big picture” of academic, pastoral and co-curricular events for the year as well as practical advice on learning programmes, homework and organisational matters. We look forward to having this important opportunity early in 2015.

Deputy Head Pastoral: Peter Ayling

How do I help my child make and keep friends?

Developing and maintaining friendships is a dynamic process. It comes naturally to some children, but others can find it quite difficult.

- Teach social skills such as how to start up a conversation, how to be a good winner and loser, and how to hold the interest of others during a conversation.
- Provide opportunities for your child to have friends at your place after school or on weekends so that friendships can develop.
- Encourage your child to participate in out-of-school activities or groups that may provide opportunities to meet new people away from the peer groups at school. Friendships formed through shared interests are often very strong.
- Limit the time spent in solitary activities if your child appears to have few friends. Be humane and kind but don't be afraid to insist children mix with others of their own age.
- Expose your child to a variety of different children to help them find like-minded souls.

Find out more www.parentingideas.com.au/



Year 7 Camp

The Year 7 camp was a wonderful experience for our students to get to know each other. It was pleasing to see everyone engaging in conversation, supporting each other, working together and having fun. A special thanks to our senior students who also attended and formed strong bonds within the House, we appreciate your support and effort in connecting with Year 7.

Service Learning

This year we would like to increase our Service Learning Opportunities for our senior students. Above is a photo of three of our Oxley College students helping out at Bowral House over the Christmas break. It is pleasing to see students giving their time to help others and form strong connections with members of the local community. Well done boys!

K- 6 NEWS

Head of K-6: Justine Lind

For our students, the year has begun a float with yellow symbols of high spirits and even higher aspirations for our K-6 family. Our aim is to make Oxley K-6 “a place of welcome” for all and the friendliest school in the world. In our first assembly we heard about our individual and shared capacity to “inflate” others through kind words and deeds. This week we looked at our unique identities and all the differences that help make us so. We hope that the reputation of Oxley as a small community that is BIG on compassion will continue to shine through as even our youngest members come to appreciate that we might not be friends with everyone but we can always be friendly.

Our Assembly Awards were celebrated this week and we congratulate all students acknowledged for their attitude and achievement so early in the term. We are especially proud of all our new students who have shown such enthusiasm and resilience in joining our community. We also congratulate our Year 6 students for setting such a warm and settled tone for their peers by their own example.

For staff, we began the year by exploring the inspiring notion of Philosophy for Children (or P4C for those who'd like to explore further). Guided by the experience and expertise of consultant, Sandy Lynch the teachers participated in a community of inquiry approach to consider the philosophical power of children's literature. This well tested approach to learning will form the basis of our PRE lessons this year with class teachers and will be integrated with other subjects to enhance the depth of consideration and understanding for your child(ren). The staff will share more of their plans about this exciting initiative as well as all aspects of the learning and organisational considerations at next week's Parent Information Sessions, to which all parents are warmly invited. These are valuable opportunities to enhance the home school partnership and I look forward to seeing as many of you who are able to attend.

Day One - K-6





Weekly Awards

Students of the Week

K: Louisa Hogan-Baldo, Yr 1: Bryce Rodger, Yr 2: Alec Simpson, Yr 3: Gemma Lee, Yr 4: Sophie Dunn, Yr 5: Jack Hatcher, Yr 6: Rose Barnett

Respect Awards

K: Barnaby Jensen, Yr 1: Thomas Bladen, Yr 2: Abi Hunt, Yr 3: Hanna Gorman, Yr 4: Will Bladen, Yr 5: Patrick Duffy, Yr 6: Thomas Rapp



Two of Us

Sitting on the benches, surrounded by K - 6 students eating lunch, it was lovely to get to know Willa (Year 1) and Olivia (Year 6). These girls have been friends for over a year now and have a very special bond between them. They are both great girls to get to know and it was a pleasure talking to them about ILLACORN'S and singing "Say Geronimo" and "Uptown Funk"! It was uplifting to see how much they meant to each other and what a special bond they have with each other.

PO: HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN EACH OTHER?

Our sisters knew each other. We became friends when Willa started kindergarten.

PO: WHAT MAKES YOUR FRIENDSHIP SPECIAL?

We have just always got along and we like doing similar things together.

PO: WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING TOGETHER?

We enjoy playing games such as dinosaurs, hide and seek, skipping and going to the library together and reading picture books about trains. We love drawing pictures together. Pictures of horses, flowers and Dora the explorer.

By Savannah Sandilands and Jemima Taylor (Year 8)

JUST GO,

SAY “YES”

Often people don't realise what they are capable of, until they do something unbelievable. Often people are so caught up in life that they forget that there are so many opportunities available to those who are willing to step out of their comfort zone. For me, I have just spent five months on an exchange in France and that is definitely one way to experience something incredible.

My journey began just seven months ago when I did my very first skype with my “French family” and after that I was pretty much on a plane to France and saying goodbye to my friends and family. The first week was a shock that was sure, but as I had expected this, I learnt to adapt quickly. One of the many factors that became so important on my exchange was the ability to observe. The little things like how to cut each cheese or what to do with the laundry became so vital, especially with the language barrier. But as time passed, I became more and more like one of the family and less of a guest.

One of the biggest differences for me was definitely French school. Starting at 8:00am and finishing at 5:30pm was quite a change. On the other hand, I made friends at the drop of a hat, as all of my class were eager to learn more about this girl who “rides kangaroos to school”. After meeting a group of amazing friends, I was well on my way to living the “French” life. In school, the big changes were no uniform, teachers, the smoking and of course, the language. I had always expected that a school with no uniform would have people wearing what they wanted, dressing uniquely and each person with more of an identity. However, I found it the same as schools with uniforms, as each person would just wear what was in fashion. This in France, during winter, just consists of a coat and jeans. Nonetheless, I still found it difficult finding new clothes to wear each day! As well as this the teachers were so rigid and cold it was like being taught by a wall. The students couldn't ask questions (well they could, I think most of them were just afraid) and the teachers would just talk and we would write. That was it. So between classes when



I would want a bit of a break and fresh air, I would step out of the school and just be hit with the smell of cigarettes. I don't think I could ever adapt to that. However, apart from that, school was one of the highlights of my trip. It pushed me the most with my communication skills as I was treated the same as the rest of the students.

Above all, I loved spending time with my host family. Whether at home, hiking or travelling around France, they could never fail to make me smile. As a family, we travelled to Alsace, the region of Champagne, Paris, Brittany, all over Lorraine and the French Alps. I couldn't have asked for a better family. I tasted almost every speciality of each region and learnt so much about French food. Our travels brought the family closer together and I was able to learn more about them individually and their funny, family stories. I grew so close with two of my host sisters, Lea (16) and Tess (10), as we spent so much time with each other. They would also help me to learn French and with my schoolwork. The relationship I have with them is invaluable and I know that we will stay in contact for our whole lives.

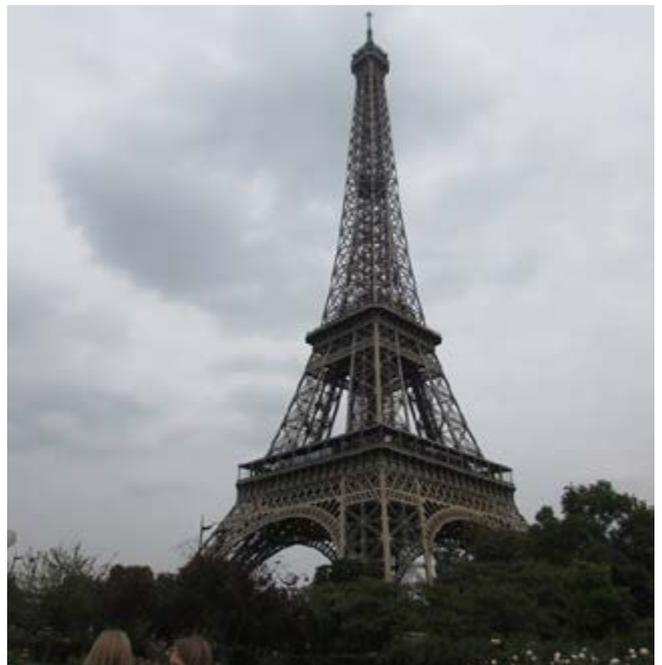
“Once you realise that nothing is holding you back except yourself, you can do anything.”

I was also away on exchange during Christmas and the New Year and being in France granted me the opportunity to experience another culture during the festive season. With the school and the village decorated, the cold winter coming through and the fire always burning, I fell in love with the atmosphere of a “White Christmas”. For Christmas day, we travelled to the grandparents’ house in the Alps and celebrated with snails for dinner and a chocolate log for dessert. With only one month to go, the reality of leaving my French friends and family was difficult. During the last week, my friends threw many farewell parties, involving ice skating and surprise class parties. But I only realised I was leaving once the train started pulling away and my ten year old sister was running along the side with my whole family in the background crying. It’s very hard to leave people who have become so involved with your life and who have had such a massive impact on your future.

If I had the chance to do it again, I definitely would. Once you realise that nothing is holding you back except yourself, you can do anything. You can go to a country with almost no language skills and come back almost fluent. You can live in a different house, with a different family, animals and bedroom and finish the exchange realising how insignificant personal objects are, if you are just around people who let you, be you. So here I go with the same speech that everyone says all the time, but it is true: Get out of your comfort zone and try something new. Make the most of every experience and say “yes” to every new and exciting opportunity as it could very well change your life.

I went on my exchange with the Southern Cross Cultural Exchange programme. If you are interested in either going on an exchange or hosting an exchange student feel free to contact me!

By Heidi Bevan (Year 11)





CONVENIENCE vs EXPERIENCE

Is visiting a gallery better than looking up a digital copy of the artworks online? This question has been debated over and over again, because there is simply no right answer.

Many people, myself included, believe that nothing beats the experience of visiting a gallery. The atmosphere created in an art gallery is second to none, with the constant flow of interested people spanning all ages, genders, races and creative experience. Furthermore your appreciation of the art you are viewing is dramatically increased as you are able to take in the size of the painting varying from petite to positively colossal. You are able to see the individual brush strokes of Van Gogh and Claude Monet.

Although all these things are good, there are similar bonuses for digital copies that trump that of a gallery. You can see all photographs of the artworks for free while many exhibitions have admission fees. Another benefit of online art is the convenience, if you want to see an artwork you simply type it into your search engine and you receive a high resolution photograph plus backstory. Additionally, you can view any artwork no matter where it is in the world online at any place or time.

But not everything about this digital alternative is good. When you take away the art gallery you take away the context. In art galleries the rooms are created for specific themes or time periods such as 'The Dutch Masters' room or 'Landscapes of the 20th Century'. In these specific rooms the layout and the wall colour have been chosen to reflect the artworks within. An example of this is the Tudor display in the portrait gallery in London. The walls of the room are a rich purple to perfectly reflect the royal status of the portrait subjects.

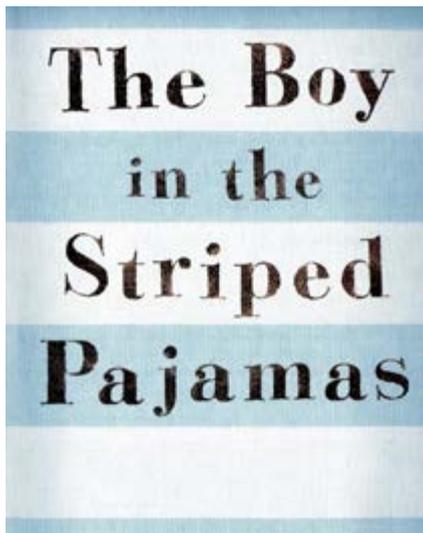
Overall the digital photograph option does have elements that a visit to the Art Gallery does not. Which do you think is better? Will you stick to the traditional atmospheric gallery or the fast paced digital alternative?



SPOTLIGHT ARTWORK:

Vive L'Empereur

This amazing artwork was painted by Edouard Detaille in 1891, and accurately depicts the battle of Friedland. This battle was an epic French victory against the Russians in June 1807. Although it may not seem it from the picture shown, this artwork is 3.7m by 4.37m. This vast painting really can only be fully appreciated in person as its dominating presence cannot be absorbed via photography. This artwork is hanging in the gallery of NSW and is well worth a visit.



Books

★★★★★

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS

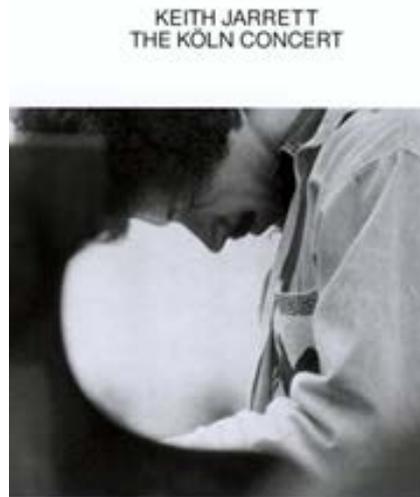
This classic novel recounts the historical significance and story of Hitler and his reign, a gloomy and destructive period of time. This book tells the story of a young and lonely boy, Bruno, who is shocked when he makes the drastic move from Berlin, a hustling city, to a house conveniently situated beside a camp enclosed by wire fences, Bruno, a courageous, curious and inquisitive young boy decides to explore the wire fence, meeting Shmuel, a boy inside Auschwitz concentration camp. The inseparable two hatch a plan in confidence in an attempt to find Shmuel's father who has gone missing, involving Bruno entering the treacherous camp.

As the story develops Bruno and Shmuel's relationship strengthens, leading to tragic death, to close this gratifying tale, that unfortunately most Jewish suffered during this period of time in Nazi Germany.

John Boyne has created a remarkable, in depth novel that cannot be given enough justice for the quality piece of writing that it is, directly and most accurately portraying the tumultuous affairs of Nazi Germany during World War II.

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas provides extensive insight into the lives and vulnerability suffered by the victims of Nazi Germany, and is sure to engulf you for hours.

By Grace Patterson (Year 9)



Music

★★★★★

KEITH JARRETT: The Köln Concert [40th Anniversary] 1975

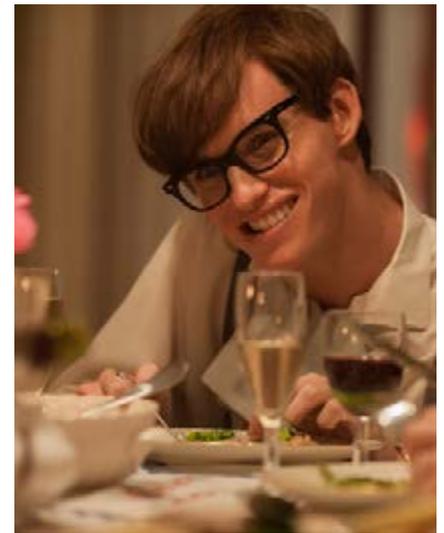
One cold winter midnight in Germany, a man sat inconspicuously at a piano in front of a crowd. 3.5 million album sales later, this concert is jazz treasure: Keith Jarrett, Live in Köln.

More than just a jazz concert, Jarrett became a musical slam poet with verbal diarrhoea, a neo-Moses upon the Mount: a man capable of sending a message of biblical proportions. Equal parts joyous and uplifting as it is dark and brooding, Jarrett's hands dance along the piano, ballerinas spurred on by some enchanted drunken curse.

The eccentric flow back and forth exemplifies the cliché of the music painting a picture in your mind; it is a journey of mental stimulation as much as sonic. He may spend fifteen minutes staggering around the same A minor chord, but Jarrett never stagnates: an unerring performance, all the more impressive knowing that it is completely improvised.

Critical analysis of the profundity of Jarrett's sonic mastery may be warranted and completely valid, but the truth is that this music is so open to interpretation that letting it speak for itself is the best option: a man, a piano, and the universal language.

By Ruben Seaton (Year 12)



Films

★★★★★

THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING

The Theory of Everything, tells the remarkable true story of genius Professor Stephen Hawking, starting with his education at Cambridge University. Initially unsure of a topic for his PhD, Hawking decides to focus on a single, yet complex concept. Time. Eddie Redmayne stars as Hawking, giving a breathtaking performance, in which he embodies a persona that is equally funny and sad. Similarly, Felicity Jones shines as Jane Hawking, and as the lover of French, poetry and church. The Theory of Everything introduces the audience to the sheer determination of Stephen Hawking, and the way in which he defied all expectation to document and prove theories about the beginning of time. Hawking's sense of humour, and the life he was able to lead, despite the limitations of his motor neuron disease, and later his loss of speech, make this film a momentous experience. Hawking's cheeky remarks and his astonishing thesis, coupled with the helping hands of his family and friends, make you believe in the power of love, life, hope and science, to the utmost degree.

By Maddie Thomas (Year 12)



OLD OXLEYAN: SIMON FERGUSSON



THE ART OF THE PICKPOCKET

If you wanted the safest, friendliest holiday over Christmas, you go to Iceland. Population: 300,000. Unfortunately for me, I bypassed Iceland and went to Berlin. Population: 3 million. A city of street art and Christmas markets. And pickpockets.

Being a pickpocket is a lot like being a magician. You see an easy target, waving their phone around. You dive in and lift it from their pocket, leaving the trusting idiot spinning in circles wondering how their phone disappeared. Except this time, the magician doesn't give it back.

To avoid a pickpocket though, you must first know how to be a pickpocket.

1. "Bump and Stall": The accomplice in front of you stops suddenly causing you to bump into them. The thief comes in from behind and dips into your pocket.

2. "The Map": The thief comes up to you with a large map and asks for directions. While you're busy helping the poor lost person, their hands are sifting through your bag under the map.

3. "The Beware of Pickpockets" sign: Whenever you see a sign that says "Beware of Pickpockets", you check you have everything. Obviously. Except you are only telling the pickpockets, who are lurking there, exactly where everything is.

So next time in a foreign country don't fall for these simple tricks, like I did!

By Emma Croker (Year 11)

PO: What was it like being Head Boy?

SF: Being Head Boy of Oxley College in 1994 was an honour and a privilege. The days, weeks, terms and years passed by way too quickly (looking back) and I soon found myself as Head Boy. I was not the typical Oxley College Head Boy; I wasn't top of any of my classes, I didn't play rugby and I wasn't in the choir. I took on the role making the most of every opportunity that rose before me, doing everything I could for the school while just being myself.

PO: Was it always a goal for you to become Head Boy?

SF: Well no actually, quite the opposite. Shortly after the voting process was underway I stated that I would like to be removed from any list of candidates. I was given a hint that I was actually a strong candidate and it was suggested that I talk with my parents. They encouraged me to stay in the running and my father, a previous school captain, pointed out a few of the benefits and potential opportunities.

PO: Have you visited Oxley since you left high school? What were the major differences that you noticed?

SF: I returned to Oxley for the ten year reunion but I have also drove by a couple of times. The new buildings and sport facilities look amazing. Unfortunately I was unable to attend our recent 20 year reunion but I am looking forward to the thirty year!!!!

Can you tell me a funny story/experience that you vividly remember from your high school years at Oxley?

SF: I remember that one day in Year 10 Chemistry, we were dealing with very strong acid. The teacher spent half the lesson warning us of the dangerous strength of the acid. Written warnings were everywhere, but no, four students ended up being taken off to hospital (no, I wasn't one of them!!!!!!) with third degree burns to their left hands (yes, they were all right handed). A very important lesson where they learnt the hard way maybe teachers do know a thing or two.

Interview by Olivia Donovan Year 9

Simon Fergusson is currently working in the Agriculture Industry.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh's Award Information Evening

An information session for all Year 9 students interested in signing up for Oxley's Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. This information is for parents and students to clarify the award components and requirements and to answer any related questions. A representative from Duke of Edinburgh's head office will conduct the presentation along with Heidi Smart, Oxley's Award Leader. The information session will commence at the conclusion of the Year 9 Parent Information Session.

Week 3: Thursday 12 February at 5:00pm
The Himalayan Room (Old Woodwork Room)

SPORTS REPORTS

31 January 2015

ISA CRICKET

Oxley Firsts Vs CCGS
Oxley lost.
All out for 177
CCGS 8 for 240

U14 Blue Oxley Vs U14 White Oxley
The game was played onsite and Oxley White won.

ISA BOYS BASKETBALL

Oxley Firsts Vs St Pius X Blue
Oxley won 35-33

13s Vs St Pius X Blue
Oxley lost 30-15

17s Vs St Pius X Blue
Oxley lost 42-12

14s development Vs St Spyridon
Oxley lost 30-22

15s Vs St Pius X Blue
Oxley won 41-29

14s Vs St Pius X Blue
Oxley won 44-14

ISA GIRLS BASKETBALL

Firsts Vs Barker
Oxley won 32-20

Junior A Vs Redlands
Oxley won 30-15

Inter A Vs Redlands
Oxley lost 26-14

Junior B Vs Redlands
Oxley lost 36-8

Inter B Vs Redlands
Oxley lost 16-13

Junior C Vs Redlands
Oxley won 23-16

ISA SOFTBALL

Junior A had a bye.

Firsts had a double header
First Vs Barker 1
Oxley lost 14-3
First Vs Barker 2
Oxley won 16-6

P&F NEWS

Dear Parents and Friends,

The new year is well and truly in full swing and the first P&F meeting is on Tuesday 10 February in the David Wright Library. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm with a presentation by Ms Justine Lind, Head of K-6. However the doors of the College will be open at 6:30pm for a tour of the 7 - 12 classroom renovations and murals. Please meet in the library. The agenda for the meeting is on the website. All parents are warmly invited to attend this meeting.

The Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong are holding a Community Fun Run on Sunday 15 March 2015. The first runners depart Oxley College at 9:00 am and walkers start at 11:00am. The P&F will be running a sausage sizzle and we are looking to fill the following timetable with nine volunteers:

Roster for Cashier and BBQ

8:00 – 9:30 am

9:30 – 11:00 am

11:00 am – 12:30pm

Please contact Cindy if you are able to assist (cindyp@meridian.com.au or 0408 294 983).

Cindy Pryma (P & F President)



IN THE GARDEN

Thanks to the warm weather and plentiful rain this summer these bright golden zucchinis have been busy growing in the garden. Look out for them in the canteen's delicious zucchini and feta pasta. The tomatoes are also starting to ripen and so is our basil. The two are planted next to each other as companion plants. By Natacha Brochard

GALLERY



DO YOU LIKE THE NEW ROOMS?
Its like going back into year 7 and seeing the school for the first time. So Exciting. Connor Lynch, Year 12

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

	Mon Kindergartent Information Session in classroom, 5:30pm EXC: Yr 11 and Yr 12 Drama, OnStage, Sydney (Depart 4:00pm) 09	Mon Exc: Year 10 Geography, Coastal Management, Warilla Beach Year 11 Retreat, Fitzroy Falls 16	Mon 23
	Tue Year 8 Information Session, 4:00pm Year 10 Information Session, 5:00pm Year 1 & Yr 2 Information sessions 5:30pm P&F Tour of Facilities (6:30pm) P&F Meeting, Library (7:00pm) 10	Tue 17	Tue HICES Debating, details to be advised 24
	Wed Exc: First XI v Bradman Foundation at Bradman Oval (1:50pm) Year 7 Meet the Teachers, Orchestra Room (4:00pm) Year 3 and Year 4 Information Session in classrooms (5:30pm) 11	Wed 7-12 Swimming Carnival, Bowral Pool, all day 18	Wed Secondary Inter-Schools Twilight Swim Carnival, Frensham (6:30pm-9:00pm) 25
	Year 9 Information Session, Orchestra Room (4:00pm) Year 11 Information Session, Orchestra Room (5:00pm) Duke of Edinburgh Himalayas Information Session (5:00pm-6:00pm) Year 5 and Year 6 Information Session in classrooms (5:30pm) 12	Thu 19	Thu Headmaster's Tour, 11:00am 26
Fri Welcome Drinks, 6:30pm - 8:30pm, OLA 06	Fri St. Andrews Invitational Swim Carnival (6:30pm) 13	Fri 20	Fri 27
Sat ISA Summer Sport Round 8 07	Sat ISA Summer Sport Round 9 Year 11 Retreat, Fitzroy Falls 14	Sat ISA Summer Sport Round 10 21	Sat ISA Summer Sport Semi Finals 28
Sun 08	Sun Year 11 Retreat, Fitzroy Falls 15	Sun 22	Sun 29

Upcoming events

- + **French Club**, lunchtime, beginning Monday 16th February in room 13. It will be primarily for oral skills for conversation French for students to maintain a level of fluency but younger students are welcome. (Year 7-12).
- + **Monday 2 March**
 Exc: Year 11 and Year 12 Ancient History, Nicolson Museum, Sydney
 Exc: Year 12 DT, Powerhouse Museum DesignTech
- + **Wednesday 4 March:**
 K-6 Cross Country Carnival, (9:00am-12:40pm)
 7-12 Cross Country Carnival (1:30pm-3:10pm)
- + **Thursday 5 March**
 Senior Production, Hoskins Hall
- + **Friday 6 March:**
 Exc: Year 11 and Year 12 Visual Art, ArtExpress, Sydney
 Senior Production, Hoskins Hall

Sport



THE ASIAN CUP

The Asian cup was by far the most anticipated soccer tournament for any Australian soccer fan. Why you might wonder, because we actually had a chance of winning a soccer tournament and for our soccer team that was a big deal. Of course we all know the outcome of the Asian cup, we did triumph over the other 16 teams and the majority were not in fact from anywhere near Asia! Australia's performance throughout was very impressive as we were playing teams of our calibre with some quite outstanding performances from our number 21 Massimo Luongo, who was the MVP of the entire tournament, and of course our very own soccer legend Mr Tim Cahill.

Our biggest rivals Japan were knocked out in the Quarter Finals by the UAE, which was quite a shock to not only the Japanese fans but also the UAE supporters. Nevertheless we still fought hard and South Korea were very worthy opponents in the finals but for the first time in our history, the Socceroos prevailed, and it was glorious.

By Alexia Cheaib (Year 11)

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

FENCING



Old Oxleyan John Downes (Year 12 2009) has won a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Fencing Championships (in Largs, Scotland). John started competitive fencing when he was in Year 9/10 at Oxley when we had a small but passionate group who always did very well at the Inter-School Fencing titles.

SASCHA KROOPIN: SHOOTING

Sascha Kroopin (Year 8) competed in the National Youth Shooting Championships from Friday 12 - Sunday 14 December at the Sydney Olympic site.

She was the youngest and had to line up next to Olympic and Commonwealth shooters. Sascha came 1st in her age group years 13/16 - for air pistol, 3rd overall qualifier and 5th in the final. Also as part of the NSW team she won gold in air pistol and silver in sport pistol. She has been invited to attend the Institute of Sport in Canberra to train with the Elite Squad going to the next Olympics.



MATCH OF THE WEEK

On a beautiful summer's day during the holidays, Oxley College hosted a cricket team from West Pymble to play against our Under 14 'Blue' side. In an entertaining 36-over-a-side, pairs match, the visitors scored 285 for the loss of 14 wickets, while Oxley managed 182 for the loss of 16 wickets. All the boys enjoyed some good cricket and a hearty lunch and tea provided by the Oxley parents. Our thanks go to West Pymble coach Terry Southwell for bringing his players and their supporters to the Southern Highlands and to all our parents for their help on the day. It is hoped that we can repeat the fixture next season, at the West Pymble Cricket Club.