

PIN OAK

ISSUE 11: TERM 1, FEBRUARY 20, 2015



Football



Experience



Swimming

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Navigating (digital) distractions

I would like to talk about the serious issue of... wait, is that a cat in cat suit? Omg that is the most internetty internet thing ever.



Staying focused on the task at hand can be difficult when the medium used for work and research is also offering the greatest potential for distraction. The temptation of "I'll just look at messages-facebook-twitter-email-googlefunnycatpictures" is always tantalisingly close and a potential time sink. Fortunately there are some great free tools out there to take better control how we manage our time.

Web Blockers

These are add-ons for your internet browser that block or restrict access to websites during certain periods of the day. They can just outright block websites, or they can be told to construct specific rules - for example you could impose a time limit of only 10 minutes of Facebook during the hours of 8:00am to 9:00pm for Monday to Friday.

- For Firefox: [Leech Blocker](#)
- For Chrome or Safari: [Waste no Time](#)
- For Chrome: [Stay Focused](#)

Both of these apps have the option of adding a password to access the settings, so that once the rules are in place they can only be changed by entering the password first. If you are on a Windows machine, you might need to [disable internet explorer](#) to avoid circumventing the blocker that way.

Study Tracker

[Toggl](#) is a great tool for keeping track of what you are working on when. It is available on all platforms, mobile devices included. You tell it when you start and finish and it keeps track of the amount of time you are spending on what. If you are a student struggling to fill in the 'time spent' column of the new homework diary, then this really is the tool for you. The best thing about this program is that it clearly shows the balance of work done, but it does require honesty on behalf of the person pressing the start-stop button.

All of these tools help support a student into making informed decisions minute-by-minute as they study. However, organising a space where other people are supportive and encouraging you to be focused is still the best preventative to the perils of procrastination and all the distractions of the information age.

By Ben Hicks, eLearning Coordinator

WHO IS TONY ABBOTT?

It is with a guilty heart that I must begin this article not with a tasteful anecdote or a thoughtful psalm, but with a reference to George R. R. Martin's Game of Thrones series. For those unfamiliar with the fictional land of dragons and magic, I will refrain from enlightening you on the intricacies of each house's family tree and instead jump straight to a parallel between this medieval, feudal culture and our capitalist society: the late King Joffrey Baratheon and his contemporary reincarnate, Tony Abbott.

Those familiar with my previous writing in the Pin Oak may recall my distaste toward our current Prime Minister (a refresher if not: the previous article was eloquently titled A Step-By-Step Lesson in Shirtfronting). However, since then I have come to realise two things: firstly, it's extremely hard to run a country, and, secondly, it's even harder to do so when you're out of sync with society.

I say this not to ridicule Mr Abbott - although, the photo of the PM in his 'streamlined' green sunglasses certainly did send mixed messages - but because I believe that Mr Abbott's drastic actions are increasing the distance between him and modern Australian relevance. This should of utmost concern to the Australian people; for if the Prime Minister's job should not be to strive to be an exemplar Australian, then it should at least be to maintain Australian society's collective interest on the global scale.

The causes, events and effects of the morning of Monday 9 February were significant for a plethora of reasons: with his 61-39 vote success, Abbott was able to frantically plaster some PVA glue and duct tape into the earthquake-sized cracks that had appeared inside his party. These cracks had formed and deepened not from one single event, but from a series of mistakes, both political and symbolic. Indeed, it is almost comical how that Prince Phillip blunder was effectively the critical hit for Abbott's public image; after all the questionable decisions on climate, asylum seekers and 'captain's picks' over the past 18 months (issues that really affect citizens' lives), it is a simple case of old-fashioned monarchical obsession that becomes the wake-up call for Australians. Perhaps it will be this - nothing more than a symbol of how out-of-touch with society Abbott is - that turns his demise into less of an 'if' and more of a 'when'.

Whilst Abbott attempts to win back the support of the whopping 39% of his MPs that are



against him, the rest of us are left scratching our heads. What is next for Australia? For the Labor Party, Bill Shorten can breathe a sigh of relief knowing that he will be facing an exhausted Abbott rather than the potential of a popular Malcolm Turnbull. But one cannot help thinking that this is not the last we will see of Turnbull - like a House of Cards-esque Kevin Spacey, he will have to wait until the time is right to capitalise on his popularity and respectable reputation. And... Did you hear that? Somewhere off in the distance, you can still hear Julia Gillard experiencing laughing fits of euphoric schadenfreude.

As for Tony Abbott, the best way forward as an Australian public is to give him a definitive final chance. As noted by Leigh Sales in a scathing interview on ABC's 7:30 recently, we have seen two versions of Tony Abbott so far: a ferocious, claws-out tiger as the Opposition Leader, and a timid, blundering kitten as the Prime Minister. While these animals both have a feline link, what the Australian public cannot do is let this cat have nine lives. The next few months are critical for Abbott in his attempt to pick up the pieces; for although he is not "mortally wounded" as many newspapers would suggest, he is surely on his last legs. And with the looming threat of NSW State Elections and the controversial new budget around the corner, it's make or break for the speedo-clad icon.

"Who are you?" Sales asked Abbott, seemingly out of the blue. It was obvious that the Prime Minister was caught out. In trademark politician dodging-the-question technique, he replied, "I will let the Australian people form their own conclusions." So, Australian people, what do we think? After the political joyride of the past 18 months, the question must be asked... Who is Tony Abbott?

By Ruben Seaton (Year 12)

HEADMASTER'S REPORT



The new classrooms and the Year 12 Centre

Hopefully your sons and daughters have come home and said something about five of the restyled 7 - 12 classrooms that we have opened. They are:

The Himalayan Room (Rm 7): Prayer flags and statues from several different cultures complement a quite majestic mural image of Mt Everest.

The Trinity College Room (Room 10) : Parquetry Floor and a persian rug leads you back to a trompe loeil image of the Long Room at Trinity College in Dublin. It feels like you are on a balcony overlooking the whole library.

The Green Room (Rm 12) : This is a serene image of a Japanese garden across the back wall.

The Bioshock Room (Room 11) This room has a mural image of what initially appears to be a Great Gatsby Party in space. But look closer and it is underwater. It is an image from a computer game called Bioshock.

The New York Room (Room 7A) This room feels more like a boardroom than a classroom. With its board table, leather chairs, clocks in four time zones and a wall size image of the New York skyline, Business Studies students feel more like they are running the world than learning about it.

These rooms didn't come from a 'Class Murals R Us' style website or company. We had to create these from the ground up and we don't know of any other schools in NSW (or on the planet) who have anything similar. We feel that they make a strong and significant difference to the learning environment.

The Year 12 Study Centre

When we decided to make this Centre we looked with some despair at the educational furniture catalogues.

Our options seemed to be twenty versions of what middle aged people thought 'funky' would be for teenagers. So we decided to go in a different direction.

Using the architecture as our guide we committed to making an eclectic, almost art deco 'clubhouse' feel. A member of staff, Peter Bull, made the desks. And Nikki Alexander and Jane Crowley went on a mission to find every eclectic piece they could. The rooms have model ships, hourglasses, Greek helmets, gramophones, tubas and French horns - and much more. As a result we have a space that is serious, studious, resonant and unique.

There is one room that is for silent study, one room for quiet paired or group work (helping each other with Maths, Physics etc) and a balcony. The Year 12s can make tea and coffee, but not eat - the whole emphasis is on a study space, not a social space. There is usually a teacher/mentor on duty in the rooms. There is also the Year 12 Academic Master Ms Rebecca Liberto with an office in the middle of the centre.

Students have been using the Year 12 Study Centre from seven in the morning, and we still find people there at seven at night. When we go up there are always people studying hard. We really knew it was working when one day last week the architect and builder walked up the stairs talking, and were promptly 'shushed' by a student.

None of this would have been possible without the tireless efforts of John Rapp, the Head of the Building Subcommittee of the Board of Governors. In a voluntary capacity he steered and oversaw the entire building programme. The College owes him, and the committee a real debt of gratitude.

We hope your sons and daughters are enjoying some of these new facilities. We look forward too, to rolling out more works over the next twelve months.



Books

★★★★★

THE ROAD

"I was looking out the hotel window, and I imagined what it would be like if the whole city was destroyed. I wondered what it would be like if my son and I were the only people left in the world."

That is the answer of author Cormac McCarthy when asked "What inspired you to write this book?". Intensely gripping and suffocatingly bleak, *The Road* tells the story of an unnamed father and son stranded in the decaying wasteland of what is a post-apocalyptic America. Starving and freezing, the pair's life revolves around two things: each other, and the road.

Notable would be a book that can suck the life out of a reader like *The Road* can; sublimely interlacing the opaque grey of rural noir fiction with the intimate characterisation of the story's protagonists. *The Road* would be a depressing book, but there's something stopping it from being that: "the fire". What is that? You'll have to read it to find out.

By Ruben Seaton (Year 12)



Music

★★★★★

MAN, IT FEELS LIKE SPACE AGAIN

You know when you're really tired, your eyes are slowly closing and you're not even aware of it. Then suddenly something wakes you up just before you fall asleep, well that's exactly what **Pond's** new album **Man, It Feels Like Space Again** is like. But don't be fooled, you won't actually fall asleep listening to this album (unless your super tired), the percussive drum beats and disturbed synths keep you tuned in 'till the very end.

To completely absorb this album you really need to concentrate on the layers of instruments instead of the lyrics. The optimistic, positive vibes on title track **Man, It Feels Like Space Again** really round out this album and give it a surprising mixture of melancholia and psychedelia. **Pond** really bring out the 80s disco style in songs like **Zond** and **Elvis's Flaming Star** which is a refreshing wake-up from the dream you may be drifting off into at that point.

So thank you **Pond** for making this memorable album and putting me through a series of mixed-emotions and wacky dance moves.

By Isabella Moore (Year 8)



Films

★★★★★

LIVING IS EASY WITH EYES CLOSED

Living Is Easy With Eyes Closed is a Spanish film that tells the story of Antonio, an English teacher in Spain, 1966, who has an obsession with The Beatles and teaches English to his students through the lyrics from "Help!" On hearing that his hero, John Lennon is filming a movie in Almería, Antonio embarks on a road trip in his tiny Fiat to meet Lennon, and ask him about his newly released song. Picking up two unlikely hitchhikers along the way, twenty year old, single and pregnant Belén and 16 year old Juanjo who is fleeing from his father, Antonio encourages them to believe in his dream and travel across Spain to witness his big moment. The three make a brilliant trio, learning about each other and pondering the absurdity of Antonio's near-impossible dream to meet one of the most celebrated men in the world. Backed by Beatles music, beautiful scenery, humorous and charged performances by the cast, **Living Is Easy With Eyes Closed** is a buoyant comedy with lovable and free spirited characters.

By Maddie Thomas (Year 12)

Head of K-6: Justine Lind

On Friday 6 February the annual K - 6 Swimming Carnival started the year of whole school sporting events. There was a fabulous spirit of participation, House encouragement and at times ambitious competition. It seems that part of the rich tapestry of the Oxley community includes both novices and experts in many endeavours beyond the edge of the swimming pool as well as within it. It will be our welcome challenge, as we plan future events and evaluate those that occur, to find authentic ways for both groups of participant as well as the many levels in between, to find the optimal level of challenge and success that provides the intrinsic motivation to persist with an activity and embrace new opportunities in the future. I spoke to the students at this week's assembly about the notion that, "The expert in everything was once a beginner" (Helen Hayes) and that effort and perseverance are the keys to success. We saw this in abundance at Friday's event.

Our Parent Information Sessions were well attended and we extend our appreciation to all parents who were able to attend. We see these as valuable opportunities to enrich our partnership with parents and confirm the shared values, expectations and understandings that contribute towards student confidence and success. It is an important opportunity for teachers to articulate their philosophies and practices for parents and for parents to see through the classroom window into their child's daily life at school. If any parents who were unable to attend would like to receive copies of the presentations we invite them to contact their teachers directly who will happily provide the information.

During each evening I spoke to the parents about the nature of change in society and education's imperative to not only keep pace but to prepare students today for the world of tomorrow. In David Warner's seminal text, **Schooling for the Knowledge Era**, he recounts a story by Lord David Putnam who wanted to highlight the rate of change and redundancy of knowledge; "...If you time travelled a doctor from the year 1900 to 2000 into an operating theatre, he literally would be an exercise in incompetence. He could make a cup of tea, take the patient's pulse and do nothing else at all, because basically technology has obviated his original skills. You take a school teacher from

Weekly Awards:

Students of the Week

K: Dakota Winn,
Yr 1: Georgie Marks,
Yr 2: Ben Shields,
Yr 3: Ashton Mineeff,
Yr 4: Darcey Wooderson,
Yr 5: Alice Gilbert,
Yr 6: Georgia Cheaib

Respect Oxley

K: Ari Knowles,
Yr 1: Sam Alexander,
Yr 2: Jack Rendell,
Yr 3: Xavier Gray,
Yr 4: Grace Hardy,
Yr 5: Thomas Hutchings,
Yr 6: James Feetham



Weekly Awards:

Students of the Week

K: Tippi Wernbacher,
Yr 1: Jaxon Nonnenmacher,
Yr 2: Chilli Sparke,
Yr 3: Samuel Bernstein,
Yr 4: Sarah Shields,
Yr 5: Yanni Psarakis,
Yr 6: Gabby Maples

Respect Others

K: Alexander Psarakis,
Yr 1: Estelle Fragar,
Yr 2: Madison Walters,
Yr 3: William Barnett,
Yr 4: Patrick Muldoon,
Yr 5: Meg Callaghan,
Yr 6: Bella Smith



1900, put her in a classroom in the year 2000, give her some chalk and a blackboard, she in most cases could teach a class."

I'm convinced the students at Oxley would notice the difference! However the point is that we need to model the life-long learning and continuous improvement that ensures we evolve our profession and more importantly our capacity to prepare children for the radically different world they will enter when they graduate from the one we faced only a generation ago.



Making a splash!

Photography by: Chris Dunn



THE OXLEY BAGPIPERS

Budding pipers are currently learning the 'chanter' - a practice instrument for the beginner bagpiper. They are having individual lessons on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with their piping tutor, Mr Rob Parker.

Students will be learning for at least a year before graduating to a set of bagpipes - as they are one of the most difficult instruments to learn how to play.

The drumming students are also beginning their lessons with our drum tutor Anthony Clarke. They have to learn basic rudiments, before learning some of the patterns that they would play when we put it all together.

Do not confine your children to your own learning, for they were born of another time.

Hebrew Proverb

FICLY

A better, shorter story.

You are most likely saying to yourself, what on earth is a ficly? What happened to a story? Why does this new generation feel the need to rename everything? Well to put it simply, a Ficly is a very short story that cannot have more than 1,024 characters. The first topic of Year 11s advanced preliminary course is creative writing; what gives a story pizzazz, how characters are portrayed, or just what makes the audience actually want to keep reading. All classes were asked to write a Ficly whether it be your own idea or a sequel to an already existing ficly from a website solely dedicated to these stories! These are a small number of works from our classes.

Intro by Alexia Cheaib (Year 11)

“Stall owners
and worried
parents yell
over the wave
of assorted
hats, bobbing
inconsistently”



Timing is everything

Object sited. Rich. Distracted. Busy crowd. Should be easy....

My thoughts act like clockwork, as I scan the mass of people overwhelming the little street markets of Sydney. One man, of about 60 years, has caught my eye. His hunched shoulders stay unmoved as he shuffles to and from each stall. His cast down face is a parchment, faded and creased with each line, chiseled by time. His eyes are a light blue which fade into shadows of grey with every glimmer of light reflected from his rigid glasses. Perfect target.

The summer heat slithers through each crack in the awnings and this sickly, stickiness cakes my shirt in sweat and bad body odor. Stall owners and worried parents yell over the wave of assorted hats, bobbing inconsistently, as they desperately search for new customers or lost children. His cane stops. I've almost lost my chance. As he begins to shuffle in the direction of fresh fruit, I weave through the incoming flow. I mean, people living on the street struggle to live and need to get money somehow... I keep repeating in my head. I don't know why I get so worked up about it... he turns....

I stutter..

“Hello sir, would you be interested in supporting the St Vincent de Paul Society?”

By Heidi Bevan (Year 11)

“Eyes, teeth, eyes, teeth”

She

It had been a tough day, too many colours. The sky was too bright, the ground too green, the glinting light in the teeth and eyes of the people he passed, positively shark like. Devon noticed, and continued to notice. He was noticing now, the eyes, the teeth; the pub had been a bad idea. He had only agreed because she had told him to. She, Devon shivered. She only he could hear, only he could see. She sat next to him, watching like a hungry wolf as his work 'mates' had chattered on oblivious. Devon didn't like it, she always made Devon do things which he didn't like. Like the time... NO. No he mustn't. His doctor had warned him, but too late. The room began to spin, too bright. Minute bubbles buzzed beneath the surface of Devon's untouched beer. Eyes, teeth, eyes, teeth. People were talking but he couldn't hear, the colours were spinning too fast, only she remained still, remained sane. Her smile grew wider, wider, triumphant, until it was all he could see. Devon screamed. He heard something break, maybe it was him. He needed to get out, he couldn't. Couldn't breathe. He staggered blindly, hands grabbed him, he screamed until they went away. He reached the door gasping like a drowning man, he collapsed. She was still there.

by Megan Hutchings (Year 11)

(Prequel to: Caught Between)

<http://ficly.com/stories/35618>



The Hound...

I stood there like a statue, fear gripping me. The hound's black eyes were locked with mine, eyes full of bloodlust and rage. He was a huge mutt, four foot tall at the shoulder, his hackles were up and his teeth bared. His deep thundering growl rattled through my blood and made me shiver.

He began to pace slowly around me like a tiger examining its prey. His long black coat rippled in the wind which wafted towards me a scent of fresh blood. Slobber cascaded from his hungry chops as I considered my options. I was on an open country road that close to no cars drive along. Lining each side of the road were barb wire fences. If I attempted to run and crawl under the fence the hound would be on me before I could escape the barbed wire. I could make a dash for the clump of trees just off the road about 100m behind me. Option number two, it is.

I turned and ran, as fast as my legs would carry me. The hound waited a couple of seconds, then followed.

I had to make this quick, it would not take long for that huge dog to close the gap between us.

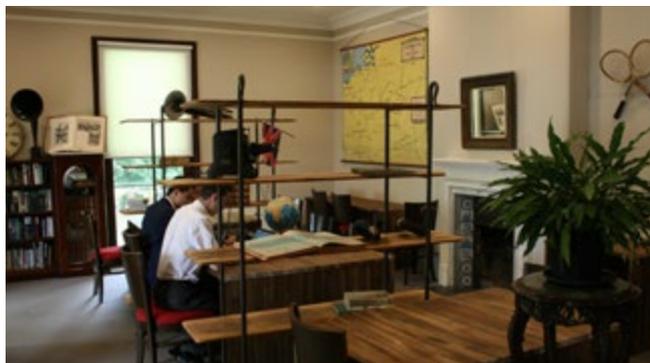
I reached the trees before he got to me. I slipped through a small gap in the trees and dove into the bushes, there was no way he could follow me there.

Then I felt the breath on the back of my neck, he was behind me.

By Campbell Macquarie (Year 11)

DEPUTY HEAD REPORTS

Deputy Head Learning: Kate Cunich



Oxley, like many schools continues to be challenged by the rapidly changing world around us. As we strive to prepare our students for their futures, we must be mindful of concentrating on what matters most. We are therefore committed to the vision of a school brimming with learning, learning that is visible, engaging and inspiring.

For that reason, we have recently completed our first walkthrough for the year. A walkthrough involves the collection of data about student learning observed in classrooms on a particular day. Data is gathered about what the students are doing at a particular point in the lesson: discussing, writing, reading, listening as well as sitting with students to gauge their understanding of learning intentions and success criteria. This week's walkthrough observed combinations of 1024 students, K – 12, in classes covering every Key Learning Area (KLA) and course. We are delighted with the data collected, even more so with ordered, interesting and educationally impressive learning activities encountered. The experience also provided a powerful reminder, and indeed celebration of the wonderful and varied learning activities that are occurring daily on our campus.

Our parent information sessions were very well attended and once again have provided the opportunity for a briefing on the year ahead. K – 6 class teachers and Year 7 – 11 Year Coordinators were able to explain their important role in the lives of students throughout the year. Parents are encouraged to have a conversation with their children each night about their learning and in particular, inquire about the diary and homework timetable.

Year 12 students have already impressed us with their use of the Academic Study centre and Year 12 teachers are currently meeting about additional strategies to harness academic achievement. Year 11 students were also briefed on the rigours of the Preliminary HSC course at their retreat on Monday. Again, Year 11 students displayed a determined and dedicated focus start to their Stage 6 journey. We are indeed excited about our rigorous and enlightened start to our academic year.

Deputy Head Pastoral: Peter Ayling

How do I help my child cope with peer pressure?

As children become adolescents the more influence peers have on their thinking, attitudes, values and behaviour. For a young person, resisting peer influence can mean isolation or instant ostracism, so it sometimes takes great strength of will to refuse to follow the crowd. Here are some ideas to help:

- Help children and teens say no and save face and maintain their status.
- Encourage young people to gain some thinking time when they feel uncomfortable with a peer's request.
- Encourage them to think through the consequences of decisions.
- Discuss the impact of peer pressure and that it makes them feel unsafe.
- Allow your kids to hold opinions different to your own so that they don't always feel they have to please others.

Find out more www.parentingideas.com.au

ANZAC DAY MARCH – Lock in the Date

The Anzac Day March will be held on Saturday 25 April.

Oxley College students have traditionally been involved with the Anzac Day Services held in our local area and our focus this year will be the Services held at Bowral. A Dawn Service will occur at the Bowral War Memorial at 5:50am on Saturday 25 April and this will be followed by the main Service that commences with a march at 10:35am followed by a Service at War Memorial Park commencing at 11:00am. At this Service a wreath will be laid by our Head Boy and Head Girl.

I encourage students who are in the area on Anzac Day to join in the march. This is not a compulsory event, however we have traditionally had a large presence at this event. We believe as a College this is something special that we should all attend and I hope you will be able to join us on the day.

Venue: Coles Car Park

Time: 10:00am

Dress: Oxley College winter uniform

The march will conclude at the Bowral War Memorial Park and is followed immediately by the Anzac Service. The Service should conclude just before 12 noon.

I look forward to seeing many Oxley students as we take time to pause and reflect.

Anzac Day is one of those times we pause to remember our conflicts. We reflect on the bravery, the sacrifice, the freedom, the grief and the loss. We are reminded that Anzac Day is also an occasion to reflect on our history. It is a day much associated with rituals and symbols and we have the opportunity to again reflect on the sacrifices of our forebears, including some of our own families. We will hold our own Anzac Day Assembly as part of our College assembly.



YEAR 9 RITES OF PASSAGE: WITH BRONWYN TREGENZA

Pin Oak: What is the Rites of Passage programme?

Mrs Tregenza: In many different cultures, young people make a transition from childhood to adulthood and take on many responsibilities. Many of these cultures have a ceremonial event which marks the transition from childhood to adulthood therefore the Year 9 Rites of Passage programme is designed to mark this transition for the students. We have planned a three week stay in Sydney with many exciting activities such as climbing the Harbour Bridge and jet boat riding. We have also incorporated the curriculum so that there is no loss of teaching time.

Pin Oak: What exciting activities are planned for this trip?

Mrs Tregenza: The theme of this trip is Identity and telling your personal story therefore we are working side by side with the Australian Film and Television School throughout the duration of this trip. They are helping us to document this process by accompanying us at some events. We are still in the planning stage and we are still finalising details but we will be visiting many art galleries, attending many performances, taking part in an indigenous programme, visiting Bangarra dance studio, seeing the spectacular sights of Vivid and watching an Opera House performance. Students will be visiting many universities and taking part in workshops as well as camping a night on Cockatoo Island.

Pin Oak: What is the purpose of this trip?:

Mrs Tregenza: We want Year 9 to walk away and say that it was a time of connection and incredible unique experiences. We aim to make students feel comfortable in an urban environment therefore we have organised Year 9 to have a safety briefing with the Sydney Police on how to be safe in this environment. Students will have to plan their travel and take on many responsibilities. We want to expose Year 9 to a diverse population and we want students to get a sense of what it is like to live in the centre of Sydney!

By Olivia Donovan (Year 9)

TECH WIZARDS

Netflix In Australia

Late last year, Netflix announced its intentions to launch its streaming video on-demand service in Australia, available from next month, hoping to replicate its US based service. Series available upon launch include its own financed Marco Polo as well as Dreamworks' All Hail King Julien. Content offered abroad will be different due to content rights. In the US, the service costs \$8.99 per month, however no details on Australian pricing have been announced. Positive effects have already been reverberated with Foxtel slashing the price of its Bundles and Presto movie service in anticipation of Netflix's local launch. Nine Entertainment and Fairfax Media are joining forces to launch Stan as well as Seven Media and Foxtel relaunching Presto to include television series. Quickflix is also planning to expand its offerings after a recent capital raising. Netflix will continue to be available abroad for the hundreds of thousands of customers currently bypassing geolocation restrictions and may prove to be a better offer in terms of series availability such as House of Cards. It will be interesting to see what effect the launch will have on local piracy levels.

By Ryan Tan (Year 12)

IN THE NEWS



NATALIE LANE

P.O We have heard a rumor that you sing? How long have you been singing for?

Miss Lane: I started singing when I was very young. I started piano lessons when I was four and started singing when I was seven. I have been doing eisteddfods all through school.

P.O What is your favorite type of music to sing?

I am in a cover band and enjoy singing Jazz, harmonizing and singing back up.

P.O Who have you sung with and where have you sung aside from the Oxley Talent quest?

I have sung with the Rolling Stones, Delta Goodrem, James Valentine (for the teachers) and Andrea Bocelli. I have sung at the Sydney Festival, Gough Whitlam's memorial service and at numerous events at the Opera House.

P.O What motivates you to sing?

I love to sing for the joy of it. Collaborating with amazing singers and learning with them.

P.O Biggest achievement so far?

I think it would have to be either being a part of a choir called with One Voice, which allows everybody to sing with them, even if they're told they can't sing. This was both challenging and incredibly rewarding. Singing with the Rolling Stones was also great!

By Savannah Sandilands and Jemima Taylor (Year 8)



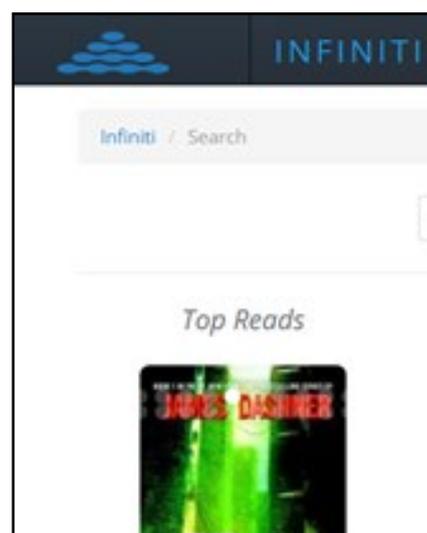
CHINA EXPERIENCE

BEWARE!: A new communist party is forming at Oxley College. Its leader, Year 12 student, Hugh Dawkins was inspired by his summer trip to China.

Sponsored by the Chinese government, Hugh and 150 other Mandarin language students from around the world spent two weeks in Ganzhou China (an area usually prohibited to tourists). His trip may not really have inspired a communist group, but it has further developed his wish to attend university in China as he explained, "There are lots of opportunities I didn't know about."

The trip included visiting many cultural sites such as Mao's house on Christmas Day ("Cultural juxtaposition!"), seeing the "amazing scenery", visiting universities and the tasting unusual culinary delicacies. Hugh's food repertoire now includes pig ears, jellyfish tentacles, 1000-year-old eggs, duck feet and pig brains. Hugh sums up the trip as "a great way to experience other cultures with wonderful people."

By Evangeline Larsen (Year 12)

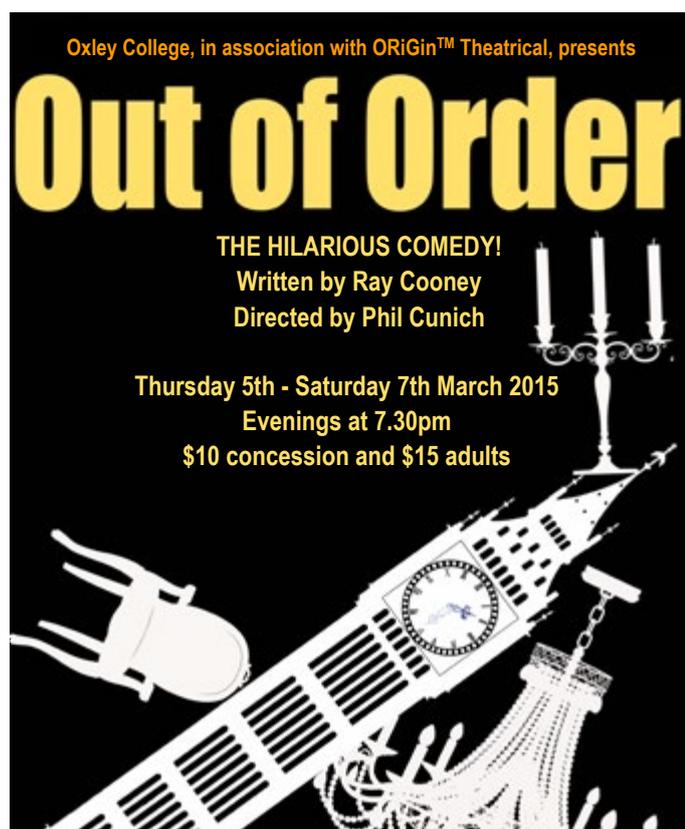


IN THE LIBRARY

Google is obviously an effective search tool as it is used over two million times each second. Google's annual revenue is a massive \$55 billion dollars. People use Google because it is easy to use and produces meaningful results. It makes sense then, that when we were searching for a new library management system we wanted one to be as simple and effective to use as Google. We wanted our school community to be able to locate resources quickly and easily, including online resources such as websites and free eBooks from Gutenberg.

Our new system, Infiniti, looks a bit like Google (only better). The search screen displays books from our fabulous "Booked Up" Wide Reading collection as well as our latest purchases. Spinning in the middle is a tag cloud of the latest search terms used. See our new system here: <https://oxleycollege.concord.net.au/login>. There is also a clickable link on the Oxley Library Website: <http://oxleylearning.org/library/>. Log on using the same username and password as you use at school or use the generic login: Username: guest, Password: password.

By Elizabeth Antoniak



REVIEW: OXLEY SENIOR PRODUCTION

This year's Senior Production is called Out of Order. It is a farce written by the English playwright, Ray Cooney. It consists of a small cast and contains lots of fast paced action that requires precision timing and execution. The cast, directors, stage crew and costumer designers have been working consistently throughout the duration of the first term as well the last few weeks of the holidays to make sure the play will be stage ready for opening night on Thursday 5 March. In Out of Order you can expect to experience a fast paced, adrenaline infused performance that is sure to get the heart pumping. See the Year 12 drama students, and Year 11 drama student, jump, roll and scream for your own amusement as the characters entangle themselves in a web of lies. Out of Order is the awaited comedy that, deep down, Oxley has always wanted to do...

By Edward Bowyer (Year 12)

P&F NEWS

The Rotary Fun Run is quickly approaching on Saturday 15 March 2015 and the P&F have been asked to do the BBQ. We are looking for nine more volunteers to do 1 ½ hour shifts on the BBQ and Canteen. Please forward your name and a start time (8:00am, 9:30am, 11:30am, 12:30pm) to cindyp@meridian.com.au.

Thank you to Julie Scandrett for kindly agreeing to once again fill the position of Year Rep Coordinator. Each year group from Kindergarten to Year 12 has one or two parents that organise a couple of friend-raising activities for parents and families during the year. Some of the activities that have been organised have been: picnics, bowling, Thai dinners, bonfire nights and morning teas. If you would be interested in being the Year Rep for your child's year group please contact Julie on julie@hylands.com.au.



P & F Executive: Matt Croker, Deborah Davies, Cindy Pryma, Kate Fair and Anne-Marie Curry

Plans and organisation for the upcoming Equestrian Day, Sunday 29 March are well under way. If you would like to help out on the day please contact Sally Quirco on sallyq@internode.on.net. Many people are required to have the day run efficiently and safely. You do not need any knowledge of riding or horses to help out. Everyone is welcome to come and support the riders and take part in this wonderful Oxley tradition. Cindy Pryma P & F President

GALLERY



Swimming Carnival Photos By Angel Burton - Ho (Year 7)

FEBRUARY + MARCH CALENDAR

	<p>Mon</p> <p>23</p>	<p>Mon</p> <p>Exc: Year 11 and Year 12 Ancient History, Nicolson Museum, Sydney Exc: Year 12 DT, Powerhouse Museum DesignTech</p> <p>02</p>	<p>Mon</p> <p>Exc: Year 11 and Year 12 Music, Encore, Sydney (depart 3:30pm) Year 11 Student/Parent/Teacher Meeting, Orchestra Room (from 4:00pm)</p> <p>09</p>
	<p>Tue</p> <p>HICES Debating, details to be advised 2015 Cricket Tour Meeting, Room 12, 5:15pm</p> <p>24</p>	<p>Tue</p> <p>03</p>	<p>Tue</p> <p>10</p>
	<p>Wed</p> <p>Secondary Inter-Schools Twilight Swim Carnival, Frensham (6:30pm-9:00pm)</p> <p>25</p>	<p>Wed</p> <p>K-6 Cross Country Carnival, (9:00am-12:40pm) 7-12 Cross Country Carnival (1:30pm-3:10pm)</p> <p>04</p>	<p>Wed</p> <p>11</p>
	<p>Thu</p> <p>Headmaster's Tour (11:00am) Exc: Inter-schools Primary Twilight Swim Carnival, Bowral Pool (4:00pm)</p> <p>26</p>	<p>Thu</p> <p>Senior Production Opening Night, Hoskins Hall (7:30pm)</p> <p>05</p>	<p>Thu</p> <p>Photo Day, details to be advised</p> <p>12</p>
<p>Fri</p> <p>20</p>	<p>Fri</p> <p>27</p>	<p>Fri</p> <p>Exc: Year 11 and Year 12 Visual Art, ArtExpress, Sydney Exc: International Women's Day Breakfast Senior Production, Hoskins Hall (7:30pm)</p> <p>06</p>	<p>Fri</p> <p>Inc: Year 8 Medieval Feast, 11:00am Exc: Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze Practice Hike (Day 1)</p> <p>13</p>
<p>Sat</p> <p>ISA Summer Sport Round 10</p> <p>21</p>	<p>Sat</p> <p>ISA Summer Sport Semi Finals</p> <p>28</p>	<p>Sat</p> <p>ISA Summer Sport Finals Senior Production, Hoskins Hall (7:30pm)</p> <p>07</p>	<p>Sat</p> <p>Exc: Duke of Edinburgh's Award Hike (Day 2) Exc: U/18 7-a-side Rugby competition, Sydney</p> <p>14</p>
<p>Sun</p> <p>22</p>	<p>Sun</p> <p>01</p>	<p>Sun</p> <p>08</p>	<p>Sun</p> <p>Exc: Duke of Edinburgh's Award Hike (Day 3) Exc: Year 12 English Extension 2, Student Day, Sydney P & F Sausage Sizzle with Rotary Fun Run (9:00am)</p> <p>15</p>

Upcoming events

- + Monday 16 March: K-6 Student/Parent/Teacher meetings this week (times to be advised)
Year 9 Student/Parent/Teacher meetings, Orchestra Room (from 4:00pm)
Year 12 Half Yearly examinations commence
- + Wednesday 18 March: Year 10 Student/Parent/Teacher meetings, Orchestra Room (from 4:00pm)
- + Thursday 19 March: Exc: HICES Debating, Round 2, details to be advised
Studio Concert, Orchestra Room, (4:00pm)

Sport



SPORTSMAN: WILL DUNCAN

PO: What does being scouted by an American college program mean for your future in football?

Will: It's going to allow me to play in an American college team in the 2nd tier of American football also to be able to be drafted into the MLS which is the top league in America.

PO: Who is your favourite footballer of all time? Why?

Will: Diego Maradona because he cheated England out of winning the World Cup in 1986 with his hand of God and also because he is a class footballer.

PO: Was Germany your pick to win the world cup?

Will: Yes they were, I felt Germany with their class players in midfield and defence were always going to dominate the opposition as they did to a few teams in the tournament.

PO: Favourite club team?

Will: Arsenal.

PO: Did you apply for the opportunity to be scouted or did they simply like what they saw?

Will: No, I went to a trial and then had multiple interviews with representatives with the company which was a very long process.

PO: What are your thoughts on David Luiz infamously making the FIFA World XI?

Will: I thought that many players got robbed by David Luiz being in the FIFA World XI such as Boateng winning the Bundesliga and Godin who came second in the champions league and winning BBVA whereas David Luiz did nothing.

By Alexia Cheaib (Year 11)

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Gabriella Taylor-Helme

Gabriella Taylor-Helme (Year 11) has been selected into the NSW U17 Netball squad after four months trials and fitness testing. She is also playing State League Netball for the year (Feb - Sept) which is high performance netball played at Netball Central - Olympic Park Homebush.

Finn Loiterton

Finn Loiterton (Year 11) was selected over the holidays to represent the Illawarra in the U17 Junior Gold team for Rugby Union.

Harry Sutherland

Harry Sutherland (Year 11) has been selected in the 2015 FNSW Premier League Under 20 Football - Marconi FC.

MATCH OF THE WEEK



U13 Boys Basketball vrs St Spyridon's

After a 20 point drubbing against St Spyridon's in Round 1 of the ISA Boys Basketball competition the U13s team travelled to Sydney last Saturday looking for an improved result. The game started slowly but evenly with both teams struggling to score. What became obvious early on was that the Oxley players were intent on playing an aggressive defence and because of this they went to the half time break with a surprising lead, 4-2. In the second half star player Lachlan Coleman was fouled taking a lay-up and was poked in the eye. Miraculously, the shot went in but he was unable to take any further part in the game. This meant a player had to come off the bench to shoot the extra free throw. This player was Charlie Seaton who stepped up to the line (in front of a big crowd) and calmly hit the shot!! This gave the team some much needed momentum and with some outstanding play from Finn Ottaviano the boys went on to record a 15-7 victory. Congratulations to all players in the team for a terrific performance.