

PIN OAK

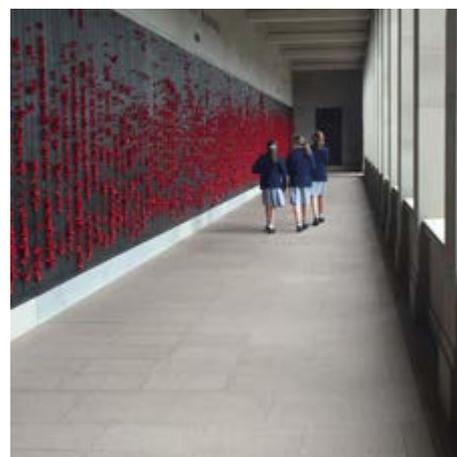
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REMEMBRANCE
DAY



YEAR 12 FORMAL



K-6

HEADMASTER'S REPORT: KEY INITIATIVES FOR 2016

Contents

- 3 Headmaster's Report
- 5 Big Issue
- 6 K - 6 News
- 7 More K-6
- 8 Feature Article
- 10 Films, Music, Books
- 11 In the Spotlight
- 12 In the News
- 13 On the Branch
- 14 Gallery
- 15 Calendar
- 16 Sport

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Oxley
COLLEGE

HEADLINES

- New Year 7 to 10 subject: SWYM.
- New Year 9 and 10 subject; Cambridge Global Perspectives IGSCE.
- ISA training moved to after school.
- ISA one season of compulsory sport.
- Bray Fields- new soccer, rugby and hockey fields for Winter 2016.
- New tennis, netball and basketball courts for 2016
- New Fitness Facility with 'The Shed' for February 2016.

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

Years 7 to 10- SWYM – the HOW of academic success

One of the great complaints about high school education across the world is that the 'how' gets lost in the 'what'. Students need more time concentrating on how to write a good paragraph, how to make themselves clear, how to plan an essay, how to study properly, how to read widely and well, and how to cope with it all. These are supposed to happen within subjects but they often get lost (or at least students don't notice it).

So we are creating a new subject called 'SWYM'- 'Say What You Mean'. It will be facilitated by our Co-ordinator of Academic Strategies Mr Nicholas Carter. When he was Head of English at The Scots College in Sydney he made some forays into this area, but this is a significantly more sustained programme. He has been working closely with our English Department, the Executive and the school Learning Support department to create the programme. It will be managed so that we can cater to different groups - some will get fundamental support, others will get the 'polish and style' that allow already good written work to fly.

The SWYM programme will run for between two and four lessons a fortnight (depending on the year group) and consist of;

- Swymming Training: Lessons on sentences, paragraphs, structure, essays, clear writing, thesis writing, organisation, study habits, planning etc. In short, how to achieve writing success in most of subjects on the school timetable.
- Swymming Meets: Putting it into practice. This will be a closely monitored independent writing project that utilises the skills learnt in the training sessions.
- Swym 'Warmdown'- in which students learn about resilience, stress management, mindfulness and stillness. This will enable them to deal with the challenges that school (and life) will throw at them with more equanimity.
- Swymming Nutrition and Diet (Years 7 and 8): This will be an expansion of the wide reading programme connected to the English Department which will hopefully instil a lifelong passion for (or at least interest in) reading. This reading will be of both fiction and non-fiction.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT CONTINUED...

In our school vision we are committed to 'enlightened academic rigour'. We believe that this programme absolutely delivers on this element of the vision.

Years 9 and 10 - Cambridge 'Global Perspectives' IGSCE course

We are also very excited by this course. It is an international version of an English GCSE/O Level - an IGSCE. The whole course looks at issues facing our planet right now- education, water, population, politics and environment. It fits in beautifully with our mission to prepare students for their future in the exciting, dangerous and uncharted twenty first century.

The course, taught in thousands of schools throughout the world, is excellent. Much of it is project based. We will be explicitly linking some of the projects to our partner school in Jhib Jhibe in Nepal. By going to Nepal students doing Global Perspectives will be able to do real life field work and make an actual difference to the village. We plan this to be education at its finest.

'Global Perspectives' is the third fundamental piece of our Year 9 'Rites of Passage' programme - combining with the three week 'Sydney Experience' and the 'Overseas Social Service experience' to make a year unlike any other for students. Incidentally, because we would like many of our students in Year 9 or 10 to travel to these places from 2016 or 2017 we are also closely investigating potential partnerships in Botswana and Fiji. We will have an unrivalled mosaic of proper, life transforming education for our fourteen and fifteen year olds.

The Global Perspectives course also has an internationally recognised examination at the end of Year 10. Since the abolition of the School Certificate several years ago, students in NSW have not had a real focus point at the end of the first four years of their schooling. Quite a number of our students are accelerated into Year 11 subjects in Year 10, so they have a focus point already. However, by having the 'Global Perspectives' examination, we will be reintroducing rigour into the end of Year 10 for all of our students.

The course is a two year one straddling Years 9 and 10. It will start with Year 9 in 2016 to be first examined in late 2017 when they complete Year 10.

We were inspected by the Cambridge Certifying authority on Tuesday 17 November and given a clear indication then that we would be able to offer the course from 2016. It is not formalised yet, but we have every reason to be confident. We have had to hold back on our announcement of all of the changes until this fundamental piece of the puzzle fell clearly enough into place.

SPORT

ISA Sport

As you will know, from this year it has become compulsory to do at least one ISA sport per year. This will not affect the majority of students, who already do two. At the moment we have 76% of students taking a winter sport and 74% taking a summer sport.

Individuals can apply for an exemption from this commitment. A number of our Equestrian students have already done this, and we are proud that they continue to represent Oxley and themselves in this sport. The exemption is also open for students who are very heavily involved in the Drama and Music programme of the School and can also demonstrate that they do some exercise during the week. These people are already contributing well to the co-curricular fabric of the School.



ISA Sport trainings and Wednesday sport

From 2016 ISA sporting teams will train outside the 8:45am-3:30pm school hours. This means that Wednesday Period 5 and 6 sport will not continue into 2016. For most teams this training will be Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, although for some it may mean a Friday or a morning training session.

We took this decision after significant consultation with parents, staff and students (which has also meant that many people have already heard about the potential for this change). We had a parents' focus group several months ago through the P+F which raised many good issues about rep teams and uniforms that we have been able to consider and address. The Year 12 focus group several weeks ago refocused our energies in some respects. This was particularly towards a Fitness Facility/gym and also the wearing of sports uniform one day per week. Staff were consulted several months ago. We have also consulted with our colleagues at Chevalier College who have this arrangement already.

Rationale

We are one of the few independent schools of our type that has sport within the day to day timetable. No GPS or CAS school that I am aware of has it, and most ISA schools do not have it. In Years 7 and 8 we currently have more PE/sport within the timetable than we do English or Maths. Nobody would ever accuse Scots or Newington of being unfocused on sport, yet all of their training occurs outside the day timetable.

Wednesday sport that was not ISA training was often being used as 'filler'. Despite the best attempts of some of the teachers, they were often not taken seriously as either fitness or skills development. An exception to this was the gym, and we have a solution to that below. In addition, due to quite difficult timetabling quirks and loading allocations, teachers were sometimes not rostered onto their own ISA teams during Wednesday Periods 5 and 6. We have been able to remove this anomaly.

A number of good potential coaches, both parents and ex-students, have indicated to us that they cannot coach for Oxley because of the 1:30pm - 3:00pm training time. We do hope that in the years to come we will be able to attract even more quality coaches with a later training time.

A major rationale for the move is what we are able to do with this time from 7-12. I have outlined this above. We are not able to pursue the exciting programmes above if ISA sport training is within the 9:00am -3:00pm timetable. In addition to this we can timetable many more Year 11-12 extension classes within the day instead of having them continue until 5:15pm.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT CONTINUED...

Issue of distance and pickups

We are aware that some of our students live quite a reasonable distance from the school in terms of distance and time. However, once you take into account the distance people travel in Sydney to schools (as well as the peak hour gridlock there) this is little difference - although we are aware that there can be more public transport options to take in cities.

For ISA team trainings there will be usually be two pickups a week instead of one. We would hope that parents would be able to facilitate car pooling arrangements and we will, where possible, provide contact details to captains and parents so that people can organise this. We would like car-pooling to become, if not the norm, then at least something very common so that parents only have to pick up once, every two or three trainings.

Issue of Rep teams

A number of our students also play for representative teams and some of the trainings will clash. We are willing to be flexible about this. For example if one of the two ISA team trainings clashes with rep training, we will understand if a student chooses the rep training session for the same sport. This already occurs with some sports.

Issue of Uniform

A number of students and parents have indicated that the wearing of the sports uniform one day a week was important to them. It also allowed for school clothes to be washed. As a result students will be able to wear their sports uniform on Thursday. This is the day that many students will have PE and/or training in any case. (Wednesday is no longer a good day because K-6 have sport after school, and after school Wednesday training would mean training on consecutive days for most students).

Bray Fields

Three weeks ago we put in a DA to develop the Bray Fields and, subject to its approval, we plan to start working on it in January. Our plan is for the fields to be ready for the winter season of 2016. The Bray Fields are directly across the Wingecarribee River.

We will be including a rugby field, a football field and a hockey field. This means that our footballers, for the first time will be able to play their home games actually at home, not at Chevalier. It also allows much more space for training.

Tennis/Netball/Basketball Courts

At the moment the Kettle Block is unused. It is the vacant block of land on your left as you drive up the main drive. We will be submitting a DA in the near future to convert these into four multipurpose tennis/netball and basketball courts. Negotiations are already well advanced with a local supplier of multipurpose courts. We will also be consulting with our neighbours who are next to the Kettle Block. We plan for these courts to be ready for winter 2016.

If the DA is successful it means that for the first time we will be able to play our home tennis games at home, not at Moss Vale. We also have more capacity for our basketball squads in particular.

Gym/fitness centre

In what I think is particularly good news, we are creating a Fitness Facility onsite from the beginning of 2016. We will be going into partnership with 'The Shed' in Bowral to provide fitness, conditioning and strength facilities and also training each day. The gym will be located in the Peter Craig Centre by converting the two classrooms that currently exist on the West side of the Centre.

We believe that fitness for young people is important, regardless of whether they are playing an ISA sport, and we are excited to think of the good lifetime habits that Oxleyans will be able to develop with the gym/fitness facility onsite. As a result, the facility will be available for both ISA teams as part of their training programme and also to general groups for fitness training. There will be mixed gender and single sex sessions during the week.

The facility will be staffed by experts from 'The Shed' for several hours each day, and by our own trained staff for other hours of the day. 'The Shed' will be catering for regular gym users as well as absolute beginners. Grant Williamson, as well as our own Sport and PE departments, will be working with the owners of 'The Shed' on what a good educational programme for all students will look like. The school will also be using the gym during PE periods.

The combined effect of these developments is to more than double our sports grounds.

We have stated in our vision that we want to have schooling that is 'not surpassed in NSW' for Oxley. We trust that these innovations will take us several steps further down that road. The balance of programmes are innovative, exciting and sometimes unique. As with all changes, there will be a few bumps along the way. However, we look forward to the extra vigour they will bring to life at Oxley College.





If love is 'just' love, shouldn't marriage be 'just' marriage?

'At some point in our lifetime, gay marriage won't be an issue, and everyone who stood against this civil right will look as outdated as George Wallace standing on the school steps keeping James Hood from entering the University of Alabama because he was black' - George Clooney

Are we preventing freedom of choice, in not allowing an individual to wed the person whom they love? In stopping somebody to commit his or her life to somebody else, are we disregarding a basic human right? Are we encouraging our society to conceal the way they feel?

In Australia the debate for same sex marriage is ongoing and we seem to struggle more and more to find the 'right answer', I guess you could say. However since July 2015, in all 50 states within the US, gay marriage is legal and a law, which the US Supreme Court considers, will be ranked alongside other major decisions within America throughout political history. Public opinion in America on the topic of gay and lesbian marriage has grown more and more controversial, however the number of supporters in opinion polls has increased over the last decade dramatically. Hence why the US government saw legalising it so vital to the growth of society.

Yet as a country, Australia seems to be failing to see the importance of legalising same sex marriage, particularly for the following reasons. Firstly, the definition of marriage within the Australian constitution consists of marriage between a man and a woman – therefore the definition of this would have to first be amended to allow same sex marriage. Secondly, 'Mother-Father child rearing' is an issue that the Australian government deems as very important. This is the idea that same sex

marriage will result in a child not knowing who their biological mother or father is, due to the fact that they've been raised by a couple of the same sex who are opposed to introducing third party to the child. Furthermore they're suggesting that the common mother-father model of parenting is the ideal and certainly something to strive towards within society. The final reason the Australian government is opposed to same sex marriage is that children who grow up with the 'conventional family', consisting of a mother and a father apparently develop a better self esteem, experience better mental and physical health, than a child who is brought up in any other setting.

However, in my opinion these reasons are a mere excuse for the fact that as a society, we're afraid of causing unrest or controversy. What's fair about not having the right to marry the person you love unconditionally? What's fair about discriminating against a person on the basis of who they choose to spend their life with?

Australia, I think it's time to legalise same sex marriage, if the rest of the world can do it – we can!

By Ella Moran (Year 10)

Head of K-6: Justine Lind

This week in K-6 we have celebrated the naming of our Oxley mascot, Simba the Lion. In our College crest, the lion symbolises fortitude and courage. The suggestion of Simba came from Saskia Gray in Year 4 because Simba is a great leader. Saskia recognised the qualities of Simba and great leaders that we aim to nurture at Oxley. Leadership has been the theme of several discussions in K-6 in the last week.

In Assembly last week I praised our Year 6 students for the way in which they represented Oxley in Canberra, visiting the seat of leadership in our nation while demonstrating great leadership of themselves.

Last Friday, our 16 prospective leaders for 2016 showcased their vision and values during the speeches to the entire K-6. Lachlan Blair, Patrick Duffy, Monty Clark, Jack Hatcher, Alister Hill, Thomas Hutchings, Yanni Psarakis, Victor Van Der Schalk, James Wilson, Sophie Biddlecombe, Genevieve Chapman, Alice Gilbert, Brianna Grice, Poppy Jensen, Rosie Phelan and Alex Salmon presented themselves with thoughtfulness and pride. Their peers in each year level earnestly considered the criteria to cast their votes responsibly. Each nominee is already worthy of congratulations.

The shortlisted nominees, as voted by their peers, have attended interviews this week with myself and Mr Peter Ayling (Deputy Head, Pastoral). They conducted themselves with tremendous integrity, making the task of ratifying the students' votes all the harder. House Meetings to elect our House Captains will occur on Friday afternoon in Community Time ready for our induction ceremony at the K-6 Assembly in the last week of term.

In Assembly this week, we listened to the lyrics of Simba's Pride - We Are One, from the Lion King II. Simba tells a young Nala, "We are more than we are, we are one." We spoke about the way that our community works at Oxley and that great leaders know this and they know that leadership is not about power but service, service to a place and its people; a school, a nation or a planet! Our students know that our leaders are part of everyone and that everyone is helping each other on their own journey to leadership (whether formal and public or private). Our 2015 School Captain, James Feetham when recounting his experience of Oxley to the new parents at last week's K-6 Orientation Day, spoke about the enduring confidence that his time at Oxley will provide. He told them, "I'm in Year 6 and I'm School Captain of the school I've been at for so long and moving onto Year 7 in a few short weeks, but whatever lies ahead, I know Oxley will have my back. From friends to teachers, from laughs to cries, from happy to sad, from a sense of accomplishment to a fear of failure, all up I have found Oxley to be a great school. I love it so much and it is my home away from home."

Simba tells Nala, "As long as you live here, it's who you are." For our students, it's a case of, "As long as you've been here, you're one of us." For our Year 6 students moving onto Year 7 and for those students who are leaving to go elsewhere at the end of the year, you will always be Oxley students and that is something to be proud of. We will always have your back. The students in K-6 have lived our values recently in their actions. Last week's Grandparents' Day was a powerful opportunity for all students to serve

Weekly Awards:

Students of the Week

K: Ari Knowles
Yr 1: William O'Callaghan
Yr 2: Year 2!
Yr 3: Ashton Mineeff
Yr 4: Darcey Wooderson
Yr 5: Alex Salmon
Yr 6: Tom Rapp

Respect Oxley

K: Louisa Hogan-Baldo
Yr 1: Allegra Mineeff
Yr 2: Luca Colloridi
Yr 3: Hudson Alexander
Yr 4: Patrick Muldoon
Yr 5: Poppy Jensen
Yr 6: Toby O'Sullivan



Students of the Week

K: Tippi Wernbacher
Yr 1: Jaxon Nonnenmacher
Yr 2: Madison Walters
Yr 3: Georgia Pride
Yr 4: Benedict Regan
Yr 5: Lachlan Blair
Yr 6: James Feetham

Respect Oxley

K: Ivy Halstead
Yr 1: Ben Scott
Yr 2: Chilli Sparke
Yr 3: Grace Macquarie
Yr 4: Jacqueline Worthington
Yr 5: James Wilson
Yr 6: Lachlan Muldoon



others and to express their love and gratitude to their Grandparents, Godparents or Grand-friends. We were honoured to have over 140 members of the wider Oxley community join us for the day and especially to be part of our Remembrance Day service. We were especially proud of the way our students demonstrated sincere hospitality and the capacity to put the needs of others before their own.

I'm yet to experience an Oxley Christmas. I'm looking forward to the annual Carols Night and end of year celebrations. I will be encouraging the students to reflect on their respective years and to express their gratitude to others.

On Tuesday night, the College expressed its gratitude to our many parent volunteers and members of the P&F. We are especially grateful to our year level representatives, led by our P&F Vice President for K-6, Anne-Marie Curry as well as all those whose efforts have enriched the experience of everyone in our part of the College. Our Cake Stall days, Mothers' and Fathers' Days and Soup Days provide a great sense of community and co-operation for which we are very grateful. To the parents who assisted with the K-6 Production, Grandparents' Day, OLE Week and the variety of specific year level excursions and social and sporting events, we say thank you. Similarly, the squad of passionate volunteers who assist by coaching our sporting teams, we give three cheers! Quietly, each month, Sonia Dunn collects and collates the Scholastic Book Club bringing much joy to our avid and reluctant readers as well as those in between. She has provided this service now for four years and I know how grateful the students are for this service.

To each and every one who is part of our community at Oxley, thank you. Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with us and for trusting us to help them grow into the extraordinary people they will continue to become. Thank you for contributing to the rich fabric that is life at Oxley College. You are more powerful than you know.



Grandparents' day



What is Feminism

Two Year 8 students talk about equality of the sexes

Feminism is a movement run by women and men who strive for gender equality.

In the 1960s an Australian woman was expected to quit her job when she fell pregnant, providing her with no independence or choice. Today, only 22% of prime - time television shows have a gender-balanced cast. The word Feminism describes the idea that women should have the same opportunities and freedom of choice as men. Since the start of this movement, women have achieved more and more equal rights than they used to have.

Until the mid to late 1800s, when married, a woman instantly became the property of her husband. Today, this seems outrageous! This is an example of a social expectation that has changed through the ongoing effort of the Feminist movement. These efforts have been carried out in the form of protests. For example, in 1975, 90% of the women in Iceland took a day off from their usual daily routine to take to the streets and fight for women's rights. These rights included equal job opportunities, equal pay, less discrimination, better representation throughout society, most specifically in the government. In turn, statistics today show that over 50% of the Icelandic government is run by women - whereas this is the case for only 22% of the Australian government.

Today, women are still under an expectation to uphold society's framework of what it is to be a woman. For example, needing to shave legs and underarms or to perfectly manipulate their appearance to please others, whereas these types of expectations are not as heavily placed on men. For example, during summer in London this year, an ad was publicised on the trains of the underground, with the slogan "Are you beach body ready?" This was advertising weight loss pills for women, promoting a woman dressed in a bikini. This suggests that you can only wear a bikini, and go to the beach if you have the 'perfect beach body'. Mass protests were carried out in Hyde Park in London as a result of this discrimination of women's body types. This is an example of what feminism is in the modern society.

Another way the media has placed unfair demands on women has been through the over-sexualisation of female cartoon characters. Wonder Woman and Super Woman wear short, revealing leotards, whereas their male equivalents are fully covered and represented in a very different light - often brave and commended, rather than vulnerable and always needing to be saved. However, it's not all bad. In

the popular sitcom "The Big Bang Theory", the token nerd character Sheldon dates a woman who is just as socially awkward and also intelligent as him. This is a wonderfully equal representation of the sexes through media, and shows progress in the Feminist movement.

In the 1800s, girls were not entitled to a formal education because it was thought their brains could not cope. Today, a young woman called Malala Yousafzai has become respected for standing up to the Taliban for a girl's right to an education. This is Feminism. It is always progressing and it will always be relevant, and not just to women.

By Grace Newton (Year 8)

"It is always progressing and it will always be relevant, and not just to women"





Gender Equality. The idea that men and women have equal rights and are treated equally by society, without any discrimination or disadvantage based on gender. That is not the official definition, but it is my understanding of it. That is, the definition as perceived by a teenage boy living a typical teenage life in 2015. So what you are about to read about gender equality is based on my experience of it.

So let's get straight to the point. We don't live in a world of gender equality. Take the one thing that we are all exposed to from the moment we are born. TV ads. Especially while we're watching cricket or football. You know those ads, where the boys are standing round the barbie downing a few slabs and hatching fantastic hair-brained ideas of what fun shenanigans they're going to get up to next, while the women stand in the kitchen together looking at them with a slight smile and shaking their heads as if to say "Oh aren't they naughty..." or "oh well, boys will be boys...". And I'm talking about their husbands, not their kids! I despise those ads, because they set up a relationship between men and women in which the men are silly, naughty lads while the women are the sensible ones taking care of them and keeping them in line. Lovable larrikins? I don't think so. I don't ever, ever want a relationship like that. In fact, grown men behaving like idiots is probably the reason why there is such a high break-up rate in relationships!

That whole idea of men behaving like idiots relates to my next point about my personal experience of gender equality. Being a teenage boy is like wearing a big badge on your forehead that says "HERE COMES TROUBLE". Walking through town, walking into a shop to have a browse, I always have the feeling that people are looking suspiciously and disapprovingly at me from the corner of their eye. And when I'm with friends – well we are a pack of wolves on the prowl for

trouble, aren't we?

My parents brought me up to be respectful of others. They taught me that if I was respectful, others would be respectful towards me. They taught me not to be cynical about the law, or about people in positions of authority, like policemen. But that is very hard when people treat you like you're trouble before they even get to know you. When people treat you as guilty until proven innocent.

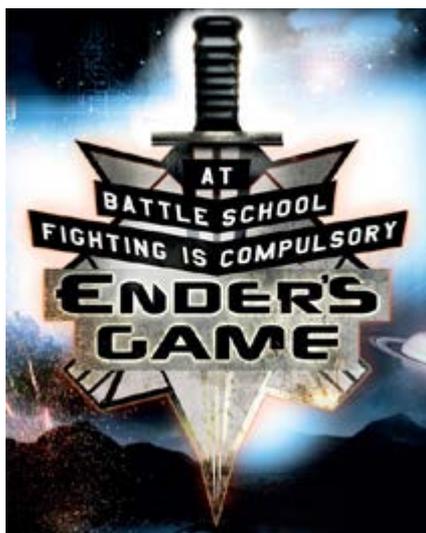
When I was 10 years old, I got a new bike for my birthday. I was so excited, I decided to ride it into town. I was under strict instructions from my mum to stay on the footpath and not ride it on the road. As I was riding past Corbett Gardens, a police car drove past. The policeman leaned his head out of the window and shouted at me in a really angry voice "Oi! Get off the footpath or get off your bike!" I felt like I'd done something really naughty, so I got off my bike and walked my bike back home. What else could I do? My mum was furious and rang the local police station, to be told that yes, 10 year olds ARE allowed to ride on the footpath, but that I must have been "hooning" around and annoying pedestrians. Say no more. Would that police man have shouted at me if I'd had blonde pig tails and a pink barbie doll bike? You make up your own mind.

Other than that, being a teenage boy in 2015 is brilliant! But gender equality? Maybe one day. Just stop expecting boys to be idiots. We're not.

By Ben Canute (Year 8)

"But gender equality? Maybe one day. Just stop expecting boys to be idiots. We're not."





Books

★★★★★

Ender's Game

Orson Scott Card, the author of *Ender's Game*, is an award winning American author and is a prominent member of the Church of the Latter Day Saints, also known as Mormonism. He is a vocal opponent of homosexuality and a big supporter of the War on Terror. But don't let this put you off, *Ender's Game* is a novel well worth reading.

The novel consists of Ender Wiggin attending a selective battle school that is held in outer space. He faces many challenges as he battles to save human kind from the Buggers. I'm not usually a huge fan of science fiction but what is most interesting about this novel is not the plot, it is the character of Ender himself and the emotional conflict he experiences. Ender excels at Battle School because he is brilliant at strategy, this is due to his ability to empathise with and understand the strengths and weaknesses of his enemy. Ironically, this gives rise to an internal struggle within Ender. "In the moment when I truly understand my enemy, understand my enemy well enough to defeat him... and then, in that very moment when I love them... I destroy them." Ender is cruel enough to be victorious in battle but is also compassionate enough to hate what he has to do to win. A series of events awaken a growing realisation by Ender that this inner turmoil is being exploited by the leaders of International Fleet, who do not care about him as an individual.

By the end of the novel, Ender has developed significantly as a character. But do the forces of good or evil prevail? I recommend you put *Ender's Game* to the top of your pile for post-exam reading.



Music

★★★★

FKA Twigs – M3LL155X

Being no stranger to EP's, British experimental, electro-pop performer FKA Twigs has given us yet another mini LP. Contrary to Twigs' previous work, *M3LL155X* is very easily digestible. This is first shown on the haunting opening track *Figure 8*, where instead of using off-kilter beats and random sound effects the track includes more developed sounds.

In time, a song that many would either describe as the 'anthem of the year' or a complete tear jerker sees the British singer play in the grey area between emotive electronic-soul and hardcore dance. We still see Twigs mumble through the same meaningful and heartfelt lyrics about a man that she forever seems to be chasing but for once it isn't as irritating as on her previous attempts. Twigs' vocals are even more prominent and 'centre stage' than ever in *Glass & Patron*, sounding less drenched in effects and synthesisers as well.

Overall *M3LL155X* is certainly a more put together and polished effort for FKA Twigs and one that is certainly more well received than her other EPs.

By Izzy Moore (Year 8)



Films

★★★★★

Clueless

"Okay, so you're probably going, 'is this like a Noxzema commercial or what?'" But seriously, I actually have a way normal life for a teenage girl." *Clueless* is a 1995 teenage romantic comedy which follows the life of Cher a rich, popular, self-absorbed and seemingly airhead 16 year old girl. Cher and her best friend, Dion (both named after famous singers) decide to do some 'charity' work by making over Beverly Hills High's new girl, Tye. Cher gets more than she bargained for while helping Tye find a guy suitable...and definitely popular enough to date. Cher realises for the first time ever that she is lonely and wants a boyfriend! Cher also realises that she is not a *Clueless* as everyone thinks she is.

So you're probably thinking "why am I going to watch this 'old' typical teenage, high school movie?" Directed by Amy Heckerling the film is loosely based on Jane Austen's novel 'Emma'. Although *Clueless* is an 'old' film it is truly a must watch classic. The film really captures the stereotypical teenage girl and their 'first world problems'. The light plotline and somewhat comical characters creates a movie that is easy to watch over and over again for everyone and everyone. So, now that exams are over just think like Cher and say 'As if' to anything else and settle down and watch a true teenage classic.

By Georgia Combes (Year 9)



THE PIT

You've heard the puns, seen the balls and probably spotted one of our colourful posters dotted somewhere around the school. 'The Pit' is literally, a ball pit – yes, the sort of ball pit you might remember playing in when you were younger. The idea behind the ball pit is getting to know people you wouldn't usually connect with and asking them questions to prompt conversation. Our aim through the use of The Pit is to connect people, create friendships and communicate with somebody you might not otherwise. Basically, if you sign yourself up, we'll pair you with somebody who you probably don't know that well, but might have something in common with. The first few rounds in The Pit have been a great success and we encourage all students to put their names down! Even though it might seem a little scary or awkward to sit in a ball pit with somebody you hardly know and discuss something like; your favorite pizza toppings, it's such an awesome way to get to know new people and build friendships. So if we haven't already, I guess we'll meet you in The Pit!

By Ella Moran (Year 10)



LEGENDS

OLIVIA DONOVAN (Year 9)
Olivia Donovan placed 3rd in the Canon Light Awards Photography Competition, under the student entry division. Check out her photo at lightawards.canon.com.au

JAIME PRYOR (Year 12, 2016)
Jaime Pryor attended the NSW Schools Constitutional Convention at NSW Parliament on Monday 10 November and has been selected to participate in the National Schools Constitutional Convention in Canberra from 16 - 18 March 2015.

This is a significant achievement.



OLD OXLEYANS

Four Old Oxleyans are entering into the prestigious life of medicine. Congratulations to them on this achievement.

1. Michael Joubert (Year 12, 2013) (UNSW, under graduate, direct entry).
2. Edward Lewis (Year 12, 2009) (Notre Dame, post graduate entry).
3. Claire Bailey (Year 12 2009) (Notre Dame, post graduate entry).
4. Alex Presgrave (Year 12, 2009) (University of New England, under graduate entry after initially doing two years of a science degree).



FLYING PLANES

The Pin Oak caught up with Year 7 student, Oscar Little, to discuss his hobby, flying planes. Here's what he had to say:

Pin Oak: Oscar when and where did you start flying?

Oscar: I started a few months ago in Bankstown and I get lessons there.

P.O.: What inspired you to start flying?

Oscar: What inspired me? Well, from a really young age I've just found that I've really had an interest in all things flying. And my grandfather was a fighter pilot in World War Two in Papua New Guinea and that really inspired me.

P.O.: What do you like most about flying?

Oscar: I like the thrill of it, the exhilaration and the adrenaline you get flying. The challenge also, it also really makes it fun.

P.O.: Can you fly by yourself yet?

Oscar: No, I still fly alongside my instructor.

P.O.: Do you want to be a professional pilot later in life?

Oscar: Yes

P.O.: Would you prefer to fly a smaller private jet or large planes for Qantas etc.?

Oscar: I'm interested in flying a big charter plane, yeah.

P.O.: Thanks for your time Oscar.

IN THE NEWS



WASTELAND

Look out OnSTAGE!!

Four Year 12 students at Oxley College heard last week from the Board of Studies that their group devise piece has achieved their ultimate goal – to be selected to perform at the prestigious OnSTAGE Drama Showcase in Sydney, February 2016.

Monique Turczynski, Samara Low, Antonia Ryman and Christian Lake were recently informed that their group devise piece *Wasteland* was selected to be part of the showcase. Only 50 students are selected from 5000 students from all over NSW so it is truly a significant achievement and a first for the Southern Highlands.

Wasteland explores the impact the human race has on the environment through the use of puppetry, movement and masks. They were also inspired by the work of poet T.S. Eliot.

According to Monique "I am really excited to achieve this selection. It has been a goal of mine for the last few years, it's a dream come true and will be a fantastic experience."

Oxley's Drama teacher Phil Cunich is also thrilled with their selection. "I'm very proud of them, they have worked exceptionally hard and produced an interesting, creative and powerful piece of theatre."



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New South Wales, Australia

INSTAGRAM



Instagram is a simple way to capture and share the many memorable moments in a day at Oxley. As part of #getkeenfor2016 we encourage you to follow @t.h.e.o.c and get involved. Instagram is about sharing awesome photos, so make sure you're not the one missing out. If you aren't following us already, you should be, so jump online and turn that button green. #followus #tooschoolforcool



YEAR 6

In week 5, Year 6 participated in an excursion to Canberra, to support and extend their learning on Government this semester. Students had a wonderful experience, with highlights including Parliament House, Australian Institute of Sport and The War Memorial, where they had the opportunity to participate in The Last Post Closing Ceremony and lay a wreath in remembrance. Students engaged in a variety of educational programmes with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy. Year 6 were excellent ambassadors for Oxley College and we were very proud of the manner in which they conducted themselves, addressed members of the community and showed their respect at sites of national importance.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing the funding of \$20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate programme towards those costs, which is paid upon completion of the programme.



PIN OAK PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



Winner of Fortnightly Pin Oak Photography Competition

Photo by Laura Callaghan: "Fairy Bower Falls in Morton National Park, Bundanoon. Taken with a GoPro Hero 3 White Edition."

Comments: Just looking at this photo is relaxing! I love the angle at which this photo is taken at and the position of the waterfall in the frame is compositionally very strong. The lighting is good. Great shot. Congratulations!

The brief for this fortnight is ... 'Weather'. If the sun is shining, play around and try and capture some sun flare. If it is raining or lightning bolts are striking, try to capture the eye of the storm! Tell a story through your photograph. Send your entry to Liv Donovan by Friday 27 November at olivia.donovan@oxley.nsw.edu.au to enter. Good luck!

P&F NEWS

As this is my last posting as the P&F president I would like to begin by a general thank you to everyone for their support of me, the P&F association, to the College and their dedication to friend and fund raising during this past year.

The Equestrian Day at the very beginning of the year, by all accounts was a wonderful success. The P&F supported the day by providing walkie talkies, 500m of blue and gold bunting, directional signage and a plethora of volunteers. These items comprised the short term goal for the college and have been used several times including during the Junior Drama Production and various carnivals.

The K-6 students were filled with cake and soup this year and their delighted parents received mother's day gifts and a father's day breakfast. The end of year Christmas celebration has yet to occur but I am sure will be attended by enthusiastic volunteers and excited children.

The Scholastic Book Scheme as well as the Amart Kickback have been quiet providers of balls and books for the entire K-12 student community.

The Trivia Night, themed Christmas in July, was great fun. The volunteers, prizes and decorations were fabulous as were the questions and general running of the evening.

Two events that have been regulars on the P&F calendar that have not occurred this year were the Book Exchange/Swap and Annual Oxley Day.

Last year the Book Swap was organised by Deborah Taylor. Instead of buying and selling text books, the students were invited to donate the texts that were on the syllabus for 2015. My apologies, time ran away from me this year and I was unable to organise a Book Exchange/Swap. Also as more and more texts are being sourced electronically the book exchange was noted in previous minutes as being phased out.

It was decided to postpone Annual Oxley Day to begin

preparations for the Pin Oak Fair in 2016. The preparations have indeed begun in earnest and we encourage everyone to save the date Saturday 12 November 2016.

In 2014, the P&F decided their long term goal would be to gift the college \$80,000 to specifically go towards an amenities block on the Bray Fields. As this may not now be a viable outcome, the 2016 P&F Executive will need to decide on how this money is best spent. I would strongly urge them to look at all the options available and conduct a digital survey (ie. surveymonkey) to gather the largest response from the most amount of families. A recap on options that have been discussed this year have been: digital scoreboards naming the respective playing fields, portable outdoor seating, building/undercover area on the field next to the Headmaster's residence as well as names on specific buildings (ie. Peter Craig Centre).

As my daughter Magdalene enters her senior years at the College, I look forward to my senior years of the P&F, supporting its growth from the back bench.

Our sincere thanks to Cindy Pryma who has made a very significant contribution to the Oxley College community in her role as P & F President. We are also very grateful to Deborah Davies for her work as the Vice President - 7 -12. You will both be greatly missed.



GALLERY



NOVEMBER + DECEMBER CALENDAR

	Mon Year 10, ABW (Australian Business Week) Year 8 Parents Information Session, Compaction science 2016, Lab 4, 5:30pm 23	Mon Year 6 And Families Farwell BBQ, Elvo Lawn, 6:00pm 30	Mon 07
	Tue 24	Tue 01	Tue 08
	Wed K-6 Orientation Day 2, 1:30pm-3:00pm Year 9 Information Session, Acc/Enrich Science Lab 4, 5:30pm 25	Wed 02	Wed 09
	Thu 26	Thu Speech night 6:30pm to 9:00pm (PCC) TERM 4 ENDS 03	Thu 10
Fri 20	Fri K-6 Carols Concert and BBQ, ELVO lawn, 5:30pm Year 10 ABW Dinner (venue and time tba) 27	Fri Staff Day 04	Fri 11
Sat ISA Summer Sport Round 6 21	Sat 28	Sat 05	Sat 12
Sun 22	Sun P & F Year 8 Family Picnic, Tourist Road, Glenquarry, From 12:00 Noon 29	Sun 06	Sun 13

Sport



1ST WOMAN TO GALLOP TO VICTORY

Amidst Myers fashion on the field, and attempting to beat the odds to back up a winner, Australia's most prestigious thoroughbred horse race has become the talk of the nation this year. Thirty-year-old Michelle Payne, is the fourth woman to ride in the Melbourne Cup, yet the first to gallop to victory on Prince Of Penzance, a six-year-old bay gelding from New Zealand. Payne the youngest of ten has conquered many obstacles over the course of her lifetime. In the past decade alone she has been involved in a number of serious incidents, causing her family to advise her to give up riding for good. After a horrific fall, leaving her with swelling on the brain and a fractured skull, Payne was left wondering whether it was a good idea to continue to race. Adding to the family's heartbreak, three years after her accident Payne's 36-year-old sister died as a result of a catastrophic fall during a training session. It wasn't the first misfortune the Payne family had had to overcome. At the age of just six months, Michelle's mother Mary was involved in a car accident that took her life. Raised by her horse trainer father Paddy Payne, Michelle spent a lot of her childhood boxing with her five sisters and two brothers in her backyard. Payne expressed to reporters that winning the prestigious Melbourne Cup was a dream come true, and that she was proud to prove people wrong while telling the doubters to "Get Stuffed." Her disabled brother Stevie, Prince of Penzance's strapper, could not have been prouder of his sister, indicating his feelings in an emotional embrace and raising his hands in triumph at the end of the race.

By Isabella Davies (Year 10)

MATCH OF THE WEEK

Oxley 1st XI vs Chevalier 1st XI Cricket

The Oxley first cricket team scored their win of the season by edging out Chevalier in an exciting encounter. On a cool, drizzly day, the brave Oxleyans went out and bowled first against the high quality batting line up of Chev. Consistent bowling and tight fielding kept the our cross-town rivals to an achievable 6-120 runs off 40 overs. Best bowling performances include Lachlan Billington 2-16 run, and Andrew Dowe 2-16 runs along with a stunning one handed slips catch.

Oxley also batted extremely well, with Ravi Wik top scoring with 29 runs. The best shot of the match goes to Patrick Newton who scored a six over the house at mid wicket. The Oxleyan's efforts were rewarded in the end when they snatched victory in the last two overs of the game. The final score was 8-121 off 38 overs, with Oxley winning by two wickets. A marvellous effort from the team who can hopefully repeat this style of performance in games to come.

By Jenson Barker (Year 10)

Oxley Blue vs Oxley Gold

In a festive atmosphere akin to a 20/20 'Big Bash', the Oxley Blue and Oxley Gold Under 14 cricket teams took the field against each other on a sunny Saturday morning at the College. There was a breakfast barbeque, families with picnic rugs, rock music to celebrate boundaries and wickets and a great spirit among the players adorned in their blue and gold colours.



PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Olivia Chambers (Year 8) has enjoyed a very successful Equestrian season competing in the NSW State Showjumping Championships and National Australian Showjumping Championships where she was placed 3rd, 9th and 10th. In October she also competed at the International Showcase of Showjumping where she picked up a 1st and 4th in the 1m class, 3rd in 105cm class and 6th in 110cm class.

Hunter Taylor (Year 7) competed at the NSW Country Hack Championships on the weekend. He won champion child's show hunter hack, qualifying him and his horse, Paris, for the Grand Nationals next year.