

PIN OAK

ISSUE 27: TERM 4, DECEMBER 3, 2015



ABW



TALENT QUEST



NEPAL

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ICAS WINNERS ENGLISH

Year 8 Distinction

ANDERSON, Jessica
BAILEY-HUGHES, Andrew
GIBSON-BROWN, Zachary
KNOWLES, Sienna
LONGWORTH, Ciara
NOBLE, Georgia
REA, Toby
ROSS, Layla

Year 9 Distinction

ANTONIAK, Daniel
CUNICH, Zack
DALTON, Kathryn
KOLOVOS, Gabriel

Year 10 Distinction

DALTON, Lillian

Year 11 Distinction

CROKER, Emma
HUTCHINGS, Megan
LEAVY, Erin
LONGWORTH, Darcy
MAIN, Eilidh

ICAS WINNERS MATHEMATICS

Year 7 Distinction

ABOUD, Clancy
BRAMLEY, Joshua
HATCHER, Imogen
GIBSON-BROWN, Zachary

Year 9 Distinction

BRITTAIN, William
HARDY, Daniel
HUTCHINGS, Ben
JOWETT, Caitlyn
PATTERSON, Grace

Year 10 Distinction

HILL, Thomas (Tom)
WIKRAMANAYAKE, Jasmin

Year 10 High Distinction

BURGESS, Sebastian

Year 11 Distinction

LEAVY, Erin

Year 11 High Distinction

DALTON, Kathryn

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) are independent skills-based assessments with a competition element. Commonly referred to as the UNSW tests, ICAS is unique, being the most comprehensive generally available suite of academic assessments and school tests for primary and secondary school students.

High Distinctions are awarded to the top 1% of participants in Australia.

Distinctions are awarded to the next 10% of participants in Australia.

2015 ACER Assessment of Language Certificates

Every year Oxley College senior French students do well in the Australian College of Educational Research language assessments.

Certificate 1

**This is a listening test
for Year 8.**

Distinction

Savannah Sandilands

Certificate 2

**This is a reading and
listening test for Years 9
and 10.**

Distinctions

Ellen Barker
Jenson Barker
Sascha Binder
Zack Cunich
Olivia Davies
Sophie Doughty
Isabella Knowles
Gabriel Kolovos
Max Mackevicius
Alexandra Norman
Thomas Tregenza
Jasmin Wikramanayake

High Distinctions

Kathryn Dalton
Lillian Dalton
Caitlin Jowett
Ryan Muir
Celena Yang

Certificate 3

**A listening and reading
test for Years 11 and 12.**

Distinctions
Alexia Cheaib
Alexandra Franklin
Laura Irving
Ben Quirico
Mae Stace

High Distinctions

Heidi Bevan
Evangeline Larsen

HEADMASTER'S REPORT



I am looking forward to being able to speak with everyone at Speech Night tonight. There is a great deal for us to celebrate this year.

“There is a great deal for us to celebrate this year.”

Our students have led the way on the academic, cultural and sporting fronts.

We are looking forward to hearing the results from the HSC in a few weeks. A number of our students have already received advanced placement and a number of them have secured GAP positions overseas. Most, however, will be waiting nervously in front of the computer on Wednesday 16 December. They were a fine group of people and they should be able to look forward to their futures with confidence.

So much has been happening in the last week that binds the community of Oxley together. The Year 10s had a Business Week dinner that was the culmination of a week of hard work planning and designing a series of coffee shops. There was a carols night for all of K-6 with some wonderful performances from each of the class groups. Everyone participated, which was great. This week there was the Year 6 farewell barbeque and speeches on Monday night (although for the vast majority of them the farewell was also a welcome to the high school). Year 6 also got to show off their passion projects, which were excellent. There was a Talent Quest for all of 7-12, which is reminiscent of the wonderful House Play and House speaking competitions. And of course there is Speech Night tonight.

My last Headmaster's article in Pin Oak came in at over 2500 words. Hopefully this report will average the two of them out. I do wish you all the very best for the Christmas season. May different people find their ideal selection of rest, relaxation, worship, reflection and/or excitement.

I look forward to seeing your children back at the beginning of 2016.



BEHIND THE WRAPPING PAPER



Where does Santa get his Christmas presents from? Although I'm sure Mrs Claus pays a large role in the selection process, Santa most likely orders them online as the range he has to choose from is surely limited in the South Pole. But where do these gifts come from originally? And how are they made? The truth is Santa probably doesn't know this and possibly you don't either! Let me give you the run down...

Don't get me wrong, ordering things online is great! We have access to a whole new range of styles all from the comfort of our cozy beds. But by making choices this way, are we distancing ourselves from the products we're buying? People used to have things that had been custom made for them - the maker of the product would stand there selling it to you, and you could often watch your item being made. Not any more...

Times have changed so much, many of the products that we buy are designed in one country and then made in another. This has its positives and negatives. To make and manufacture large quantities of items there are lots of people and resources needed. Sometimes this is done in a fair way, with the workers being paid the right amount, but not always. Large companies have been accused of owning sweatshops - large warehouses, often located in developing and poor counties, that employ local people to work there. In many cases the safety conditions that the workers face are terrible, and people are paid lower than the minimum wage.

Then there are children employed to pick cotton or going underground to get the metals and minerals needed in electrical goods and make up - often working in very dangerous and unhealthy conditions. Do we ever stop to wonder about them as we unwrap our latest gadget?

It's really hard to imagine working in places like that here, and although sweatshops are horrible, some people do argue that they provide jobs and a source of income to the desperately poor.

So what does this mean for us? There have been recent studies done that show how ethical different shops and brands are. Different companies were given a grade depending on the regulations they had in place to reduce modern slavery, child labor and how good they were at paying workers a living wage. Shops like "Ally", "Lowes" and "Industry" were given an F, while shops including "Converse", "Country road" and "Sportsgirl" scored higher with Bs. Almost all of the brands don't pay workers above the minimal wage and so hardly anyone scored an A.

I'm not suggesting that we only ever shop at places that are completely "ethical" or that we never shop at places that need some improvement in this area. It's really hard enough to find Christmas gifts that are perfect for the person as it is! But if you do want to know more about ethical shopping download the SHOP ETHICAL app from the App store. It lets you scan any item in a supermarket or other shop and make the best decision you can.

What I'm suggesting is that we try to engage with our gifts, no matter what we get. At least think about where something has been made and really appreciate it. Everything that we will get for Christmas has to be made somewhere, by someone. This is such a small thing that we can do, but it can completely change our outlook on life!

So Santa, maybe the things piled up on the back of your sleigh are more than just presents - maybe they each have their own unique story to tell and their own history. Maybe they have the potential to provoke us, help us make sure that the people who made them for us are happy and work toward change.

P.S If you'd like to know more about ethical shopping visit; <http://www.baptistworldaid.org.au/assets/Be-Fair-Section/Ethical-Fashion-Guide.pdf>

By Jemima Taylor (Year 8)

K- 6 NEWS

Head of K-6: Justine Lind

'tis the season to be jolly..... and we have enjoyed many festivities over the last two weeks.

Our Annual Carols Concert last Friday evening was a wonderful success. It was a chance to celebrate the joy of Christmas, our students' choral talents among a wonderful community. The students performed to an appreciative audience and looked spectacular in doing so. Our special thanks go to our parent volunteers who provided the BBQ dinner and assisted behind the scenes. Our College Chamber Ensemble with additional guest performers, provided a wonderfully festive quality to the evening.

The night was ultimately about the children as part of our Oxley community, sharing the joy with us all. In addition our children also reflected on others in the wider local community donating Christmas gifts to Stafford Cottage. The generosity of Oxley families is very much appreciated.

Our "gift raising" efforts achieved;

- 3 Toiletries
- 4 Clothing items
- 4 Soft toys
- 5 Other
- 8 Toy Sets
- 8 Sports
- 9 Dolls
- 10 Games
- 12 Cars
- 14 Construction sets
- 14 Arts & Crafts

28 Books.....for a total of 119 gifts. The detail of categories is thanks to our elves in Year 1 who had great fun gathering the toy data!

The celebrations continued on to Monday night at our Year 6 Family BBQ. It was a fitting culmination of each child's journey through primary school with parents and friends. The sentiments of the group were expressed by four spokespeople; Luca Ritchie spoke about April Fool's Day antics; "the whoopy cushion on Miss Sheil's chair, covering the smartboard in sticky notes and putting music on in the middle of a lesson." Maddie Sargeant fondly recalls "being on the top of the giant slide at Questacon and everyone saying 'It will be fine!' and 'Just do it!' I finally did it and I felt really proud and was happy because I knew I had such great friends that will always be there for me." Tom Rapp summed it all up beautifully, "Oxley is a unique place where students feel valued for their individual talents and personalities, and when I arrived on my first day, I felt instantly at home. Through my time here, Oxley has continued to strive to be a "friendly" school and I think that is what makes it so special."

Logan Dobler's reflections were no different, "I soon found I had a great teacher and fun, friendly classmates. I am pleased to say that this continued throughout all of my years at Oxley, making more and more friends and meeting our excellent teachers." The overwhelming emphasis of the speeches lay in the importance of the friendships forged and the strong memories made.

Weekly Awards:

Students of the Week

- K: Emma Barnett
- Yr 1: Harry Kean
- Yr 2: William Gilbert
- Yr 4: Saskia Gray
- Yr 5: Tom Hutchings
- Yr 6: Laura Smith



Respect Oxley

- K: Cartier Dobler,
- Yr 1: Archie Wallace
- Yr 2: Alec Simpson
- Yr 4: Grace Hardy
- Yr 5: Isabel Feetham
- Yr 6: Madison Shields



It is these that will provide an enduring sense of belonging, confidence and purpose.

The accolades were flowing both ways on the evening with Miss Sheils acknowledging the qualities of the Year 6 class. They have demonstrated pride in their College and loyalty to one another. They are extraordinary young people who have optimised every opportunity for growth this year while maintaining a healthy sense of fun. They will forever be Oxley K-6'ers and we look forward to the times to come when they return to visit in one of the many roles that exist between the two areas of our College.

As we head to the holiday break and the end of this academic year, may we congratulate all students for the small and great ways in which they have contributed to the fabric of life that is Oxley College. Our all-rounders, hard-workers, quiet achievers and those that were born to live out loud, we are glad that you do so with us, in this special place that is Oxley College. May the spirit of Christmas be with you all and may you relish the time to spend with family and friends. We wish you all a safe and happy holiday.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

and YEAR 6 DINNER



Bored...

Get into some of these projects during the break to while away some hours and make gifts for your friends and families.



DIY: IRON-ON TOTE/BEACH BAG

No beach bag to hit the sandy shores with for the summer with? No problem! This custom tote bag takes under half-an-hour to make and you'll be ready to hit up the beach in no time.

MATERIALS:

- 1 x Canvas Tote Bag (plain colour - preferably white)
- 1 x Paper
- 1 x Iron
- 1 x Iron Transfer Pen

METHOD:

1. Choose any design or quote off the internet and either trace or copy it with your iron transfer pen onto a piece of A4 paper. Make sure to draw it backwards or it will come out backwards on the bag.
2. Place the ink side of your paper down onto your canvas tote and iron for 1-3 minutes. Make sure you have something flat inside your tote to make sure the ink doesn't bleed through to the other side.
3. After that carefully lift your paper off the bag and you're finished! And you can make multiple with different designs on them.

By Izzy Moore (Year 8)



MANGO & COCONUT SMOOTHIE BOWL

It's a strange concept, the smoothie bowl – you're basically drinking colored liquid from a bowl using a spoon. However, this aside, nothing beats a good smoothie bowl for breaky.

- For the base
- 1-2 large mangoes
 - Tbbs greek yoghurt
 - Ice cubes
- For the topping
- Coconut flakes
 - Muesli or granola
 - Sliced strawberries
 - Goji berries

1. Blend the mango, ice & yoghurt in a blender or food processor until thick & smooth.
 2. Pour into a bowl & top with whatever you feel like.
 3. Enjoy!
- By Ella Moran (Year10)



DIY: SUCCULENT TERRARIUMS

MATERIALS:

- A Clear glass jar, vase, bowl or interesting glass container
- Coloured or plain rocks or pebbles for decoration
- Some form of fly screen or something that can drain well
- Potting mix, or good soil
- Moss (optional)
- Small succulents or plants
- A small spoon or shovel

METHOD

1. Make sure your glass container or jar is clean so it won't harm the health of the plants.
2. Fill your jar or glass container with your coloured rocks or pebbles. Don't fill it all the way, maybe about 1/4 of the jar.
3. Cover the pebbles with a very small amount of fly screen so that the dirt does not leak into the pebbles but so that the fly screen isn't obvious enough to see.
4. Fill the jar with damp soil. Add enough so that the plant roots will have enough space to grow comfortably.
5. Trim the roots of your plant but be gentle.
6. Using your fingers or a spoon, dig the roots of the plant into the soil so that it is covering the base. Compact the soil gently.
7. Once you have filled your terrarium with plants, you can cover it in a blanket of moss or little stones, sticks or anything! Be creative!
8. Water your plants regularly depending on the particular plants. Succulents are great plants that don't need very much looking after but will thrive anyway!

Terrariums are great ways to decorate rooms and add a little colour! If you look after yours correctly, it will eventually look amazing!

By Savannah Sandilands (Year 8)



GINGERBREAD WOMEN

(Makes about 25 biscuits, or 12 "people")

- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ¾ cup golden syrup
- 90g butter
- 1 tbsp. ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp fresh, grated ginger
- 1 tbsp. bicarbonate of soda
- 500g plain flour
- Pinch of salt
- 2 eggs, beaten

Combine the sugar, golden syrup, butter, spices and fresh ginger in a heavy based saucepan over a low heat, and let melt, stirring. Remove from the heat for 2 minutes, then stir in the bicarbonate of soda until light and fluffy.

Sift the flour and salt into a large mixing bowl. Make a well in the centre, add the eggs and gradually add the syrup, stirring until all the flour is incorporated and you have a dough. Wrap the dough in cling film and chill for an hour.

Heat the oven to 180°C and roll out the dough thinly on a floured surface. Cut the gingerbread women, stars or rounds, and place on trays lined with baking paper. Bake for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool for 5 minutes before removing from trays. Cool on a wire rack. Enjoy!

Jill Duplex

By Kaarina Allen (year 12)



DIY Safety Pin Bracelet

Materials:

- A packet of safety pins (ensure they are all the same size)
- A few packets of seed beads in your chosen colour/s
- Elastic cord
- Needle nose pliers
- Scissors

Method:

1. Open up a safety pin and thread the beads onto it.
2. Leave a small amount of space to allow the safety pin to close.
3. Use needle nose pliers to squeeze the safety pin shut, to keep it from opening when it is on your wrist.
4. Repeat steps 1 to 3 for all of the safety pins, alternating colours if you wish.
5. Cut two pieces of elastic cord, slightly longer than the circumference of your wrist.
6. Thread one piece of elastic cord through the bottom of your safety pins.
7. Thread the other piece of elastic cord through the top of your safety pins.
8. Test the size of the bracelet on your wrist, you may need to add or remove safety pins to reach the perfect size.
9. Tie the ends of the elastic cord in a knot and use scissors to cut any excess cord.
10. Slide the bracelet onto your wrist, or give it to someone as a gift!

By Isabella Knowles (Year10)



DIY PHOTOGRAPH/POLAROID HANGING FRAME

Turn a picture frame into a hanging photo display to showcase your favourite photographs! It is simple and easy to swap the photographs when you feel like a change!

Materials:

- Polaroids and/or photographs
- String and decor mini pegs (available to buy in Typo)
- Staple gun
- Pencil
- Ruler

Method:

1. Print off or collect polaroids and/or photographs.
2. Remove the back panel and the glass of the photo frame so that you are left with just the outer frame.
3. Turn the frame over and lay it on a work surface in a portrait or horizontal orientation (whatever you prefer).
4. Measure the length of the frame and make corresponding pencil marks at equal distances along both sides depending on how many rows of string you would like to hang your photos from.
5. Leave a few cm of space at the top of the frame before the first row of string so that the pegs are visible; keep this in mind when creating the pencil marks.
6. The last row of string needs to have enough space underneath so that the photographs don't touch the bottom of the frame; keep this in mind when creating the pencil marks.
7. Cut equal lengths of string that are long enough to reach from one side of the frame to the other.
8. Staple the string to the frame one side at a time using the staple gun. Keep equal tension across all of the rows of string.
9. Attach your polaroids and/or photographs to the rows of string using decor mini pegs.
10. Your frame is now ready to hang or to simply be propped up against a wall.

By Olivia Donovan (Year 9)

DEPUTY HEAD REPORTS

Deputy Head Learning: Kate Cunich

It is hard to believe that it's already the end of the year, and what a year it has been! So many experiences, so many challenges, so many triumphs in our classrooms.

Talking with students and teachers this week, I think we all shared sense of disbelief that our year of learning was nearly over. One Year 12 student commented that it felt like almost a quarter of his HSC year had gone in the blink of an eye in this one short term! So as we celebrate the successes of many at our annual Speech Night this week, it is indeed a time to reflect on the where our journey has taken us in 2015.

As a school, we value student voice, so student focus groups and surveys are one way in which we gather information about learning, teaching and progression. One of our themes this year has been around embedding a growth mindset in our students, particularly in the classroom. Our way of saying this has been "Stretch, Strive and Stick". In recent weeks, all secondary students were given the opportunity to explain this in their own words and how they been able to use it in their learning in 2015.

We are delighted to hear from so many of our students that they are using this approach, particularly when the going gets tough. A few examples:

To me, strive, stretch and stick means to set a goal for myself, do everything I can do progress towards it and then finishing what I have started and completing the goal.

Stretching beyond your current ability and improving it. Striving for excellence in learning. Continuing to attempt things, even if you're awful at them - with the aim to improve upon it.

To stretch myself out and push myself out of my comfort zone, strive to do my best at what I push myself in and always do this by sticking with it and not giving up easily.

To me it means that if you have a subject that you aren't great at you try and stretch and strive to make better progress and to improve and you stick at your work and persevere.

To challenge yourself and to persist no matter the difficulty of the task.

Stretch - to push myself to my highest point of ability to achieve the most rewarding results.

This means to achieve good marks, people have to work hard to achieve their goals and stay at that level.

So it is the understanding of constant striving that stands out to me. With this as a fundamental approach, we know that students are already well placed to achieve in life.

So a snapshot to wrap up 2015: We have celebrated the end of Year 7 – 10 Yearly examinations with feedback sessions on the "where to next"; our Year 12 students

have completed their first round of HSC Assessment tasks and Year 10 have had the opportunity to experience the thrill of Australian Business Week.

I take this opportunity to wish all students, teachers and families a wonderful break.



Deputy Head Pastoral: Peter Ayling

Year 8 Service Learning

As part of the Year 8 Service Learning Programme under the direction of Mr Bill Clewett as Year 8 Co-ordinator all students were asked to donate items towards Christmas Hampers.

The Christmas drive is for Wingecarribee Family Support Services who usually provide hampers to about 30 families in need in our area and are delivered personally in the few days before Christmas. All families are current or recent families in need. Some of the families have more children, and are given two baskets of goods instead of one. It was so rewarding to see the amount of goods donated and knowing at this time of year these goods will make a real difference to those less fortunate.

Charities

I often have students wanting to support charities that they are passionate about and throughout the year I have been so proud of the number of charities we have been able to support through the generous donations from our Oxley Community. These fundraisers are driven by the compassion and empathy of our students to want to help others and make a difference for the world in which we live. We currently have one student who has raised over \$500 towards a charity that he has established to support Mental Health in the local area. There will more information to come concerning this charity as this initiative continues to grow and develop.

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.



Youth Radio

1. What does it involve?

Community radio is basically an outlet for any budding or aspiring radio host. Most people record their shows and do it live but because I don't live near the studio I record mine remotely. I can choose whatever music I'm digging and play it which is really cool. You have to play Station ID's so the listeners know what station they're listening to and talk about the music and upcoming gigs every two or three songs.

2. How often/how long are you there for?

My show airs every Tuesday from 4:00 -5:00pm, so once a week for an hour.

3. How long have you been doing this for?

I've been on Triple U FM for about three or four months now but I was recording my own shows and podcasts for a little while before that. I have been interested in radio for a long time and it's really great that I've finally been given the opportunity.

4. Who are your biggest inspirations?

Zan Rowe from Triple J is probably my biggest inspiration - I love how she presents her show and she is a pretty cool lady in general. Lately I've also been loving listening to Zane Lowe's show on Beats 1 and some of his interviews with musicians.

By Sienna Knowles and Lucie Drysdale (Year 8)



Tough Mudder

Artic Enema, Everest 2.0, Electroshock Therapy and Ladder to Hell...it certainly wasn't a lazy Sunday morning sleep in for The Muddy Crew recently. A brave group of Year 12 students, Oxley teachers and parents completed a grueling five-hour, 18km Tough Mudder obstacle course at the Central Coast. A combination of physical strength, mental grit, stamina and camaraderie saw the group finish relatively unscathed, nonetheless covered head to toe in mud and absolutely exhausted. If you are a thrill-seeker or looking to test yourself then this ones for you! A special thank you Matt Croker, Tom Longworth, Mr Bevan and Ms Stanton - this experience certainly won't be forgotten anytime soon. Are you tough enough?

By Cate Patterson (Year 12)



Visual Arts

Last week we were very fortunate to have Dave Thomas visit as Artist in Residence and demonstrate his skills in portrait painting. Dave works as a professional portrait painter and has produced many works for the Bradman Museum as well as numerous sporting teams, especially football clubs in Melbourne. In the image, you can see him painting a portrait that he did in one hour.

The students in Year 12 received lots of extremely practical and useful information. We intend to invite him back early next year for Year 10 who will be studying portraiture in Semester 1.

In a previous issue of Pin Oak we announced that four students in Year 12 were nominated for ARTEXPRESS. There are over 9000 students sitting for HSC Visual Arts and from that approximately 400 are nominated.

We are delighted to announce that Monique Turczynski and Grace Naughton have had their works chosen. Grace will be exhibited in the Glasshouse Gallery in Port Macquarie and Monique will be exhibited in Hazelhurst Gallery Gynea, Wollongong Regional Gallery and the Glasshouse Gallery. Congratulations to all the students and particularly the four students nominated and the two girls whose works will travel NSW during 2016.

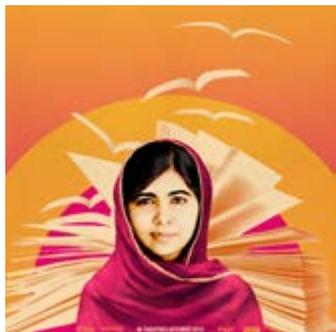
By Vanessa Forbes

SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT



Goosebumps

One day during the summer of 1935, Briony Tallis commits an unspeakable act and sees something that will change her life and the lives of everyone she has ever cared about. McEwan follows the characters through six decades as Briony seeks redemption. For those of you who are intrigued, yet too lazy to read the book there is always the movie.
Rating: PG



He Named Me Malala

A look at the events leading up to the Taliban's attack on Pakistani schoolgirl, Malala Yousafzai, for speaking out on girls' education followed by the aftermath, including her speech to the United Nations.
Release date: 26 November 2015
Rating: PG



Joy

Joy is the story of a family across four generations and the woman who rises to become founder and matriarch of a powerful family business dynasty.
Stars Jennifer Lawrence, Bradley Cooper, Robert De Niro
Release date: 26 December 2015
Rating: PG - 13



Spectre

A cryptic message from Bond's past sends him on a trail to uncover a sinister organization. While M battles political forces to keep the secret service alive, Bond peels back the layers of deceit to reveal the terrible truth behind SPECTRE.
Stars Daniel Craig, Christoph Waltz, Ralph Fiennes
Rating: M

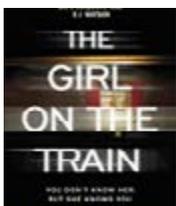
Kaarina Allen (Year 12)

IZZY'S GIG GUIDE TO SUMMER 2015/2016

FAIRGROUNDS FESTIVAL:
Date: 5 December 2015
Location: Hazelberry Park, Berry NSW
Description: A perfect blend of music, art, food and culture set to hit the town of Berry.
Bands/Artists To Watch Out For: Father John Misty, Ratatat, Methyl Ethel, Unknown Mortal Orchestra.

COURTNEY BARNETT:
Date: 16 January 2016
Location: Enmore Theatre, Newtown NSW
Description: Touring Australia right off the back of her debut album, Courtney Barnett's music is filled with authentic vocals and neo-rock instrumentation.
For people who like: Waxahatchee, Angel Olsen, You Am I.

MAC DEMARCO:
Date: 6 January 2016
Location: Enmore Theatre, Newtown NSW
Description: Coming out to Australia for Falls Festival, Mac DeMarco's music is as quirky and bubbly as his personality.
For people who like: Ariel Pink, HOMESHAKES, Ty Segall.



Girl on the Train

If you liked 'Gone Girl' then you will love 'Girl on The Train'. The debut psychological thriller, by Paula Hawkins is guaranteed to keep you absolutely hooked. The girl on the train is Rachel, a lonely, alcoholic divorcee who rides the train to and from London each day, where she watches the same couple, envying their seemingly perfect life. And then one day she sees something shocking and is quickly caught up in the mystery...



Let it Snow

If you are dreaming of a white Christmas, but can't make it to the Northern Hemisphere, open the cover of 'Let it Snow'. A collaboration between John Green, Maureen Johnson and Lauren Myracle results in three heart-warming holiday romances – a book which ticks all the boxes. The separate stories intertwine when a Christmas Eve snowstorm transforms one small town into a magical haven



Atonement

One day during the summer of 1935, Briony Tallis commits an unspeakable act and sees something that will change her life and the lives of everyone she has ever cared about. McEwan follows the characters through six decades as Briony's seeks redemption. For those of you who intrigued, yet too lazy to read the book there is always the movie.

By Cate Patterson (Year 12)

PIN OAK PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

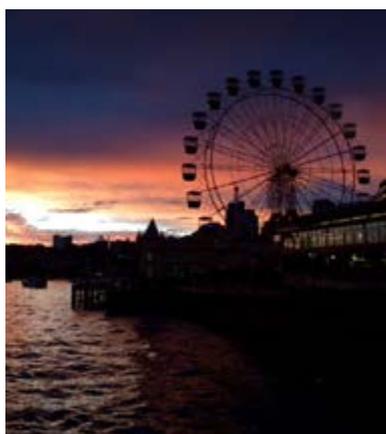


Photo by Juliette Swain: "Taken on our last night in Sydney on our rights of passage experience."

Comments: The silhouettes combined with the vivid sunset colours create a gorgeous image! Perfect interpretation of the brief 'weather'. Dusk is an excellent time to capture weather photos! Congratulations!

The brief for the first issue in 2016 is ... 'Summer'. Summer can mean anything; days by the beach, Christmas with the family or an overseas holiday! Tell a story through your photograph and show me an insight into your Summer holiday! Send your entry to Liv Donovan next year or anytime throughout the holidays at olivia.donovan@oxley.nsw.edu.au to enter. Good luck! Have a happy and safe holiday!!!



EQUESTRIAN NEWS

Recently, Rosie Bowyer (Year 10), Hunter Taylor (Year 7), Will Quirico (Year 9) and Amelia O'Sullivan (Year 8) were selected to represent NSW in the Australian Interschool Championships to be held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre. These riders have had to first compete at regional Interschool competitions to qualify for the State Championships, from which they were then selected for the National Championships.

To be considered for selection on the NSW team, riders must have successfully competed at the State Championships, and also have outstanding external results to ensure they are established at the levels they are competing in. With the National Championships being held in Sydney for 2015, competition to make the NSW team was tough. Amongst the 2000 competitors from all over NSW vying for a spot on the team, only 82 were selected.

Hunter and Amelia were selected to compete in the Secondary Show Horse, which was a big achievement considering they were selected amongst riders ranging from Year 7 up to Year 12. Hunter placed 2nd and Amelia placed 5th, an outstanding result for these two young riders. Will was selected in the Eva 80cm Eventing team, however he could not attend due to a pre-booked world challenge school trip to Thailand. Rosie was selected in the 1.00m Show jumping team and placed 11th, 18th and 7th in her 3 rounds, another excellent result.

To compete at the Australian Interschool Championships is the pinnacle of Interschool equestrian, so a huge congratulations to all of the riders for their selection and success.

By Ben Quirco (Year 12)



DECEMBER CALENDAR

	Mon 07	Mon 14	Mon 21
	Tue Oxley Shop Open 8:30am - 4:00pm 08	Tue Oxley Shop Open 8:30am - 4:00pm 15	Tue 22
	Wed Oxley Shop Open 8:30am - 4:00pm 09	Wed Oxley Shop Open 8:30am - 4:00pm 16	Wed 23
Thu Speech night 6:30pm to 9:00pm (PCC) TERM 4 ENDS 03	Thu Oxley Shop Open 8:30am - 4:00pm 10	Thu 17	Thu CHRISTMAS EVE 24
Fri 04	Fri 11	Fri 18	Fri CHRISTMAS 25
05	Sat 12	Sat 19	Sat BOXING DAY 26
Sun 06	Sun 13	Sun 20	Sun 27

Upcoming events

Oxley Shop open from Monday 18 January until Friday 22 January 2016.
School commences on Wednesday 27 January 2016.

Sport



CHARLIE DUMMER PLAYS CRICKET FOR NSW/ACT U17

PO: How long have you been playing cricket?

CD: I've been playing since I was about eight. My soccer coach insisted that our whole soccer team come and play cricket - which I was not happy with, because cricket is so boring, right?

PO: How many cricket teams are you currently part of and which ones are they?

CD: At the moment it's just my team down the coast, the mighty Oak Flats Rats but this season I have represented ACT/NSW country at the U17 national championships. I also played in the 'South Coast Crew', and for south coast in the Burns Cup, the men's rep competition.

PO: What is your greatest highlight in your cricket career so far?

CD: Winning the U15 National Championship for NSW against WA at the start of last year.

PO: What goes through your mind after being dismissed in a cricket game?

CD: I think if I genuinely get outplayed by the bowler I just cop it on the chin and walk off, but if I get out through a silly mistake of my own it certainly annoys me. I think you're always disappointed but at the end of the day there is nothing you can do about it.

PO: Do you get nervous before going out to bat in a cricket match?

CD: The occasion certainly determines nerves. The big games always come with nerves but I think if I try to think of them positively it can help me switch on and have a clear mindset of what I need to do.

Isabella Knowles (Year 10)



MATCH OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the Oxley Gold and Oxley Navy water polo teams on a great season so far. Fantastic effort and team work from all players. Big thank you to Mr Ayling and Mr Canute for all your great coaching! Looking forward to the many more games to come in 2016!



K-6 SWIMMING PROGRAMME

