MOSS VALE BUSKERS BATTLE

Recently in Moss Vale, Savannah Sandilands (Year 9) and Ben Canute (Year 9) charmed the crowd and did Oxley proud!

Ben bagged the “Big Up” Award for outstanding young talent which was a $250 travel voucher from Moss Vale Cruise and Travel.

In a super talented line up of buskers our Oxley students really shone on the day.
Pippin

Everybody, myself included, has loved Pippin. The school is buzzing with stories of how great the lead singers have been, how polished the chorus are and how much energy pulses from the stage. For those of you who have seen it, you will already know. For those of you who have not yet, there is still a performance tonight.

It’s a deceptively difficult musical to put on. When 1970s songwriters decide to write a feel good pre disco/gospel musical about the son of Charlemagne (8th century French Emperor) complete with dream sequences, casual massacres, postmodern nods, regicide and ill ducks, you know that the director is going to have to have a strong vision to get the material cohesively onto the stage. With Phil Cunich (Director) and Rob Hughes (Musical Director) at the helm this certainly happened. The musical remained upbeat and stirring for so much of the time, whilst giving due weight to some of the serious issues about the responsibilities of kingship and the pitfalls of everyone ‘finding their own way’. Patrick Newton was an excellent centre of gravity as Pippin. He held the show together with his outstanding singing in standout numbers such as ‘Corner of the Sky’. He also conveyed the angst and optimism of a young man finding his place in the world with real conviction. Claire Allan in Year 8 as the Leading Player was a standout too. She has only three weeks to learn the part after illness forced William Lamrock-George from the stage. She knew the part inside out and back to front within days and indeed, was able to manage the stage for other cast members too. Her voice is superlative and her stage presence was undeniable. She had the option three years ago to tour China for months with a professional musical production and I can see why!

Ben Canute did a great job as King Charlemagne failing to understand or even notice his son. Mitchell Latham was convincing as Pippin’s dim witted and vain half brother (for such a thoughtful young man usually). Meribel Greenop was an excellent scheming stepmother in the best tradition. Mia Healy made the second act her own in her turn as the love interest with a foot fetish – and Tom Rapp wonderfully milked all of the pathos he could from his dying duck. Miss Natalie Lane, a staff member, brought the house down in her portrayal of Pippin’s wizened grandmother with a penchant for belting out sultry show tunes with a chorus of young men.

However, these actors were only a small minority of the people who made the show. Much of the night belonged to all the players on stage who sang and danced with such energy, talent and gusto night after night. Their rendition of show stopping numbers such as ‘Magic To Do’ was really uplifting. They gave the whole hall a buzz. Complementing the actors of course were all of the wonderful musicians in the band and the army of people backstage doing lights, sets, costumes, choreography and so on. Although we didn’t see them up in lights, the success of the show was due so much to their professionalism.

All in all the energy, atmosphere and positive feel (with an undercurrent) of the show made for a great night. It is something of which each and every person can be proud.

Basketball and Swimming

Congratulations are due to many sportspeople who have competed in finals in the last few weeks. However, particular accolades should go to the Senior Boys basketball team who won their final in a convincing display of skill and style against Oakhill College. They owned the court from the first few moments, and it was rare for the opposition’s score to be as close as half of Oxley’s. It was a great game to watch. The Senior Boys swimming also won their division at Homebush last week, edging out a competitive ISA field. Watching our relay team dominate each lap in the same pool that had held the Sydney Olympics was a highlight of last week for me.
About three years ago we made friends with a father and his daughter who have come to Australia. Their names are Vinitha and Kumar. Over the past few years we have been part of their life through the ups and downs. I don’t want to speak too much about their story as I know that they are perfectly capable of speaking for themselves. But Kumar and Vinitha are Tamils from Sri Lanka and after the civil war, Kumar was persecuted and tortured. He and his wife decided that it would be better for Kumar and Vinitha to seek asylum in Australia, arriving by boat. It was really hard to listen to Vinitha tell her story; the things that she went through to come here are so incredibly difficult. It’s been four years since she has seen her mother. I can’t begin to imagine what this must be like for her.

Refugees coming to Australia by boat, a complex topic if ever I saw one, and one we’ve struggled with for about fifteen years. The numbers of boats that have come to Australia in the last 18 months, however, has dropped dramatically, with the Australian government coming down hard on what it describes as ‘illegal maritime arrivals’. This is in spite of the fact that seeking asylum is not and has never been illegal, no matter how people arrive.

Let them stay!

There was a sudden surge of media coverage around the refugee issue recently after the government planned to return 267 asylum seekers to off shore detention. These people were previously on Manus or Nauru and with their families were brought to Australia for medical treatment for issues including complications of pregnancy, serious mental health problems, sexual abuse and terminal illnesses. Among these 267 people are 37 babies and 50 children.

Refugee activists believe that sending the group back to Nauru, which played a role in their suffering, is cruel.

So what’s the big problem with Nauru and Manus?

According to the Guardian Newspaper: “Australia’s two offshore detention centres have been the site of consistent reports of violence against asylum seekers, including the sexual assault of children, and the rape of men and women in detention, as well as other abuses such as detainees being given out-of-date food and expired medication.

Two men have died in offshore detention: one beaten to death in a riot and another after his removal to hospital with an infected leg wound was delayed.

Paediatricians have reported children as young as seven attempting suicide and one father on Nauru reported his two-year-old boy played with cockroaches in detention “because he has no other toys”.

These are powerful images. They make us ask the question: why would our Government send people back to a place like this, and why would they keep the Centre open at all?

The Government’s response is that if they are seen to allow these refugees to stay in Australia then it will give people smugglers the impression that they are no longer being hardline with their policies and it will encourage them to risk lives by sending asylum seekers to Australia by boat. The Government estimates 1200 people drowned coming to Australia by boat between 2007-2013 under Labor Government policies.

While this concern might be relevant it comes down to how many lives we can genuinely save. If people are living in detention centres but are thinking about how they can harm themselves, then we’re really not doing a very good job. We can work with refugees in safer and more economical ways than sending them to despair in a detention centre.

We spend more than five times the amount of money on maintaining our detention centres than than the UNHCR has to deal with the refugee problem for all of South East Asia. This is an absolutely terrible statistic! If the Australian Government worked with the Indonesian Government through the UNHCR to resettle asylum seekers directly from Indonesia to Australia, this would stop people from getting on boats and risking their lives. Our priority should not only be stopping boats, but contributing our fair share to the global refugee crisis by genuinely settling people here in Australia, where they can contribute to our culture and economy. Offshore detention is no long term solution.

This is an important issue to me because our friends Vinitha and Kumar could so easily have been in this position. Instead they’ve been able to give back to Australia, are hardworking and love this place, and Vinitha considers herself Australian. What a waste it would have been to send them to a place which could only ever have served as the doorstep to something better.

By Jemima Taylor (Year 9)
Juno

Reading the synopsis of Juno, you get the impression of a fairly typical film centred on teen angst, but what you get is far more than that. Instead of being cursed with yet another film about coming of age, complete with moralizing melodrama we are gifted with the story of Juno Macguff (Ellen Page). She is an average 16 year old, rarely wearing anything other than sweatshirts and jeans, communicating solely via cheeseburger phone and moving entire living rooms onto the lawns of friends frequently. She comes off as out of the ordinary, and relates a little bit to all of us. Add in more quirky characters, amazing cinematography and a spectacular soundtrack and you surely get one of the best indie films of our generation.

By Imogen Hatcher (Year 8)

Books ★★★★★

When God Was a Rabbit

“Nothing stays forgotten for long, Elly. Sometimes we simply have to remind the world that we’re special and that we’re still here.” When God Was A Rabbit tells the story of an eccentric young girl named Elly. It follows her through the ups and downs of her path from childhood to adulthood, capturing her experience of both the ordinary and shockingly extraordinary events of growing up. This book has a lot to say about human relationships, especially among family and friends. It is incredibly honest and provokes a range of emotions, one moment sad, the next pure joy, just like life itself. It urges the reader to question, “Why do good things happen to bad people?” At the same time, it generates a sense of hope: even though bad things do occur, there are ways to keep living and find gratification even when faith in life seems lost.

By Isabella Knowles (Year 11)

Music

Ms Lanser’s Top Weekend Songs

Party: Christine Anu
There is nothing like this song to get you in the mood for the weekend.

Sun: Caribou
This pretty much drops a good beat and the word ‘Sun’ for the entirety of this dance track. This will get you running, studying or dancing.

Light Up: Janne Schra
A beautiful female voice tells you to “let a little air in and... light up” from the depths of Sweden this track will get you wanting to go out and do something or just make you feel good about yourself and your life.

Smooth Sailin’: Leon Bridges
This is old school soul/blues/groove. You will want to sway and shimmy your way to the kitchen for a dance off with your mum, then going to eat a burger at Bernie’s Diner.

We Went Wild: Lord Huron
It’s the weekend, so lets go wild, Lord Huron takes you on a gentle journey of love and adventure with some sweet vocal harmonies and a toe tapping beat.

Gold on the leaves: Luluc
These two are originally from Victoria, and now live in New York. Despite a growing ego, their songs are beautiful. Folkly and soft this one is a dream about the gum trees they miss in Australia.

Song from the sixteenth Floor: Paul Kelly
Paul has to be on my list of weekend tunes, this song is just sweet and catchy. Turn up your player loud, open your window and sing your heart.

Films ★★★★☆

Juno

Reading the synopsis of Juno, you get the impression of a fairly typical film centred on teen angst, but what you get is far more than that. Instead of being cursed with yet another film about coming of age, complete with moralizing melodrama we are gifted with the story of Juno Macguff (Ellen Page). She is an average 16 year old, rarely wearing anything other than sweatshirts and jeans, communicating solely via cheeseburger phone and moving entire living rooms onto the lawns of friends frequently. She comes off as out of the ordinary, and relates a little bit to all of us. Add in more quirky characters, amazing cinematography and a spectacular soundtrack and you surely get one of the best indie films of our generation.

By Imogen Hatcher (Year 8)
Head of K-6: Justine Lind

How do we grow a compassionate society?

You can’t be part of the Oxley community too long without realising that there is a great deal of care for each other lived out every day. We are surrounded by examples of kindness and yes, love. Students of all ages greet each other and play together joyfully in reciprocal appreciation. In K-6 we remember that our College homestead, ELVO is at the heart of our history and our day to day life at the school in 2016. ELVO is also the name of our Acknowledgement Register where students and teachers record random and intentional acts of kindness from one student to another. Compassion is easy to recognise and to accept but it is not always easy to give.

Theories of human development talk of the egocentric child who is unable to perceive the world through another’s eyes and yet the same child can demonstrate incredible love and kindness at times. Children have an innate capacity to care for others and yet they can be unintentionally hurtful too.

In K-6 we are embracing these complex dilemmas. In Stepping Stones in Years 3 and 4, we are talking about Utopian societies and asking, “How can we create a perfect world?” “How do we learn vital life lessons without effort or pain?” We don’t know the answer yet...but we do know it’s far from simple!

Growing up and getting along are rarely simple either. At Oxley, when there are social disagreements we like to take a learning mindset. We like to problem solve, to reflect and negotiate and plan a way forward, just as we would when we encounter learning obstacles. There may be trial and error and the inevitable mis-step from time to time and so then, the need for forgiveness. At other times, there is a need for accountability and sometimes even culpability and consequence.

Compassion is hardest to give to those who seemingly deserve it the least. Sharing with the generous, including the popular, teaming up with the sporty and standing up with those who are strong are easy paths to take. Extending the hand of friendship to the friendless is the act of kindness, of leading, of teaching that grows kindness in others and that ultimately grows a compassionate society.

In Daniel Goleman’s seminal book on Emotional Intelligence he argues that “habits of emotional management repeated ...during childhood will help mould this circuitry [of the brain].” (1996, p.226) He maintains that “emotional intelligence includes self-awareness and impulse control, persistence, zeal and motivation, empathy and social deftness” and that “these are the qualities that mark people who excel; whose relationships flourish, who are stars in the workplace.”

Next week, our students will wear their emotional intelligence with pride. They will welcome their Grandparents, Godparents and Grandfriends into our school. They will be the hosts who care for their guests, attend to their needs and at times, for a few small hours of their day, be asked to put the needs of someone else above their own. The day is a wonderful celebration of community and compassion but it is also an intentional step towards nurturing the compassionate adults our students all have the potential to become. If you have not yet RSVP’d for the day, please contact Miss Hope at the K-6 Reception, first thing on Monday morning.
# Cross Country

## Age Champions 2016 K-6 Cross Country Carnival

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age/Gender</th>
<th>Champion</th>
<th>Runner-Up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls 5/6</td>
<td>Claudia Carpenter</td>
<td>Matilda Pope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys 5/6</td>
<td>Will Kennedy</td>
<td>Rory Shedden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls 7</td>
<td>Mimi Legge</td>
<td>Emma Barnett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys 7</td>
<td>Bryce Rodger</td>
<td>Barnaby Jensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls 8</td>
<td>Molly Davis</td>
<td>Charlotte-Claire Copus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys 8</td>
<td>William Gilbert</td>
<td>Jameson Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls 9</td>
<td>Chilli Sparke</td>
<td>Lily Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys 9</td>
<td>Luca Colloridi</td>
<td>Samuel Bernstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls 10</td>
<td>Gemma Lee</td>
<td>Emily Rodger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys 10</td>
<td>Jack Snell</td>
<td>Dylan Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls 11</td>
<td>Amelia Carpenter</td>
<td>Alexandra Kennedy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys 11</td>
<td>Benedict Regan</td>
<td>Monty Francis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls 12+</td>
<td>Poppy Jensen</td>
<td>Rosie Phelan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys 12+</td>
<td>Sebastian Bamber</td>
<td>Hayden Lee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Champion House: 1st Chisholm – 535 points, 2nd Walton – 527 points, 3rd Flynn – 501 points

## Age Champions 2016 K – 6 Swimming Carnival

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Champions 2016 K – 6 Swimming Carnival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior Girls Annabel Arnot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Boys Oliver Deakin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Years Girls Grace Hardy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Years Boys Jack Hatcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Girls Alice Gilbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Boys Victor van der Schalk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Champion House (including 25m Novelty Events): 1st Walton - 715 points, 2nd Flynn - 560 points, 3rd Chisholm - 550 points
Power
Rugby and mates, while you’re running through those big white gates
Gives you the power that you only get once an hour.
Pass me the ball
I’m close to the line, there’s no one in sight
I’m gonna score a try.
The scores are tied, but I’m gonna kick a goal.
The team goes wild and the crowd goes hype.
Rugby is one of the things that I like.

Ourselves
Footsteps shake the living room floor
Got a strange feeling, but I can’t be sure
Alone in this house as the clock strikes twelve
Why are we always so scared whenever we’re by ourselves?
I’ve got a chill down my spine
I’m not feeling so fine
Running out of time
So I am writing this rhyme
Feeling pretty stressed
Going to be possessed.

Football
I’ve liked football ever since I was a foot tall
I go down to the park, before it gets dark
Follow the street route while we eat beetroot
Time for holidays, no more essays
No more school, just the pool
We kick the ball with our mates, while tomorrow awaits
We score a goal, while we smell that tasty casserole
We beat the opponent, as we destroy their structures components
Time for home, before we get the cold syndrome.

poetry week
Underground
Underground train station, Why’d I say yes Tiptoeing down the stairs Approaching the mess 3 minutes in hell Just me, myself and i Shivers down my spine Fear in my eyes Giggles echo around me I hope it’s just my friends I call out for them to stop It’s coming around the bench The dread in my stomach Ill threaten to call the cops My 3 minutes are nearly up Its time for this to stop What a joke Fear tightens in my throat I turn around and see Something is behind me

Heart Beat
Its 3 in the morning And I’m already yawning I’m down at the park And its still really dark My head is pondering And I’m left wondering I turn around Look at the ground There’s this mental beast Getting deceased He is next to my feet I can hear his heartbeat Heartbeat Heartbeat He looks up at me Before reaching the end And says all i’ve ever wanted was to be your friend Heartbeat Heartbeat Heartbeat Heartbeat

Fly
But strong one, You know you were born to fly All the tears you’ve cried You’re a butterfly before it flies Butterfly Everybody’s gonna see it soon.

Love and Hate
After a tough day of dealing with a jerk I got home And dog Went beserk But, it turned out He had eaten Me homework Monday morning And we were In the mall Trying to escape My friend and His narwal. Let me tell you A story about Something I love: Going to the graveyard And praying for grandma Up above. I love dogs, narwals and food too And if you’re a bully You should just shoo. Now we’ll tell you Something we hate Monday mornings Are things that aren’t great And that is all We can tell you mate.

He painted a picture with the brush of emotions the picture of the self he’d never seen. Alexander.

The air is blue at its edges, softer than before as 3am uneasy slowly fades away. Imogen.

The sun’s beams are hard the devil’s heart beating heat over our trapped land. Charlie.

He painted a picture with the brush of emotions the picture of the self he’d never seen. Alexander.

The air is blue at its edges, softer than before as 3am uneasy slowly fades away. Imogen.

The sun’s beams are hard the devil’s heart beating heat over our trapped land. Charlie.
DEPUTY HEAD REPORTS

Deputy Head Learning:
Kate Cunich

Quite a deal of research has been done on the contribution of the home environment on student achievement. Parents have major effects in terms of the encouragement and expectations that they transmit to their children. Despite variables, parental aspirations and expectations for children’s educational achievement has the strongest relationship with achievement. (0.8). When parents hold high aspirations and expectations for their children, and the school works in partnership with parents to make their expectations appropriately high and challenging, these expectations can not only be realised but surpassed. We know that at Oxley we are very fortunate to have this partnership.

This week we have begun the first of our series of student-parent-teacher interviews for students K – 10. These sessions are designed as an opportunity to gain a brief understanding of where each student is at in terms of where they are going, how they are going and the where to next.

Teachers spend time prior to the interview collating evidence of learning and work samples to provide a visible display of current classroom practice. We are aware that parents enjoy seeing this work, but even more important is that this is not the only time parents and children discuss and see work samples. We are keen to embed a regular time each week where the school Diary, Canvas pages and planning study and revision become an opportunity for families to share the education that Oxley provides.

If you have not already done so, please prioritise a time this weekend, preferably Sunday afternoon or night, to sit and look at the week ahead in terms of school work, co-curricular commitments and family balance. We have been speaking with our senior students in regard to the need for self-discipline – it is not so much the hours (although the cumulative sum does have a direct impact) but the quality and efficiency of the time spent. Deliberate practice towards mastery takes time, and children need to develop the muscle of regular skills and match fitness.

Finally, we are delighted to see the interest of parents in gaining access to our Learning Management system, Canvas. If you require assistance with this or any other ICT challenges, we are providing a series of parent workshops. Please contact Ben.Hicks@oxley.nsw.edu.au to register your interest.

Deputy Head Pastoral:
Peter Ayling

Bike Safety

It is pleasing to see so many bikes at the bike rack each day. It is essential our students continue to follow Roads and Traffic Laws which include all students wearing helmets to and from school. We have also observed students who fail to stop at intersections.

Osborne Road

The vast majority of parents support College guidelines and procedures dropping off and picking up students in and around the College. We continue to see several cars dropping off and picking up along Osborne Road. As discussed with our local council Osborne Road is not to be used for drop off or pick. We thank you for your understanding.

College Gym

The College gym continues to be as popular as ever. Every morning and afternoon we see a large number of students use the site and work with our outstanding instructors. Mental Health is also about mental fitness and the advice, care and passion Harry and his team show towards our students is to be commended. Please see the flyer for a paid holiday programme for Years 8-13.

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A SCHOOL HOLIDAYS FUN-FITNESS PROGRAM

for KIDZ

Ages 8-13

@ Oxley College

APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Monday 11

to

Thursday 14

10am to 2pm

JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Monday 4

to

Thursday 7

10am to 2pm

SEPT SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Monday 26

to

Thursday 29

10am to 2pm

- 4 days every 2 week School Holidays | 4 hours per day (times above)
- All places must be booked
- 3 Equipped Personal Trainers (first aid & child protection trained) will be present every day

Cost and terms: $115 per child | online registration & payment available

theshedfitness.com.au/activekidz
Youth provide input on Australian Federalism: Education and State Powers

Jaime Pryor is one of 120 Year 11 and 12 students selected to participate in the 21st National Schools Constitutional Convention, being held at The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House in Canberra from 16 - 18 March 2016.

The National Schools Constitutional Convention programme provides senior students with an opportunity to become better informed about how Australia’s Constitution provides a democratic framework and encourages them to take an active interest in the operation of government. The topic of the 2016 Convention is ‘Education in a Federation’.

Facilitated by Emeritus Professor John Warhurst AO, Professor of Political Science at the Australian National University, the students will consider a range of arguments relating to the current division of responsibilities, assess whether it is working or if it is time for a change. This will include input from a panel of experts, group discussions on the issues and the opportunity to persuade other delegates of particular approaches. Students will participate in a mock referendum to determine the outcome of their deliberations.

The Convention is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training as part of its ongoing commitment to civics and citizenship education.

In becoming a national delegate, Jaime was selected from around 4,000 students from government, independent and Catholic schools, most of whom took part in feeder conventions in their home state or territory.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to go to Canberra and debate current constitutional reform issues at the Australian Museum of Democracy at Old Parliament House." We look forward to Jaime’s feedback on her return to Oxley.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

SHAPÉ 2016

Year 12 Design and Technology students were fortunate to visit SHAPÉ at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences in Sydney. This exhibition showcases the outstanding Major Design Projects of 2015 HSC students.

Some of the highlights include POOCH, an integrated unit that dispenses bags and decomposes dog waste. Another innovative design was the Automated Clothesline Cover. This ingenious project senses when it starts to rain and activates a cover to keep your washing dry.

Having the opportunity to see the exhibition, along with participating in seminars with past students and senior design professionals, was both stimulating and inspiring. It will undoubtedly aid us as we work on our own Major Design Projects.

By Cate Patterson (Year 12)

SHAPE 2016

As the summer sports season draws to an end it’s time to say goodbye to the Year 12 students who made post-cross-country trainings enjoyable and put the softball glove away until next season. This year the Junior A and the 1sts softball teams had wonderful seasons on the diamond, with both teams fighting their way to the semi finals. The 1sts had just scraped into 3rd place and we were up against Chevalier 1sts. Earlier in the season the Chevalier 1sts team had beaten us twice, yet we had faith and played hard. After a long and closely fought game in 30º heat, punctuated by some outstanding individual efforts combined with super application from the entire team, we took away the win 12-14. Unfortunately, the juniors were faced with an even bigger challenge and couldn’t quite manage to get ahead of the Chev junior As, just losing against them in the semi-finals 13 to 14. The 1sts went on to play Barker in the final later that morning, we put up a good fight, but found ourselves outclassed against a superior opposition...the score is irrelevant. Furthermore, we’re very excited to hear that the outstanding performances throughout the season by both teams resulted in Oxley jointly winning the Champion Softball School shield of 2016 with Chevalier. I’d also like to congratulate each and every member of the 1st team for such a wonderful season; skill cannot do what team work can and softball won’t be the same without our Year 12 girls next year; Cate, Heidi, Kaarina, Meg and Laura. On behalf of the entire team, a huge thank you goes out to Mr Woff for being such a dedicated and supportive coach!

By Elia Moran (Year 11)
IN THE NEWS

PIPPIN REVIEW

‘Pippin’ follows the story of a young man’s journey to find the meaning of life. The Oxley College Production featured Claire Allan as The Leading Player, Patrick Newton as Pippin, Ben Canute as Charlemagne and Mia Healey as Kathryn.

A fantastic set alongside incredible costumes, created a vibrant and exciting atmosphere and ambience for the whole performance.

The production showcased the spectacular talent of the College Drama Ensemble with a very tight performance from ‘The Players’. We were lucky enough to have many of the school’s music students to accompany the musical, alongside many professionals (the teachers).

By Clara Longworth (Year 9), Grace Patterson (Year 10) and Bree Feary (Year 9).

GO KARTING

Recently Lachlan Mineeff (Year 8) had a fantastic weekend Go Kart racing in Canberra. He moved up to a new division and won his first final from a group of ten competitors. He set a new track record earlier in the day then broke it again in the final!

MINDFULNESS AND MASTICATING*

Recently I have been avoiding Mr Ayling in the school grounds. Usually I love a chat with Mr Ayling but over the last few weeks I have been carrying out an experiment. Traditionally chewing gum has a bad reputation. Teachers get annoyed with having it stuck to the underside of tables or picking up a random piece on their shoes in the playground; it also conveys an ‘I have attitude’ look which many find unattractive. Despite all of this I believe it’s time to reevaluate the role of chewing gum in a teenager’s life.

Research has proven that there is an upside to chewing gum. It enhances memory, helps manage weight and improves digestion and oral health. The main benefit though is the way chewing gum can help aid stress. Managing stress is a big challenge for today’s teenager. Tests, assignments, due dates and just having too much on can really impact on the way we feel and our mental health. Chewing gum is a way to relieve tension and help relieve nervous energy. It also makes your body more alert and awakens your senses. So maybe it’s time for educational facilities to have a look at the benefits of chewing gum? It is an inexpensive, sugar free way to improve wellbeing.

Next time you are really worried about something or the pressures of life are getting to you, grab a piece of gum and just chew on it for a while. Trust me - you will feel a whole lot better.

By Savannah Sandilands (Year 9)

* masticate
[mas-ti-keyt]
verb
definition: to chew (food).

BATEMANS BAY BAG PIPING

This year’s Australia Day March in Batemans Bay was Tom Tregenza’s (Year 10) first parade since commencing bag pipe lessons barely 12 months ago.

Tom proved to be a very competent player and was accepted as a member of the Batemans Bay Soldier’s Club Pipe Band, with an open invitation to play at future functions.

Tom looked the part, kitted out by the band in their distinctive Elliot tartan.
Winner of Fortnightly Pin Oak Photography Competition
Photo by Rowan Maitland (Year 8): “My pet bearded dragon.”
Comments: Awesome subject matter! The shadows, tone and detail of your pet are emphasised by taking this photo in black and white! Fantastic interpretation of the brief! Great shot! Congratulations!

The brief for this fortnight is ... ‘Easter’. Easter is fast approaching! Show me in a photograph what Easter means to you and your family. Tell a story through your image. Send your entry to Liv Donovan by Tuesday 29 March (the day after the Easter long weekend) at olivia.donovan@oxley.nsw.edu.au to enter. Good luck.

LAST NIGHT PIPPIN!

Oxley College Equestrian Day
Sunday 3 April 2016
‘Araluen’ Kardinia Lane
Hume Highway Berrima NSW
Open to all school aged riders Years 7-12

Dressage ◆ Show Jumping
Jumping Derby
Sporting ◆ Hack Rings

ENTRIES CLOSE 29 MARCH 2016

EQUESTRIAN HELP NEEDED
Oxley College Equestrian Day: Sunday 3 April 2016

Every year the Oxley P & F organise a highly successful Equestrian Day at Araluen near Berrima. You don’t have to be involved with horses to enjoy this fantastic community event. Programme details: http://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/news-events/upcoming-events/ and all enquiries to Event Coordinator: Sally Quirico at sallyq@internode.on.net

Equestrian Canteen – Volunteers needed and all bakers called to action!

On the day, Oxley is renowned for its welcoming country canteen serving homemade cakes and slices as well as egg and bacon rolls etc. We are fortunate that the Oxley community really gets behind this event every year to make it a great success. The canteen coordinator, Kate Fair (midwivesremedy@gmail.com) and her team are looking for volunteers for the Equestrian Day Canteen as well as bakers to contribute on the day.

We need eight people in the canteen at the following times:
7:00am – 10:00am
10:00am – 1:00pm
1:00pm – 4:00pm
Clean up until 6:00pm

Please contact Kate if you are able to help. Come and be part of this wonderful day. All cakes and slices can be dropped at Oxley Student Services on Friday 1 April. We also encourage our students to volunteer on the day (we will need about 15 in total!) This volunteer work contributes to the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award community service and also Year 11 Leadership. Please see Ms Lane if you are interested in volunteering.
## MARCH + APRIL CALENDAR

**Mon**
- **EXC:** Y11 Ancient History to Nicholson Museum
- **EXAMS:** Y12 Half Yearly Examinations
- **INC:** Y12 Student Mindfulness
- **Y7 Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews Orchestra Room**

**Tue**
- **SPORT:** CIS Y2-6 Swim Carnival
- **EXAMS:** Y12 Half Yearly Examinations

**Wed**
- **EXC:** Y11 DT Powerhouse
- **EXAMS:** Y12 Half Yearly Examinations
- **Y8 Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews Orchestra Room**

**Thu**
- **EXC:** Y7 Geography Mt Keria fieldwork
- **EXAM:** Y12 Half Yearly Examinations
- **K - 6 Grandparents’ Day & Easter Egg hunt**

**Fri**
- **Pippin Last Night**
- **GOOD FRIDAY - Public Holiday**

**Sat**
- **ISA 7-12 Cross Country Carnival Chevalier College**
- **RELAY FOR LIFE Eridge Park**

**Sun**
- **Y2 Family picnic, Burrawang Park 11am**
- **SPORT:** Oxley P & F Equestrian Day, Araluen, 7.30am

**Mon**
- **EASTER MONDAY**
- **EXC:** Y11 GEO Biophysical Interactions
- **EXC:** Y12 Studies of Religion, Auburn Mosque
- **EXC:** Y9 Romeo and Juliet Canberra
- **INC:** Y12 Student Mindfulness

**Tue**
- **Parent BYODD Workshop, 6pm, Rm 11 & 12 Oxley Short Sharp Festival, 7pm, Hoskins Hall**

**Wed**
- **Oxley Music Night Orchestra Room**

**Thu**
- **P&F: K-6 Cake Stall**
- **TERM 1 ENDS**

**Fri**
- **P&F: Y9 Parent Dinner**

**Sat**
- **DoE Gold Hike, Bronze/silver Practice Hike TBC**

**Sun**
- **DoE Gold Hike, Bronze/silver Practice Hike TBC**

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**Canteen News**

Online ordering is coming!! Over the next few weeks the canteen will be assessing various online ordering systems with a view to introducing this system in Term 2. Parents will be able to access the system 24/7 to order when convenient to them with no need for cash. We will keep you updated.

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Term 2 commences on Tuesday 26 April 2016.
SPORTS STARS NEWS

Gabby Taylor Helme - Medallion CIS Netball.
Member of CIS Netball team- winners of the All Schools Challenge.

NSW CIS Netball Team - Awarded Team of The Year.

Charlie Dummer - NSW City Country Schools Cricket Team - competing at State Championships.

Jade Gillis - Competing in the NSW All Schools Tri-athlon.

Nick Milner - Competing in the NSW All Schools Tri-athlon.

2016 SWIMMING

The 2016 Oxley Swimming season was different from previous years. With the help of Mr Wansey and Mrs McNaught, Oxley College had established an official training scheme with great success. Every Wednesday and Friday, 7-12 students had the opportunity to receive professional coaching, in order to gain placement in the two invitational carnivals which occurred prior to the House Oxley Swimming competition. The annual invitational carnivals include; the Drummoyne swimming complex in Sydney – which is a non-competitive carnival, and the ‘Twilight’ carnival held at Frensham and attended by Southern Highlands Schools. At this year’s ‘Twilight’ Carnival, Oxley emerged victorious with several age-champions and runner-ups. Additionally, Oxley won the boys division for the second year running. Both these competitions allow Oxley students to practice competitive swimming before the school carnival and ISA.

On Wednesday 24 February, the first part of the House carnival occurred with a record number of students participating in the 100m freestyle, 200 IM and the 50m Butterfly. This unprecedented amount of commitment reflects the impact of the College’s newly-established swimming programme. On Thursday 25 February Oxley held its annual House swimming carnival. All results were presented during a recent assembly. Congratulations to all those selected as a part of the ISA team. This year’s Oxley swim team is the fastest we’ve had a number of years. We look forward to seeing what Oxley Swimming in the future will hold.

By Brandon Colby (Year 12)

***7 - 12 Swimming and Cross Country results in next Pin Oak.

SOFTBALL SUCCESS

We sit down with Cate Patterson, Captain of Softball at Oxley and member of the ISA Softball team to gain an understanding of her softball career and pro tips.

PO: How long have you been playing softball?
CP: I signed up when I was in Year 7, that makes it six years now. I remember having Mrs Pugh coach me in those early years.

PO: What position(s) do you play? And how are they more physical or tactical?
CP: My preferred position is shortstop, although I had a short yet memorable stint as catcher. I like this position because you’re right in the action, you never miss a beat, and it’s both physical and tactical.

PO: What is your most memorable match?
CP: This has been my favourite season yet, which is fitting because it is my last and I’ve loved playing alongside my sister. I can’t pin down a specific match as they are all exciting and eventful.

PO: What have you brought back from the ISA Softball team to softball at Oxley?
CP: I now know that softball shoes are an actual thing! And I was so impressed with the level of skill of my teammates.

PO: What makes softball at Oxley special?
CP: It comes down to one thing... The team comradery. I’ve made so many last long friendships and feel so privileged to play with such a great group of girls. We have a lot of fun and there’s never a dull moment with Meg Thirlwall around! And I know first hand how committed the coaches are to making us the best players we can be, especially Mr Woff. I hope to see you all playing when I’m watching from the sidelines next season!

By Grace Patterson (Year 10)