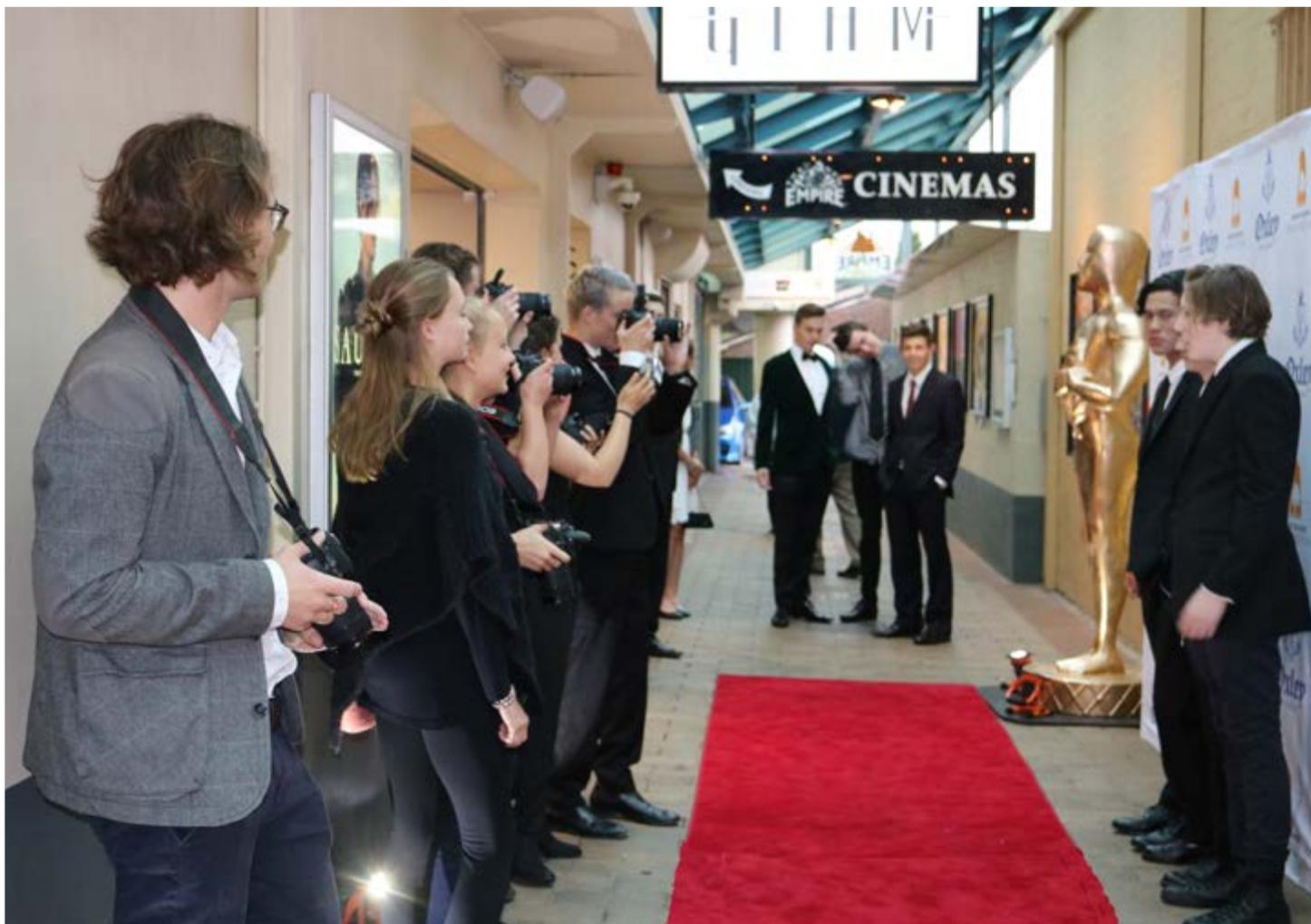


PIN OAK

ISSUE 43: TERM 4, NOVEMBER 11, 2016



PIN OAK FAIR



MUSIC



K-6

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YEAR 7 GRAMMAR OLYMPICS



Last week Year 7 participated in the grammar olympics. It was a shock to come back from a physically challenging OLE week to suddenly find ourselves faced with an intense mental challenge. We trained hard for couple of weeks working to get our grammar skills up to the top level. After working out our strengths we signed up for the events we were best suited to – those who knew their prepositions competed in the the steeplechase over and under and around and between the climbing frame in the K-6 playground. Those who knew their verbs participated in the cycling – they spun, and skidded while we watched. For the ones who love describing words there was the long jump where we were able to see who was strong, who was stronger and who was the strongest user of the adjective. The spellers on the beam were brilliant (some of us didn't take up this challenge because spell check wasn't included in the activity). We finished with the bobsled where the editing skills of the winning team were pretty much in the hands of Lachie Kennedy who took his team to victory. It wasn't about the winning team though because 'grammar was the winner on the day'.

By Mia Sandilands (Year 7)



HEADMASTER'S REPORT



THE PIN OAK FAIR

There is only a day or two to go until our Pin Oak Fair. An extraordinary amount of work has gone into every aspect of the fair- indeed as I left work yesterday, Emma Calver was returning from a mass jam labelling session in the library. The actual planning began almost eighteen months as Jane Crowley began to corral and enthuse a band of parents who were willing to put on this Ben Hur sized event. And it has snowballed further since then (not that there were many snowballs in Ben Hur).

You will see from the other sections of Pin Oak this week all of the amazing things that there are to offer. There are many rides on the ovals including dodgem cars. There is a laser skirmish happening. There is a dunk tank which I will be assiduously attempting to avoid (but I suspect my fate is sealed). There is an art show with a champagne opening at 10.00am, which we are hoping to keep secret from the Southern Highlands Temperance Society. There are also over fifty stalls so hopefully you will be able to get some of your Christmas shopping done well away from Bong Bong Street, Macarthur Mall or hardtofind.com.

Parking will probably be the least enjoyable part of your day unless you have invested in a Fitbit. We cannot use the Bray Fields because the grass is at a delicate phase, particularly after several acts of vandalism from Saturday night hoons. As a result the local streets will be about the best that we can offer. We hope that this does not detract at all from your experience of the day.

One of the key features of the Fair is that it is not a big fundraising event for the school - it is firmly a community and friend-raising event for Oxley, Bowral and beyond. If the fair makes a surplus then it is being divided three ways. The first third goes to a local mental health charity called Get Around It which has been established by the Year 9 student Dylan Whitelaw. The second third is going to our 'sister' schools in Nepal, Botswana and Fiji to purchase a photocopier (in Botswana) rebuild destroyed classrooms (in Nepal) and for school supplies (in Fiji). The last third is to go to the building fund at Oxley College to help fund a cafeteria amongst other things.

If you have worked on the Fair over the last year or are rostered onto a stall, then can I thank you now in advance. We really appreciate the time you will be spending for the good of Oxley. You will be a key part of what makes Oxley not just a school but a wonderful part of our community in the Southern Highlands.

BIG ISSUE



It's hard to believe that we're already up to Issue 43 of Oxley's Pin Oak magazine - it seems like only yesterday I was sitting on the train home reading the first ever issue. Nearly three years later here we are - we've welcomed in new editors with new ideas and had to farewell some of the key people who founded Pin Oak.

I love writing for Pin Oak, but then I just love writing in general! I've always enjoyed coming along to the meetings on a Wednesday - often they were the only things that would get me through my Wednesday morning (which seemed to be a combination of all my least favourite subjects). It was really helpful for me to go along and talk with people who had similar views (or very different views) on subjects I felt passionate about! I've formed some really strong friendships with people in older years, and have kept in contact with them as they've gone off into the world. My first few meetings were very scary - I can still remember sitting there in Year 7 nervously looking around at all the older students who all seemed to know so much and I felt pretty intimidated by it all. Pin Oak has offered me a chance to basically have a rant and stand up for what I believe in. It's very therapeutic! Writing for Pin Oak helped me form my views about the world and has taught me skills in expressing them.

While I love Pin Oak and everything it stands for, I can't help but notice that often in Tutor groups people will pick up the most recent issue, flick through looking at some of the images but often won't really read the content. Most of our hardcopies of Pin Oak end up rolled up as weapons to have sword fights with, or heaped in a pile at the front of the room, stacking up throughout the year. I know that I really love contributing to Pin Oak, and would love to think that people got the same amount out of it as me.

At the same time, I understand it's hard to cater for many different interests and ages and that not everyone necessarily enjoys reading about the issues we write about. So we want to hear from you... students, parents, teachers, family members, whoever you are! We want to know how you're most likely to read Pin Oak, what you want to read about and in what form you want to read it in.

Are you interested in people's personal stories? Do you want to see more of Oxley student's school work? Do you want to read more about politics? Health? Cooking? The Arts? Are you interested in interviews or quizzes or stories?

Whatever it is we would really appreciate your input - a lot of hard work goes into each issue and we want to make sure that people are getting as much out of Pin Oak as possible. We've put together a quick survey ([link below](#)) and would love to hear from you if you have a moment.

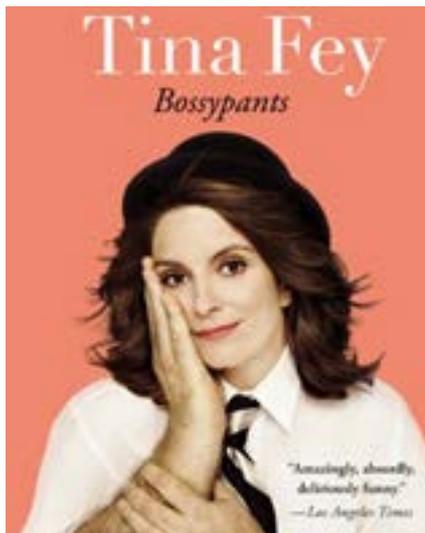
We are also on the hunt for some more sports editors for the back page of the Pin Oak. If we can't find any soon then we will find it hard to keep the page going. If you're interested in writing about sport or simply some commentary on recent Oxley games we'd love you to contact us. Sport is a massive part of Oxley and it would be a shame to see it overlooked.

Instead of us writing to you about things we want to change and are interested in, we want to hear from you about things you'd like to change and are interested in!

By Jemima Taylor (Year 9)

Do the online survey now!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TRS8859>



Books

★★★★★

Bossypants

By Tina Fey

"I hope that's not really the cover, that's seriously going to effect sales"- DON FEY, FATHER OF TINA FEY.

"Totally worth it."- TREES

I'm not one who usually reads autobiographies; in fact the mere word makes me shudder. However, this autobiography *shudder*, 'Bossy Pants' by Tina Fey, is one that I highly recommend for anyone who is in need of a good laugh.

With stories that you can relate to, and some you hopefully can't, either way you will end up having to put the book down while you catch your breath from laughing too hard. From her early childhood and somewhat strange teen years, to her career on SNL and 30 Rock, Tina Fey discusses it all. Maybe not for younger readers, but definitely a book worth your time!

By Gracie Phelan (Year 8)



Music

★★★★★

Imperial Broads - Who Are We Turning Into?

Throughout 2016, Sydney's Imperial Broads have crept their way onto our playlists and into our earphones, refusing to leave until we're thoroughly in love with their sound. Their first record, Who Are We Turning Into is a cohesive effort and one that flawlessly blends energetic, grinding garage rock with a California bop and charm.

The nine-track record kicks off with the vibrant, Since Forever, the song channeling psych-rock and even let's off a bit of a Courtney Barnett vibe. Second single, Best Shot is inflated with belching drums and slightly self-deprecating lyrics about a hopeless search for love. Can't Grow Up's sludgy guitars and greasy bass-line slow things down and give the album a change of pace from the first two vigorous numbers while Room For Love marries together Nick Cave, Let Love In-esque instrumentation with Imperial Broads' animated, dynamic, signature sound.

Imperial Broads have created a record that, from afar appears to be just another angsty, 90's garage influenced album marinated in distortion but when looking at the LP up-close, you realise how incomparable their sound is to many other bands around today or in the past.

By Izzy Moore (Year 9)



Films

★★★★★

Dr Strange

Dr Strange is your classic Marvel movie, the actors were tailor picked to suit their characters' roles and the masterful wit that always seems to accompany Marvels films is ever so present. Dr strange (Benedict Cumberbatch) has a life altering accident that leaves him without the use of his miracle hands. When friends abandon him and modern medicine is no longer able to help, he looks for other more mysterious means to cure him. His search leads him to a temple in Nepal, run by a mysterious group of sorcerers fighting the frontline on an all consuming evil using places of power called sanctums to defend all life on earth. In the process of learning how he can cure himself again he must put aside his immense ego and rational to accept the truth behind reality and life. When an Ancient sorcerer decides he is ready they face him with a choice of having all his former talent, fame and fortune back or to be a part of something greater than himself and along the way become one of the most powerful sorcerers that will ever exist. Before Strange can properly make a decision the Sanctums come under attack by Baron Mordo (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a ruthless sorcerer who has an obsession of finding immortality and how the Ancients was able to achieve it. The war for earth becomes very real for strange after his first encounter with the baron and uncovers an ancient artefact that has the power to stop the Baron and an ancient evil amassing on earths unseeable borders with a hidden world.

By Oliver Reagan (Year 12)

Head of K-6: Justine Lind

Seeing students in the driving seat of their learning is what makes my teacher heart sing!

Our students in K-6 are responding with enthusiasm about the scope of their learning experiences and the sense of choice, freedom and empowerment that they have gained from our recent units and culminating showcase events. Jack Hatcher, in preparing for his upcoming address to parents at next week's Orientation Day notes, "There are major changes from last year. In having choice and freedom about what we study, the learning is much more interesting and we have the opportunity to learn from our peers as well as the teacher."

Earlier this term, classes in Stage 1, 2 and 3 all held exhibitions to showcase their learning from Term 3. In Stage 1 and 2, the students engaged in collaborative inquiry to support each other in more student centred learning and also to enhance their skills in authentic collaboration. Each group researched a different country. In Stage 1 this was to explore the differences in technology around the world, and in Stage 2 the students considered the multiple connections between countries to appreciate the sophisticated concept of 'Interdependence'. What was significant was the explicit way in which the skills of negotiation, delegation and reciprocity were fostered so that students experienced interdependence on a deeply personal as well as the global level.

There is a magical moment in units of this nature where the students arrive at class one day with a new found sense of urgency and purpose. It is as if they want to tell us to stop teaching and let them get on with their learning! Visitors to such exhibitions can readily sense this energy and self-determination as the students share in their discoveries. "It was a great unit because we got to express our thinking about our legends in ways that were as different as we are." Luci McManus, Year 6.

The teachers and the students have received some wonderful feedback about these events and one visitor to the Year 5 and 6 Hall of Legends felt compelled to write.

"Finley [Miller] was incredibly articulate in explaining to me why he chose da Vinci and why he felt him to be a true legend. He showed a very in-depth understanding of the context of da Vinci's work and as a result it was very obvious to me that Finley had a true appreciation of the magnitude of da Vinci's achievements and legacy.

In speaking with me Finley didn't refer to any prepared text. He spoke in his own words and I thought they were very powerful words. He listened and then answered my questions with consideration. I wish I had been able to record his words exactly to ensure I do Finley's expression justice but part of our conversation went something like this:

"I think it's interesting that da Vinci's studies of anatomy were so scientific at a time when there was really no real understanding of muscles or how the body worked. He was the first and it is amazing to see now how da Vinci was able to take the limited knowledge that existed at that time and take it forward to the future. He combined art and science and maths and his designs from back then do not look out of place today. His work eventually led to his early death."

I thought Finley's presentation made him a legend."

Jacqui Cameron, Year 5 parent

Weekly Awards:

Students of the Week

K: Bella Copus
Yr 1: Emma Barnett
Yr 2: Molly Davis
Yr 3: Jack Rendell
Yr 4: Lora Ross
Yr 5: Sienna Bellis
Yr 6: Hamish Tregenza



Respect Oxley

K: Livie Marks
Yr 1: Louisa Hogan-Baldo
Yr 2: Samuel Plummer
Yr 3: Lily Smith
Yr 4: Oscar Plummer
Yr 5: Benedict Regan
Yr 6: Meg Callaghan



Students of the Week

K: Coco Sewell
Yr 1: Elke Hunter
Yr 2: Bryce Rodger
Yr 3: Christian Denington
Yr 4: Samuel Bernstein
Yr 5: William Bladen
Yr 6: Luci McManus



Respect Others

K: Rory Shedden
Yr 1: Kallan Rendell
Yr 2: Jaxon Nonnenmacher
Yr 3: Ava Ritchie
Yr 4: Emily Rodger
Yr 5: Chloe Cassim
Yr 6: Jack Hatcher

All our students could have been similarly quoted. The learning is visible and the impact on their knowledge and thinking is clear. Beyond this though, the effect on self-esteem, motivation and each child's sense of achievement is palpable and enduring.

Your role as parents is far from incidental in this process too. I wanted to thank you for your support and encouragement of your child and also your trust in their teacher. For some students, the salient lesson in all this is about their skills of organisation and time management. There is some important stress incorporated into the expectations of such units, a little pressure for the students to rise above. Ultimately though, these tasks are low stakes and the perfect training ground for failure or a slight falter where the lesson for next time is so much more valuable than if we were to step in and rescue them from learning the consequences of not managing their time and work-load well. This is the type of lesson we do not want to leave until Year 11 when high stakes learning rightly kicks in.

We hope you managed to visit the exhibitions and that you are as proud of each student as we are!

"I liked that we actually got to teach the parents, the Year 9 students, Year 2 and the teachers about our country that was India. At the start I was really nervous, then it made me excited and at the end of it all I was really proud." Bryn Wiseman, Year 3



"For me, the best was choice. We got to negotiate with our groups what to do and who would do each part that suited our interests and learning styles. I also liked that we had boundaries to choose only Australian neighbours. The group work had team leaders and Lora was great in encouraging us to learn in different ways and keep us on track. She had high expectations for us." Benjamin Shields, Year 3



"Working in groups was great because we could combine our ideas. I was really proud of our group display because we did it all and finished it on time. Sometimes we had arguments but the arguments really helped us to achieve better, more interesting products to show all the details of what we learnt." Annabel Arnot, Year 3.

Evie Crowley in Year 4 discovered that, "As the leader I had to think really hard about how to balance my time between helping others and doing my own tasks. It was challenging."



Dear Diary,

Today is the first Thursday of the month. It is the day that the climbing boy comes to our house, to clean the chimney. I was very excited, but I knew I had to be careful. Mother came into my bedroom last night and told me that I wasn't to think that this boy was going to become my friend. Little does she know, we already are friends. Or maybe she does know and that's why she said it. Clara, the scullery maid, better not have ratted on me. While Mother and Nanny worked on their tapestries, I snuck down the stairs and out the kitchen door. Clara turns a blind eye because she knows that I see her sneaking out her window at night to see the stable boy. Clara is in love with the stable boy. They're going to get married before the baby in her tummy grows too big, but it's a secret. Nobody knows, except me. I have decided that I'm going to marry the climbing boy! Clara laughed when I told her and I became furious. "It's no more daft than you marrying Johnny" I said. "Little lady, your parents have far grander plans for you" she said, still holding her side, which ached from her chuckling. Clara is a fool. The cook even said so.

My climbing boy's name is Just Jeremy. His mother and father and his two older brothers died of the fever. His master picked him from the Parish work house. He was four then, so he doesn't remember the rest of his name. That's why I call him Just Jeremy.

We'll pick a new name when we get married!

*

Dear Diary,

It's June the 17th today. Just Jeremy day.

I was in the kitchen pretending to eat my orange pudding, but actually staring intently out the window so I didn't miss his arrival. Just as his horrid fat master and he appeared on the far side of the back courtyard, a quarter hour later than usual, Mother called to me "Grace, be a darling and fetch my book from the parlour." Mother was feeling poorly and had been in bed for two days. That wicked Clara! She's been talking to mother! Why else would she suddenly need me when we haven't spoken these last two days?

I raced up the stairs, two at a time and snatched my mother's copy of Frankenstein from the parlour table. I hesitate, not sure what to do. Then I figured it out! I am good at coming up with ideas, even Father says so. I ran back down the stairs and through the kitchen and out the back door. I held the book open as if so engrossed in it that I became lost on the way to Mother's room. I poked my tongue out at Clara as I sped past her. Jeremy is waiting, but he's staring at the book instead of me. He reaches out to touch the colour plate the book is open and he says in a strange breathy voice "But it's so beautiful. I ain't never seen anything like it in me whole livin' life." I pulled the book back into my chest and his eyes had a hurt look. They were always bright red and running, as if he'd been crying. It's just the soot, he would tell me, but today I think I saw a real tear. "Look what you've done!" I snapped at him as I clutched the book to my chest, "There's a grubby finger mark on the page now! Mother will know where I've been."

Just then my mother's voice, sterner than before, called "Grace! Bring me my book this instant!" Without another word, I turned and ran to her bedroom frantically rubbing the page with my sleeve as I went.

*

Dear Diary,

When Just Jeremy arrived this morning, I noticed he was limping more than usual. When I asked him if he was alright, he said "Yes, me gammy knee is troublin' me more than regular. That's all." I could see it was swollen as it protruded, red and angry, through the large moth hole in his breeches.

Our stolen time passed quickly as usual. We advanced our plans for our elopement. Just Jeremy's never slept in a feather bed. He lies on a bag of soot, with a hessian sack for a blanket each night. I tell him we will bring my bed, so he can see what it feels like, but he says I'm too dreamy, we could never carry a bed. More planning required.

When we heard the first heavy fall of his master's boots on the cobblestones, we froze for a second. Then, action! I fled down the passage way to the kitchen door and Just Jeremy ran, as best he could, to the servant's entrance at the side.

In the kitchen I caught my breath and sat down silently. I've not spoken to Clara this fortnight, so I pretended I was deaf as she offered me jam and bread. After a short time, I heard raised voices from the big room where the main fireplace is. "I can't go any faster, it's me knee." Just Jeremy was crying, I was sure of it today. His master roared, "I'm lighting a fire under you, boy. You'll soon speed up then, won't ya?"

Tears sprang into my own eyes, but I was rooted to the spot like an oak tree. I heard Just Jeremy wail and then shouting. Clara ran into the big room with the washing up basin when the master screamed "A pail o' water! Bring me a pail o' water!"

The noise disturbed father, who stormed down the stairs. "What's this" he started and then in a low voice, "Oh, Living Lord!"

I don't know how long it was before I was able to uproot my limbs from where I sat, but when I peeked out the scullery window, I could see the master carrying a large hessian sack. As he shifted it from one shoulder to the other, it gaped open at the end closest to me. I saw a small hand, blistered and raw, hanging dumbly. The master paused on the stoop as my father abraded him, his head hung low, the sack roughly dumped on the cold marble step. My father was gesticulating wildly at the master and I seized the moment. I carefully slid a perfect daffodil out of the vase Clara had been preparing and edged forward. Soundlessly, I reached out to Just Jeremy, my fingers brushing his, and laid it in his hand.

Written By Ella Moran (Year 12, 2017) for a creative writing task for Extension English.

DEPUTY HEAD REPORTS

Deputy Head Learning: Kate Cunich

As I write, we are celebrating the conclusion of the final 2016 HSC Examination – Design and Technology last Friday afternoon. Speaking with students in the last weeks, there has been a universal relief to have reached the end, as well as a strong sense of surprise that it has all gone by so quickly. Each student appears to have managed the marathon to the best of their ability, and an air of calm preparedness has accompanied each examination entry point. We are particularly delighted to hear from our first classes of accelerant students. 14 students sat either HSC Legal Studies and or HSC Chemistry. Again this is testament to the commitment of these students and their teachers to stretch, strive and stick. Oxley students have sat a selection of over 26 different examinations across 4 weeks and HSC results will be available on Thursday 15 December. In the meantime we wish our students a relaxed, a fun formal and enjoyable time with friends and family.

We continue too to be excited about Old Oxleyans who return to Oxley in one capacity or another. We currently have Campbell Harvey (2012) doing a practicum with us in Drama and English. Campbell studies at the University of Sydney and has discovered a passion for behaviour management. At the conclusion of this prac, he travels to the US to complete further studies. Our 2015 Head Boy, Zac Moran has also recently returned from his GAP Year, and is the watching over our new Year 12 cohort as they have moved into the Academic Study Centre this week. We are delighted that is already the silent sanctuary that lifts motivation and study to the next level.

Preparations for the Yearly Examinations have also begun. Tutors, Teachers, Heads of House and Year Coordinators are working with students to ensure that they know what is required to prepare. Parents are encouraged to discuss revision strategies with their children. Additional guidance can be found on our Learning Management System, Canvas. Consistent revision and preparation will help to reduce anxiety. It is also important to remember that these examinations are just a stepping stone toward building the muscle of time management and revision. We wish all students well at this time.



Deputy Head Pastoral: Peter Ayling

Making Good Decisions

At Oxley College we have students who care about each other and generally make wise choices during school time, after school and on weekends when using social media. Below are some tips to help support our wonderful students from Life Education.

Life Education research examined the online behaviour and social networking habits of Australian tweens and teens and aims to educate on the impact that risky behaviour has on their privacy, reputation and social media experiences.

Facebook remains popular however there has been a spike in underage users; with 31 per cent of eight-nine year olds and 60 per cent of 10-12 year olds admitting to having a Facebook profile, despite the legal age being 13 years old. This is a big rise from 2013, where 26 per cent of tweens were using Facebook.

Worryingly the report also revealed that around 40% of our children have experienced some form of online bullying and 50% of all those interviewed admitted to posting something risky online. What the research did reveal however is that eight in 10 tweens and teens would respect guidance on personal decisions regarding social media from their parents, and nine in 10 say their parents trust them to make the right decisions online.

Alex Merton-McCann, McAfee Cybermum, suggests that as parents we need to stay on top of all the new digital trends to be able to support our children in digital environments as well as building a developing a dialogue with our children around social media and the potential dangers.

What you can do to help your kids stay safe online:

1. Connect with your kids. Talk to them about the risks of being online and make sure the communication lines are always open.
2. Learn their technology. Stay one step ahead and take the time to research the various devices your kids use. You want to know more about their devices than they do.
3. Get social. Stay knowledgeable about the newest and latest social networks. Join whatever networks or sites your kids are into so you understand how it all works.
4. Reputation management. Make sure your kids are aware that anything they post online is permanent.
5. Stay calm. If your kids come to you with an online problem, it's important not to overreact. Deal with it calmly and don't threaten to take devices away, or they may not feel confident about seeking your help again.

<http://www.lifeeducation.org.au/parents/cyber-safety/item/363-cybersafety-for-tweens-and-teens>



MYSTERIOUS UNIVERSE

In Term 4, Year 10 students were given the option to choose a unit of study based on their interests and the Science courses they have elected to study for HSC. Students intending to study Physics or with a particular interest in the vastness of space have chosen to study Mysterious Universe with Mr Campbell. Students preparing for studies in Biology and with an interest in coral reefs are studying Coral Reef Ecology and the Science of SCUBA with Mrs Tregenza and Mrs Hanrahan. After exploring different methods for identifying corals and mapping food webs on the Great Barrier Reef, students studying the Coral Reef unit participated in a live Video Conference with an underwater diver at Reef HQ in Townsville. The diver wore a full face mask, allowing him to talk to students while taking them on a tour of the corals in the aquarium and then introduce them to sharks in the shark tank.

By Bronwyn Tregenza



GEOGRAPHY

This year's Year 8 Geography Challenge Day Trip to St Mary's was very successful as our Oxley 'Green' team came from behind to win the competition. About 40 schools from all over the region came to participate in this geographical extravaganza, and Oxley provided two teams; Oxley Gold and Oxley Green. There were 10 rounds consisting of geographical questions based on topics such as Australian and global landmarks, geographical tools and terms and even national anthems. These rounds were interspersed with quick fire 'true/false' questions, allowing individual team members to win spot prizes. This was fun and Imogen won the first round and we took home the best prize of a CD of the greatest Scottish and Irish folk songs!!! (and \$30). The questions tested general knowledge about geographical concepts and places within Australia and around the world. This trip definitely enriched us with improved knowledge and understanding of Geography. While the Oxley Green team came 1st, the Oxley Gold team finished in a very respectable 8th position. We would like to thank Mr Dibdin for organising and taking us on this fun trip.

By Claire Allen (Year 8)



MINDFULNESS

Mindfulness during exams.

With Exams coming up for Years 7 to 10, the stress has already started. While coping with the busyness of everyday life, exams can feel like a major weight on our shoulders. The following are a few tips to dealing with exam stress.

1. Don't cram. We hear this one everyday in preparing for exams and although obvious it does have sense to it. Studying the night before the exams just creates more stress. If you do a little bit every night, it is much easier when you get to the actual exam.
2. Sleep. Get good night sleeps in the lead up to the exams. Don't stay up late as tempting as it may be. It is better for us to rejuvenate our minds before restarting the next day.
3. Keep exercising. Instead of studying all hours when you get home, get outside and shoot some hoops or go for a jog. Studies prove that getting some exercise increases or concentration.

Exams can feel like a nuisance but keeping a balanced life in the lead up to them, is much better for us.

Stay mindful.

By Savannah Sandilands (Year 9)

OLD OXLEYAN INTERVIEW

KENDALL FEAVER CLASS OF 2007



Now that you're off in the big wide world, what have you made of yourself since finishing school?

I spent my first year out of high school teaching English in Ha Noi, Vietnam. There I learnt how to ride a motorbike, talk my way out of an attempted mugging and travelled across South East Asia in a series of decreasingly safe methods of transportation. I returned home to study a Bachelor of Creative Arts at Macquarie University, and started working towards my goal of becoming a playwright – taking part in several development schemes with Sydney theatre companies and self-producing my own plays. With a few hard-won scholarships, I was able to travel overseas to study a Masters in Writing for Performance at Goldsmiths, University of London; and, finding it difficult to leave this newfound cultural Mecca, decided to stay on in the UK. To pay the bills, I've worked in administration, advocacy, project and event management across a fantastic range of cultural organisations: The Australian Major Performing Arts Group; The Sydney Fringe Festival; Jersey Boys – The Musical; Bush Theatre, London; Storystock Children's Festival; the inaugural Australian and New Zealand Festival for Literature and Arts in the UK; and most recently, as General Manager for the Independent Street Arts Network (ISAN), the UK's peak body for Outdoor Arts (a loose term that encompasses theatre, dance, circus, visual arts, processions, festivals and spectacles – or any combination of these practices – that take place outside of a conventional theatre building or gallery). This work has taken me across Europe – muddy fields, woodlands, mountaintops, town squares, abandoned warehouses, underground bunkers and disused collieries – broadening what I thought "theatre" could be and allowing me to work with audiences who are, on average, less culturally engaged. One of my favourite projects to work on was a three-year research initiative delivered with The Audience Agency, collecting over 17,000 surveys to measure audience engagement with festivals across the UK, and then transforming those statistics into a language that was meaningful for funding bodies, politicians and other bureaucrats. But how do you measure joy, silliness and a sense of wonder? How do you measure the pride in place that occurs when a community sees their struggling town transformed? If these were easy things to put into numbers, arts practitioners would be funded up to the hilt!

Describe your biggest achievement to date?

While supporting the work of other artists has been an incredible privilege, finding an access point for myself has been difficult. Playwriting is punishing work – it's underfunded and oversubscribed, and – like most careers in the arts — the rejections far outweigh the successes. My luck began to change in November 2015 when my play won a Judges Award at the Bruntwood Prize for Playwriting, the largest playwriting competition in Europe. Since then, Manchester Royal Exchange has optioned the play, I've

signed the contract with the publishers, landed a great agent, received funding from the Australia Council towards the next three plays, and have started discussions with a number of production companies to move into film and television. I'm currently enjoying my first year as a full-time writer, and though I have no idea where the next pay packet is coming from, or when, the uncertainty of it all is finally starting to generate a little excitement rather than sheer panic!

How did Oxley prepare you for the future?

Oxley was always supportive of individual passions – however unconventional – and if you didn't have a passion, it worked very hard to find you one. I remember asking a music teacher once if I could join the school orchestra. The fact that I didn't play an instrument wasn't an issue – a couple of days later, he presented me with some tubular bells and a giant gong to bang on. I think he even called me a "percussionist" – which was kind, but very inaccurate.

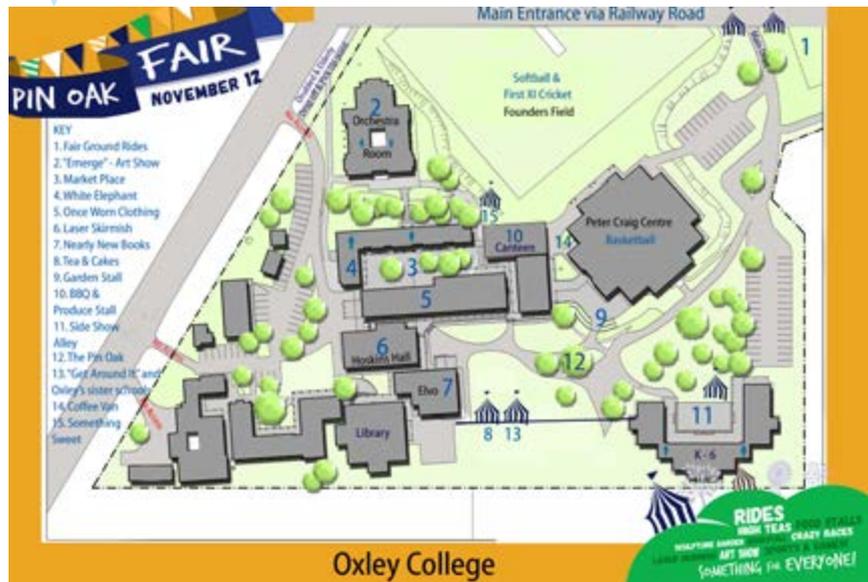
Did anyone at Oxley inspire you?

The teachers at Oxley were absolute gems – they carved out their little corner of the Oxley universe and injected it with such enthusiasm you almost believed trigonometry had everyday application (looking at you, Mr Connor!). Since leaving school, I've realised how unusual that extra time and investment was, and the fact that they still check in with us occasionally – an email, a coffee here and there – suggests it was all completely genuine. Facebook now seems to be the preferred method of communication, allowing teachers everywhere the chance to exercise their caustic wit all over your embarrassing photos – consider yourselves warned, Class of 2016!

What would you say to your fifteen-year-old self?

Read a new book every week – not just those on the syllabus. Don't date anyone you go to school with – if it doesn't work out (and it probably won't) you still have to see them every lunchtime...for the next three years. Stop biting your nails. Don't stop the piano lessons. Tomato sauce on a microwaved bread roll may be the cheapest thing at the canteen but its nutritional value is negligible. You are not fat. You are not ugly. Anne of Green Gables is not the proverbial yardstick for high school friendships. Your parents were not always parents – don't be afraid to ask them things. One day you will live in a world in which Robin Williams, Alan Rickman and David Bowie no longer exist – go to the local Video Ezy (which also no longer exists) and borrow their movies immediately. Better yet turn it into a movie marathon and invite your friends over. You'll probably share one pilfered beer between eight girls, so it should be a relatively low-key affair. Finally, remember that life is good. Not always, but most of the time. And when it's not so good, try to remember that it gets better.

ON THE BRANCH - P & F NEWS!



17 hours to go! See you tomorrow at the Pin Oak Fair

Join us this Saturday for Oxley College's inaugural Emerge Art Show at the Pink Oak Fair - an exciting celebration of the vibrant art and creativity in the Southern Highlands and beyond. The work of around 50 talented artists and sculptors will be on display in the Oxley College Orchestra Room and in the gardens around the fair with prices to suit every budget. A percentage of sales go to charity. Archibald finalist, Clara Adolphs will kick off the champagne opening at 10am and the art will be available for purchase throughout the day. Please spread the word among your friends about this special event and don't miss a chance to find a unique and beautiful gift for Christmas at the Pin Oak Fair.

Emerge

to think
to dare
to dream

**Please join us for the P & F
Annual General Meeting
followed by
"Thank You to the P & F" Drinks**

This is the College's opportunity to thank everyone who has helped the Oxley Community over the past year.
(Be if for one hour or many!)
You are warmly invited to join us on

Tuesday 22 November 2016

P & F Annual General Meeting 6:30pm
Drinks 7:15pm

Venue: Orchestra Room

RSVP: Judy Loydstrom at Oxley College Reception by
Friday 18 November

Ph: 4861 1366 or email: office@oxley.nsw.edu.au

GALLERY



See the next edition of Pin Oak for a full report on the inaugural Oxley Year 10 Film Festival at the Empire Cinema, Bowral

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER CALENDAR

 <p>Oxley ribbons now available at the Oxley Shop!</p>	<p>Mon</p> <p>14</p>	<p>Mon</p> <p>Year 7 - 10 Exam Week K - 6 Swim Programme (Week 1 of 2) Year 12 Student/Parent/Teacher interviews, 4.00pm</p> <p>21</p>	<p>Mon</p> <p>Year 10 Australian Business Week K - 6 Swim Programme (Week 2 of 2)</p> <p>28</p>	
	<p>Tue</p> <p>15</p>	<p>Tue</p> <p>P & F AGM, 6.30pm Thank you to the P & F Drinks, 7.15pm, Music School</p> <p>22</p>	<p>Tue</p> <p>29</p>	
	<p>Wed</p> <p>Year 12 Music Showcase, 7.00pm</p> <p>16</p>	<p>Wed</p> <p>23</p>	<p>Wed</p> <p>30</p>	
	<p>Thu</p> <p>K - 6 Orientation Day, 9.15am - 11.00am</p> <p>17</p>	<p>Thu</p> <p>2nd K-6 Orientation Day - Kindy and Year 5, 1.30pm - 3.00pm Year 1 Parent Dinner, Bistro Officina, 7.00pm</p> <p>24</p>	<p>Thu</p> <p>01</p>	
	<p>Fri</p> <p>11</p>	<p>Fri</p> <p>7 - 12 Orientation Day, 10.45am - 12.45pm</p> <p>18</p>	<p>Fri</p> <p>Year 2 Parent Dinner, Bowral Thai, 7.00pm</p> <p>25</p>	<p>Fri</p> <p>K - 6 Christmas Carol Concert Year 10 Australian Business Week Dinner and Awards</p> <p>02</p>
	<p>Sat</p> <p>12</p>	<p>Sat</p> <p>ISA Round 5</p> <p>19</p>	<p>Sat</p> <p>ISA Round 6</p> <p>26</p>	<p>Sat</p> <p>Duke of Ed Bronze Hike</p> <p>03</p>
	<p>Sun</p> <p>PIN OAK FAIR 9.00am - 3.00pm</p> <p>13</p>	<p>Sun</p> <p>20</p>	<p>Sun</p> <p>27</p>	<p>Sun</p> <p>Duke of Ed Bronze Hike</p> <p>04</p>

Sport



DREAMCRICKET

Dream Cricket is a programme that was initiated in the Southern Highlands by the Movement Disorder Foundation in conjunction with the Rotary Clubs of the Southern Highlands and the Bradman Foundation. The programme has been so successful that it is now run across Australia and overseas. It is designed to allow children with a disability to experience the game of cricket with the children doing DreamCricket clinics at their school and then joining together for a DreamCricket day. Originally the programme was only for primary aged students but secondary students have also been involved for the last two years.

Some members of the Oxley College 1st and 2nd XI cricket teams were privileged to be invited to assist with the 2016 DreamCricket day at Bradman Oval. Although the weather was far from ideal, the oval was buzzing with excited children and adults alike. The Oxley students assisted in running some of the skills activities for the hundreds of disabled students who attended. Although the programme is mainly for the disabled children, the students from the local schools who volunteer to help run the day also benefit from the interaction with the children and learning how to coach and encourage others to develop their cricketing skills. The smiles on everyone's faces as the children faced their challenges and succeeded are testament to the strength of the human spirit and the role that sport can play in peoples' lives.



OLD OXEYLAN HARRY KOOROS

Harry Kooros has an inspirational story to share. The 19 year old cyclist suffered terrible injuries after a crash on his way home 18 months ago while studying at Oxley College. Read more at the [Bicycling Australia Website](#).



PLAYER OF THE WEEK: NICHOLAS MILNER

Nick starred with the ball playing for the Oxley College 14s cricket team against East Bowral Cricket Club on Saturday. Nick achieved what every bowler dreams about -a Hat-trick. With his accurate bowling creating panic amongst the opposition, he gallantly led his team to an exciting victory. He is pictured proudly holding the mounted match ball. Nick's final figures were three for 16 from three overs.