

PINOAK

ISSUE 48: TERM 1, MARCH 10, 2017
OXLEY COLLEGE



MEDIEVAL
FEAST Y8

SENIOR
PRODUCTION
WEEK 7

SWIMMING
CHAMPIONS

AJMoran Photography

7 -12 Swimming Results

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2017 7 - 12 Swimming Champions

Age	Gender	Runner Up	Champion
12	Girls	Lilly Spring	Lily Hogan
12	Boys	Hal Canute Christian Gallina	James Kim
13	Girls	Olivia Bow	Tayissa Boese
13	Boys	James Arnott	Victor van der Schalk
14	Girls	Mia Gillis	Lucy Cavanaugh-Quince
14	Boys	Alex Webb	Max Davis-Rice
15	Girls	Georgie de Montemas Claire Allan	Lauren Howes
15	Boys	Bryce Wellman	Archer Kalde
16	Girls	Sophia Dummer	Jade Gillis
16	Boys	Finn Ottaviano	Lachlan Coleman
17	Girls	Abbey Marnoch	Olivia Davies
17	Boys	Oliver Reagan	Campbell de Montemas
18+	Girls	Isabella Davies	Maddie Kalde
18+	Boys	Mitch Wellman	Cedric Hely

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House Champion

1st Florey

Open Boys 200IM, Cedric Hely New Record 2:40.60 replacing 2:43.01
18 Boys 50m Butterfly, Cedric Hely New Record 29.12 replacing 29.61
18 Boys 100m Freestyle, Cedric Hely New Record 1:00.69 replacing 1:01.93
18 Boys 50m Freestyle, Cedric Hely New Record 26.09 replacing 27.00
18 Boys 50m Backstroke, Cedric Hely New Record 31.53 replacing 32.35
16 Girls 50m Backstroke, Jade Gillis New Record 35.50 replacing 35.78

CREATIVE WRITING...(the story continues)

Last words

The bus horn jerked me out of my thoughts. What's happening? I looked out of the window but all I can see is the side walk. What's the holdup? God! Why can't the bus move! I have maths first and I have to get there earlier so I can study and actually do well so I don't have a repeat of last time. Oh god I really don't want to repeat that memory. I look up and see a police officer talking to the bus driver. I strain to hear what he's saying. Go another way, murder, brutal, never seen anything like it. Wait, what! I lean over my seat to try and get a look outside. I don't know why, but the urge to see it became intolerable. I see so much red and a big black bag. But the thing that got my attention was my father. My father who was watching down the street. But even that didn't bother me much. What did, was the grin on his face.

By Bridget Drewett (Year 10)

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

TEACHING YEAR 7 (AND 10)

I have spent the last few weeks teaching Cornerstone to each of the Year 7 classes. I love teaching the subject, but the main reason is to get to know all of the new students in this year. I have really enjoyed seeing how well they all seem to be getting on with each other. They all respect each other's opinions, they don't do (much) talking over the top each other and they are willing to both take on board and test any idea that is suggested to them. I think that they will have a great six years here.

I thought I would also share a few of their thinking highlights (with just a hint of 'kids say the darndest things' thrown in). We have been doing the difference between invention and discovery, and whether certain phenomena (eg. thoughts, music, ipads) are invented or discovered. As part of it we have been doing whether $2+2$ would equal 4 if no-one in the world could count and whether logic rules are invented. Each class has gone in a different direction with it. A number of students really suggested that the whole mathematical system was simply a creation and development of the human mind and it doesn't really link to the physical world at all - we have just got used to it. One student speculated about whether there was a much, much better system out there than Maths and whether we as humans could be much, much more developed if we had worked with that system (whatever it is) for thousands of years instead of being tricked by Mathematics. Many other students expressed that Maths was a real thing out there in the world that we accurately detect as we became more evolved. All in all it has been very high level thinking for a group of twelve and thirteen year olds who are just getting used to high school.

One or two of the classes discussed whether, if we could press a button and eradicate all traces from the internet from ever having been in the world, would we do it? Almost a third of the kids said that they would press the button, which came as quite a surprise to me. Many of them had trouble imagining the dreadful privations of a world without the internet. One group of students speculated about times, such as the Cavemen and the Roman Empire, before everyone got the internet. I certainly felt my age during that lesson, but, after wistfully recalling the flint axes and chariots of my youth, was able to get back to focusing on the conversation.

The Year 10s I have been teaching have also been exceptional. Always thoughtful, original and considered, I hear from them a viewpoint almost every day that I had not heard before. We have been talking over the last week about getting old and getting wisdom. They came up with extremely good points about whether wisdom is something you naturally gain through the acts of living and experiencing, or whether you have to go out deliberately to improve your wisdom. They also spent most of one lesson wondering what was more beautiful - maths or time!

Many of these are topics that would go well around some dinner tables when you are feeling brave as parents. As a result Mr Jason Simpson has started emailing parents each fortnight with what some of the key questions have been in your child's year group over the previous week. We all hope that you find them good conversation starters and so, when you ask what happened at school that day, you can get more from your son and daughter than 'it was good'.



BIG ISSUE

Facebook: Tool For Mass Manipulation



While you scroll through your news feed revelling in the latest and greatest that your subset of the internet can produce - your friend's very provocative ideas on how to best store turnips to a 'life hack' on how to transform a toilet roll into a phone speaker (invigorating stuff!) - have you actually considered how your 'news feed' is curated. The news feed was developed to minimise the amount of content you see of the massive quantity that is produced every day and ensure what you see remains topical and relevant. As a result you use Facebook more allowing Facebook to throw more advertisements in your face making them a profit, allowing them to develop a more relevant news feed and so the cycle continues and everyone is happy in the world.

Except for the fact that this outlet of information can be used not only to manipulate what you see, but how you feel. In a very Orwellian sense Facebook has the ability to control how you think. And it has been proven in the company's controversial 2014 study: Experimental Evidence of Massive-Scale Emotional Contagion Through Social Networks. The study conducted research on 689,003 Facebook users (without consent) and manipulated their news feeds to investigate how the users would react. The researchers curated the selection of posts that appear in a certain subset of the users and this curation clearly affected how the user him/herself would post. One group would have every story with positive words filtered out whilst the other would have every story with negative words removed. In a massive scale game of monkey see, monkey do, the users who were only exposed to negative posts would post with a greater 'degree of negativity' (ie. used negative words with a harsher tone) and vice versa for the group that was only exposed to positive posts. Facebook can actively change how you think completely based on the posts and articles you see.

Facebook hasn't just been focussing on emotions though. Because of its prevalence in modern life, the platform has the ability to send people in droves from one activity to the next. In 2012 Facebook managed to entice people to register as an organ donor when Facebook allowed users to indicate their status as a organ donor. That month organ donor registrations

went up in troves. Just for the ability to be "part of the crowd" a large percentage of users will register to become an organ donor, and only because it is visible to everyone else will they do it.

Is this the future of large scale advertisements? We've learnt to block out the blaring billboards and cacophony of noise on the radio. Perhaps the future of advertisement is more subtle. Is a friend's recommendation of a product more valuable than an advertisement seemingly plucked out of thin air? Absolutely. If Facebook can convince you to think in a certain way, vote in a certain way, let your organs be harvested in a certain way just by curating your feed of news, what else can they do? Advertisement is moving from the global, to the local, to the very personal. We know that. You click on one link to buy an OfficeWorks lever arch folder and the next minute you have every single advertisement pane on every other website cramming lever folders from every stationary store imaginable down your throat. So what happens if advertisements move to the personal, to the personally manipulative. Facebook can see who you most value the opinion on. Who you are most influenced by. How you read particular phrases. In fact, a recent study (Self Censorship on Facebook) revealed that content typed in a comment or a post box and then deleted is recorded by Facebook. The minute you hit a key, scroll the page or move your cursor that data is sent straight to Facebook. In fact there are even libraries to estimate where a users' gaze is at the current time and predict where they will move their mouse next.

This kind of mass personal data has some very interesting use-cases, and can also become a very dangerous tool - especially considering the emotional manipulation study was conducted on 600,000 people without consent. How far are we willing to let online services not just advertise, but manipulate us based on our personal data?

By Tom Hill (Year 12)

TAKE INSPIRATION

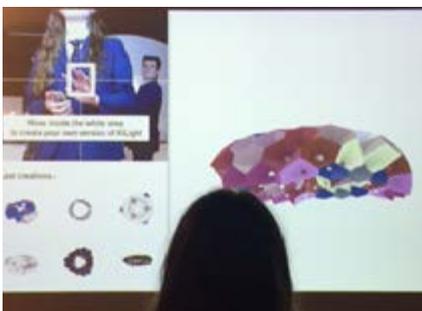


DT EXCURSION

Museum of applied Arts and Sciences - Shape 2016 exhibition

Year 12 Design and Technology students got to experience the busy atmosphere of Sydney public transport by catching the train from Bowral station to Central station to view the work of past HSC student major design works. Some highlights were the interactive virtual reality headset, exploring **Materialising the Digital** exhibition that displayed the role of digital manufacture (3D Printing CAD, machining) in art, science, fashion, design and architecture. A big shock was finding out that Year 12 have 20 weeks until handing in their major works.

By Holly Jefford (Year 12)



MUSIC

★★★★★

Methyl Ethyl- Everything Is Forgotten

Perth three piece outfit Methyl Ethyl are back at it with their sophomore album, *Everything Is Forgotten*. It's funky and fascinating, a welcome addition to the music scene. Four years in the making, Methyl Ethyl have reached new heights of fame, embarking on an international tour in the coming months and getting significant airtime on Triple J, largely thanks to their unearthed roots. The album winds through 11 psychedelic, dream-pop tracks with ease, making their way through wildly varying themes from harsh self-deprecation to absurdist 19th century plays. Though the album pumps out track after track of fantastic music, there are some very clear highlights. The oddness of tracks such as 'Ubu', based on the 1896 absurdist french play 'Ubu Roi', contrasts beautifully with tracks like the hazy, dreamy 'Act of Contrition' and the messy, upbeat vibes of 'No. 28'. It's unique, immersive and intricate, bringing something fresh with every song.

By Imogen Hatcher (Year 9)



FILM

★★★★★

Jasper Jones

"Jasper Jones has come to my window. I don't know why but he has."

Craig Silvey's well loved novel Jasper Jones has been transformed into a thrilling film. The tale begins in 1965 on a balmy summers night in Corrigan, a small, fictional town in Western Australian. In the dead of the night, Jasper Jones, the mixed-race outcast and so-called thug of the town comes tapping on Charlie Bucktin's window begging him for help.

Charlie, a bookish young boy is then led by Jasper through the bush to his dead girlfriend's body. This launches him into a world full of secrets and suspicion. When the pair embark on a journey to uncover who the real killer is Charlie experiences firsthand the effects of racism, prejudice and family upheaval. But he also falls in love. And through it all, he learns what courage really is. This movie is packed with suspense and mystery but also the excitement and wonder of growing up.

By Lucie Drysdale (Year 10)

Head of K-6: Justine Lind

At Oxley we are inspired by the innate capacity of our students; of their curiosity, creativity, compassion and self-awareness. We are immensely proud of the potential for development and current achievements of each student in a broad range of endeavours.

Last week's Swimming Carnival was like many of our events at Oxley. First and foremost we encourage participation and a "have a go" approach, especially for those children who may not be in love with swimming. Primary school should be about opportunities to try things; to explore all possibilities and pursuits that may evolve into passions and areas of talent. You won't know if you don't try. For others, swimming is their "stick"; the thing they love and spend a lot of time practising. We are intentional in praising effort too. We know that success in life comes more through effort than natural ability. This is true for Cross Country and Athletics that are yet to come, for our many Co-curricular experiences, Art, Music and the Winter Sport season that is about to kick off. In a relatively small school there are not many "big fish" in our small swimming pool but we want them to be well prepared for the opportunities to represent Oxley in a slightly bigger one. I feel our Sports Department does a great job of marrying these seemingly competing priorities to serve all comers. It was exciting to spend time at the SHIPS and HICES Carnivals over the last two weeks to see this group of students immersed in their aquatic quests.

Last Friday Mrs Ismay accompanied our cohort of Year 6 to the Halogen ImagiNATION Leadership Event in Darling Harbour. While we have ten official leadership positions, there are many opportunities to exercise leadership at Oxley and we want all our students to have the opportunity to evolve their own leadership style of themselves and others. The students are already talking about a collaborative project to apply the messages of the day to create their own legacy in K-6 during the year.

Next week, family and friends will be invited to look through the window into their child's daily life at school. On Thursday 16 and Friday 17 March from 2.30pm to 3.30pm and 8.00am to 8.50am respectively, all classrooms will be open to parents, relatives and friends to spend time looking through the fruits of each child's labours to this point in the year. It is intended as an opportunity to celebrate each child's achievement and appreciate their efforts to do so. Your observations will inform the conversations held in Week 8 at Parent Teacher Interviews. In Term 1, our aim is to hear from you any additional information you have about your child that may enhance his or her progress during the year and also to hear from our teachers, their initial observations of your child(ren)'s current strengths and stretches. We value the partnership with parents to share in our knowledge of each child, set shared expectations and collaborate to nurture the desired progress.

Weekly Awards:

Students of the Week Learning Journey

KK: Robert Clothier
KL: Thomas Berry
Yr 1: Livie Marks
Yr 2: Barnaby Jensen,
Yr 3: Noah Byrne
Yr4: Harley Evans
Yr 5C: Amelia May
Yr 5H: Tamalyn Boese,
Yr 6: Angus McGlynn



Oxley Values

KK: Arabella Lawler
KL: Victoria Feetham
Yr 1: Sophia Denington
Yr 2: Estelle Beckett
Yr 3: Archie Wallace
Yr 4: Sasha Pratten
Yr 5C: Tommy Poulton
Yr 5H: Emma Scott
Yr 6: Paloma Ramos



Students of the Week Learning Journey

KK: Andrew Clothier
KL: Charlotte Holmes
Yr 1: Adelaide Lawler
Yr 2: Javier Poole
Yr 3: Bryce Rodger
Yr 4: Georgia Rapp
Yr 5C: Oscar Plummer
Yr 5H: Xavier Gray,
Yr 6: William Bladen



Oxley Values

KK: Aari Poole
KL: Marcus Ewald
Yr 1: Fraser Wisken
Yr 2: Matilda Pope
Yr 3: Toby Wood
Yr 4: Fraser Rasheed
Yr 5C: Laura Hamilton
Yr 5H: Lawrence Nethersole
Yr 6: Bridget Schreck



All our students possess extraordinary potential and a unique constellation of attributes. At any moment we see evidence of a snapshot in time, we see hints of the adult they will become but they are not ever only just that snapshot. Each child is an amalgam of their wants, dreams, fears and hopes, merged with our collective hopes, trust, urging and encouragement, and this is precisely why each one of our students is inspiring to us all.



ARCHITECT Max Lanser
teaching Year 5 and 6 Visual Art



2017 K – 6 Swimming Carnival Results

Age Champions

Age	Gender	Runner Up	Champion
Jnr	Girls	Eva Duffy	Annabel Arnot
Jnr	Boys	Harry Cameron	Cameron Wood
11 Yrs	Girls	Sienna Soster	Tamalyn Boese
11Yrs	Boys	William Brady	Oliver Deakin
Snr	Girls	Sophie Dunn	Amelia Carpenter
Snr	Boys	George Dummer	Billy Cameron



K - 6 Swimmers at HICES

House Champion (including 25m Novelty Events)
1st Walton

Year 10 Monologues

A Sense of Evil

You know I saw him once,
It was a long time ago. I forget so many things
now. Sometimes I can barely remember what I
did last week. But this day I remember so clearly.
It was July 1940, a glorious summers day in
Berlin.

The streets were lined with people. They had all
left their homes to welcome the victor.

The sound of thousands of voices cheering,
The scent of freshly picked flowers thrown onto
the road as he passed.
Red and black banners hung from every building,
Hundreds of hands waving hundreds of flags.
Do you see what I see?

I squeezed through the crowd,
I was 15 then and a lot slimmer than I am now.
I wanted to see HIM for myself,
Our war hero.
The beat of the drum heralded his arrival,
I could see a black cavalcade of cars approaching
from a distance,
Creeping closer on ground now swallowed up by
petal fragments.

Then I saw him.
Standing pencil straight with his right arm
extended in a mid- air salute.
His small square moustache stood out like a tree
in the middle of a desert.

I looked around at the sea of faces surrounding
me.
They were all facing upwards mouths and eyes
wide open,
They were transfixed.
He had cast a hypnotic spell over the whole of
Berlin.
I could feel his power,
Like an electric current surging down my spine,
Like a crack of lightning, electrifying my bones.

Then he saw me.
For just a split second, his eyes were locked on
mine,
One girl in a sea of a thousand men.
Those blazing blue eyes, so piercing, so menacing,
drilling straight through to my very soul.
All the hatred of the world contained in one ice
cold stare.
It caught me by surprise,

It was not what I expected.

Do you understand me? I saw what was coming.
I saw it in his eyes.

And now, everything and everyone is lost to me.

By Lucie Drysdale

Tommy

He was, he was my comrade, he was a mate,
but most of all he was my brother. My brother.
Say that word out loud sounds so strange now.
Brother used to resemble family, love, friendship.
But now I don't have a brother. Brother, that word
I only feel, regret, guilt, remorse. It should have
been me. I was the eldest! My Brother, he was
stolen, taken from me, he was taken too soon.
Tommy I need you.

Iraq, Ah yeah me and Tommy fought in Iraq.
We were in the same battalion. I was married
to a beautiful woman, she was my world, my
everything, life was great. Soon after we were
deployed, deployed to fight in Baghdad. Weeks
went by, I missed my wife, my home and family.
Tommy, my brother, he was there too he got me
through it, he was always there for me.

The Frontline, we were based in a building
in the centre of Baghdad. Our mission was
covering the troops and infantry. I remember it
so clearly, it haunts me, gunshots, Russian hand
grenade below Tommy's foot. A bang. Flash.
Then nothing. I looked up and I saw, I saw,
saw Tommy. Tommy's body, blood, lifeless. He,
Tommy was gone. I never recovered my hearing
in one ear was gone and I suffer from tremor,
twitch's. Tommy's ashes were spread at his
favourite beach; the memorial service was nice.
I missed, I still miss him. From that point on I
never recovered in truth and made very poor life
decisions. I'm an alco, well in truth I have drinking
issues, that I'm not proud of.

I made the poorest decisions a man can make. I
ruined my marriage, wasted my life and money
on bars and gambling. I pushed everyone who
ever loved or tried to help me. But, yeah I made
mistakes. I can't stop, I've tried. If Tommy were
here he'd now what to do. Tommy I need you.
You know the saddest thing about that day, that
day in Iraq, I never even told him I loved him.
Now I never will, because Tommy's gone.

By Joshua Cuddy

The View

This view brings me so much joy.
From up here, on the balcony of my apartment
building,
I can see the whole suburb.
And the streets,
Filled with my best memories.

(Smokes cigarette*)

Over there, the sweet shop.
Sis often took me there when home no longer
became a safe place.
I Always got the gobstoppers,
The longer they took me to get through,
the longer my mind was distracted.
(Smokes cigarette*)
Up the road, not much further,
The high school I went to.
Had the time of my life there.
Always laughing with my mates, I was,
Out of the house, six hours a day five days a week
for six years.

Wow, 27 years ago that was.

(Smoke cigarette*)

I could never forget the coffee shop though,
across the road from the bank.
That's where I met Lizzy.
She was the most beautiful thing I've ever seen.
Those, rare, turquoise eyes,
always put me into a trance.

The big C got to her before we had time.
Her body was chockers with the bloody disease.

(Smokes cigarette*)

Sis worked at the café,
She often served Lizzy and I.
Sometimes she finished her shift early
And she joined the two of us.
She was still living at home then.
Had nowhere else to go I was told
Which I always thought was strange.
I offered her to stay at mine,
But she always responded 'I can't'
And I never knew what she meant by that.

(Smokes cigarette*)

I was sick after Lizzy left me.
Lived on painkillers
Codeine and aspirin took me to a different place
All the hurt just disappeared.
I was lucky to have Sis nurse me through the hard
time
And Bring me back to reality.
God, I was such an idiot.

She was the one who needed help.

(Smokes cigarette*)

When sis left, dad got really angry.
He was always saying that It should've been me.
That I should just leave too.
But I ignored him.

I stayed and kept coming up here to this view.
Mum had nothing to say about anything,
But I got the hint she was always on his side
I've been thinking about him recently,
and him wanting me to go.
I think I should listen to him.

He's right.

I need to get on with my life.

And no longer be distracted by the memories this
view brings back for me.

Go to a place I can leave this all behind
(Flicks cigarette out of his hands and stands on
the ledge of the building)

I can't wait to see sis, it's been so long.

By Lachlan Moore

Gone

Macy, Macy. Youse 'ear that? Just my life wasting
away. All started when I was a youngster, bit
of a gangster have to admit... It was fun but.
Nahhhhh. Under pressure after you got a diploma
in phiso... physi.. ol..co.. Psychology, yeah, who
the hell knows what that is, well, you would.

You're definitely the favourite, whenever the
family came over it was always 'Oh my gosh! My
favourite niece, Macy! Macy!-oh you've put on
weight...' you stole the show, pfff, you made the
show. I was just a 'supporting act'. You made me
sick. I mean like I was never going to be better
than you, I tried but, I just guess everyone prefers
the light over the dark.... clearly.

Ahhhh Macy, Macy. I'm just a copy aren't I? Just
in case the real copy gets ruined. So I decided,
who needs a copy when the real is just so perfect
and protected. It was simple. Gone. It's hard to
survive in the jungle. There's animals out there.
But look, if you can't beat 'em join 'em.

You see that macca's bag rolling along the
laneway, it has a better use in the world than
me. It pleases someone, it helps someone, gives
someone happiness. Something that I don't
offer. I would try but these sticks of surprises, ah
they're just too good aye.

There was nothing there anyway. Endlessly lost in
nothingness, I am. Living on in eternity, you are.
It's ruined, it's wasted it's. Gone.

By Jessica Malcolm

DEPUTY HEAD REPORT



Deputy Head Learning: Kate Cunich

At Oxley, we speak often about being life-long learners. We talk much about thinking skills and deepening our understanding of concepts. Increasingly we focus on the interplay of effort and achievement. This week though I have been prompted to think about creativity, original thoughts and how we organise ourselves as we produce an important piece of work, an assessment task or a project.

My prompt came in the form of the recommendation of a particular TEDTalk as a “must see” for all (the link is below). My colleague, herself a current PHD student told me that everyone who has ever struggled with producing an essay, or thought they were procrastinating about something important, should watch it. The talk is by Professor Adam Grant, an organisational psychologist on “The surprising habits of Original Thinkers:

https://www.ted.com/talks/adam_grant_the_surprising_habits_of_original_thinkers?language=en

In his talk, Professor Grant tackles the idea of an original thinker, and introduces us to the characteristics of those he calls pre-crastinators and pro-crastinators. I was intrigued to hear about this as I have often had conversations with parents and students about the different approaches we all have to the things that have to be done. Some of us like to race into tasks, while others put it off until the last moment (like me writing this article). Grant’s research seems to indicate that “original thinkers” are somewhere in the middle. They start a task, put it aside for a while to let the ideas consciously and sub-consciously permeate their thinking, all the while (even though it doesn’t look like it) creatively solving the issue.

My take-away learning, amongst many, would be that perhaps an idea for all of us might be to support an approach which starts a task, an assignment, a project, but when we get stuck, to let it rest for a while and then come back to it with fresh eyes and hopefully a more original way to approach the issue.

Grant also argues that research indicates original and creative thinkers have doubts and fears. This too is a useful notion to ponder for learning. Doubts and fears in students about learning often comes from not understanding what needs to be done and not having the knowledge to make an informed decision. It is normal to have doubts and fears and still be an original thinker and creative. Our role as teachers and parents is to recognise these doubts and fears and help students through with strategies to manage these feelings so learning can be maximised.

Finally, Grant’s research suggests we can never have too many ideas to be creative and original. The more ideas you generate, the more options you have. In the context of learning though there comes a time when it is best to suspend ideas, to pick a couple of good ones and act on them in the context of the task or issue at hand, to place a mark on that still blank page.

With these ideas in the background of our minds, I encourage families to talk about the “crastinators” and original thinking. Let’s work together to help young people become confident and bold in using their own ideas, generating original and creative responses to issues which will enhance understanding and most importantly, their learning for the future.



Open to all school age riders in Years 7 - 12

OXLEY COLLEGE
EQUESTRIAN DAY Sunday 30 April

'Wyeera', Bong Bong Racecourse, Bowral
 All entries via: www.nominate.com.au
 Entries close: Friday 31 March 2017

Dressage | Show Jumping | Sporting | Show Horse

Enquiries:
 Alex Wansey
alexandrajohnston@bigpond.com
 Ruth Bowyer
ruth-greg@bigpond.com




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LIBRARY

Write With Your Ears

Traditional print materials provide just one printed interface for a reader. Text presentation, font style and size are selected by the publisher and cannot be altered. This is true not just for paper books but also for the paper documents given to students in school. Sadly, a fixed format can be a barrier to comprehension for any reader who requires adjustments to the appearance of text in order to read and understand. New text to speech technologies provide flexible text formats and audio, ensuring that all readers are able to independently access the ideas and meaning in text.

These apps are revolutionary for visually impaired readers, people who prefer audio, or people with a reading difference that responds to text adjustment. VoiceDream Writer is a highly rated example of these apps. It reads text out loud as it is typed, correcting errors intuitively to a much higher degree than auto correct in a word processor. This is a powerful tool for all readers and writers and a potentially liberating tool for many students.

Elizabeth Antoniak

THE BOOK OF EVERYTHING

FROM THE NOVEL BY GUS KUIJER | ADAPTED BY RICHARD TULLOCH

PERFORMED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CAMERON CRESSWELL AGENCY

PRESENTED BY OXLEY COLLEGE

THURSDAY 16, FRIDAY 17, SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2017

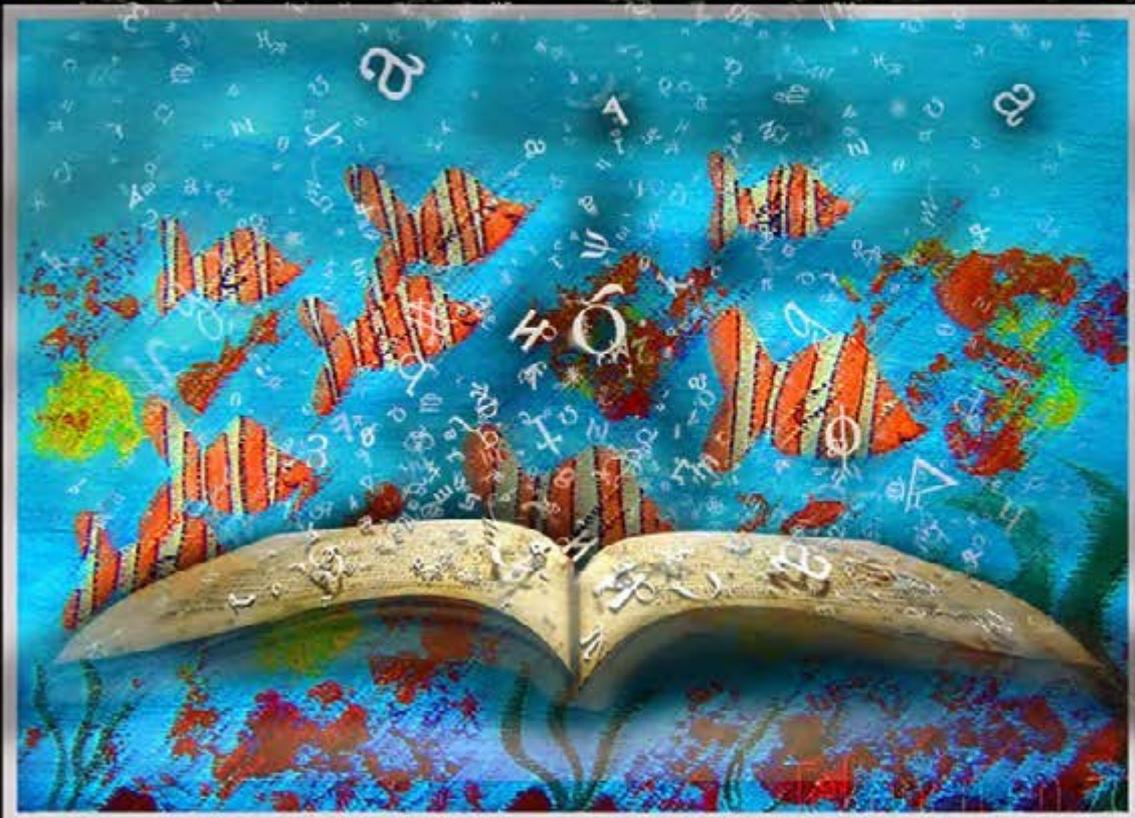
DOORS OPEN 7.00PM

SHOW STARTS 7.30PM

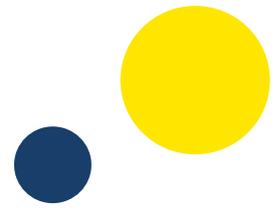
HOSKINS HALL, OXLEY COLLEGE

\$10 CONCESSION | \$15 ADULTS

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR



WHAT'S HAPPENING?



15 Good News Stories to brighten your day

It's easy to feel dragged down by the politics of today - the news is filled with conflicts around the world, protestors, people living in poverty, discrimination and political debate. These are all serious issues that need our attention, however we need to recognise the positive and progressive things that have happened in our world too. These are just a small amount of the "good news stories" that many people manage to miss or over look. It's important that we are able to recognise the good and the bad in the world, and appreciate the effort that people have put in to help make the world a better place.

- 1:** The number of people suffering from hunger or malnourishment has reached its lowest point in 25 years.
- 2:** Over 45 countries have agreed to work together to help achieve a goal of renewable energy in their countries by the year 2050.
- 3:** In 2016 Costa Rica was able to run for 21 days on only renewable energy. Their new aim is to go for an entire year without using any fossil fuels.
- 4:** China announces plans to end ivory trade by the end of 2017. Restricting ivory trade will save the lives of an estimated 20,000 elephants per year.
- 5:** The Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS or Motor Neurone Disease) ice bucket challenge funded a study that identified the genetic causes of ALS. This breakthrough will allow further research into the treatment of ALS.
- 6:** Ed Sheeran has a new album out called Divide. It currently tops the charts after only being out a few days.
- 7:** Canada protected the world's largest coastal rainforest. After battling for 20 years an agreement was put in place to leave 15% for logging while the remaining 80% would be protected.
- 8:** Wild tiger populations are rising up again after 100 years- they have risen by 690 since 2010. And the giant panda is no longer on the endangered list!
- 9:** India planted 50 million trees in 24 hours on Monday 11 July 2016. They had 800,00 volunteers over a 24 hour period, beating the current world record for trees being planted in 24 hours held by Pakistan.
- 10:** Malawi, a country in south eastern Africa, has dropped its HIV aids rate by 67% and has prevented 260,000 deaths since 2004.
- 11:** India has banned all disposable plastics. Delhi has banned plastic cups, bags and cutlery - the country is responsible for 60% of plastic dumped in the ocean every year.
- 12:** Ikea has released a "garden sphere" called the "Growroom". It is a sphere shaped garden that not only looks beautiful, but also allows people to grow their food locally and in a sustainable way. The garden is easy to construct and only takes up a small amount of space.
- 13:** A zero fueled plane completed a trip around the world - the plane was solar powered and designed by André Borschberg and Bertrand Piccard.
- 14:** Rome has elected its first female mayor in 2800 years - at 37 years of age Virginia Raggi is also the youngest ever elected mayor in the city.
- 15:** Paris is selling "love locks" to raise money for refugees. The love locks from Pont des Arts and the Pont de L'Archevêché were removed last year, and are now being sold to the public in bunches. They are estimated to raise 100,000 Euros, which is equivalent to A\$139,861.

If you'd like to hear some more good news stories to brighten up your day, these are some of the websites I looked at to gather these stories from:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/good-uplifting-news-stories-2016-not-such-a-waste-of-time-after-all-a7492806.html>

<http://www.sunnyskyz.com/good-news>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/good-news/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJFCcPuJsAQ>

<http://www.collective-evolution.com/2017/02/02/11-good-news-stories-you-probably-didnt-hear-about/>

It's also important to note that the events I've looked at in this piece are large scale events, there are so many small things that happen every day that we need to recognise!

MARCH AND APRIL CALENDAR

	Mon 13	Mon 20 K-6 Student, Parent Interviews 2018 Scholarship Applications close EXAM: Y12 Half Yearly examinations week EXC: Y11&Y12 Music - Encore Sydney.	Mon 27 House Music Week
 <p>CODE CAMP Calling all budding CODERS from Year 2 – 7! Oxley is hosting a CodeCamp in the Easter Holidays! Check out the flyer on page 11 to find out more information and to register!</p>	Tue 14 EXC: Y11 D&T - Powerhouse	Tue 21 K-6 Student Parent Interviews EXC: Y10 Science & Engineering Challenge	Tue 28 3-6 CIS Swimming Carnival
	Wed 15 7 - 12 Poetry Week	Wed 22 K-6 Student Parent Interviews	Wed 29 ISA Swimming Carnival - SOPAC
	Thu 16 K-6 Learning Journeys PROD: Senior Production 1 of 3 - Hoskins Hall, 7.30pm	Thu 23 7-12 Studio Concert	Thu 30
Fri 10	Fri 17 PROD: Senior Production 2 of 3 - Hoskins Hall, 7.30pm K-6 Learning Journeys	Fri 24	Fri 31
Sat 11 ISA Summer Sport Finals	Sat 18 DofE: Bronze Hike - Kangaroo Valley Day 1 of 2 PROD: Senior Production 3 of 3 - Hoskins Hall, 7.30pm	Sat 25 2018 Scholarship Exams	Sat 01 Chev Rugby Day TBC EXC: Pipe Band at Brigadoon at Bundanoon
Sun 12	Sun 19 DofE: Bronze Hike - Kangaroo Valley Day 2 of 2	Sun 26	Sun 02

P & F NEWS

We have had a great fortnight, discussing upcoming P&F events, and meeting many of our new Parent Year Reps, at afternoon tea last Wednesday 1 March. Cynthia Winter is organising volunteer canteen rosters by year group. She is also co-ordinating and working with Year Reps and their dates of preference for catch ups with Parents and Families during 2017.

There will be more news around Equestrian Day (Sunday 30 April at Bong Bong Racecourse), over the coming weeks and what we can do to help here.

Oxley College Saturday Sport BBQ will be operating in Terms 2 & 3. We will have more information to follow in the next edition of Pin Oak.

Save the date – if you haven't already – for our Oxley Community event on Friday 24 November 2017. This will be a really fun, all school event, which is envisaged to go from 4.30pm-8.30pm. Planning is under way for this event, and we will keep you up to date with the progress on this, in the coming weeks.

As always, if you would like to contribute to the Oxley P&F, in any way, please feel free to contact me.

Bec Biddle P & F President bec.biddle@yahoo.com.au or phone 0413 318 716



NEWSFLASH



YEAR 10 AT BOWRAL HOUSE

On Monday 27 February, four Year 10 students: Amelia, Lucy, Bethany and Bronte all went to the Bowral House nursing home for Year 10 Service Learning. Every year group has a different service-learning task, and it is a great way to get connected to the Southern Highlands and the people living within it. It was a remarkable experience and very interesting to meet all the residents at the home. Bethany played the piano and Bronte played the flute, while Amelia and Lucy sat with them and listened along. All the elderly people seemed to really enjoy the music and the conversations we had. Some interesting topics discussed were past careers (residents), future career plans (students), what it was like growing up in a different time, childhood, sport, pets, books & movies and overall general discussion. It was a very enjoyable experience and we met some very interesting people who told fascinating stories.

By Bronte Smith and Bethany Grice (Year 10)



BUSKING COMPETITION

Tara and I have been busking quite often lately. We are competing in a competition in Moss Vale this weekend. This is called the Buskers Battle. On Saturday each of the competitors will be busking around the town and on Sunday they will go against each other under the rotunda to win. There is a people's choice section of the competition that requires votes from the public. We would love it if you came along and voted for us! See you in Moss Vale this weekend!

By Savannah Sandilands (Year 10)



MATCH OF THE WEEK

On Saturday 4 March, the Boys 1sts Basketball team played a fiery & physically demanding Semi Finals game against Blue Mountains Grammar School in Penrith. This was potentially the last basketball game ever for the Year 12 team members who have all played together since they were little Year 7s & losing, in total, a mere five games in six years. Obviously a win was crucial. I can speak for the team here when I say that that was ever present in the forefront of our minds throughout the entirety of the game. We kicked off our 1st half very strong in both defence & offense but BMGS were hot on our tail with a shockingly close score at half time. This shock plus our immense determination in the 2nd half is what drove us to an awesome 46 - 30 victory. A big congratulations to our entire team for putting everything they had left into the game. No doubt our finals will end in a greater triumph.

By Cedric Hely (Year 12)



Q&A SYDNEY



Monday 20 February's ABC TV's Q&A was about Pensions, Debt and the NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme). On the panel was Senator the Hon. George Brandis QC (Attorney General of Australia), Tanya Plibersek MP (Deputy leader of the Opposition), Julian Burnside (Barrister), Piers Akerman (Labor-baiting columnist in the Daily Telegraph) and Michele Levine who has been the chief executive officer of Roy Morgan Research since 1992. From the get-go the audience showed a very deep interest in shaming our Attorney-General to pieces after his controversial amendment to the native land rights act. Senator Brandis also informed the audience being a 'refugee' is committing a crime – Senator Brandis needs to go back to law school. However, Q&A was full of lively debate in its true spirit of being an active democracy with all panelists answering questions and being responsive with the audience. Piers Akerman maintained his assault on Labor and all Soft-Left causes. He showed he is a committed climate-change sceptic and a voracious critic of most Green causes. I would say the share of discussion was at:

George Brandis - 37%
Tanya Plibersek - 26%
Michele Levine - 14%
Piers Akerman - 13%
Julian Burnside - 11%

It was a wonderful opportunity and enjoyed by all audience members.

By Dylan Whitelaw (Year 10)