

PINOAK

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OXLEY COLLEGE



MEDIEVAL
FEAST

SUSTAINABILITY
NEWS

ISA WINNERS

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Oxley College Environment Group

In 1987 I was in Year 5 and Ian Kiernan set an Australian record for a solo circumnavigation of the world. It was on this journey that he was shocked and disgusted by the pollution and rubbish he encountered, so once back in Sydney he organised a community event to clean up Sydney Harbour. The day in 1989 received huge support so the next year, Clean Up Australia Day was born and it has become an annual event.

In our assembly on Friday 2 March, I spoke with students about this day and its significance. I shared with them 'Love Song to the Earth' that was produced and sung by some of the world's biggest names in music to inspire real action in the lead up to the Paris Climate Change summit. As the lyrics say, "It's time for us to do our best" and in my experience, there is a willingness of many members of the Oxley community to play their part and make a positive difference regarding environmental issues. For example in 2017 Jemima Taylor researched the impacts of plastics on our planet. Her actions and introduction of the Bring Your Own Fork initiative were successful in reducing the amount of plastic cutlery used in the Oxley canteen. We were successful in our application for funding through the Wingecarribee Shire Council Community Assistance grants and were awarded \$1000 to go towards the purchase of paper recycling bins. These blue bins are widely used throughout K-12. Also, staff play their part through coffee pod recycling, battery and printer/toner cartridge recycling and we have done preliminary investigation into the use of solar power at Oxley.

Given this willingness to take action on environmental issues, I invited interested students to form a group to work on environmental initiatives and we met for the first time last week.

Our first initiative is to recycle the 500 or so plastic bottles that we generate from the canteen each week. Given that drink container litter makes up 44% of all litter in the state and costs over \$162million per year to manage we feel there is considerable scope to play our part with the NSW container deposit scheme which started in NSW on Friday 1 December 2017. We are very fortunate to have the beautiful new Canteen Pavilion space and in the coming weeks we will raise awareness about the scheme and provide bins for students to recycle their bottles.

Old fashioned cup and saucers

The Senior Production next week provides us with an excellent opportunity to play our part with the War on Waste. In the past we have provided tea and coffee at the interval in disposable cups but with the realisation that Australians use over three billion takeaway coffee cups and lids per year, most of which are never recycled, we will provide you with a good old fashioned cup and saucer. Alternatively, if you are not coming to the Senior Production on Saturday 24 March, why not head over to the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens to join with other Highlanders to celebrate Earth Hour.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT



You will have received from Frank Conroy a letter saying that I will be at Newington from 2019 after five years at Oxley.

I am not going to be writing a 'farewell' letter yet, because I still have almost a year at Oxley and there is a lot to do. Indeed, this year's strategic plan has no fewer than eighty three action items which I have been using as my glorified 'to do' list since February. You can find it at <https://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/about/strategic-plan/>

Oxley has hundreds of excellent people. We have an exceptional Board of Governors who are committed to steering the ship. We have a very talented, harmonious and hardworking executive who are running the College. We have wonderful staff - new student after new student comment on the strong relationship between teacher and students here, saying they are more like coaches or mentors. These staff are also committed to good results. We also overwhelmingly have caring, cheerful, hardworking and optimistic students. They are just the sort of kids with whom we want our own sons and daughters to spend their childhood and adolescence. They are the lifeblood of Oxley.

Some good teachers have moved on in the last few years, but the most exciting thing is we have replaced them with equally talented, good teachers. This is part of being in a network of high performing schools. We are known through much of the teaching profession as being the top non-selective regional school in NSW with a great individual character, in a really beautiful area. When we advertise for a teacher, be it an English teacher, a Science teacher or a PE teacher, we get very good applicants.

This is why I am sure we will also attract very good candidates for Headmaster. They will bring their own stamp to the role, but they will be quintessentially Oxley - the selection committee will make sure of that.

In any case schools are much bigger than the person sitting in the Head's chair. And make no mistake, Oxley is a great school with a unique character and ethos. It was terrific when David Wright started it and it is terrific now. The thing I am most proud of in my years at Oxley is my attempt - with others - to pluck this feeling from the air and put it into words that will hopefully endure. This is why the vision and mission statements are important to me: <https://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/about/vision-mission/>. I think Oxley knows its own DNA and has very strong decades in front of it.

I will be excited to see Oxley's long term future, even though I won't be a direct part of it. I am even more excited to be a key part of its medium term future, which is why we are getting back to work....

Trousers for girls

Over the last nine months there has been an increasing appetite for us to introduce trousers for the girls as an optional part of the winter uniforms. A prime motivator for this has been a practical one - it gets very cold in the winter and stockings are not enough to keep you warm. Trousers are also what many, if not most, adult women wear to work and wear out (in both senses of the word).

We modelled some pre-ordered trousers a fortnight ago on assembly and asked for feedback from Tutor groups. I have also been asking groups of girls what they would prefer. It seems that there was strong approval on principle for the option of trousers. However, many girls did not like the design and indicated that they would not wear them. This was fair enough- the trousers were fairly generic.

As a result we have decided to design some trousers for Oxley. We have asked Ms Beattie Lanser to do this. Ms Lanser was a fashion designer for a decade before joining our staff five years ago, so she has experience in this area. She will also be able to liaise closely with students throughout the process in a way that external designers would not be able to.

Of course these trousers will not be ready until next year and some girls will not want to wait that long. As a result we are ordering a small quantity of the girl's trousers into the clothing store for wear this year only. Anyone buying them would have to understand that this was only for the 2018 year.

PRICING HUMAN LIFE



In 2001 a report was leaked from the Czech Republic branch of a U.S. based, multinational tobacco company, Phillip Morris. The report contained a Cost/Benefit analysis of smoking in the Czech Republic. It found that the government would gain \$400 million dollars if Czech citizens continued to smoke.

How did they calculate this? Smoking increases national Health Care costs due to Lung cancer and other diseases. However, the government generates revenue from cigarette tax, and saves on health care, pensions and housing costs (due to premature deaths). The study found that the net contribution of smokers to the state budget was \$1800 per premature death.

The Ford Motor Company conducted a similar analysis. The 1971 Ford Pinto's fuel tank was placed at the back of the car and was known for exploding when the car was rear-ended, resulting in 180 deaths and many serious injuries. Ford had developed a new design which would fix the problem but chose not to implement it.

Ford was sued, and it was revealed that the company had conducted a Cost/Benefit analysis. The report stated that it would cost Ford \$137 million (1971 USD) to recall and repair the cars. The pinto had resulted in 180 deaths; Ford assigned each death \$200,000 (1971 USD), and each injury \$67,000. The benefit of fixing the Pinto was only \$48 million. Ford didn't repair the Pinto.

Pricing human life is an economic necessity; how else could we objectively and quantifiably conduct procedure involving human life? A soldier's family is paid a \$600,000 death benefit, and insurance companies decide how much a life is worth by analysing the current age and condition of the customer. But is this system MORALLY correct?

Many would argue that a human life is priceless.

The existence of a person results in an emotional impact on others, and their death results in emotional damage. The problem is that emotions are intangible and illogical; money and economics are logical, mathematical and non-emotional systems.

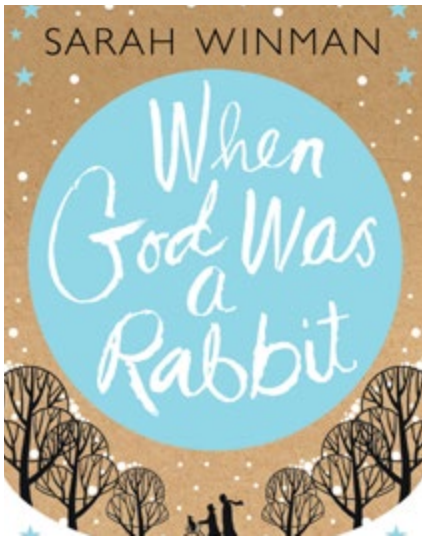
However, if our lives cannot be valued, why is our entire justice system and the principle of "natural justice" based on valuing human life. For example, if John kills Annie, John is sent to jail for life. The PRICE John pays for killing Annie is another life.... His own. This is another form of pricing life; Annie's life was worth John's life, resulting in John's execution or incarceration.

A different argument is that money is designed to measure emotional impact. An attraction to a necklace is due to its appeal to the emotions, to our desires; a rock has no emotional impact on me. Therefore, I place a monetary value on the necklace, and a much lower (if any) value on the rock. If another human makes an emotional impression on me, I should be able to put a value (monetary or otherwise) on their life, relative to their impact.

The final proposal is much safer. From an objective perspective, its possible to designate a value to anyone's life, because their emotional impact on others can be assessed and valued; but from an individual, subjective, and human perspective, a value cannot be assigned to another person, because our emotional attachment makes them priceless.

By Layla Ross (Year 11)

TAKE INSPIRATION



BOOKS

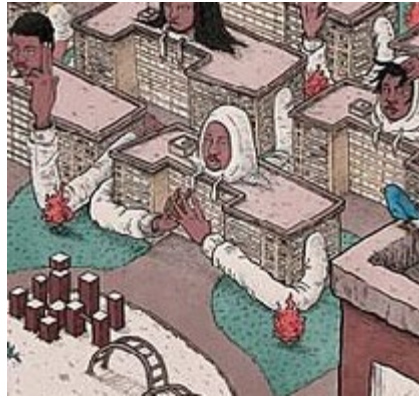
★★★★★

When God Was a Rabbit

Spanning the late 1960's and early 2000's, Sarah Winman tells the beautiful story of a brother and sister. It is the story of their childhood, friendships and family, sadness and success. But most importantly, it is a story about love in all its forms. It is told from the perspective of Elly, and focuses primarily on her intense and loving relationships with her brother Joe, and her strange and wonderful best friend Jenny Penny. It seems at times that the amount of misfortunes dumped on these three unique and complex characters is never-ending, and so we as an audience begin to ask ourselves why do bad things happen to good people? This theme fills the plot line as the reader indulges in the lives of those surrounding Elly, watching her grow up as a character, moving from the 60's and 70's, to the before and after of 9/11.

Although this book may seem simple and perhaps even a little dull, it is utterly quirky, darkly comic and beautiful in all its wonderful ways. Both hilariously comedic and gut-wrenchingly sad, I can promise that you will want to devour it in one go.

By Jade Gillis (Year 11)



MUSIC

★★★★★

Brick Body Kids Still Daydream by Open Mike Eagle

Open Mike explores a rarely mentioned, sub-genre of rap music known as art-rap and listening to his third studio album it is easy to see why. All of his songs include strange beats and his rapping is simply and plainly just that, which is nice considering the flood of pop-rap recently. This album is strangely emotional and exploring the lyrics provides a detailed image of a ruined childhood home. From the first words to the effective but slightly unpleasant ending, this album was truly an effective and really unique album, not for everyone but definitely a recommendation for anyone looking to broaden their tastes.

Sam Crowley (Year 11)

Open Mike Eagle's 'Brick Body Kids Still Daydream' has created a thought-provoking album, playing to his strength of alternative rhyme patterns and hooks. However, while the album is classified as alternative rap, the beats are quite subpar at times, leaving me wanting more as far as the cohesion of the track. The synth within tracks allow for a smooth glide through Open Mike Eagle's story portrayed through 'Brick Body Kids Still Daydream', a story which reflects on his early life and recognition as an artist. Ultimately this combination of storytelling and interesting lyrical patterns results in an album which revealed itself to be one of the most captivating alternative rap albums 2017, littered with reminiscent language and two strong features.

Cooper Barker (Year 11)



TV

This Is Us

'This is Us' is a series about a common family growing and evolving into something bigger than life. Featuring Mandy Moore, Sterling K Brown, Chrissy Metz and Milo Ventimiglia comes a realistic emotional drama.

In times of heartbreak, love, happiness and conquest the Pearson triplets Kate, Kevin and adopted Randall are constantly finding out about their parents (Jack and Rebecca's) declarations about the past which are life changing for "the big three." As the series progresses, the big question is the mystery of their father, Jack's death and what leads him to not being spoken of in the modern time.

Frequently used in this series is the technique of flipping back and forth through history. As the audience, this provides background information to expand on our knowledge of what life was like whilst the "the big three" were growing up and how they all individually struggled in some sort of way, may it be by bullying, racism or injury.

Finding life's biggest answers like discovering biological fathers, finances and new opportunities finally start going Kate, Kevin and Randall's way making 'This is us' a very motivational, enjoyable yet extremely emotional series.

This show has it all, excitement, laughter, sadness and romance.

This is family, this is life, this is us.

By Lily Hogan (Year 8)

K-6 NEWS

Head of K-6: Justine Lind

When we talk with young children about abstract concepts like culture and values we are only as good as our actions. We talk to the students about the notion that Oxley can only be a place of welcome if we are all welcoming. In the research surrounding positive relations the magic only happens with a 5:1 ratio of positive to negative interactions. Our students need five times as many positive experiences as negative to maintain an overall positive view of our culture, friendliness and sense of belonging. In short we need to "walk the talk" much more often than not. Actions definitely do speak louder than words.

Today in assembly our SRC spoke to the students about Harmony Day that we will celebrate next Wednesday 21 March. Its motto is "everyone belongs"! Today is National Action against Bullying Day – "Bullying No Way". All roads lead to caring for others. Future workplace competencies continue to emphasise emotional intelligence, effective collaboration and executive function (the capacity to delay gratification and put the needs of others ahead of one's own). These skills are not learnt overnight, nor in theory alone; they must be lived and practised consistently.

Last year saw a significant initiative across the Junior School. The SEAT Project was led by our students in House Family Groups. Our deep trust in each child's capacity and high expectations for compassion, collaboration and critical and creative thinking yielded outstanding results. The children were able to research and identify worthy charities (a dilemma that can be overwhelming for adults with so many needy causes) and plan authentic experiences to raise awareness and funds. Their degree of compassion and effective philanthropy saw collaboration that crossed the borders of House loyalty, friendship groups and personal preference to plan, advertise and run a series of four major events at the end of last year. Below is an outline of all the funds raised from each event and the wide range of charities that benefitted from the students' efforts.

Dog Day: Guide Dogs \$518

Colour Day: Cancer Council \$906.00

Great Barrier Reef \$130.00

Community Day: Autism \$259.00, Red Shield Appeal \$129.50, Legacy \$129.50, Youth Off the Streets \$586.00 (including \$129.50 raised during the Stage 3 sleep-out)

Exercise Day: Save the Children \$259, Bear Cottage \$389.65, Heart Foundation \$129.50, Diabetes \$129.50, Oxfam \$129.00

Grand Total Raised: \$3,694.15

For any small band of passionate advocates this is outstanding but not surprising. Our students were fortunate to have been supported by all of our teachers who went above and beyond to make every aspect of this project enriching for our children. To see Oxley's profile and some of the great work as part of The SEAT Project you can visit www.seatproject.org

Weekly Awards:

Students of the Week

Learning Journey

KL: Jacob Reeves
Yr 1S: Asher Lawler
Yr 1W: Victoria Feetham
Yr 2: Claire McBride
Yr 3: Leila Palmer
Yr 4: Archie Wallace
Yr 5C: Ava Ritchie,
Arkie Francis
Yr 5H: Sarah Witcombe,
Siena Todorcevski
Yr 6A: Laura Hamilton
Yr 6L: Emily Rodger

Oxley Values

KL: Hugh Pratten
Yr 1S: Lachlan Stanners
Yr 1W: Jemima Anson
Yr 2: Grace Kean
Yr 3: Heidi Malouf
Yr 4: Flynn O'Brien
Yr 5C: Mischka Hilkeimeijer,
Oscar Sanchez
Yr 5H: Lily Smith,
Xanthe MacDonald
Yr 6A: Rusty Waters
Yr 6L: Lawrie Nethersole



Students of the Week Learning Journey

KL: Anna-Sophia Psarakis
Yr 1S: Lexi Mendes Da Costa
Yr 1W: Hadley Morgan
Yr 2: Ollie Johnson
Yr 3: Henry O'Riordan
Yr 4: Emily Byrne
Yr 5C: Georgia Rapp
Yr 5H: Nicola Gardner
Yr 6A: Gemma Lee
Yr 6L: Hamish Hunter

Oxley Values

KL: Clem Simpson
Yr 1S: Charlotte Stirling
Yr 1W: Anna Sutherland
Yr 2: Daphne Hutchison
Yr 3: Barnaby Jensen
Yr 4: Aislinn Kenny
Yr 5C: Lily Scott
Yr 5H: Abbey Holcombe
Yr 6A: Oscar Plummer
Yr 6L: Georgia Pride



2018 Junior School Swimming Carnival Results Age Champions

Age		Runner Up	Champion
Junior	Girls	Chiara Shannon	Madison Walters
Junior	Boys	Joel Sheezel	William Gilbert
11 Years	Girls	Chilli Sparke	Annabel Arnot
11 Years	Boys	Zane Todorcevski	Cameron Wood
Senior	Girls	Tamalyn Boese	Ilana Sheezel
Senior	Boys	Taylor Anstee	William Brady



OXLEY ON GUNS



Gun laws in America have been all over the news lately. Here are some Oxley students and teachers offering their opinions on the issue...

As a child living in Fort Worth, Texas, the word 'gun' was fairly common. Although my family never owned one as both my parents are Australian many people in my local neighbourhood did. On Tuesday 4 November 2008, America's first African American President Barack Obama was elected. Instead of celebrating a civil right breakthrough for African American people, mum kept me home from school as gun sales in Texas increased by 120%. Of course as a kid I was confused and quite annoyed that I didn't get to go to school and see my friends that day. Although at the time I didn't understand, I'm grateful for being kept home as I understand why my mum was so worried, as in America gun related violence is usually associated with massacres particularly at schools. In 2015, America had over 60 school shootings and over 300 mass shootings across the country while Australia had none. According to the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution everyone has the right to bear arms and in the U.S. (particularly the South) the word 'right' is used as a way to justify gun related violence.

After the Port Arthur shooting in Australia legislation was put in place to prevent these actions from happening again. In America this is not the case due to those preaching the 'second amendment right' and organisations such as the National Rifle Association (NRA). Due to the political ties between U.S. politicians of all persuasions (democrats and republicans) and the NRA it is incredibly difficult to seek ways to regulate gun use. Seeing incidents such as the latest school shooting in Florida makes me disappointed in the country I grew up in. The U.S. will always have a special place in my heart as it was once considered home to me although I constantly ask myself 'if so many innocent young and old people are dying why isn't anything being done to fix this?' It is known that at the American supermarket Walmart you can walk in and purchase a gun with no background checks in under 20 minutes, yet Americans still sit there baffled when gun related violence occurs.

"As a child mum would always have to ask if there were guns in my friends' homes before I went over as it was known that there were many child related deaths involving guns."

As a child mum would always have to ask if there were guns in my friends' homes before I went over as it was known that there were many child related deaths involving guns. Is this any way to grow up and experience childhood and is it fair that parents must worry about their child's safety when they are with their friends?

Due to my dual citizenship, I am constantly at a cross road; if you ask me as a United States Citizen, I believe that the Second Amendment should be honoured although precautions need to be put in place to regulate this issue but if you ask me as an Australian Citizen I would have to say if legislation curbed the issue in Australia then America should consider following in our footsteps. It is about time that gun related violence is put to an end in the U.S.

Isabella Price (Year 11)

It is widely accepted that, large scale shootings by individuals involve military style weapons. This was sadly the case in the Port Arthur massacre. Since Port Arthur, Australia changed its gun laws, removing 104,782 firearms, some of which were military style weapons from the community. It is impossible to legally own a modern military weapon in Australia. The removal of military weapons in the Australian community reduced to zero, the opportunity and likelihood of massacres using such weapons.

As a result, Australia has not had a massacre since, which demonstrates that Australia's gun laws are working to prevent loss of life. Australian laws are strict and robust.

In America, the NRA (National Rifle Association) has consistently opposed gun law reforms by quoting the 2nd Amendment, that 'people have the right to bare arms'. While American's have a fair point, their amendment is also making it easier for people to commit a crime whether that be an armed hold up or a murder.

In my opinion, as an Australian pistol shooter, America definitely needs to change their gun laws, whether that be to completely remove military weapons as there is no need for anyone to own such a powerful weapon and/or to do stricter background checks of gun owners.

"It's a funny revelation to know, that even Ping Pong is more dangerous that shooting in Australia"

I abide by Australia's gun laws, and I feel safe knowing that the rest of Australian gun owners feel the same, as the laws are so strict. It's a funny revelation to know, that even Ping Pong is more dangerous that shooting in Australia and I doubt American's could say the same thing, which indicates something is wrong.

By Sascha Kroopin (Year 11)

Sasha is currently highly ranked internationally for shooting.

TEACHER OPINION

Tristan Bevan

How would you feel having a gun in the classroom?

I think it would be a serious safety hazard, I have enough trouble keeping things in science under control. If you had a lethal weapon you'd have to have a risk assessment for every single lesson.

Is this too much responsibility?

Teachers aren't trained to use guns, they're trained to teach not to defend.

What will this do to the culture of the classroom and the school?

It's hard to tell because the gun policy is so different here in Australia, but really I just think that it makes no sense to have more guns full stop. There must be so many accidental deaths, let alone the deliberate ones, just because there are guns around.

Beattie Lanser

How would you feel having a gun in the classroom?

I would hate (that is a strong word) to have a gun in the classroom. The weight of a machine/tool like that would make me feel either too powerful or too vulnerable. Which I don't think are good emotions to have in the classroom, as a teacher, for me.

Is it too much responsibility?

I think it is way too much responsibility and it feels like you could cause more harm than good. What if you made a mistake and shot a student instead? What if you killed a gunman in front of a classroom of your students. That is pretty massive stuff and way too much responsibility.

DEPUTY HEAD REPORTS

Deputy Head Learning: Kate Cunich

In 2018 we are returning to a focus on the Visible Learning Strategy that first inspired us in our academic improvement strategy in 2013: Feedback! Educational research states that feedback has an effect size of 0.7 (nearly 2 years of growth in one year if done well!)

During 2018 we will work together to see the ways in which feedback is currently helping our students in their learning (through teacher and student voice), and then, using the expertise of Sophie Murphy and Luke Mandouit (University of Melbourne) hone our strategies and skills to maximise the impact on student learning. Luke has just completed his PHD in Feedback and Assessment with Professor John Hattie and his work will be published internationally very shortly.

If you are interested, we already feature as a case-study on the AITSL website for our work on feedback in previous years, so it will be very exciting to evolve our pedagogy even further.

<https://www.aitsl.edu.au/teach/improve-practice/feedback>

Student Focus Groups

As part of 2018 Visible Learning Project, teachers will be working with students in Year 7 – 10 to find out more about the types and styles of feedback that make the most difference to each individual student. We have already collected student voice from three focus groups of students as a baseline. Some emerging patterns and stories:

Year 7: I like verbal feedback with some little notes on the sheet so you don't forget it for next time.

Year 8: I receive feedback verbally, written on my assessments and through my friends. I receive written and spoken feedback. I think verbal feedback sinks in the most but written is better for going back and checking for an assessment task and checking over.

Year 9: I like verbal feedback. In Maths after a test we do 1 on 1 for like 3 minutes or something and go through what questions we got wrong and then you can set a goal for your next test. And I like that because you don't have to read what they have written; you can just ask them about what they mean. In English, my teacher moves around to give feedback, he writes a list on the board and talks to students.

Year 10: We do writing each week. We submit it on Canvas and our teacher writes us a comment online. But then our teachers also speaks to us in class about it and goes through each detail of where we made a mistake and how we can fix it. Every week we get it.

Study Skills: ELEVATE Education

All Year 7,8,9,10,11 and 12 students recently participated in a study skills session delivered by ELEVATE Education. Students reacted positively and also have ongoing access to materials that will help them be organised, prepared and positive about upcoming assessments and examinations.

The link is www.elevateeducation.com

Some feedback from our new Year 7 students:

It was great! The presenter made the session fun and interesting. I am learning about the importance of using colour and trigger words when making notes.

I think it will help me and other students with their work and learning systems. With all the great ideas on being organised. I learnt not to spend too much time writing long sentences and how to read and summarise articles properly.

Year 12

Mr Parker and myself have concluded a series of meetings with each Year 12 teacher about their Year 12 class. We continue to look at ways to improve the progress of each of our students.

We are delighted that the Study Centre has become a second home for many – indeed it's like Prep without being at Boarding school. There is nothing so gratifying as seeing twenty students working silently, intent on their work, clearly using the strategies that will help them succeed in their HSC.

Term 1 assessments will be finished next week and there is a week then to prepare for the Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations. These examinations are not assessable but will provide an essential opportunity for students to further hone their study and preparation skills. The examination marks will be published on reports and can be used as references for College applications and early entry.

Student-Parent-Teacher Sessions

We have completed the first of our Student-Parent-Teacher sessions. The Year 7 event will occur on Monday 26 March, and Year 11 on Monday 2 April. Students are expected to attend and be part of the important conversation across the table as work samples and formative feedback and next steps are provided by their teachers.



Writing is essential to learning. It allows us to solidify our thinking, to consider new ideas, to enjoy the act of expression. As Murray (1984) puts it, "Writing is thinking. Writing, in fact, is the most disciplined form of thinking. It allows us to be precise, to stand back and examine what we have thought, to see what our words really mean, to see if they stand up to our critical eye, make sense, and will be understood by someone else."

In 2018, Oxley enters a new phase of writing instruction: the Writing in Context Programme. Writing In Context aligns with the College's commitment to Visible Learning and the Response to Intervention framework.

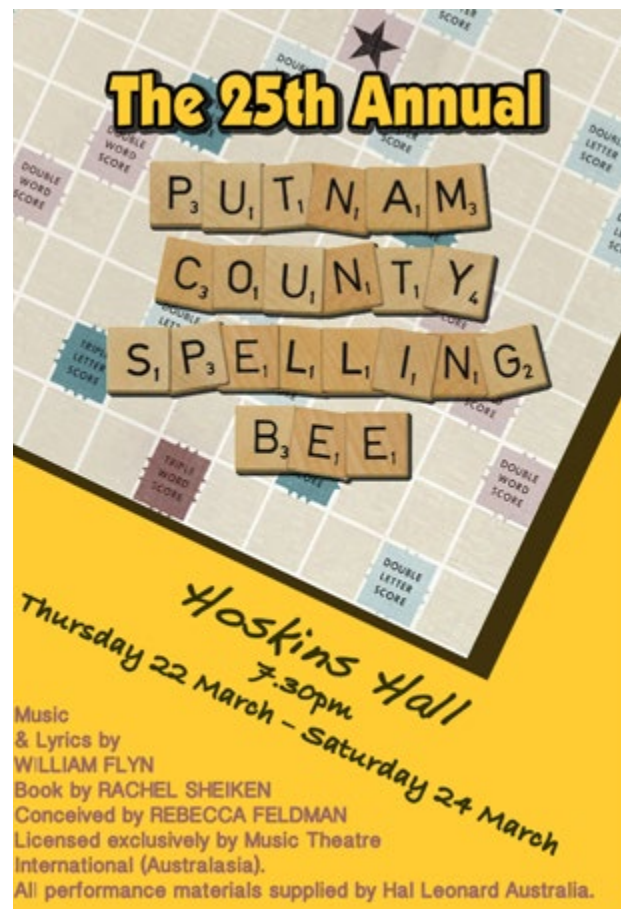
This programme is founded on evidence that skills are most practical when they can be applied straight away. So while our students are absorbed by their studies in Science, English, History and Geography, Writing In Context will simply add a layer of writing instruction on top of the content students strive to understand. It is literacy in the context of an academic subject.

Each fortnight, a common writing element is targeted across the three subjects. Throughout the year-long program, students' attention will be drawn to word-level skills (such as vocabulary and spelling) and sentence-

level skills (including sentence structure, cohesion and the integration of evidence). In addition, this programme will expand on the work of SWYM to develop students' understanding of paragraphing and whole-text structure. Ultimately, this programme will develop students' writing to become more concise, confident and flexible. Our hope is that students will see how transferable their writing skills are – between subjects and between styles of writing.

Writing in Context is a collaboration between staff from several disciplines. A team of specialists, comprising Jo Ismay, Kate Psarakis and Victoria Rintoul, co-teach with classroom teachers in Science, Geography, History and English lessons. They support classroom teachers to use a common language for the processes and mechanics of writing, providing Professional Learning on a fortnightly basis. In addition, the writing team's presence in these Year 7 lessons provides more opportunities for students to be extended and supported, according to their needs.

Currently, Year 7 students are being introduced to the programme, with a roll-out to Year 8 to start at the beginning of Term 2. Plans are in place for roll-out to other year groups in the future.



Spelling Bee Tickets

SOLD OUT 22 and 23 March

<https://www.trybooking.com/UQMV>.

Tickets are selling fast so please book now to avoid disappointment.

Hollie Baillieu

CLASS OF 2006



What have you made of yourself..

To put it simply – right now, I have my dream job. Agriculture has been a focus and a passion of mine from as early as I can remember. While the 'concept' of agriculture has changed a lot in my mind as I have progressed through the industry, the way I feel about farming has not. What I have found is that it doesn't matter if you have 5 sheep or 5000 sheep or if you have 10 hectares or 10,000 hectares of cropping – the satisfaction of nurturing something from start to finish, to then harvest it, share it with others and to eat it, is one of the greatest things we, as human beings, can do.

However, if we move on from the fundamentals of food production and consider every other factor that must line up to get a product from paddock to plate - that's when it gets a little more complex. Climate, soil type, farming practice, education, access to science and technology, consumer demands, domestic markets, trade conditions, prices, media...just to name a few.

Having worked my way through and dabbled in many of these areas, I now find myself in the most complex area of them all – politics!

I am the Senior Policy Advisor for the NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair. Niall also holds the portfolio for Regional Water, Fisheries, Trade and Industry. We have a remarkable team that tackles each issue with patience and persistence. What I have learnt in this job is that in politics - you can never win but what I have also learnt is that behind every decision that is made, many thousands of work hours go into getting it as right as it can be. I feel absolutely privileged to be where I am now and to think that it all started in the Southern Highlands at Oxley College.

Were you expecting this during high school?

I studied Agricultural Science via distance from Years 9-12 and while I knew I loved agriculture, no I didn't think I would ever be in the position I am in now. I didn't really know what ag was about or where it could take me. I learnt the science behind it but not

the application and like most things, you really only learn the application when you work in the heart of it.

Is there anybody from the Oxley community who inspired you throughout high school?

Mr David Eassie was I think the most patient with me. He taught me English and was also my basketball coach. I never stopped talking or disrupting my classmates. I was a bit of a larrikin but looking back now, I was mostly just annoying. Mr Eassie so rarely sent me out of class or raised his voice, he held early morning basketball sessions and always came with passion and enthusiasm for the game.

What do you miss about being at school?

I miss having a uniform and a message to anyone who doesn't like wearing a uniform, I'm telling you, embrace it. It's hassle free and one less thing to think about.

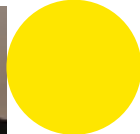
What would you say to your 15 year old self?

Read. Start by reading the newspaper. And not an online version (too many distractions) – the physical paper itself. Get into a habit of alternating papers and thinking about how differently they report on things and what type of stories jump out at you. Don't feel you have to read it from cover to cover, you will soon figure what bits interest you the most.

Don't just stop at reading the articles, start talking about them, question the people around you and for those issues you feel passionate about, start forming an argument why you feel the way you do. Hopefully someone will come back at you with a better argument and you might need to rethink, refine and strengthen your own.

If you start doing this now, you will be miles ahead of everyone else.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? IN THE WORLD...

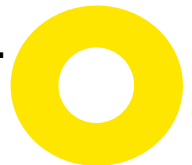


NATIONAL

BARNABY JOYCE SCANDAL

As we all know, Barnaby Joyce has had a rough couple of months in parliament. First it was the citizenship scandal which nearly cost him his job by means of a lengthy by-election. But then, when it seemed that Barnaby Joyce was seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, it was revealed to the media that he had been having an affair with his staffer. But with all the media coverage and new allegations emerging every day, it beggars the question, why do people in power abuse it and do immoral things? This could not have come at a better time with the last 7 - 12 Assembly's theme being integrity and, Julian Leaser the Coalition's MP for Berowra talking to us about integrity and how important integrity is in politics. But, amid all the scandal and accusations made against him, Barnaby Joyce showed to us that he still had integrity by resigning from his ministerial portfolio. But do you think that this act is enough for Barnaby to be forgiven by the public? Or, do you think more should be done to recover his reputation and integrity? By Liam O'Connell (Year 8)

INTERNATIONAL



Putin shows off 'unstoppable' Nuclear Weapons

Russia recently tested a powerful array of nuclear weapons which their highly emotive leader, Vladimir Putin, claims are invulnerable to ground-to-air missile defence systems. Making NATO's US-led missile defence batteries useless. This marks a technological breakthrough that could drastically increase Russia's military capability.

Speaking in the annual state of the nation address, Mr Putin said the weapons included a nuclear-powered cruise missile, a nuclear-powered underwater drone and new hypersonic missiles that have no equivalent anywhere else in the world.

He said the nuclear-powered cruise missile tested last autumn had a "practically unlimited" range and high speed and manoeuvrability, allowing it to pierce any missile defence. The Russian leader said the high-speed underwater drone also had an "intercontinental" range and was capable of carrying a nuclear warhead that could target both aircraft carriers and coastal facilities. He said its operational depth and high speed meant that it was immune to interception.

"I want to tell all those who have fuelled the arms race over the last 15 years, sought to win unilateral advantages over Russia, introduced unlawful sanctions aimed to contain our country's development: All what you wanted to impede with your policies have already happened," he said.

"You have failed to contain Russia."

Mr Putin insisted that these missiles would reinstate Russian dominance in the arms race and ensure global stability. However, this controversial claim will no doubt earn the Kremlin an even worse reputation and spark political conflict in outlying nations, particularly the U.S.

The question for the world now is, does this development start a new ultimate speed nuclear powered arms race among these nations? By Hugh Corbett (Year 8)

LOCAL



Rockmelons go Rogue!

Recently, a health scare has swept the east coast of Australia. Seventeen people across New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania have contracted a disease called listeriosis (also known as listeria), and of these seventeen, four had died at time of writing. The bacteria is found everywhere in day-to-day life and only rarely causes serious illness. In cases where it is contracted, one in five have fatal results according to the CSIRO. Listeria can exist in ground soils for around eighty days, can survive the cold of your fridge and even the stomach acids of your body. This sudden spike in cases is thought to have been caused by people eating rockmelon contaminated with the bacteria. The bacteria could have made its way into the melon in several ways. These include at the time the melons were planted (through contaminated soil), as it was growing (through contaminated irrigation water), or during the packing process, as the bacteria could have been transferred from the skin to inside the melon during cutting. The place of origin is reported to be a grower in Nericon, NSW. Listeriosis is not limited to rockmelon. It has also been found in salads, fruits, vegetables and dairy products. The disease can cause blood poisoning and meningitis, which is where the tissue around your brain is inflamed. Scientists are advising those with weak immune systems, especially the elderly and pregnant to inform themselves of the risks. By Mack Kane (Year 8)



GALLERY



MARCH & APRIL CALENDAR

	Mon 19 K-6 Student Parent Interview Week Senior Production dress rehearsal	Mon 26 Yr 7 Student Parent Interview	Mon 02 EASTER MONDAY
	Tue 20 Senior Production pre-view Y7 Parent Info Session - Maths Pathways	Tue 27	Tue 03 Y12 Half Yearly Exam Week
	Wed 21 Senior Production - Y5/6 audience	Wed 28 K-6 Cross Country 7-12 Cross Country	Wed 04 Y10 Morrisby Feedback with Parents
	Thu 22 Senior Production	Thu 29	Thu 05
Fri 16	Fri 23 Senior Production	Fri 30 GOOD FRIDAY	Fri 06 Y5/6 Canberra Legals and Legacies Excursion 1st XV Rugby Tour
Sat 17	Sat 24 DoE Bronze/Silver Practice Hike Senior Production	Sat 31	Sat 07 1st XV Rugby Tour Brigadoon at Bundanoon (pipe band)
Sun 18	Sun 25 DoE: Bronze/Silver Practice Hike Yr7 Family Day, Sutton Forest Pub	Sun 01	Sun 08 Professor speaking - Open Uni Style 1st XV Rugby Tour Y5 Family Lunch, Briars

EQUESTRIAN DAY

The P & F Equestrian Day will be held at Bong Bong Race course on Sunday 6 May 2018 and is one of the school's major fund raising events of the year. All Oxley Family and Friends are encouraged to attend and support our School Equestrian Team. Money raised (after expenses and Oxley Equestrian Fund Allowance) is distributed directly to the school charities, including our sister schools in Nepal, Botswana and Fiji. We are currently organising sponsorship and a raffle to raise money on the day.

Please contact Sue Brown on 0409-328-421 or sue@maculosa.com if you are willing to sponsor the event or donate a raffle prize. Volunteers required on Saturday 5 May & Sunday 6 May. Please also mark Saturday 5 May in your diaries as we will be looking for volunteers to help with event setup. We will also be looking for volunteers to help with the event on Sunday. If you are interested in helping out, please email alexandrajohnston@bigpond.com or Holly at holly@kramernoad.com.au.

We look forward to you and your child's participation in this exciting event!

HONOUR OUR FALLEN

'Honour Our Fallen' is a new project that seeks to perpetuate the memory of deceased war veterans through the engagement of young people in the community. The project aims for a flag to be placed at the graveside or memorial of every deceased Australian veteran in time for Anzac Day. At Oxley, volunteers from Years 9 and 10 have invited to research a veteran whose grave is in the Southern Highlands. They will work with Year 11 Modern History students to produce short biographies of the veterans and then have the opportunity to place the flag at the grave. This is both an opportunity for students to learn about the sacrifices made by members of our armed forces and to make a contribution to the preservation of their memory.

By Mark Case

NEWSFLASH

ISA FINALS



Oxley Junior A played Chevalier Junior A in the Grand Finals last Saturday.

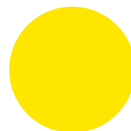
It was a very close and exciting game but Oxley were able to get ahead in the first innings and Chevalier were unable to close the gap. Oxley won the game 7-3.

Oxley Under 14 A played St Spyridon last Saturday in the grand Final.

It was a close game, but in the end St Spyridon won the game.

Well done Oxley!

MS STANTON !



Staff member, Meaghan Stanton, recently won the Gold Medal at the Cross Country National Championships in Armidale in the over 40s group. She also won the Highland Fling in November 2017. And last weekend she came second in the elite womens 75km at the Willow, a large local race in Wingello.

We congratulate her on her amazing achievements.

SWIMMING RESULTS

2018 Senior School Carnival Champions and Points



Age	Gender	Runner Up	Champion
12	Girls	Bridget Schereck	Lara Fischer
12	Boys	William Thomson	Thomas Fraser
13	Girls	Lilly Spring	Ellanora O'Connor
13	Boys	Samuel Gipson	Jack Hatcher
14	Girls	Olivia Bow	Tayissa Boese
14	Boys	van der Schalk	Hamish Tregenza
15	Girls	Mia Gillis	Lucy Cavanough-Quince
15	Boys	Alex Webb	Max Davis-Rice
16	Girls	Lauren Howes	Philippa Kettlewell
16	Boys	Connor Taylor-Helme	Bryce Wellman
17	Girls	Sophia Dummer	Jade Gillis
17	Boys	Finn Ottaviano	Lachlan Coleman
18+	Girls	Abbey Marnoch	Olivia Davies
18+	Boys	Oscar Moran	Campbell de Montemas

NEWS FLASH!!

The Oxley College Junior School competed at the HICES Swimming Carnival at SOPAC on Wednesday 7 March and finished in second place in Division Two.

The Senior School competed at the ISA Swimming Carnival at SOPAC on Wednesday 14 March and finished in second place in Division Two in both the Boys and the Girls competitions.

These are outstanding results for our Swimming teams.

ISA HOCKEY

Congratulations to Bridget de Montemas, Georgie de Montemas and Molly Knowles for their selection in the ISA 16 and Under Hockey team. Lucy Cavanough-Quince was also selected as a shadow player. The girls will play in the NSW CIS 16 and Under Hockey Championships on Tuesday 27 March at Pennant Hills Park.

YEAR 12 HSC SHAPE

On Tuesday 6 March, the Year 12 Design and Technology class caught a train up to Sydney to visit the 2017 SHAPE Exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum. Our eyes were opened to the innovative designs from last years HSC cohort from areas including industrial design, textiles and woodwork. After the exhibition, we were invited into 'The Lab' where we explored 3D Printing, Screen Printing and Laser Cutting with various mentors guiding us through the processes. We took much inspiration from the exhibition and came back with many ideas ready to start our own projects.

Juliette Swain (Year 12)

