

PIN OAK



Farewell Year 12

Twin sisters celebrate

FAREWELL

Our Mrs Antoniak

BIG ISSUE

Guess Who?

ART

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KINDERGARTEN PROVERBS



STRAVA - 5 KM RESULTS

Senior House - most kms	DOBELL - 76 individual activities over the 10 day challenge -
Senior Girl - fastest time 5km	AMELIA MAY (Dobell) - 19m 04s -
Senior Boy - fastest time 5km	HARRY KIRSCH (Dobell) - 22m 30s -
Senior Girl/Boy most individual kms	AVA LAMBIE (Dobell) - 44.07km -
Junior House - most kms	FLYNN - 22 individual activities over the 10 day challenge -
Junior Girl - fastest time 5km	PIXIE HANSON (Flynn) - 20m 30s -
Junior Boy - fastest time 5km	CHASE HOLMES (Walton) - 23m 15s -
Junior Girl/Boy most individual kms	LUCAS DRELAUD (Chisholm) - 35.01km -
Siblings - fastest time 5km	AVA & OSCAR LAMBIE (Dobell)
Parent & student - fastest time 5km	CHASE & CHARLOTTE HOLMES & MS LOWE - 23m 15s -
Staff member - most consistent	DENE PATTERSON - activity every day of the 10 day challenge -
Best photo from Strava	SAPPHIRE SPARKE (Chisholm) with Cleo the camel
Many thanks to all students and parents who participated in the 5km Challenge. Special Mentions to Annabel Arnot and Charlie Wilson who managed to get an impressive 330.5km and 419.8km respectively, cycling distance during the challenge.	



HEAD OF COLLEGE'S REPORT

Yesterday, we marked what would have been the final day for our Year 12 students with a 'Covid Safe' drive through celebration followed by a virtual final Year 12 assembly with families in their loungerooms. As I spoke to the Year 12s yesterday, I have no doubt in time we will talk about 'before', 'during' and 'after' Covid just as past generations have talked about 'after' the depression or 'before' or 'after' the internet. We have learnt 'during' the pandemic of the importance of kindness, connection and community and I have no doubt the Year 12s will never forget that and carry that knowledge into the future on behalf of all of us. While different, it was an uplifting day for all involved and I know it will be a day that will live on the memory for not only our Year 12s but all the staff and will mark an important point in their life journey. The Year 12s are currently completing a legacy project by building their own version of a Year 12 Pin Oak which we will release in Week 2 of Term 4. We will have the Year 12s or is it Year 13s? back on-site at some stage next term for the sprint through to their delayed HSC examinations. We hope we can finish the year by celebrating with our Year 12 students in a more formal graduation event.

Along with saying goodbye to our Year 12s we also announce our new Student Leaders who will lead the College through 2022. The new leaders continue to build on the legacy left from previous generations and I am so proud of all students who nominated to take up a leadership position as this demonstrates their pride and desire to serve the College, their House and their fellow students. With the process now finished, I am thrilled to announce the Student Leadership team which is made up of College wide student Leaders and House leaders. They are an outstanding group of young people and the staff look forward to working with them in their new roles.

The College Captains are Hal Canute, Head Boy and Peggy Holmwood, Head Girl. The Deputy Head Boy and Girl are Dominic Uliana and Olivia Bow. The five College Prefects are Jennifer Allan, Hugh Corbett, Briana Grice, Jillian O'Connell and Liam O'Connell. The House Captains are as follows: Dobell - Will Dowe, Amelia Hescott, Durack - Henry Connell, Molly Knowles, Florey - Lachie Sell, Matilda Longworth, Mawson - Toby Mcerlane, Lily Hogan, Monash - Christian Gallina, Hannah Neath, Oodgeroo - Baxter Gregory, Bridget de Montemas.

Staff

As the term draws to a close, I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the staff both teaching and support staff for all they have given to the students of Oxley during this term. It has had its challenges but they have been impressive in their professionalism and generosity and I thank all of them for all they have done.

We will say goodbye to a special staff member, Head of Library, Mrs Antoniuk who is leaving us to spend more time with her family and to continue her studies. As everyone knows Mrs Antoniuk is passionate about all things 'books' and 'reading' and this enthusiasm and generosity spills over in everything she does. She is kind, thoughtful and inspiring and I know she has touched many young peoples' lives over her nine years at Oxley College. Our library is the 'Hub' of the school and is a safe and welcoming space for all of our students and I thank Mrs Antoniuk for all she has given to our students and wish her all the very best as she starts her new adventures.

"I have no doubt in time we will talk about 'before', 'during' and 'after' Covid just as past generations talked about 'after' the Depression or 'before' the Internet."

In Term 4, we will welcome two new staff members. Mrs Stacey Taylor will join the staff from Ivanhoe Grammar in Victoria as the new Head of Information and Library Services. Mrs Taylor has held a range of leadership positions over the past twenty years within schools including Head of Library and Director of Global Connections at Kambala and is a highly regarded educator and will bring her energy and passion for young people to the Oxley community.

We also welcome Mathematics teacher, Mr Adam Cadwallader who is joining us from Cranbrook School to teach Mathematics across the College. Mr Caldwell has joined the teaching profession as a mature graduate following a successful career in Finance and Banking. Mr Cadwallader will provide the opportunity for Mrs Belinda Mc Gregor to take some well deserved Long Service Leave in Term 4.

Uniform and Term 4

I am aware in these times of uncertainty about when we may return to on-campus learning, some parents may be worrying about whether their young people have the right uniform or a uniform which fits at all, when the time comes. I just want to reassure you that we will have a transition period between Winter and Summer Uniform to ensure all students and parents will have the time to make any purchases that are required. So please do not panic about this issue. The Uniform Shop is currently closed to customers other than for email orders. We will keep parents informed and support our young people through the transition.

Lockdown and Anxiety

As we face the challenges of an extended lockdown over the holidays some of our young people might be experiencing some anxiety regarding the future. I was reminded of this when I recently received an email from a parent who had just listened to a webinar by Dr Justin Coulson. (<https://www.happyfamilies.com.au/about/>) on 'Anxiety in your Child'.

The webinar explains anxiety and ways to manage it in your children.

Having heard Dr Coulson previously on this topic, I would highly recommend this webinar for any parents who wish to learn more. The College is in the process of trying to organise a similar webinar for our parents which would be interactive at Oxley College early in Term 4 with Dr Coulson. However, should you wish to learn more on this important topic during the holidays you can purchase a recording of the Webinar at <https://www.happyfamilies.com.au/product/anxietyinyourchild/>.

In the Webinar Dr Coulson covers the following topics:

- Recognise anxiety in your child and know how best to respond when anxiety flares up.
- Become a supportive hope-giver to your child to empower him/her to be courageous in the face of anxious thoughts.
- Uncover the research-based #1 strength your child can develop to combat anxiety and develop remarkable resilience.
- Identify how your own anxieties could be affecting your child, and know how to manage them.
- Learn proven strategies to help both you and your child navigate and manage anxiety when things get stressful.

Have a wonderful break with your families.

By Jenny Ethell, Head of College



Head of Academic and Innovation

It is time to celebrate the end of the term, a term like none we have known before. So how do we feel now that it is done? I am hoping that the answer is different for all of us, as there is no, one-size-fits-all approach in these times, and especially not for a school like Oxley!

In a true sign of the magic school that we are, we have still managed to do what we can to finish the term in style. We celebrate that the Year 12 students have marked the end of Term 3 in a way that while different, will still be memorable and special. HSC students doing Visual Arts and Design and Technology projects have submitted their major works, and we were still able to provide opportunities for Performing Arts students to rehearse until the very end in order to do their best performances in the HSC Music and Drama examinations. Through our experienced eyes, it is evident that the 2021 Year 12 cohort has worked incredibly hard and that the standard of work produced is excellent to say the least.

Year 11 students have also concluded their End of Preliminary Examinations and we celebrate them as pioneers – the first cohort to sit formal exams online and be invigilated over ZOOM! Well done Year 11 and our grateful thanks to the teaching team who set up, managed and monitored this brave new medium for us. Fingers crossed that we don't need to do this again any time soon, but if so, as lifelong learners, we have added a new skillset to our academic programme at Oxley.

At times like this, it is ironic that our 2021 Naplan results have just arrived at the school. This is usually something long awaited and anticipated, but now serves as a timely reminder that the purpose of these tests is as a diagnostic tool to help students along their learning journey, not an end in themselves at all. Parents of students in Year 3,5,7 and 9 should receive results in the mail early next week.

So much has already been said about what these times will teach us all, but this week the descriptor most in my mind

continues to focus on the countless ways that we as a school have been called upon to be agile, flexible, accepting, resilient and optimistic. Interestingly, a newly released study conducted in 2020 has confirmed what we are all getting a little used to - adapting is good for us! The research out of UNSW, confirms that adaptability is a skill that is called on for success in remote learning, and it is a skill that can be taught. If you are interested to know more, please follow this link: <https://theconversation.com/students-who-are-more-adaptable-do-best-in-remote-learning-and-its-a-skill-we-can-teach-165003>. The article explores the gains to be made at this time, and I hope that we can be encouraged that what we are now experiencing will reap reward for our students in the bigger picture of life.

Finally, I am keen to wish everyone a relaxing and refreshing break. Please know that this is the time for all of us to go outside, to spend time daydreaming and to read for pleasure (not because you have to). As I was reminded by a colleague the other day, this is also a time to consider starting new family rituals. Think about what you want your children to remember about their experiences and family time during lockdown. What stories would you like them to be telling about Lockdown at their 21st birthday celebration? My friend's daughter had asked if the family could get up one day early each week to see the sunrise. The addition of this simple thing - getting up when it's still dark and arriving at a location in expectation of the sun rising, is proving to be very energising for them! They get home before breakfast and the day has started in a very positive, memorable way. I wonder what we can do to keep us going (if you have some ideas, please let me know).

Whatever you do this break, please take care, stay safe and treasure these days that are passing both too slowly and too quickly. We look forward to seeing you back next term.

By Kate Cunich, Head of Academic and Innovation

Head of Senior School

Head of Durack House: Mr Bill Clewett

After almost 10 years in the role, Mr Bill Clewett steps down today as Head of Durack House. Mr Clewett has been a much-loved Head of House to hundreds of Durack students over these years, appreciated by Durack families for his kindness, compassion and wise counsel. Mr Clewett's commitment to providing Durack House with a distinctive identity as well as a sense of belonging has been integral to pastoral care at Oxley. His unfailingly good nature belies a subtle competitiveness that has contributed to Durack being one of the most successful Houses in the Inter-House Competition throughout his tenure. There are also few members of staff who would have the courage to regularly play the ukulele and encourage a sing-along at House meetings! Mr Clewett's calm and measured approach, his warmth and sense of fun have been valued by all in Durack House; this was reflected in the wonderful send-off he was given by the Durack students this week. It is a mark of his ability to coach and nurture others that two of the current Heads of House were previously Durack Tutors under his leadership. Mr Clewett continues at Oxley as a teacher of History, English and Cornerstone and will be a Mentor in Dobell House from Term 4.

The new Head of Durack House from Term 4 will be Ms Dene Paterson. Ms Paterson has been a teacher at Oxley since 2008 and currently teaches Design Technology, Textiles Technology, Food Technology and Cultivate, and has been a Mentor in Dobell House. Ms Paterson is a dedicated 'Outbacker' and has been the Catering Co-ordinator for many years, which involves the key role of running the mobile kitchen. Ms Patterson is passionate about student wellbeing and brings valuable skills and experience to

the role of Head of House.

Mullets for Mental Health – The Black Dog Institute

Dom Uliana (Year 11) is leading a timely and very worthwhile Black Dog Institute initiative at Oxley to raise money for research into the prevention, identification and treatment of mental health disorders. As of today, almost \$6000 has been raised by the Oxley College Team. Here is the link if you wish to donate:

<https://www.teamblackdog.org.au/fundraisers/OxleyCollege/mulletsformentalhealth>

'10 ways to take care of yourself in during Coronavirus'

Reachout.com is one of the best wellbeing resources for young people and parents: click here for 10 ways students can look after themselves during the lockdown. A wealth of online resources to support families during learning@home can be found on the College website at <https://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/news-events/connectedathome/>.

By Mark Case, Head of Senior School





JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



Weekly Awards

Learning Journey

K: Freddie Paterson
Yr 1: Fearn Pearce
Yr 2: Hannah Cochran
Yr 3B: Matilda McCarthy
Yr 3R: Sophia Bagnall
Yr 4A: Pollyanna Landrigan
Yr 4W: Elodie Ahern
Yr 5C: Edie Cavanough
Yr 5N: Scarlett Miller
Yr 6H: Matilda Pope
Yr 6S: Matthew Morschel

Oxley Values

K: Alessia Sicari
Yr 1: Frankie Russell
Yr 2: Amelia Gordon
Yr 3B: Darcy Jones
Yr 3R: Harvey Talbot
Yr 4A: Robbie Clothier
Yr 4W: Samsara Pout
Yr 5C: Fraser Wisken
Yr 5N: Will Kennedy
Yr 6H: Polly Hopkinson
Yr 6S: Lulu Eagan

Excellence in Japanese:

Jameson Clarke
David White



It is with great sadness that we farewell Mrs Elizabeth Antoniak as she begins another adventure in her life. Elizabeth's kindness, enthusiasm and passion for books is unwavering; and her joy transparent when she talks about her favourite new find. All of us will miss her and we wish her well. Our Junior School Captain, Matilda Lambie shared this poem at our Assembly last Friday. It has been adapted from Dr Seuss' book Oh the Places You'll Go:

Congratulations!

Today is your day.

You're off to Great Places!

You're off and away!

You have brains in your head.

You have feet in your shoes.

You can steer yourself

any direction you choose.

You're on your own. And you know what you know.

And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go.

You've left our tribe here

With a love of great books

Your weekly reviews

Have got us all hooked

The library is a place

We can go for some zen

We know we'll belong

You're our mother hen

Your smile lights up the room

Your expressions are bright

You make us want to stay up

Reading all night

But it's not only books

You promote with such grace

For your kindness and enthusiasm

Leaves a smile on every face

What will we do

When Mrs A is gone?

Will we go back to boredom

And sitting at home?

No! Never fear!

Because your hard remains

You have left us all with a gift

Living deep in our brains

A passion for learning and discovery

A zest for seizing each day

Will all of Oxley now please join me

In a big HIP HIP HOORAY!!!

You're off the Great Places!

Today is your day!

Your mountain is waiting.

So ... get on your way!

We can now all take a break from learning@ home and spend some well-earned downtime with our families. It can be challenging to find ways to have fun during a lockdown holiday; my family have come up with the Clothes Peg game, where we peg a family member without being caught. It's a bit like Tip and clearly I am not very good at it as I always seem to end up with the peg. I challenge everyone to play the Peg game!

Finally, I would like to share with you a poem by Will Coram in Yr 5, created around one of our Oxley mottos "To Think, To Dare, To Dream":

To Think, To Dare, To Dream.

O Oxleyans all, please gather round,

And observe our grandest ground.

Borrowed from the traditional owners,

For forty years we've loaned.

With ovals bathing in the sun,

We're inspired to think, to dare, to dream.

Our Junior School is a place to see,

The best that we can be.

We encourage creativity and cultivate kindness.

We promote fairness, forgiveness and open-mindedness.

With teachers who build our self-esteem,

We're inspired to think, to dare, to dream.

Have a wonderful holiday break and we'll see you in Term 4.

By Peter Ayling, Acting Head of Junior School

Gallery





Guess Who?

Guess Who is a staple in any Aussie kid's childhood, the countless hours spent frantically observing your characters, attempting to thwart your competitor using deductive reasoning, guess work and –

Racism?

It's a bit sinister if you really stop to think about it, a small child shouting "is your one all freckly or do they look normal" or "is your character a man or a woman" or "are they white?". It's a nightmare for a society that is so obsessed with being politically correct. Assumption of gender, categorising a person by their ethnicity and pointing out their physical flaws is unheard of in today's society, if one were to do any of these things scandalised looks would be thrown their way until they muttered a rushed apology and then quickly booked a plane ticket to Timbuktu never to be seen again.

Political Correctness had become the defining feature of the 21st century, with the uprising of movements such as Black Lives Matter, Pride and MeToo it has become painstakingly clear that the way we have behaved previously is no longer acceptable and we should start to change our ways. Which is perfectly reasonable, of course we should change toxic behaviour: but therein lies the problem, what exactly do we change?

Some say that just being polite is enough: use the correct pronouns, don't use a slur and try to be as un-judgemental as possible. Others claim that the way we function needs to be completely rewired, not only should our behaviour change but so should everything around us. If any form media used inappropriate language, this fault should be publicly acknowledged and redone immediately. If any person had been rude or thoughtless in the past they should be shamed and lose their standing in society.

Because there's a lot of grey areas with this issue, no-one knows how to remain safe from society's almost impossible (and perpetually undefined) standards. This leads to overcompensating: companies changing their logos to the pride colours without actually helping those within the community, Hollywood making feminist movies so terrible that even feminists are un-impressed and politicians making blatantly ill-informed statements when discussing their support for Black Lives Matter. Now this is no-one's fault, but if we continue at this rate the fear of being seen as "non-PC" is only going to cause more chaos.

In the humble opinion of a thirteen-year-old, I think the solution is quite simple: be kind. There's really no other way to go about it, we all make mistakes and say or do things that we shouldn't, but there's no point in shaming someone or becoming paranoid to avoid criticism. Accept when you've made a mistake, if you've been told you've used someone's pronouns incorrectly apologise and try not to make the same mistake again. If you see someone else do the same, be kind, don't launch into a "holier than thou" rant about the inequalities of society, calmly explain to them how to improve their actions. A lot of things are unknown in this era, but a touch of humility and generosity can never go wrong.

So, if you can take anything away from this article it's this:

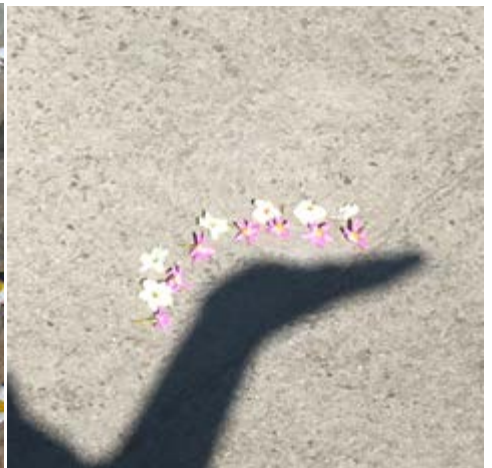
It's ok to be wrong and it's possible for others to grow and realise their mistakes. It's not ok to judge others

or to shame them because you yourself are insecure and maybe don't play guess who in public.

By Violet Fitzsimons, Year 8

"In the humble opinion of a thirteen year-old, I think the solution is quite simple: be kind"

Y7 Art Learning@home



WINNER OF OXLEY'S GOT TALENT

Over the past few weeks, we have been running Oxley's Got Talent online competition. We had some amazing entires and an incredible amount of talent! Almost 400 people voted and there were a thousand votes across the competition. The results are:

Winner: Ally Cavanagh
2nd Place: Meg Gordon

Youtube link to Ally's winning performance:
<https://youtu.be/J8qQu1OBB8>

Congratulations to all the students who participated and watch out for new initiatives in Term 4!



OLD OXLEYAN

JESS ROCHE Class of 2003

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

After a gap year working in a pub in England, travelling around Europe (so much fun) and a few years of university in Sydney with a bit more travelling around Europe, I got a graduate position in Finance at the Australian Federal Police. I packed my bags to Canberra and started my career as an accountant. However, it was not long before I questioned if the world of spreadsheets and numbers was really for me as the adventure and excitement of the flashing blue lights had caught my eye. Besides the opportunity for adventure, I also wanted to feel like I was doing something real and making a difference in the world and so I became a police officer where you get to help people on their worst day. I spent a couple of years in uniform policing before moving on to investigating more serious crimes and becoming a Detective. I am also a Crisis Negotiator, responding to people in mental health crisis among other things.

What is your biggest achievement since high school?

I have had some pretty cool career highlights as a police officer so far. I have had the opportunity to help solve murders and robberies, worked in Christmas Island, been involved in the response to Australians who have been kidnapped overseas and helped restoring order and calm during riots at detention centres. But I became a cop to help people and the greatest sense of achievement has come when I have responded to someone in crisis, either as a victim of a crime or a mental health crisis. Helping someone through their worst days, so that they know they are not alone, that they feel heard and have understood is a very rewarding feeling.

Were these things that during high school you expected you would end up doing?

Definitely not. I had never even contemplated becoming an officer! I was a bit of a nerd at school and particularly enjoyed maths and economics so while I had no idea what I wanted to "be" or "do" when I finished school, I thought it would be something to do with numbers and money. I went on to study Commerce at university and it wasn't until a few years into my work life that I realised I actually preferred the challenges of working with

people.

How did Oxley prepare you for your future?

While you think of school for all the formal classes, what I remember most strongly is the friendships, the sports teams (getting up early to go play hockey in the Central Coast), the school camps and Duke of Ed. Beyond a (quality) education, Oxley taught me that the discomfort of challenges are worth it, whether it involved getting up early for Outback or away games, working on your fitness for your sports team or hiking with a heavy pack for days.

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

Too many to mention... but of my teachers; Mrs Alexander and Mrs Hamilton gave me a life-long love of hockey and every maths teacher I ever had – even though I didn't end up working with numbers. I'm still inspired by the people I went to school with and the variety of different paths that they have gone on to live from teachers to pilots, artists, doctors and nurses. It was really cool to return for the 10 year reunion and hear everyone's different stories.

What would you say you miss most about being at school?

Being able to see your friends every day – before school, recess and lunch! It amazes me to think about how much we had to catch up on each morning after also having talked online during the night. My high school friends are spread around the country now and I am lucky to see them a couple of times a year. I never realised how lucky we were.

What would you say to your fifteen year old self?

Don't worry too much about what you are going to "be" when you grow up as it will evolve as you find out what is out there, who you are and what fits you. Accept opportunities as they come along and follow what takes your interest without stressing that it's not the "perfect" decision. I have ended up where I am not because I knew what I wanted or saw a clear path in front of me but because when I saw something that looked different or challenging I took the leap.

GALLERY

